

PORSCHE: Car rally to make stop in downtown Joplin. **3A** | **SOCCER:** MSSU team beats Northeastern State 1-0. **1B**



Memorial Hall stands at Eighth Street and Joplin Avenue in this undated photo. The building turned 100 years old in 2025. GLOBE FILE

Hall group to announce fundraising campaign

Thursday event open to public

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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The public can take a look inside Memorial Hall on Thursday when the group working to raise funds to save the building will open it to visitors to announce a fundraising campaign for its renovation.

Friends of Joplin Memorial Hall, a non-profit, will show the organization's proposed floor plans and renderings for the historic downtown building during the event at 2 p.m. Thursday.

The hall is located at 212 W. Eighth St. Visitors may enter the building through the overhead door on the east side of the building. Visitors will not be allowed to tour the building but will be limited to the ceremony area.

The Friends group must raise at least \$2 million in cash and commitments by Oct. 1, 2027, toward the project's start-up costs and interest costs for a bridge loan to start work and for operations and long-term sustainability.

Those costs are separate from the expenses to rehabilitate the hall, the group said in a statement.

Those requirements are part of a memorandum of understanding reached between the Friends organization and the city of Joplin, which still owns the building.

It is estimated that the cost to renovate the building will be about \$17 million.

Funding to cover construction costs will be sought from federal and state historic tax credits, new market tax credits and other sources. In addition, the city of Joplin will issue \$7 million in revenue bonds to be repaid from the proposed 2% increase in the city's lodging tax paid by guests who stay overnight in Joplin hotels and motels.

Ballot measures for the lodging tax increase and issuance of the revenue bonds will be placed on the April 2027 election ballot.

Bob Harrington, president of Friends of Joplin Memorial Hall, said in a statement: "We're excited to say Joplin residents will not see an increase in their taxes to pay for the preservation or revitalization of Joplin Memorial Hall. This new phase in Memorial Hall's history will honor the building's past by making it an accessible and community-driven venue for the future."

The facility will be operated by Friends of Joplin Memorial Hall.

SEE HALL, 2A

'Wonderful draw'



The band Tragic Prelude from Southeast Kansas performed at 536 N. Wall Ave. on Saturday as part of Porchfest.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

North Heights Porchfest celebrates 10 years

BY JOHN HACKER
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From a few bands playing on porches to 64 bands on 32 porches, accompanied by vendors' tents, food trucks and a main stage in the Michael and Jeri Lynn Joseph Family Park, North Heights Porch Fest has matured into one of the region's largest entertainment events while maintaining neighborhood charm.

The 10th annual Porchfest was held Saturday drawing thousands of people.

"Ten years is huge," Porchfest events coordinator Angela Hudson said. "I've only been coming to this Porchfest since I moved here two years ago. There are some people that are in the planning committee that have done it for nine years, and it's completely changed. It was a couple of bands and they paid with pizza



Chase Carlisle, a Joplin singer-songwriter, performs at 531 N. Wall Ave. on Saturday for the 10th annual North Heights Porchfest.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

when it started, and now it is this 64 bands on 32 porches and we pay them with money and still keep it a free event."

Chase Carlisle, a singer-songwriter from Joplin, said he has performed at about half the 10 Porchfest events, including this year.

"I remember years ago I was playing a set on a

porch and I could hear about 20 xylophoners playing just a few houses down. Now they're really spreading it out and staggering the times. I think we're ironing out all the rough edges. They're getting pretty good at this point, and I got to give it up for the North Heights volunteers and everybody that gets involved. They've

really do a lot of work for this."

In past years, the event was centered on the North Heights Neighborhood Life House, 516 N. Wall Ave., the 1880s-era home of philanthropist and attorney Alonzo Cragin that became the first Joplin home of Ozark Christian

SEE EVENT, 2A

Visitors to the 2025 NALA Literacy Liftoff line up for a balloon ride at Missouri Southern State University. The event returns Tuesday. GLOBE FILE



NALA Literacy Liftoff set for Tuesday

Event at Missouri Southern canceled twice because of weather

BY ANDY OSTMEYER
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The third time could be the charm for NALA's Literacy Liftoff, now set for Tuesday. The event was scheduled and

then canceled twice because of weather.

"It has been a wild ride, but we are doing it this Tuesday," said Kaden Propps, executive director.

The sixth annual Literacy Liftoff will begin at 4 p.m. Tuesday and run until sunset at the soccer fields at Missouri Southern State University. The event is free. Attendees can expect tethered hot air balloon rides as well as games, food trucks and more.

"Our presenting sponsor for the event is U.S. Bank and they are bringing their hot air balloon and there will be a (\$15,000) check presentation," Propps said. "Part of the funding that they do for NALA is that they also include financial literacy and they bring in their professionals to work some classes with us quarterly."

He said they will be helping

SEE LIFTOFF, 2A

