

Cowles resigns from Joplin City Council

JOHN HACKER

JHACKER@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

Brian Cowles resigned from the Joplin City Council Wednesday, less than seven months after his election to a general council seat with a term that ends in 2030.

Cowles, in his resignation letter, expressed frustration with what he characterized as “an ineffective council and the lack of support I have experienced from City Hall. I believe elected officials should be able to ask difficult questions, chal-



Brian Cowles Sr.

He also posted on Facebook, which started out saying: “Serving on the Joplin City Council has been one

of the greatest honors of my life. Thank you to everyone who trusted me, encouraged me, challenged me, and shared their concerns about our community. During my time on council, I have met many people who care deeply about Joplin. Those conversations have reminded me why I wanted to serve and have strengthened my belief in what our city can become.”

The city of Joplin confirmed Cowles’ resignation in a written statement late Wednesday.

Joplin Mayor Pro Tem Keenan

Cortez said in a telephone interview that he sent a communication to Cowles accepting his resignation.

“I sent that knowing that we will formally handle that at the Nov. 2 regular council meeting,” Cortez said. “We will also announce at the Nov. 16 council meeting the procedures we will use to fill in that vacancy. We wish Mr. Cowles the best and we thank him for his service.”

A release from the city said normal procedures include a period for application to be accepted and

reviewed by the council for consideration, after which the council votes to appoint a replacement to serve until the next general municipal election, which is in April 2027.

TAX QUESTION?

Cowles also said in an interview that he’s resigning because the city was considering proceedings against him because of some tax documents presented to the Joplin city attorney’s office regarding taxes he

See **COWLES** on A2

JOPLIN CHRISTMAS PARADE



Globe | John Hacker

Joplin Mayor Pro Tem Keenan Cortez and Freeman Health System’s Renee Denton unveil the theme for the 2026 Joplin Christmas Parade, “Red, White and Merry.”

THEME REMEMBERS HOLIDAYS, HISTORY

JOHN HACKER

JHACKER@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

The annual Joplin Christmas parade will be Tuesday, Dec. 1, the city of Joplin and Freeman Health System announced Wednesday, with the theme tied to the nation’s birthday.

“Red, White and Merry’ just seemed to be an extremely appropriate theme this year as we celebrate our nation’s 250th

anniversary,” said Renee Denton, Freeman President for the Kansas and Missouri markets. “We wanted to be sure to tie the two themes together. And so putting these two events together, making sure that we’re representing and honoring our nation with something, that was very intentional. And we think that the community will have a fun time making their floats, decorating and celebrating

not only Christmas time in the Christmas season, but our nation’s anniversary.”

The grand marshal of the 54th annual Joplin Christmas Parade will be business owner and volunteer Sid Davis.

“I work with the Joplin Sentinels, so I work parades but I’ve never been in a parade,” Davis said. “You know, being a senior (U.S.) Marine officer, having some-

thing touch your heart to make you cry doesn’t happen very often. And this opportunity truly brought me to my knees in thankfulness.”

The parade is slated for 6 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 1, beginning at 15th Street and ending at Second Street.

Denton said Freeman Health System employees have put on the parade since 2014.

“Countless volunteer hours

See **PARADE** on A2

Grant to create trail connection to bike park

FROM STAFF REPORTS

NEWS@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

The city of Joplin has announced a \$500,000 grant that will be used to build a trail connecting MOMentum Bike Park to Landreth Park.

The federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant will pay for a trail about two-thirds of a mile that will begin at the low-water bridge just west of the intersection of Murphy Boulevard and North Main Street and will go all the way to Lone Elm Road. The trail will be 12 feet wide and will include an 11-foot-wide pre-formed pedestrian bridge across Joplin Creek. Wayfinding signs will be added along the trail and at the trailheads.

See **GRANT** on A2



Globe | Laurie Sisk

Keagan Nelson, of Clark Mills, N.Y., competed in the Velosolutions Pump Track World Championship qualifier at Joplin’s MOMentum Bike Park in August.

Joplin Globe joins list of businesses offering candy for Halloween

FROM STAFF REPORTS

NEWS@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

The Joplin Globe will be offering a Halloween event for children from 2-5 p.m. Friday. Come by our office, 2613 S. Main St., and come into the lobby on the south side of the building in the Hafeez Plaza. There will be a photo opportunity with some of the photos to appear in the paper. There also will be coloring pages for children.

TRUNK OR TREAT

The Independent Living Center invites the community to its annual Trunk or Treat from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at 2639 E. 34th St. in Joplin.

See **GLOBE** on A2

Holiday Tree Trail debuts Dec. 3

FROM STAFF REPORTS

NEWS@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

The Joplin Parks and Recreation Department is once again inviting the community to join in the annual Holiday Tree Trail competition.

For \$25, organizations and businesses can purchase a spot on the Holiday Tree Trail in Mercy Park.

Trees can have a theme, tied to a sponsor’s mission or be decorated however the tree sponsor desires. The registration deadline is midnight, Nov. 19, or until all tree spaces are claimed. Only 100 spaces are available.

Judges will be on the lookout for the most creative entries, awarding first-, second- and third-place prizes. Tree Trail visitors also will have the opportunity to vote on their favorites by scanning the QR code next to the tree through Dec. 31. Winners receive catering from the event sponsor, Texas Roadhouse, ranging from \$300 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$50 for third place. Winners will be notified in early January.

Each organization will have from Nov. 23 to Dec. 2 to decorate their tree.

See **TREE** on A2



Globe | Roger Nomer

Visitors walk through a lighted tunnel at the Holiday Tree Trail at Mercy Park in 2024.