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Judge stays move of Newton County election equipment

JOHN HACKER
JHACKER@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

NEOSHO, No. — A Newton County judge has blocked a proposal from Newton County Commissioners to move election equipment to a new location the night of Tuesday's midterm. Commissioners want to renovate a former courtroom, now called the "Election Room" where the equipment is store, into meeting space.

A temporary restraining order from Newton County Judge Kevin Selby prevents commissioners from moving the county's election equipment from the courthouse until Selby removes the order.

Newton County Clerk Tami Owens said she was aware of the commissioners' plan to turn the Election Room into a meeting space but the letter the commissioners sent to her on Oct. 23 was the first time she heard they wanted to move the equipment so quickly.

Newton County District 2 Commissioner Ron Wallace said commissioners had tried to talk to Owens about moving the equipment somewhere else and received "just a flat no."

"We actually gave her three different options for where she would like to move them," Wallace said. "She refused to pick a place. We wanted to move them on the night of election when everything is taken out of the room and goes to the different precincts. When it comes back, then we wanted to move the machines to the new location. We

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ELECTION 2026

SEEKING CHANGES

Submitted photos

Incumbent Republican Jill Carter, left, and Democrat Imma J. Curl, right, are candidates for the Missouri Senate 32nd District seat.

Candidates running for Missouri Senate seat out of frustration

JOHN HACKER
JHACKER@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

The two candidates running for the Missouri Senate 32nd District seat in the Nov. 3 general election say frustration is part of the reason they are in the race.

Incumbent Republican Jill Carter ran her first campaign because she said she was frustrated at how legislators were representing the people.

"We all come from different places and at the end of this, I'm just going to be a regular citizen who has wished that they could have made a positive difference," Carter said. "I'm not looking to climb the ladder. I just ran out of my own frustration of how government was representing people, the lack of opportunity for people to genuinely know what was going on. So that's my number one mission is to try to overcome those challenges."

Democrat Imma J. Curl said she's also frustrated about a lot of things, including voters not having a choice in the elections.

"My stump speech is about why I'm mad," she said. "I'm mad at grocery prices, I'm mad at the gas pump. I'm mad at this not-war with Iran. So I decided ... to take my mouth and put it to use. I don't know how great of a chance I have in this but I wanted everybody to have a choice, to not just be force-fed, this is all you get, one candidate. We've had Republicans in charge for 22 years. All they keep doing is pointing to, 'Oh it's the Democrats' fault.' "

The district includes Jasper and Newton counties.

• **Carter** lives near Granby, is the mother of five children and started advocating for the state legislature on her dime more than a decade ago for better services and education for local communities.

"I come from a long line of farmers, and I'm a small business owner," Carter said on her website, **https://jillforsenate.com/**. "My love for Southwest Missouri, for my special-needs son, my four other children and my two granddaughters animates everything I do. I was not made for political theatre. I am you."

• **Curl** grew up in Jasper County and has left a few times to pursue an education or work in the entertainment industry.

Curl said she graduated fom Texas Tech University with a Masters in Fine Arts degree in theater design and has worked in the entertainment industry for years.

She's been associated with Joplin's Dream Theatre Troupe since its inception about 20 years ago.

"And I feel that that background gives me the ability to be able to

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Joplin streetscaping project to begin next week

DEBBY WOODIN
DWOODIN@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

A streetscaping project along part of Main Street in Joplin will begin Tuesday, city officials have announced.

They want drivers using Main Street to be aware of scheduled lane closures.

According to a city statement, work will start from 15th to 12th streets on the east side of the road. Traffic within this section will be limited to one lane in each direction and will be shifted to the west side of the road with signage and channelizing devices.

This is the first phase of the project that will transform Main Street from 8th through 15th streets. As the project progresses, citizens will be notified in advance of changes to the work zones and traffic patterns.

The announcement follows a public meeting on Tuesday with city representatives on hand to discuss the work.

This is the third and final phase of Main Street improvements that stretch from First to 32nd streets.

The work has transformed the corridor with elements including new street surfaces, sidewalks with decorative concrete, lighting improvements, benches and trees, and a midtown motif.

The portion of the project north of the railroad tracks at 10th Street will match the current downtown motif, and the motif south of the railroad tracks to 15th Street will have the midtown style.

Dan Johnson, public works director for the city, previously said the intention was to give the different sections of Main Street separate identities representing the different eras of development that occurred in downtown, midtown and southtown, Johnson said.

The vacant lot on the corner of 10th and Main streets next to the Gryphon Building will be cleaned and cleared

See **STREETS** on A2

Globe file photo

The Christmas Train has been making stops in Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas for years, including this stop in 2019.

CPKC Holiday Train to include stops in Joplin, Pittsburg

FROM STAFF REPORTS
NEWS@JOPLINGLOBE.COM

Canadian Pacific Kansas City has announced its 2026 CPKC Holiday Train schedule, which will include stops in Joplin and Pittsburg, Kansas, next month.

The train will leave Nov. 19 from Montreal on a 32-day journey in support of local food banks. It will stop in 182 communities across Canada and the United States.

CPKC encourages attendees to bring a cash donation or non-perishable food item, with all contributions staying in the local community to help families in need.

"Our railroaders take great pride in bringing the Holiday Train through hundreds of communities across our network to support people facing food insecurity," CPKC President and CEO Keith Creel said in a statement. "This year, we are going farther south than we ever have before, visiting 10 communities in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Missouri for the first time.

"Through the generosity of the thousands of families and fans who come out to see the Holiday Train and support local food banks, whether for the first time or as part of a long-running holiday tradition, we can spread the joy of the season and support the giving spirit of the holidays," Creel added.

Performers that will join the Christmas trail

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