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PSC sets deadline to intervene in Spire rate case

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The Missouri Public Service Commission has set a Nov. 23 deadline to intervene in a rate case filed by Spire earlier this week seeking to increase its natural gas base rates.

On Nov. 2, Spire filed with the PSC for approval of a net increase in annual base rate revenues of about $208.56 million, which Spire states will result in an increase for an average residential customer of about $10 per month, or 11%, for its Spire West service area, and $13 per month, or 15%, for its Spire East service area.

Spire supplies natural gas services to approximately 1.2 million customers in Missouri.

Joplin-area counties served by Spire are in the Spire West service area.

"Our focus is on safely and reliably delivering affordable natural gas service to more than 1.2 million Missouri customers," Steve Mills, Spire Missouri president, said in a statement on the company's website. "Since our last rate case, we've continued to modernize and upgrade our system, benefiting customers with enhanced reliability and fueling economic growth and job creation. We are fortunate to be both a trusted energy provider and a trusted community partner across Missouri."

Spire has invested nearly $808 million since its last rate case to maintain and modernize its Missouri natural gas system, enhancing safety and reliability of its distribution system while reducing emissions, according to the statement.

Spire offers programs to help vulnerable customers disproportionately affected by rate increasers. The utility states it connected Missouri customers with nearly $14 million in federal, state and Spire energy assistance funding in fiscal 2026. Customers who are struggling may find more information about assistance by calling 211 or online at **spireenergy.com/assistance**.

See **PSC** on A2



Globe | John Hacker

Members of the Southwest Missouri Mountain Biking Team held an end-of-season celebration on Thursday that included a night ride.

RIDING HIGH

Mountain bike team celebrates successful season with party, night ride

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The Southwest Missouri Mountain Biking Team celebrated a successful 2026 season with an awards ceremony and a night ride at the MOmentum Bike Park on Thursday.

About 60 parents and riders came to the pavilion at the park to celebrate the children who put in the time to ride and train for the five big races they had in 2026.

"I want to start out and say, thank you, thank you, thank you to all of our riders," said Christina Williams, team director of the SWMO Mountain Biking Team. "You guys did awesome this year. You grew as riders, you grew as teammates and as friends, and I just ... I'm so happy and proud of all of you guys."

All 36 members of the team received an award at Thursday's end-of-season event.

Four of the team's riders have one more ride at the National Interscholastic Cycling Association's Central Regionals, which is made up of 12 states in the middle of the U.S. That race will be held on Sunday in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Head coach Jake Souder said the team has 36 members from sixth grade through high school and they're from all over the area.

Souder said the team practices two or three times a week at either MOmentum Bike Park in Joplin or the High Ground Bike Preserve in Neosho.

See **BIKE** on A2

Prospect Village site to get new business

Dental office planned for construction

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A business is going in on the $375 million mixed-use Prospect Village property located south of 20th Street and along Geneva Avenue.

City officials have activated a section of the land and a corresponding taxing district for a dental office that is to be built south of the Planet Fitness and Home Depot area.

The Joplin City Council this week approved activation of what is referred to as "Project 6" of the Prospect Village development plan. That is a tax increment finance district where the dental office is to built.

A TIF plan had previously been presented by Prospect Village developer Woodsonia Real Estate of Omaha, Nebraska.

A TIF district is a method in which governments can tax properties by adopting a baseline value for the collection of property and sales taxes that will go to taxing institutions such as schools, local and county governments. As the value of the property grows, increased tax revenue pays for needed improvements such as roads, sewers and other infrastructure. Those improvements will be constructed on a pay-as-you-go basis, which means that as the development generates revenue from increased taxes the developer will be reimbursed for development costs.

The entirety of Prospect Village is planned to include an indoor sports complex of 135,000 square feet, two outdoor turf fields, a hotel, retail stores, apartment buildings and a public park.

There has been discussion that a new grocery store is being sought for the development and that retail sites are to be developed on the property where the former Red, Hot and Blue restaurant operated.

Much of the property was where the former International Paper Co. was located. Part of the property has to be environmentally cleaned where the paper company treated wood poles with creosote.

Earlier this year, the Joplin Sports Authority and others worked on adjustments to the indoor layout and furnishings for the sports complex.


VETERANS DAY

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Inside today

Check out The Joplin Globe's special Veterans Day section with stories, essays and more beginning on page C1.

Downtown business owner has concerns over project

Club 609 owner wants access and safety during construction for city's parking garage project

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While the city of Joplin's public works staff is deep into planning to replace the Sixth Street parking lot and garage along Virginia Avenue, a longtime local business owner says she did not get the answers she sought at a recent meeting on the project.

Linda Williams said she wants more information from the city before the project starts.

Williams, accompanied by her brother, Steve Williams, owners of the Club 609 restaurant, on Monday told the Joplin City Council that the business opened in September 1990. After 36 years of operating, "We remain a gathering place for families, friends and neighbors and a source of employment for our employees," Linda Williams said.

She told the council that the

See **PROJECT** on A2



Globe | Debby Woodin

Linda Williams of Club 609 in Joplin has expressed concerns with city officials about a city parking garage project.

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