

SNAP: Program to be partially funded in November. **2A** | **VOLLEYBALL:** Webb City sweeps Marshfield, advances. **1B**

Driver in Carthage hit-and-run gets 4 years

Vehicle identified by debris left at scene
where Domino's worker was struck

FROM STAFF REPORTS
news@joplinglobe.com

CARTHAGE, Mo. — A Joplin man involved in a hit-and-run has been sentenced to four years in state prison

as part of a plea deal. Miguel Gaspar-Diaz, 43, was sentenced last Thursday to four years each for leaving the scene of an accident and for tampering

with physical evidence in a felony prosecution. The sentences are set to run concurrently. Charges of second-degree assault, DWI with serious physical injury and failure to drive on the right side of the road were dismissed. According to a probable-cause affidavit filed by Carthage investigators,

police, fire and emergency medical services were called to the 1100 block of Baker Boulevard at 8:51 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 30, 2024, to an injury crash involving a juvenile male on a moped and an unknown second vehicle that had left the scene. When they arrived, officers found the moped in the middle of the road but

no victim. A resident in the 1000 block of Baker Boulevard told officers that a male was lying in the ditch in front of their home and firefighters responded and started giving aid. "Victim 1 was transported by EMS to Mercy Hospital in Joplin ... with extensive injuries including but not limited to a brain bleed,

torn aortic artery and multiple broken bones," the probable-cause affidavit stated. "The victim was later transported to, and remains at, Mercy Hospital in Springfield ... for critical care due to life-threatening injuries." The statement said officers found security video

SEE **DRIVER**, 2A

'IT REALLY HELPS'



Volunteers with the local chapter Freedom of Road Riders unload food Saturday at the Souls Harbor food pantry.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Freedom of Road Riders chapter comes through for Souls Harbor

BY JOHN HACKER
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On Saturday, with the holidays approaching and the government shutdown threatening food aid for millions, pressure on area food pantries was ratcheting up. That also

was the day Souls Harbor in Joplin received some needed donations from the local Freedom of Road Riders chapter. The group conducted its ninth annual food drive earlier that day in the parking lot of Cash Saver grocery store,

SEE **FOOD**, 2A



Rachel Pullen, volunteer with Freedom of Road Riders Southwest Missouri Chapter 11, carries food into Souls Harbor on Saturday following the group's ninth annual food drive and toy run.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

MOmentum Bike Park to open later this month

Details about 2026 bike festival to be announced

FROM STAFF REPORTS
news@joplinglobe.com

Joplin's MOmentum Bike Park opens to the public Monday, Nov. 24. A ribbon-cutting is planned for 3:30 p.m. that day, and members of the

public are invited to come out and bring their bikes. "We are pumped to open this incredible and unique park to Joplin and our surrounding communities," Paul Bloomberg, director of Joplin Parks and Recreation, said in a statement.

"People who may not have visited a bike park before will be amazed at the different features and trails that we've created. There's something for the little ones all the way up to the skilled bikers." According to the city, when MOmentum Bike Park opens, it will be the largest municipal facility

of its kind in Missouri, featuring more than 132,000 square feet of formal bike park elements alongside 10 miles of purpose-built mountain bike trails on 95 acres. Bike park elements include two Velosolutions pump tracks, four progressive jump lines, a bicycle playground and traffic

garden, and a skills course. It also will include technical and flow gravity trails, traditional single-track, all-weather trails, climbing and circulation trails, as well as hiking trails. During the ribbon-cutting ceremony, details will be announced about the

SEE **PARK**, 2A

The federal government has been shut down since Oct. 1 because congressional Democrats refuse to vote to fund the government until Republicans add an extension of the credits to the spending bill. Republicans argue the government should be reopened before negotiations over subsidies resume.

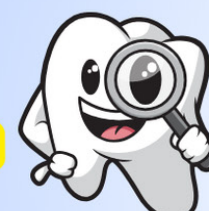
There are at least two companies offering health plans in every county, with a handful in the St. Louis area

SEE **PREMIUMS**, 2A



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