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# THE JOPLIN GLOBE

TUESDAY | APRIL 14, 2026

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IRAN: Trump says blockade of country's ports has begun. **6A** | **CROWDER:** Softball, baseball teams sweep St. Charles. **1B**

## Next CVB grant round opens

Applications due  
by 5 p.m. June 1

FROM STAFF REPORTS  
news@joplinglobe.com

The Joplin Convention and Visitors Bureau has announced that guidelines and the application for its fiscal year 2027 event marketing grants are now available.

These grants are designed to expand the marketing reach of local events and attractions, with the aim of increasing the number of visitors to Joplin.

Grants must be completed, along with all supporting documentation, and returned to the bureau no later than 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 1.

Eligibility requirements, guidelines and the application are available on the Joplin Convention and Visitors Bureau's website at [www.visitjoplinmo.com](http://www.visitjoplinmo.com); at the bureau's office, 602 S. Main St.; or by calling Patrick Tuttle at 417-625-4789.

Through its fiscal year budget, the bureau allocates \$110,000 for its grant programs. The CVB Advisory Board will meet in July to determine how the FY27 funds will be distributed. During the board's review, applicants will be invited to make a short presentation detailing their marketing plans/needs in support of their application. The board forwards its recommendations to the Joplin City Council for final approval and adoption into next year's budget.

Events can submit a request for up to \$25,000. "The best use of these funds, by either an event or an attraction, is to expand their marketing reach into markets they may not otherwise be able to reach," Tuttle said in a statement. "Whether for an event or attraction, the stronger applicants will be those who show the ability to attract visitors from 70-plus miles (one-way) outside of Joplin and generate an overnight stay or retain a visitor in the area for three hours or greater."

Every organization submitting a grant application must attend one mandatory preapplication meeting. The next meeting is set for 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 8.

Funding for the grants comes from the city's hotel and motel tax collections.

# Season starts



Ten-year-old London Rickman, of Diamond, gets defensive advice from volunteer "buddy" Braxton Cox during opening day for the Miracle League of Joplin on Saturday at Will Norton Miracle Field.

GLOBE | LAURIE SISK

## More than 200 participate in Miracle League

BY LAURIE SISK  
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With a broad smile, 13-year-old Adalyn "Wheels" Cates navigated her wheelchair to the batter's box for her first at-bat during opening day for the Miracle League of Joplin. Chants of "Get a hit, Wheels" erupted from the crowd and Cates, of Joplin, responded with an exuberant thumbs-up.

"I'm trying," Cates smiled at the fans after missing the first pitch. Then she connected for a hit as she joined more than 200 other youths and adult athletes for opening-day play.

Saturday marked the fifth year of participation in the league for Cates.



Her mom, Paige Cates said a big part of the draw for her daughter to play in the league is her outgoing personality.

"She just loves meeting new people," Paige Cates said. "This is the second year my dad (Jerry Crandall)

and I have coached, and getting to watch her play out there is awesome. Before this, there was nothing out there for her to do."

"Wheels" was one of 223 youths and adults athletes to take the field for the league's first game of the season. The

Adalyn "Wheels" Cates, 13, of Joplin, gives a thumbs-up to the crowd as she takes her place at the plate during opening day for the Miracle League of Joplin on Saturday at Will Norton Miracle Field.

GLOBE | LAURIE SISK

season includes six Saturdays when participants who might not be able to take advantage of conventional leagues have the opportunity to play and socialize.

"We had a record turnout, and I know all the teams really enjoyed playing for the first time this season," Miracle League of Joplin volunteer board member Rob Carlson said.

Carlson talked about the growth of the league since its inception in 2013.

"I think there is more awareness in the community that this is available for those who want to participate," Carlson said. "I honestly don't know if there's more of a need for it or just more awareness, but there is certainly more participation."

Carlson said the league is made possible by a small board of members and a large cadre of volunteers, including "buddies" who help the players on the field.

"There were several KCU students who volunteered to

SEE LEAGUE, 2A

## Carver Monument, Missouri Southern plan Earth Day events

Documentary  
on Rachel Carson set  
for this weekend

FROM STAFF REPORTS  
news@joplinglobe.com

George Washington Carver National Monument and Missouri Southern State University have Earth Day events planned in the coming days.



Rachel Carson

book, "Silent Spring," raised concerns over pesticides including DDT and helped inspire the environmental movement.

The national monument will feature a documentary on Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" at 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Carson's book, "Silent Spring," raised concerns over pesticides including DDT and helped inspire the environmental movement.

The event is free.

### SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE

Southern will hold its annual Earth Day Sustainability Conference on Friday, April 24, in the third-floor ballroom of Billingsly Student Center.

The event features a series of educational presentations addressing local and global environmental issues, in addition to educational booths hosted by campus and community partners.

"Held in the spirit of Earth Day, our conference creates a space for meaningful conversations about sustainability, innovation and responsible stewardship of natural resources for MSSU and the surrounding community," Teresa Boman, MSSU's program director of environmental health and safety, said in a statement.

"By connecting people with different areas of expertise, the conference helps spark collaboration beyond cam-

pus into the surrounding community. It not only raises awareness about environmental challenges but also empowers attendees to take action in order to make a lasting, positive impact."

Speakers include:

- WAYLON KINDER, of Noble Earth Recovery, discussing e-waste solutions.
- JERRY HARMAN, of H2Ozarks, presenting water quality initiatives.
- ANNA SWEARENGEN, of the Truman Environmental

Task Force, speaking on collaborative environmental planning.

• MSSU EHS CLUB members presenting sustainable lifestyle alternatives.

• EMILY YOUNG, of Stream Teams United, addressing plastic pollution and community organizing.

• BOMAN AND MELISSAH PERKINS, of Missouri Southern's environmental health and safety program, sharing

SEE EVENTS, 2A

