

**Basement Leaking?  
What are you wading for?**

**MID PLAINS WATERPROOFING**  
620-664-4598

**Commercial - Industrial - Residential**

- ★ Free Estimates - Insured
- ★ Chemical Grout Injection
- ★ No Excavating



**www.midplainswater.com**

# THE JOPLIN GLOBE

TUESDAY | MAY 5, 2026

joplinglobe.com | \$2.50

**STRAIT:** U.S. military says it sank 6 small boats. **6A**

**SOFTBALL:** Missouri Southern takes regular-season title. **1B**

## Mercy announces new president

Jeff Carrier succeeds  
Jeremy Drinkwitz

FROM STAFF REPORTS  
news@joplinglobe.com

Jeff Carrier has been named president of Mercy Joplin Communities, effective Monday.



Jeff Carrier

He will also lead Mercy operations in Carthage and in Galena, Pittsburg and Columbus, Kansas. Locally, Mercy is one of the region's largest employees, with 3,235 employees at

five campuses in Joplin and Carthage in Missouri and in Southeast Kansas.

"Joplin is a dynamic and important community to Mercy," David Argueta, Mercy senior vice president and president of community operations, said in a statement. "It's Jeff's dream to return to Joplin where he brings decades of

clinical experience, strong operational discipline and a collaborative leadership style that aligns well with Mercy's mission and our commitment to the communities we serve."

Carrier has more than two decades of health care leadership experience, most recently serving as a region president of Baptist

Health. His career includes senior executive, chief clinical officer and market president roles, and a clinical background as a nurse and health care leader. He also served for more than a decade at Freeman Health System in chief clinical and nursing leadership roles.

SEE **MERCY**, 2A

## Area man named to nuclear energy panel

First meeting of task force set for next week

FROM STAFF REPORTS  
news@joplinglobe.com

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Bob Bromley, of Carl Junction, is one of 23 members appointed to the newly formed Missouri Advanced Nuclear Energy Task Force by Gov. Mike Kehoe.

Bromley, currently serving as a state representative, is chair of the Missouri House Committee on Utilities.

He is a licensed professional engineer and worked for Empire District Electric Co., now Liberty, for 35 years. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in education from Southeast Missouri State University and a bachelor's degree in engineering from Missouri

University of Science and Technology in Rolla.

The task force, established by executive order, is charged with evaluating and guiding the state's approach to nuclear energy development.

Kehoe said in a statement that the task force is the next step in an action plan developed following Missouri's first nuclear summit last July, when more than 550 scientists, lawmakers and others convened in Columbia to discuss the future of energy in Missouri.

Kehoe will kick off the inaugural meeting of the task force at 2 p.m. Monday, May 11, at the Lewis and Clark State Office Building in Jefferson City.

"Combined with the upcoming Missouri State Energy Plan, the members of our Advanced Nuclear Task Force will help chart a clear and strategic path forward for Missouri's energy future — one that supports reliable power, economic opportunity and long-term energy resilience for communities across the state," Kehoe said in his statement. "New energy sources will support U.S. energy dominance and reduce reliance on energy imports."

The Missouri's State Energy Office, part of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, will be the state's lead on the task force.

SEE **ENERGY**, 2A

## 'Vibe is just great'



Ben Holman, a member of Stunt Dudes BMX, gets airtime at the MOMentum Bike Park's grand launch party Saturday.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

### MOMentum Bike Park holds launch party

BY JOHN HACKER  
jhacker@joplinglobe.com

Ben Holman and riders like him put the launch in launch party Saturday.

Holman, a member of Joplin-based Stunt Dudes BMX and skateboard performers, from Bentonville, Arkansas, was one of many making the most of blue skies and a great spring day when the city of Joplin held the grand launch party for MOMentum Bike Park.

The park is the largest municipal park of its kind in Missouri, and the launch



Brothers Ottis Scott, 4, and Colter Scott, 2, from Carthage, ride on the kids bicycle playground during MOMentum Bike Park's grand launch party Saturday.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

party drew more than 1,000 people to the park at 601 Adventure Lane, just south of the intersection of Zora Street and Lone Elm Road.

"This place is amazing," Holman said. "I came here when

it first opened and rode it, and I love it. It's fun. It's very clean, very safe out here in the community, and the vibe is just great."

Jay Brown and his wife, Molly, brought 3-year-old son

Harvey out to ride his bike.

"He loves it," Jay Brown said of his son. "We live just a few minutes away, and he's begging to come here all the time. It's nice to have things you can do as a family. It's nice to have a place where kids can go."

"I really like the dirt track," Harvey said. "And I really like the pump track. I like that it has those ramps."

The city opened the 95-acre park in November 2025 but held off on the launch party until spring.

"This is saying, 'Hey, it's nice weather. We're here and open to the community, the region, the country,'" said Joplin Parks and Recreation Director Paul Bloomberg. "We've been advertising it, our marketing and communications department has been doing a great job getting the word out about this and we just wanted everybody

SEE **PARK**, 2A

## Parents, children seeking balance in digital age

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Today, CNHI and newsrooms across the nation begin a look at the impact of Kids and Screens and how parents and guardians, children and peers, educators and law enforcement personnel are looking at what all this time on screens means.

Over the course of the series, CNHI will look at what parents need to know, how state and local leaders are trying to limit time on screens — including a growing number of bell-to-bell bans in states — and what artificial intelligence's emergence means. Nine students across the nation will also offer their perspective on the digital world they have grown up in and how they thrive among growing concerns.

BY CARSON GERBER  
CNHI News

Jordan Spicklemire landed her first job as a high school counselor in Indianapolis in 2012 — the same year half of Americans reported owning a smartphone. In the years that followed, she held a front-row

seat as the devices gradually made their way into the hands of students.

"When I started, I noticed kids walking down the hallways talking to each other at their lockers," Spicklemire said. "That turned into the students all staring at a rectangle with an earbud or headphones on."

Since then, the age at which kids start using devices has gotten younger, and the amount of time they spend looking at screens has ballooned.

Nearly 60% of kids have their own tablet by the age of 4 and are spending over

SEE **SCREENS**, 2A

