

**TARIFFS:** Trump administration seeks new path forward. **4A**

**BASEBALL:** Joplin Jailbirds win home opener 9-1. **1B**

## Legislator provides tax plan info to city panel

Constitutional amendment goes before Missouri voters Aug. 5

BY DEBBY WOODIN  
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Members of Joplin's finance committee met Tuesday to sort out what is involved in the state's proposed move from income to sales taxes to support state operations. A proposed constitutional amendment on that question will go to voters in the Aug. 5 election.

The finance committee was appointed several years ago by the City Council to study and report on financial issues and impacts to the city and residents.

SEE **COMMITTEE**, 2A

## Group gives \$1.9M to defeat Amendment 5

BY JASON HANCOCK  
Missouri Independent

The Missouri Association of Realtors donated \$1.9 million to the campaign opposing Amendment 5 on Tuesday, escalating the fight over a proposed constitutional amendment that would create a pathway for lawmakers to eliminate the state income tax through expanded or increased sales taxes.

The contribution to Missourians for Fair Taxation came days after Missouri Promise PAC, the committee backing Amendment 5, reported receiving \$1.9 million from Missouri Promise Inc., a same-name nonprofit incorporated in Delaware whose donors are not publicly disclosed.

The nearly identical donations — the Missouri Association of Realtors donation was \$1 more than Missouri Promise's check — make clear that the August ballot measure

SEE **CAMPAIGN**, 2A

## Festival underway



International painters spread out on a parking lot on West Seventh Street to begin their street paintings Tuesday in Joplin.

COURTESY | PATRICK TUTTLE

### Artists begin working on street paintings in Joplin

BY MARTA CHURCHWELL  
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Jan Riggins couldn't have asked for better weather for 3D street painting Wednesday on a parking lot on West Seventh Street in Joplin.

Temperatures were in the 70s and low 80s, accompanied by a light breeze under clear skies. That was quite a difference from last year when downpours slowed her 3D painting at Schifferdecker Park.

Riggins and her 19-year-old daughter, Olivia, both of Fort Worth, Texas, are among 16 international artists who arrived in Joplin this week to create 3D street paintings as part of the World Street Painting Festival commemorating this year's centennial of Route 66. The artists represent 10 countries — from the U.S., Mexico, and countries in Europe and Asia.



Jan Riggins, of Fort Worth, Texas, creates an image of Cadillac Ranch. She and her daughter, Olivia, are among the international artists in Joplin this week for the World Street Painting Festival.

COURTESY | MARTA CHURCHWELL

Their paintings are being created on a parking lot at 1717 W. Seventh St., originally the site of a Walmart store. Seventh Street is part of Route 66 as it travels west out of

Joplin and into Southeast Kansas, then into Northeast Oklahoma.

The artists will be painting through Friday with a public unveiling of the artwork from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, said Mike Kothuis, co-founder of the World Street Painting Foundation that recruited the artists. Kothuis is from the Netherlands, where the foundation is based.

While the artists represent a mix of styles, cultural perspectives and artistic traditions, their work here is strictly Route 66 imagery, celebrating the various layers of the Mother Road's past, present and future.

The paintings they are creating are optical illusions of 3D images appearing to pop out of the street. They work from what is called the "view point," or the only place in the painting where the 3D perspective can be viewed. Otherwise, the artworks appear distorted.

Those visiting the festival will be invited to step into the art and strike a pose for photographs.

That's what attracts Jan Riggins to creating 3D street paintings.

"What I like about the 3D art is

SEE **FESTIVAL**, 2A



Local author Isayah B. (Izzy B.) talks about his book "The Mighty McKraken" during a 2025 StoryWalk dedication at Leonard Park.

GLOBE FILE

## New StoryWalk to open June 11 in Leonard Park

Event to feature activities, crafts

FROM STAFF REPORTS  
news@joplinglobe.com

Another StoryWalk will be available to Joplin families to start the summer.

One Joplin is inviting families to come to a celebration

at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 11, for the unveiling of a new children's book — "Look Up!" by local author and illustrator Isayah B. (Izzy B.)

The StoryWalk is located at Leonard Park, 408 Turk Ave.

The story encourages children to notice the beauty, adventure and possibilities that can be found when they pause, look around and engage with the world beyond their

screens and routines, according to One Joplin.

In addition to the StoryWalk, families will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities, crafts, receive free books and connect with community partners focused on supporting children and families. All offerings are free.

"Books have a unique way of bringing people together," Nicole Brown, executive director

of One Joplin, said in a statement. "This event celebrates not only literacy, but also curiosity, creativity, and the opportunity for families to make memories together in one of Joplin's great public spaces."

A Joplin native, Izzy B. has become known for creating imaginative stories that encourage children to explore

SEE **STORY**, 2A

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