

THE JOPLIN GLOBE

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MUSEUM: Crystal Bridges unveiling expansion, new art. **3A** | **KYLE PETTY:** Annual charity ride raises \$2.7 million. **1B**

Contractor selected for I-44 work

Project to begin later this year

FROM STAFF REPORTS
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A contractor has been selected for major improve-

ments to Interstate 44 as part of the Forward 44 Project, with work slated to begin later this year.

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission announced this week that it has picked the Capital-CMT Team as a design-build contractor of the

next project in the Missouri Department of Transportation's Forward 44 Program. The Capital-CMT Team consists of contractor Capital Paving and Construction with designer Crawford Murphy Tilly.

Design-build is a project delivery method that com-

bines both the design and construction phases into one contract. The selected contract team completes the design and construction in parallel instead of in succession, which saves time and resources.

Forward 44 is a \$471 million project that will prior-

itize improvements along the I-44 corridor at five key locations:

- **MAJOR INTERCHANGES** at I-44/Interstate 49 in Fidelity and I-44/Missouri Highway 13 in Springfield.

- **WIDENING** to six-lanes in

SEE **I-44**, 2A

Former trainer faces new charges

Ryan K. Palmer initially arrested in early May

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — New charges have been filed against a former athletic trainer after a third Carthage High School student spoke to the Carthage Police Department about an incident earlier this year.

Ryan K. Palmer, who was initially arrested last month on two counts of felony sexual contact with a student, now faces six criminal charges including new felony first-degree sexual abuse and felony sexual contact with a student on school property. The newest charges were filed Wednesday.

Palmer was arrested and charged May 7 with two counts of felony sexual contact with a student for an incident that the student told investigators happened on May 6 when she was receiving treatment from Palmer in the school training room.

Two more felony counts, one of first-degree sexual abuse and one of felony sexual contact with a student on public school property, were filed after a second person came to police May 10 about an incident that she said happened in March when he was providing treatment for a reported back injury in the school training room.

The latest two counts were filed in an amended complaint that combined all six charges into one complaint.

Jasper County Prosecutor Theresa Kenney said in a written release the decision to combine the cases was

SEE **CHARGES**, 2A

PLAY AND LEARN



Hannah Cline, 10, of Webb City, sculpts a mountain on an exhibit at the Schroeder Family Exploreum that uses light and sand to allow children to create a landscape.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Exploreum opens north wing with STEAM exhibits

BY JOHN HACKER
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The opening of the Schroeder Family Exploreum — a day eight years in the making — happened Thursday with a crowd of children and adults on hand to try

out STEAM-related toys and hands-on exhibits.

A 3D Tetris game, the Bubble Monster machine that creates a bubble around a person, magnetic sand, an augmented reality sand table, an illumination station that looks like a big version of an old Lite-Brite toy using col-

ored pegs, and more awaited children when the Exploreum, 300 S. Main St., opened its north end for its first official day of business.

Neely Myers, executive director of the Exploreum, said this is the first of a number of planned events.

"Today is years in the making," Myers said. "So my board has been working on this project over eight years, I've been

working on it over four years, and we are finally ready and able to open Phase 1. And this is just Phase 1. We've still got 20,000 square feet on this south side of the building that's going to be full of exhibits as we continue to raise funds."

Myers said she expected a few grand openings will be coming in 2027.

SEE **OPENING**, 2A

Reeds man accused of firing gun with 2 children present

Charges include assault, armed criminal action

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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A Reeds man has been charged with multiple offenses after allegedly firing

a shot at a man who came with two children to his house to get some property, according to court records.

Dalton Pollard, 36, is charged with first-degree

assault, armed criminal action, shooting at a person or a motor vehicle and endangering the welfare of the children. Pollard appeared before Judge John Nicholas on Thursday and was ordered to be held without bond in the Jasper County Jail.

According to a statement by the Jasper County Sheriff's Department, deputies responded to a call alleging shots fired about 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the area of County Road 70 and Fir Road.

When they arrived,

deputies found a man in his vehicle along with two children. The man told authorities he had gone to a nearby residence to retrieve personal items for one of the children. As he got out of his vehicle, Pollard allegedly pulled out a

gun and pressed it to the man's head, according to the probable-cause statement. The man got back in his vehicle and Pollard then allegedly fired a shot that struck the vehicle,

SEE **REEDS**, 2A



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INDEX: News to Go, 3A | Celebration of Life, 4A | Opinion, 5A | Sports, 1B | Family Fun, 2B | Weather, 3B | Classified, 5B