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# THE JOPLIN GLOBE

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## Joplin police announce Operation Silver Shield

BY JOHN HACKER  
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The Joplin Police Department launched a new program to support senior citizens and those with disabilities.

Joplin police Chief Richard Pearson on Friday announced Operation Silver Shield to provide wellness checks to Joplin residents older than 65 and persons with verified disabilities. Pearson said wellness checks

will be conducted by members of the Joplin Police Sentinel Unit and the JPD Co-Responder Unit.

The Sentinels are staffed by trained volunteers who have completed the JPD's Citizens' Police Academy. The Co-Responder Unit is made up of full-time civilian employees of the Ozark Center embedded with JPD.

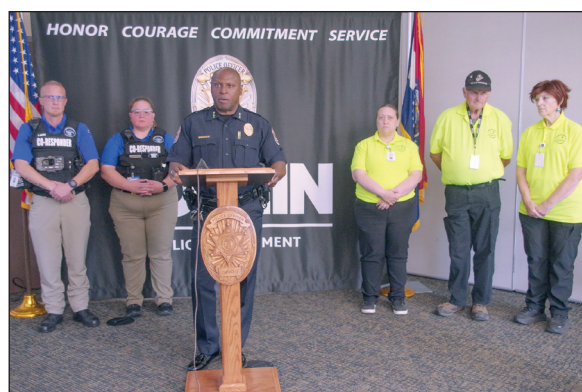
Pearson said sworn law enforcement officers would only get involved if a wellness check escalates to something the volunteers

or co-responders aren't comfortable handling.

Pearson said Operation Silver Shield checks will be conducted on a routine basis, weekly or every other week depending on how many people sign up for the program, and is focused on Joplin residents who would benefit from being checked on a regular basis.

He said a resident on the Silver Shield list will be called before the

SEE SHIELD, 2A



Joplin police Chief Richard Pearson speaks Friday about the new Silver Sentinel program and is joined by members of the JPD Co-Responder Unit Jason Davis (from left) and C. Pavlovic, and Joplin Police Sentinel Unit members Kari Lewis, Sid Davis and Lori Lanier.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

## Helping others help



Representatives of many of the 72 groups that received grants from the W.R. Corley Memorial Trust gather Friday for a group photo.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

**Corley Trust gives \$270,276 to nonprofits across Joplin area**

BY JOHN HACKER  
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Southwest Missouri Bank, trustee of the W.R. Corley Memorial Trust, passed out dozens of checks Friday to agencies doing good work in the region.

"This year, we were able to assist 72 area nonprofits through the distribution of \$270,276," said Chuck Brown, senior vice president and trust officer at Southwest Missouri Bank.

"Over the past seven years, over \$1.4 million in grants have been distributed. Mr. Corley's legacy will continue to enhance our local communities for many years to come and will help these organizations provide much-needed services to our residents."

Corley, who died in 2019, was a lifelong area resident and entrepreneur who supported many area charities and institutions.

His perpetual trust continues to provide financial support to area nonprofit organizations, particularly those that assist the homeless and dis-



Ken Surbrugg (right), a trust officer with Southwest Missouri Bank, delivers a \$5,000 check Friday from the W.R. Corley Memorial Trust to Scott Clayton, director of Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

advantaged populations. Grants went to a variety of agencies in Joplin, Carthage, Neosho, Webb City, Carl Junction and other communities.

Charlotte Foust, with the Area Agency on Aging Region X, said the \$5,272 they received will help provide home-delivered meals to caregivers and the people they are caring for across their coverage area.

"What the Corley Trust really means to the Area

Agency on Aging is that we can provide the food to the people who are homebound so that they can stay home and avoid going into a nursing home," Foust said. "This grant is going to go to those meals. We'll be able to provide 504 meals over the next year to those hundreds of homebound adults we serve."

Corley also was a long-time supporter of KCU's medical and dental school in Joplin, giving to the

construction of the school about a decade ago.

"We're grateful that the Corley Trust and Bob Corley himself... have been longtime supporters of our college of osteopathic medicine and our college of dental medicines," Emily Larson, with Kansas City University, said. "It's for our Community Smiles program, within our college of dental medicine, which is our fund that

SEE TRUST, 2A



Will Holiday's "Grand Ol' Americana Show" is coming Saturday, June 27, to Joplin.

COURTESY | CONNECT2CULTURE

## Show at Cornell Complex will celebrate American summer

BY MARTA CHURCHWELL  
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A tribute to the floats on lazy rivers, hot nights under starry skies and everything else that defines an all-American summer will be brought to Joplin on Saturday, June 27, when Connect2Culture presents its annual patriotic performance, Liberty Celebration!

Always held the last Saturday before the Fourth of July, the celebration is designed to ignite excitement and pride ahead of Independence Day.

Gates to the celebration will open at 7 p.m. and festivities will begin at 8 p.m. on the Leggett & Platt Green of the Harry M. Cornell Arts & Entertainment Complex, 212 W. Seventh St.

There is no charge for admission.

This year's celebration will feature "Will Holiday's Grand Ol' Americana Show," a tribute to the old time American summer, featuring culture, comedy and music that defines the American spirit. In addition to the show, there will be food trucks, lawn games and a fireworks finale. No outside food, drinks or pets are permitted, but outdoor chairs are allowed. They also may be rented from C2C for \$5, plus fees.

The "Grand Ol' Americana Show" is a variety show performed through the framework of a live audience retro radio show broadcasting from the 1776 AM L-B-R-T "Liberty" Radio Theatre. The radio show's musical pillar is the Liberty Radio Orchestra and Gospel Singers, but it also features performances by Americana/folk rock band Blue Water Highway and New Orleans jazz style group Dirty River Jazz Band, along with guest artists. The performers are natives of Texas.

The show is performed as part of the Grand Ol' Production Co., a Texas-based entertainment business with shows that have toured across America, performing in Oklahoma, Kansas, Kentucky, North Carolina, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

It all started in 2003 when executive producer Will Hearn and Blue Water Highway's Greg Essington and Zack Kibodeaux were high school students desiring to write and perform a Christmas show that was nothing like the typical holiday shows. They developed "The Grand Ol' Christmas Show," a musical variety show performed through the framework of a live audience retro radio broadcast. Known as progressive nostalgia, it combined nostalgic music and song with current cultural and artistic trends and

SEE SHOW, 2A

