

Storm damage



The building housing JB Electric at 120 N. Prigmore Ave. in Duenweg was badly damaged in the storm over the weekend.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Businesses in Duenweg, historic Carthage building hit

BY JOHN HACKER
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Joshua Boyd, owner of JB Electric, said he and a crew were close to completing renovations on the building he bought in October 2025 at 120 N. Prigmore Ave.

Then the storm hit Saturday night and Sunday morning, packing winds around 80 mph as well as torrential rains.

The storm damaged all but one of five buildings in the same area as JB Electric.

Boyd's building was the most seriously damaged of the five, with part of the roof blown off, the wall on the north side blown in, severe damage to the back side, garage doors and new framing for offices inside the building.

Boyd said it took him more time than usual to get to the building Sunday



A storm caused extensive damage to many buildings in the area Saturday night and Sunday morning, including the former Eugene Field Elementary School in Carthage, which recently served as a church.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

because of trees and power lines down on the roads.

"For the storms to do this today, it was just a gut punch," Boyd said. "I'm insured, and I have a claim in and a claims adjuster on the way this week. We've got brand-new HVAC in there and brand-new garage doors installed just recently."

Boyd said he started his business in 2017 and had been working out of his home until recently.

He said he and his employees work around Joplin, Springfield and

Northwest Arkansas and that this location is central to all those areas with easy access to the interstates.

Matt Devine, owner of M&T Trucking at 112 N. Prigmore, next to JB Electric, said the storm blew in his garage door but did little damage inside.

The building on the northeast corner of Seventh Street and Prigmore Road was damaged when a large tree fell on the corner of the building.

CARTHAGE CHURCH

The pastor with the

New Life Church in Carthage, Justin Reyes, said he had to cancel services Sunday and was waiting to consult with the city before deciding what to do next.

New Life Church is housed in the former Eugene Field elementary school, 613 E. Chestnut St., which served students from 1917 until 1997 when Steadley Elementary was built on Fir Road in the south part of Carthage. The Carthage

SEE **DAMAGE**, 2A



A storm late Saturday and early Sunday caused widespread damage, including near the intersection of Fourth Street and Connor Avenue in Joplin.

GLOBE | ANDY OSTMEYER

Cities cleaning up following weekend weather

Joplin debris drop-off facility opens

FROM STAFF REPORTS
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A storm late Saturday night and early Sunday morning downed trees and limbs in parts of Joplin and the surrounding area, causing power outages as well as damage to homes and cars.

According to Joplin officials, there were no reports of injuries.

At one point, more than 28,000 Liberty customers were without power in Southwest Missouri.

On Monday afternoon, Liberty said that was down to about 7,200 customers and that more than 300 employees and contractors were working in the field and behind the scenes to wrap up restoration efforts; about 75% of customers had power restored.

On Sunday and Monday, the roaring of chain saws could be heard all over north Joplin, and trucks were hauling downed limbs to disposal.

The city of Joplin said the fire department was dispatched to many power outage-related calls Saturday night and helped Public Works map storm damage.

"Our city parks and trails have extensive tree damage with trees down, which will be cleaned up over the next few days," the city of Joplin said in a statement. "Parks impacted include Schifferdecker, Momen-tum, Cunningham, McClelland, Ron Richard, and Leonard. The Frisco trail also has trees down blocking the path in multiple locations."

Joplin Public Works crews were busy throughout the weekend removing debris and trees from streets and public property.

"Tree debris on private property is the responsibility of property owners for clean up, meaning the city cannot cut up and haul away trees which are not in the public right-of-way," the city said.

The city's tree limb drop-off facility will be open to the public from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at 1702 N. Schifferdecker Ave. The facility

SEE **CLEANUP**, 2A

Communities mourn death of longtime area educator

Ron Lankford formerly worked in Webb City, Joplin school districts

FROM STAFF REPORTS
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Ron Lankford, a longtime area educator whose career included tenures in Webb City, Joplin and Jefferson City, has died.

He was 77 years old. In a statement, the Webb

City School District said, "Dr. Lankford was an extraordinary educator, devoted friend and unwavering champion for the children of our community. As the founder of the (Webb City) Schools Foundation, he created a legacy rooted in service, vision and a deep belief in the power of public education. Throughout his life, he tirelessly advocated for what was best for students, a commitment reflected in his esteemed career with the Webb City



School District and his continued work with the Foun-

— a mission from which he never retired."

Ron Lankford, longtime superintendent of the Webb City School District, talks about the future of the school with Darby Reynolds in 2023.

GLOBE FILE

Lankford, a former Webb City superintendent, also held leadership positions in the Joplin School District and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

In 2022, he was honored as one of six Pioneers in Education by the state education department.

In a statement, the Joplin School District said, "Dr. Lankford was a passionate champion of public education both in Southwest Missouri and across the state.

His expertise, care, humor and ability to communicate complex issues in approachable ways were unmatched. It's been said of Dr. Lankford's time in Joplin — and of his impact on public education in general — that he tirelessly built bridges for others to traverse; we believe that to be true and we are forever grateful for the abiding memory of his leadership, wisdom and above all his friendship."

SEE **LANKFORD**, 2A

