

# THE JOPLIN GLOBE

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**ON THE TABLE:** Farmers market finds offer inspiration. **3A** | **BASKETBALL:** MSSU camp teaches youths the basics. **1B**

## Joplin area experiencing tight workforce, economic expert says

BY DEBBY WOODIN  
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Employers, particularly in manufacturing, are holding on to employees because of a tight workforce.

Jeremy Hill, assistant vice president and regional executive with the Federal Reserve in Kansas City, provided details about the economy in Kansas and Missouri and the effects of continued inflation in

various sectors of the economy during a presentation Tuesday to members of the Joplin Chamber of Commerce and its regional arm, MOKAN Partnership.

While there have been gains in job numbers within recreation and healthcare, manufacturers are getting aggressive at holding on to employees by boosting pay, promoting and cross-training their workers, Hill said. Those businesses have been

willing to hire inexperienced workers and train them in order to keep the workforce needed for their operations. Efforts for retention include increasing pay regularly.

In the current market, “you have to increase wages if you want employees,” Hill said.

There are sectors of the economy that have been slowing down, most notably in agriculture, Hill said,

although South American agriculture is expanding because of demand.

Amy Kauffman, executive director of MOKAN, said that organization and the chamber are working with Crowder College and area communities to “create a lot of opportunities for learning, collaboration and problem solving around both workforce and economic development issues.”

MOKAN spends a lot of

time to prepare for growth through workforce development, site development and helping communities determine what their strengths they have, Kauffman said.

For years, Crowder and Melissa Smith, its director of the workforce center and technical education, have been drivers in that effort, Kauffman said. Crowder responds to employer needs, developing training programs and creating oppor-

tunities to strengthen the workforce. The college has expanded its programs for workforce training with several new ones that include advance manufacturing, welding and computer IT as well as engineering technology and surgical technology, Smith said.

Expansions of campuses from Neosho to include Joplin, Webb City, Nevada

SEE **JOBS**, 2A



The 2026 Joplin Independence Day celebration returns Saturday, July 4, at Fred G. Hughes Stadium on the campus of Missouri Southern State University. Live music will begin at 7 p.m. and fireworks will start around 9:45 p.m.

COURTESY | MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY

## Joplin, area communities outline plans for Fourth

BY JOHN HACKER  
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Joplin and other cities are laying out plans for the nation’s 250th birthday with fireworks, parades and more.

Neosho will go first on Saturday, June 27. Webb City also has plans for its first fireworks show.

Other area communities will feature traditional events, including fireworks and parades.

### JOPLIN

Missouri Southern State University will again host Joplin’s Independence Day events on Saturday, July 4, at Fred G. Hughes Stadium.

The event kicks off at 5:30 p.m. It will feature live music, food trucks, bounce houses and a fireworks show. Live music will begin at 7 p.m. with entertainment provided by Sound the Alarm, a rock ‘n’ roll cover band from Springfield. The show will run through the start of the fireworks display, which will begin about 9:45 p.m.

Free parking is located in and around the stadium. The event is free.

No personal fireworks, pets, grills or alcohol will be permitted.

### WEBB CITY

Webb City is holding its first Independence Day fireworks display on the evening of Friday, July 3, in King Jack Park.

Parks and Recreation Director Bryan Waggoner said the city recently decided to replace its late July Cruise-A-Palooza with fireworks July 3 and a citywide festival in the fall.

“We’re bringing back Mining Days in the fall,” Waggoner said. “We’re still organizing that event. We’re moving the citywide festival from July to the fall, then having a

SEE **4TH**, 2A

## Restoring the past

Interior renovations, exterior improvements begin at Neosho Colored School

BY JOHN HACKER  
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NEOSHO, Mo. — Long-awaited interior renovations that will turn a plain 16-foot-by-24-foot frame building into a showcase for one of America’s great 20th century scientists have begun.

The work on the Neosho Colored School is expected to be finished by early fall.

Marion Co. LLC won the contract to refurbish the interior of the school, 639 Young St., to its 1872 appearance when George Washington Carver — then a 10-year-old boy who was raised by farmers Moses and Susan Carver near Diamond — walked the 10 miles seeking an education.

The Carver Birthplace Association owns the school and has been working for more than two decades to uncover and preserve it.

The building was used as a school house from 1872-



Chris Goodfellow, site supervisor working on the Neosho Colored School, measures floor joists for the attic to add steel reinforcing beams.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

1892, then was sold and used as a private home for more than a century.

Arvest Bank foreclosed on the property in 2005 and then, realizing the historical importance of the site, donated it to the Carver Birthplace Association, a nonprofit group of local supporters of George Wash-

ington Carver National Monument near Diamond.

“The Carver Birthplace Association has been working to save, stabilize and restore the historic school since Arvest Bank donated the property in 2005,” said Lana Henry, president of the Carver Birthplace Association. “There were plans

in the works at that time to demolish the structure that sat on the property. Then came a big discovery by National Park Service historical architect Al O’Bright and plans to raze the structure were immediately halted. Hidden well within

SEE **PAST**, 2A

## Har-Ber Village Museum celebrates America’s 250th

FROM STAFF REPORTS  
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GROVE, Okla. — Har-Ber Village Museum will celebrate America’s 250th anniversary with an “American Family Traditions” Independence Day event from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Saturday, July 4.

The celebration will begin with an opening ceremony and flag raising, followed by hands-on and interactive demonstrations for all ages.

Families are encouraged to bring their bikes for a

children’s “Bring Your Own Bike” decorating activity, followed by a parade down Main Street. Additional highlights include a homemade ice cream demonstration and tasting.

Other outdoor games and activities ax throwing, a watermelon seed-spitting contest, egg races, sack races and horseshoes.

The celebration will conclude with a family movie in the afternoon.

SEE **250TH**, 2A



Historic buildings at Har-ber Village include a schoolhouse, bank, drug store, post office, grist mill and more.

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Entertainment schedule subject to change. Minors must be accompanied by an adult. Gambling Problem? Getting Help Is Your Best Bet. Call 1-800-GAMBLER or Visit [KSGamblingHelp.com](https://www.KSGamblingHelp.com). Management reserves the right to change any promotion with the approval of the Kansas Lottery.

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