

THE JOPLIN GLOBE

THURSDAY | JULY 2, 2026

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FINANCES: Report shows how Trump made over \$1B last year. **4A** | **BASEBALL:** Jailbirds defeat Nevada Griffons 9-8. **1B**

NEW SEASON



Connect2Culture on Wednesday announced its 2026-27 performance season, which includes "Uptown: A Celebration of Motown & Soul." COURTESY | CONNECT2CULTURE



Joplin Mayor Rob O'Brian speaks at an event about the construction of the Agape Apartments, 1916 New Hampshire Ave., as state Rep. Lane Roberts (from left), R.E. Smith supervisor Clint Walton and Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Scott Clayton watch. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Groups celebrate apartment project

10-unit complex in Joplin set aside for veterans

BY JOHN HACKER
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City officials, business leaders and staff from the Joplin Economic Housing Development Initiative and Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity gathered Wednesday morning on New Hampshire Avenue to celebrate construction of an apartment building set aside for veterans in Joplin who need help with housing.

Scott Clayton, executive director of Joplin Habitat who also serves as president of the initiative, said Wednesday that the \$1.2 million Agape Apartments at 1916 New Hampshire Ave. are scheduled for completion in October.

The building will offer 10 units — six one-bedroom and four two-bedroom apartments with rents of \$550 and \$750 per month, respectively.

Clayton said Habitat has built six homes through a program called Veterans Build and that his group has listened as veterans have told them what they need.

"As we work to identify future applicants we listened to the veterans community," Clayton said in his remarks Wednesday. "What we heard was that many veterans desired smaller, affordable rental units located near everyday amenities. And through these conversations with veterans and organizations supporting veterans we arrived at building Agape Apartments, a 10-plex built for veterans with discounted rents through JEHD." Clayton said a grant from the Federal Home Loan Bank Affordable Housing program is paying for construction of the apartments in the shadow of the Officer Jake Reed Memorial Bridge on 20th Street over the railroad tracks.

Clayton thanked PLJBD Architects, of Joplin, for designing the building, NT Consulting for its help with the grant application and R.E. Smith Construction for building it.

State Rep. Lane Roberts, a former Joplin

SEE APARTMENTS, 2A

Connect2Culture announces 2026-27 schedule

BY MARTA CHURCHWELL
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Theater productions of timeless children's stories and concerts that run from jazz to Motown will be among 18 performances offered by Connect2Culture as it opens its new season in September.

The community arts organization and performance presenter announced its 2026-2027 performance season during a news conference Wednesday at the Harry M. Cornell Arts & Entertainment Complex, home of its performance stage.



Connect2Culture on Wednesday announced its 2026-27 season, which includes a return to Joplin by Dawson Hollow. COURTESY | CONNECT2CULTURE

"Ten years ago, Connect2Culture set out to create opportunities for our community to experience live performances right here in Joplin," says Emily Frankoski, executive director of the group. "Today, our 2026-2027 season reflects how far

we've come as well as our continued dedication to igniting a passion for the arts, culture and entertainment."

When Connect2Culture began as a performance promoter 10 years ago, it offered only three performances and found venues wherever it could, Frankoski said. With construction of the Cornell Complex, it can now present shows in the Beshore Performance Hall, a 419-seat venue, and in an outdoor amphitheater, the Leggett & Platt Green, which has a capacity of 1,000 people.

The new season will feature regional, national and international dance, music, circus, comedy and theatrical performers, some of them returning from previous seasons. Also on the list will be an outreach performance — "Collective: Our Stories of Cancer," a dance interpretation of stories of resilience and humanity in the face of cancer.

SEE SEASON, 2A

1st performance scheduled for Sept. 19

FROM STAFF REPORTS
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Connect2Culture's 2026-2027 season kicks off in September and runs through May 2027.

Unless listed otherwise, all the performances will be in the Beshore Performance Hall in the Harry M. Cornell Arts & Entertainment Complex.

Here is the rundown of the season:

CURTAINS UP SERIES

- **"THE MUSIC OF BILLY JOEL & ELTON JOHN,"** presenting the hits of these two pop-rock piano icons and opening the new season, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, on the Leggett & Platt Green.
- **"UPTOWN: A CELEBRATION OF MOTOWN & SOUL,"** a blend of Motown classics with choreography, at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6.
- **TAKE 3'S 'JUKEBOX ROCK — A TRIBUTE TO THE**

HITS OF THE 70S," blending iconic hits in rock, pop, Americana and film music, at 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20.

• **"THE MIDTOWN MEN — HOLIDAY HITS,"** celebrating the holidays with Christmas classics and iconic hits from the golden age of rock 'n' roll, at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 19.

• **SKERRYVORE,** a fusion of Scottish traditional music and Celtic rock,

SEE SCHEDULE, 2A

American 'experiment' up for exploration amid 250th celebration

Independence Hall widely considered nation's birthplace

BY ERIC SCICCHITANO
CNHI News

PHILADELPHIA — Voices echoed throughout the Assembly Room inside Independence Hall as a National Park Service ranger delivered bits of history dating back some 250 years, while dozens of visitors touring the renowned site followed along.

The hall is where messages of self-evident truths were delivered and received as the Declaration of Independence was debated, ratified and signed in the summer of 1776. Philadelphia is widely considered the nation's birthplace and, with the semiquincentennial, perhaps the best place to learn, or learn again, about why and how the country was founded — without turning away from the complications that long enveloped the United States. "If you look at our Constitution, it looks at the declaration's promises,

but it's been the fulfillment of it. That's every generation's responsibility. We the people of the United States have to determine what we mean when we say 'justice, equality and liberty,'" park ranger Joanne Schillizzi told the group. "This is an experiment, ladies and gentlemen, and the world has been watching us for 250 years, and that's where it all began, with the adoption of the Declaration of Independence and later the U.S. Constitution

SEE AMERICA, 2A



In celebration of the semiquincentennial, tourist locations such as Independence Hall in Philadelphia have seen an increase in visitors this year. CNHI NEWS

