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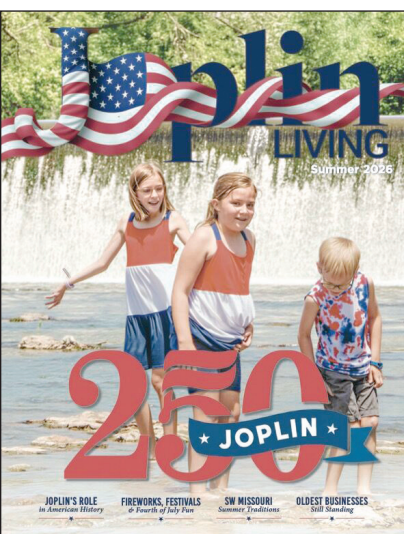
JULY 3-5, 2026

WEEKEND EDITION

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EDITOR'S NOTE

BECAUSE there is no mail delivery Saturday, July 4, The Joplin Globe is putting out its weekend edition today and will not print a paper on Saturday. Breaking news and sports stories will continue to be posted to our website, joplinglobe.com.



JOPLIN 250

The Joplin Globe today includes a commemorative magazine celebrating the nation's 250th birthday. 250 Joplin looks at the community's unique role in the American story, tracing the city's contributions from mining lead and zinc that supplied the nation to the region's place in the country's exploration of space. The special publication will also spotlight some of Joplin's oldest businesses — many of which have been operating for more than half the lifetime of the United States itself — and look at the history of Independence Day celebrations in Joplin.

The magazine also will serve as a community events guide for the Independence Day celebrations this weekend, including area fireworks shows and Fourth of July parades.

Copies of 250 Joplin can be picked up at The Joplin Globe, 2613 S. Main St., the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, and at other area locations, and viewed online at joplinglobe.com.

Data centers become issue in political races

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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Controversies about large-scale data center projects in Missouri have pushed the issue front and center in the upcoming elections.

"It's kind of a hot-button issue," said Rebecca Collins, of the Joplin Sustainable Technology Alliance.

Collins and that group are working with Joplin city staff to devise restrictions that could be used to evaluate proposals from developers. The Joplin City Council at a meeting Monday night will consider a proposed council measure that would define and regulate data centers.

The city's current zoning code does not list data centers as a specified use group nor does it include specific use standards for them, according to city documents.

Because there is no current ordinance, undefined uses such as data centers fall under the discretion of the planning, development and neighborhood services director on how to classify them, according to the measure.

The text of the proposed ordinance states that city staff has

SEE RACES, 6A



Selah Owen, 5, of Joplin, shops at The Forge's fireworks stand at 705 E. 15th St. in Joplin for fun things that go boom and sparkle on Independence Day.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Explosive support

Nonprofit groups use fireworks stands as fundraisers

BY JOHN HACKER
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For the Jasper Fire Department, it means money to buy essential equipment that might not fit into fire district's annual budget.

For Watered Gardens, it means one man who can't afford it otherwise can go through the programs at The Forge and come out a better person.

Both nonprofit groups are selling fireworks at fireworks stands this week, and they're using the proceeds to benefit others.

THE FORGE

The FORGE fireworks stand is in a tent in the parking lot at 705 E. 15th St. in Joplin, and it's open from 8 a.m.-



Katie Schnichting, of Jasper, shops for fireworks at the Jasper Fire Department fireworks stand at 118 W. Grand next door to the Jasper post office in Jasper.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

11 p.m. through Saturday.

For Selah Owen, 5, of Joplin, Fourth of July means making something go boom.

For her parents, Brannon and Carrie Owen, the Fourth means giving back by buying fireworks from a place with a cause they support and appreciate.

Brannon Owen said the main goal is to keep Selah entertained for the evening of Independence Day, but if they're going to burn their money on the holiday, they want it to go to a cause they know will be good for the community.

"The one that we usually

went to, they quit doing their stand this year, and my wife saw this place," Brannon Owen said. "We know it's connection to Watered Gardens, so that's a good cause and we like spending our money here."

John Koehler, director at The Forge, said this fireworks stand is raising money for a good cause.

"Our goal is \$10,000 every year because that's what it costs to put one guy through the program," Koehler said. "They come to us for 16 months, and we take care of their food, their room and boarding, education, everything that we can do to help them get a job and become successful members of society. This fundraiser is a great way to be able to do that."

Koehler said this was The Forge's ninth year operating this fireworks stand, and it's been a success every year.

"Because we're The Forge and we're under

SEE STANDS, 2A

Tree, limb pickup in Joplin, Duquesne to start Monday

City provides details of cleanup effort

FROM STAFF REPORTS
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A contractor working for the city of Joplin will begin free pickup Monday of foliage and tree limbs broken by a June 13 storm.

The service will be available to residents of both Joplin and Duquesne.

The city has contracted with CTC Disaster Response for limb cleanup efforts. The city's public

works crews will assist. City officials are asking that residents have limbs out for pickup by 6:30 a.m. Monday.

The National Weather Service said after the storm that the damage was not caused by a tornado, but by straight-line winds that blew at 90 to 95 mph.

City officials estimate this cleanup effort could take six weeks, possibly longer in some areas.

The city's advisory notes that:

• **LIMBS AND VEGETATION** must be placed at the curbside

of city streets. Do not block alleyways with limbs or trees. Crews will not enter alleyways or yards and will need clear streets to clear the debris.

• **THE LIMB PICKUP** vehicles can remove tree debris as large as 20 feet long. Residents are encouraged to cut large trees into manageable pieces.

• **CREWS** will clear streets only once. Please be ready for the pickup ahead of time. Crews will not travel back down streets a second time.

• **CREWS** will not take limbs and vegetation if

other debris is mixed in them. Be sure the piles do not have fencing, construction debris, trash or other home or yard items included. This is a requirement to protect the wood-chipper machines that will be used for the mulching of the limbs and vegetation.

• **RESIDENTS** can still burn limbs and vegetation with a permit. To do so, call the Joplin Fire Department at 417-623-0403 for the rules before burning.

• **VEHICLES** should not be parked in front of debris piles so crews and equip-

ment can access them.

Crews will follow the city's leaf pickup service map for this effort. The map can be viewed at <https://www.joplinmo.org/storm-clean-up>. It will be updated daily so residents can see which zones have been completed. By zooming in on the map, residents can view zones. The cleanup will occur in the following order: S1, S2, S3, S4, P5, P4, P3, P2, P1.

For more information, contact the public works department at 417-624-0820, ext. 1564 or 1566.

