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Joplin Schools release ‘Complete Report Card’ as state prepares to post letter grades

BY JOHN HACKER
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Joplin Schools recently announced the launch of its “Complete Report Card” ahead of plans by the state of Missouri to assign letter grades to each district in the state and release that information this fall.

Joplin Superintendent Kerry Sachetta said the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is getting

ready to roll out a school assessment that assigns a letter grade — “A” through “F” — to districts and individual schools to try to simplify school assessments for the public.

Sachetta, who has testified in Jefferson City about the plan, said the letter grade goes too far and will be an oversimplification of school assessment.

“Schools are complex institutions with lots of variables and we don’t shy away from

accountability,” Sachetta said. “Accountability is what we do. It doesn’t matter what your challenges are. The question is, do you have good school improvement plans? Do you follow them? Do you train people to meet those action steps and do you verify and monitor and readjust? That’s really what school improvement is and that’s totally missing from this

SEE **REPORT**, 2A



South Middle School Principal Jacob Williams meets with other principals in the Joplin School District to describe the work they do to reorganize students to provide extra assistance with standards and subjects with which they are struggling. GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Marking milestone



A crowd of about 70 people gather on the front lawn of Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity's 200th completed home for a ribbon-cutting and dedication Friday.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

Ascone family celebrates Joplin Habitat's 200th home

BY JOHN HACKER
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CARTHAGE, Mo. — Two-year-old Abel Ascone was a bundle of nerves Friday, making several grand entrances as about 70 people gathered in the front yard of his new home in Carthage.

Abel was too young to understand that all those people were on hand to celebrate the completion of his home, which is a landmark for Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity, the group that built it. Habitat officials, the

SEE **HOME**, 2A



The Ascone family (from left), daughter Lillian Ascone, mom Jennifer Ascone holding son Abel Ascone and dad Elvin Ascone, stand for a photo inside their new home, the 200th finished by Joplin Area Habitat for Humanity.

GLOBE | JOHN HACKER

New Joplin trash rates, rules go into effect Oct. 1

BY DEBBY WOODIN
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Joplin residents will soon see an increase of \$4.03 per month for trash pickup that covers only one trash cart but includes other services such as yard waste and bulky item collection.

Changes in the rate and the services will occur when a new contract between Republic Services and the city of Joplin goes into effect Oct. 1.

“It’s really important that customers pay attention to these changes,” said Chad Weller, assistant director of the city’s public works department, in a statement issued recently by the city.

“Everyone who takes trash to the curb is impacted by these changes and will need to consider changes to their account and adjust their routines. Failure to make appropriate adjustments to your account, or failure to follow new rules for proper disposal of yard waste, could result in extra charges on your trash bill.”

The new monthly base rate for trash pickup of one cart will increase from \$13.39 to \$17.42 per month. However, the rate includes bulky item pickup four per times year. A pickup for bulky items must be scheduled in advance by calling the service provider, Republic Services. The rate will also cover the cost of yard waste pickup. Customers who want yard waste pickup service will have to sign up for it with Republic Services.

YARD WASTE

Yard waste, such as grass clippings, weeds, leaves and/or small tree limbs or brush can no longer be accepted in trash carts when mixed in with solid waste. According to the service provider, Missouri Senate Bill 530 prohibits the disposal of yard waste in landfills. That is why Republic Services asks that customers not place yard waste in trash carts. This change is required to minimize the amount of biodegradable materials taken to landfills, which should only be receiving nonrecyclable and nonbiodegradable waste, the company said.

Residents wishing to have their yard waste such as grass clippings, weeds, leaves, small tree limbs or brush collected

SEE **TRASH**, 2A

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