THE JOPLIN GLOBE

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Gas prices drop significantly ahead of Thanksgiving

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Mike Wheeler, Carthage, said he drives for DoorDash and the swings in gasoline prices over the past few months have nearly given him whiplash.

"I try to go to places with the cheapest gas prices," Wheeler said as he put fuel in his car at the Lion Stop on Newman Road. "I use the GasBuddy app to find the cheapest prices. I know this place and I know they're cheaper than prices in Carthage and anywhere else in Joplin."

On Monday, he was filling up for $2.69 a gallon, down from a peak this fall of more than $4 a gallon in the region.

Shelby Cochran, Joplin, filling up at a nearby pump, said gas prices are "definitely getting better."

"It was rough for a while — not quite debilitating but it really hit you where it hurt," Cochran said. "I've been coping by not leaving the house as much as I did before. There's really not much more you can do to control the impact of gas prices."

The price of diesel, which is used on farms and in most of the trucks that move goods from warehouses to retail locations, has also been dropping but not at the rate that regular gasoline has fallen over the past month.

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SHELBY COCHRAN
Joplin resident said while filling up at the Lion Stop on Newman Road

'Victorian Christmas'

Joplin Historical Neighborhoods Museum celebrates the season

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Joplin area residents can experience the finery of an 1890's and early 1900's Christmas season with three nights of "A Victorian Christmas" offered by the Joplin Historical Neighborhoods Museum.

For the first time, the two homes that make up the museum — homes built by neighbors and businessmen Charles Schifferdecker and Edward Zelleken — will be open after hours for three special events during the holiday season. The museum normally closes at 5 p.m.

A ceremony is planned for the first evening, fom 6-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 27, when the lighting on the grounds of the museums will be illuminated for the first time. Similar events will be offered from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, and again on Friday, Dec. 11.

It took nine years of construction and craftsmen of all kinds to bring the houses back to their former glory of the 1890s and early 1900s, but the quality of the materials and craftsmanship was intended to keep the houses in good condition for a long period, Brad Belk, restoration director and principal historian of the museum, previously told the Globe.

The holiday events offer "a rare chance to see the restored 1890's mansions in the Murphysburg Historic District by night, glowing with Christmas decorations," he said.

Inside the houses, a display of Christmas trees decorated by area organizations can be viewed. Each tree will have a Victorian-era theme accomplished with a variety of German-inspired baubles and spangles.

Each tree will have a theme that Christmas decorations of the day would have had such as glass ornaments, nutcrackers, woodcraft, woodland nature, music and angels.

Guests can vote on their favorite tree and the one receiving the most votes by guests will be announced.

Those selected by museum staff and a guest judge also will be identified.

The couples who originally lived in the houses, Charles and Wilhelmina (Martens) Schifferdecker, and Edward and Margaretha (Grome) Zelleken,

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Globe | Debby Woodin

Kim Foster, left, and Margie Moss decorate a Christmas tree at the Joplin Historical Neighborhoods Museum.

Experience a Victorian Christmas

WHO: Joplin Historical Neighborhoods Museum

WHAT: "A Victorian Christmas," featuring holiday lights, decorated Christmas trees, historic home tours, cookie decorating, crafts, a scavenger hunt, Victorian parlor games and seasonal refreshments.

WHEN: 6-8 p.m. Fridays, Nov. 27, Dec. 4 and Dec. 11. A lighting ceremony will take place on opening night.

WHERE: Schifferdecker and Zelleken mansions, 422 and 406 S. Sergeant Ave., Joplin.

WHY: Experience Christmas traditions of the 1890s and early 1900s during a rare opportunity to explore the restored mansions after dark.

TICKETS: joplinhistorical.org

United Way awards $168,000 to 12 agencies

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CARTHAGE, Mo. — The Carthage Area United Way is giving $168,000 to 12 nonprofit partner agencies in 2027 to support services that reach Carthage-area residents.

Emily Eckols, executive director of the Carthage Area United Way, said the agency held an allocation reception on Friday at the Carthage Water and Electric Plant Community Room to announce the new and existing partners that will receive awards in the coming year.

Eckols said the event was a chance for all agency representatives to meet each other and talk with one another about programs and offerings and see if there are ways agencies can help each other meet the needs in the community.

"We got a couple of new agencies so I really wanted to make sure they got recognized, let them all meet each other," Eckols said. "A lot of the times these agencies meet each other at events, but don't really get a chance to talk. So my main goal with it was to have them all gather and talk to each other and ask questions. How can I help you? How can you help me?"

The new agencies on the list include:

- Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Jasper, Newton Counties.
- CARS, the Community Wide Action Ride Sharing program from the Economic Security Corporation.
- Medical Loan Closet of Joplin.

The other existing Carthage United Way partners are:

- artCentral.
- Carthage Crisis Center.
- Children's Center of Southwest Missouri.
- Crosslines of Carthage
- Children's Haven.
- Community Clinic of Southwest Missouri.
- Higher Power Garage.
- Jasper County 4-H.
- Lafayette House.

Eckols said volunteers look over the applications and visits the agencies to see what kind of services they provide and how they help Carthage-area residents.

"For example, the number of individuals served by artCentral in Carthage is 212, which is about 93% of their clientele," Eckols said. "They give us a client representation chart and this chart lists each of the cities in the Jasper County and Barton County area, and they have to provide the percentage of their clientele

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