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OUR VIEW



A new chapter for Joplin's old library

If you have a vision and nearly half a million dollars, we want to hear from you in order to help us save an important piece of Joplin's history. Or, if just have a half a million dollars, we'll contribute the vision.

Joplin's old Carnegie Library has been listed for sale by the Glenn Group LLC, a commercial real estate firm, for \$489,000.

The library was funded by a \$40,000 grant from industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Historic preservation authorities say it was one of the earliest libraries in Missouri to be donated by Carnegie, who gave \$40 million of his fortune from steelmaking to cities around the nation to pay for more than 1,600 libraries between 1886 and 1919.

The building, designed by A.C. Michaelis and constructed from limestone or marble mined in Carthage, is listed on the national register as well as the Missouri Places in Peril list. It hasn't been used as a library for several decades.

Admittedly, it is damaged by fire, including the most recent fire last summer. But "it's still a gem," commercial real estate broker Luke Gibson told us.

What an amazing gift that was given to the city of Joplin, and one that was well used for many, many years. It would be a shame to let it fall into further disrepair.

As with Joplin's Union Depot, we hope a buyer with the necessary funding and a can-do attitude will purchase the property, repair and renovate it, and turn it into something the city can once again be proud of.

The news that the building is on the market also prompted a flood of comments from the Globe's Facebook readers.

Many commenters took a trip down memory lane, recalling their experiences with the Carnegie Library in years past, while others offered their thoughts on what the old library could be turned into:

- "I WAS IN CARMEL, INDIANA, last week and someone bought their old Carnegie Library and turned it into a restaurant. The decor had lots of wood and bookshelves still. It was nice seeing it successfully repurposed."
- "THIS WOULD BE a cool bookstore. They could have guest authors for book signings, poetry readings, a coffee shop, etc."
- "I REMEMBER watching movies as a kid in there."
- "A LOT OF Saturday morning trips there as a kid."
- "A STEM EDUCATION CENTER. Lots of grants available."
- "WOULD MAKE a wonderful children's science center."
- "MY HOME AWAY FROM HOME when I was growing up."
- "I KNOW GIFTED CLASSES are held at Memorial. Joplin Schools could definitely use it for something like that."
- "EDUCATION. Being next to Memorial High, I'm sure Joplin Schools or Franklin Technology Center might have some use for it."
- "WHY NOT MOVE THE MUSEUM HERE? The city should keep this history."

All of these are great places to start. And, like we said, if you have the cash but need a little help with the vision, we'll put our readers to work coming up with more options for the old library.



How a \$5 johnboat float returned millions in dividends for the Ozarks

They didn't have spring break way back when. Probably for the best, in my case anyway.

I had a tough enough time staying focused in school, and a week off when the days are getting longer and warmer would have only whet my appetite for being outdoors more, making it that much harder to concentrate when school resumed.

Area kids get the coming week off and here's hoping they trade in their portable screens for sunscreen and get outdoors.

"We Lock Our Kids Up Longer Than We Do Maximum Security Convicts," was the headline of a Newsweek article in 2017. It continued: "While inmates at maximum security prisons in the U.S. are guaranteed at least 2 hours of outdoor time a day, half of children worldwide spend less than an hour outside, reports **TreeHugger.com**. A survey of 12,000 parents in 10 countries found that one-third of children (ages 5 to 12) spend less than 30 minutes outside each day."

(The survey, sponsored by Unilever, maker of laundry detergents and soaps, inspired a new marketing campaign: "Dirt is Good — Free the Children.")

Disconnecting children from the outdoors has a lot of consequences for them, as well as another cost that will not come due for a while. We are losing the next generation of men and women whose passion for the Ozarks will create the next round of conservation gains and protection of our best places and wildlife.

Consider what happened in the Ozarks nearly a century ago.

In the summer of 1932, they didn't have spring break either; but that summer a young man got his first taste of Ozark paddling.

Neil Compton and a friend loaded up an old Chevy with a few days' worth of supplies stored in lard cans and bushel baskets, as well as folding canvas cots. They drove what were at the time



ANDY OSTMEYER

Globe columnist

mostly gravel roads. Arriving at a river in Arkansas, they purchased a new wooden johnboat for \$5. Twenty feet long, the young man remembered it being "heavy as lead."

They also had two homemade paddles, a long hickory pole, and of course the classic "armstrong motor," which goes as fast and as far as your arms can take you.

That trip was Compton's introduction to the Buffalo River in Arkansas, one of the finest floats in the country. He and a friend floated and fished several days, before taking out at Dillard's Ferry, where that Chevy waited.

"At the end we were tired, cross, sore and sunburned, and bereft of any ambition to repeat such a journey," he wrote.

Fast forward a decade. Memories of the sunburn and sore muscles have faded, but not of the trip. Compton was stationed at Koli Point, on Guadalcanal, where, he later wrote, his thoughts would return to the Ozarks. Compton survived the war, and in April of 1946, with his wife and young son in tow, returned to the region, which he described as a place still of rail fences, log cabins, one-room schoolhouses and little country stores, not to mention redbuds, dogwoods and flowing rivers.

They arrived at Boxley Valley, headwaters of the Buffalo ... "to me it was fulfillment of those dreams of homecoming during the long months on Guadalcanal," Compton wrote.

(By the way, I don't think it's a coincidence that the men who fought in that war led conservation battles in the Ozarks decades later; their long years in Europe and the Pacific whetting their appetite and appreciation for home.)

Fast forward again. It's now 1962. Conservationists meeting

We are losing the next generation of men and women whose passion for the Ozarks will create the next round of conservation gains and protection of our best places.

on the campus of the University of Arkansas chose Compton as president of their fledgling organization. The group called itself the Ozark Society, and one week later, Compton typed a letter to U.S. Sen. William Fulbright, an Arkansas Democrat, signaling the group's intention to take up the cause of preservation for the Buffalo River.

"It is throughout its entire length spectacular and beautiful," Compton wrote to Fulbright.

Over the next 10 years, he led the fight to save the Buffalo from dams and development, and in 1972 — 40 years after that first trip — it became the nation's first national river.

Today, tourism on that river generates more than \$60 million annually and supports nearly 1,000 jobs. The organization that Compton first led, the Ozark Society, led the way on protecting other Ozarks rivers from dams, saving wilderness and more.

Not a bad return on a \$5 johnboat investment. To me, the lesson is clear: Get out this week. Get on our rivers. Get on our trails. Make a circuit of Ozark trout parks. Spend the week riding the Katy.

You may just be launching the region's — and maybe the nation's — next great conservation leader and movement.

ANDY OSTMEYER is editor of The Joplin Globe.



Colorful and dramatic bluffs like this along the Buffalo River await students, who hopefully will trade their hand-held screens for sunscreen and spend their spring break exploring the Ozarks.

GLOBE | ANDY OSTMEYER

Verse

'And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which you knew, will he inflict on you, but he will lay them on all who hate you.'

Deuteronomy 7:15

OUR MISSION is to be an essential part of people's lives by providing valuable information on what's happening in their world.

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As birds migrate across Kansas, we can keep them safe

It mystifies me that while I sleep, millions of birds are passing silently overhead on a migration flight that can — for some of them — amount to tens of thousands of miles.

I'm fascinated by the instinct that drives them and the adaptation processes that prepare their seemingly fragile bodies to survive their arduous journeys. But I am frustrated, too, that these finely tuned processes have been inadvertently circumvented by human invention, leading to one of the highest causes of mortality birds can face during migration.

The positive news, however, is that it's something we can fix.

As early as the 1800s, humans recognized the negative effects of artificial light on migrating birds. According to "A World on the Wing: The Global Odyssey of Migratory Birds" by Scott Weidensaul, lighthouse keepers reported large numbers of kills when migrating songbirds battered themselves against the glass.

In recent years, with the advent of radar technology, scientists have continued to witness behavioral changes. For example, Weidensaul writes that, in 2016, scientists noticed a pattern in autumn migrants on the East



SHAWNA BETHELL

Columnist

is "visible to a flying bird from as far away as 190 miles."

The problem is that many birds navigate by starlight, and with the increasing sprawl of city lights, birds become disoriented. Once drawn from their migratory path, they become vulnerable to dangers, including window collision, the second leading cause of bird mortality behind domestic cats (not including general habitat loss). While it's true that these collisions occur year round, the numbers jump during migration.

"Spring migration is intense," said Krystal Anton with the Center for Sustainability at Johnson County Community College.

In 2018, concerned with the number of dead birds being found on campus, Anton instigated a

bird-window collision study to understand the extent of the problem.

"That first year was overwhelming," Anton said.

By the end of the study, the JCCC team had found 287 dead birds, 42 injured birds and 138 window imprints, which they believe had been left by birds hitting a window but not dying on-site.

To date, volunteers at JCCC have found 94 different species that have fallen victim to collision. The species with the highest mortality rate during spring migration is the Swainson's thrush. In the fall, it's the ruby-throated hummingbird.

After accumulating her study's results, Anton researched methods to decrease bird mortality on campus, and in 2019, the JCCC team began installing vinyl dots on the most problematic windows, breaking up their reflective surfaces to make them visible to birds.

"I tried different spacing, but placing dots every two inches has been nearly 100% effective in reducing collisions on the windows that have them," Anton said. "It varies year to year, but we have about half as many collisions as we used to."

Those statistics are heartening.



A ruby-throated hummingbird consumes sugar water from a feeder. One study found these hummingbirds were common victims of birds striking windows.

GLOBE FILE

Across the country, an estimated 600 million birds are killed each year through collisions. Fifty-six percent of those kills occur against low-rise buildings, 44% occurs against residential windows, and 1% occurs against high rises — though their bird-per-building ratio is highest.

Often we look at issues we care about and believe there is nothing we can do, that we are helpless. But in this case, indi-

viduals can make a difference.

Lights Out Heartland, a collaborative of organizations working to reduce light pollution during migration, offers a list of ways to make our homes bird safe, some as easy as closing the blinds or changing bulbs in exterior lights. We can also encourage local businesses to get involved.

Thanks to radar tracking, cities can be alerted when large flocks of migrant birds are entering a region, allowing participating entities to reduce their lighting, enabling flocks to pass safely.

"Reducing light pollution doesn't mean you have to have it completely dark outside your home or business," Anton said. "It's dark skies not dark grounds. Better lighting with shielded lights that only shine downward or motion detectors will take care of a lot of it."

Migration begins as early as January for some species, but most will be traveling through Kansas between April and June, with May seeing peak migration. We can make a difference today.

SHAWNA BETHELL is a freelance essayist and journalist covering the people and places of Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri. This column originally appeared in the Kansas Reflector.

Thanks for celebration of Black History Month

These are words of gratitude. "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven," Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.



BETTY SMITH

Guest columnist

This is a perfect time for remembering all of God's abundant blessings, especially the wonderful people in our lives, near and far, who are such a blessing to know and love.

I thank the Lord for my blessings every day, known and unknown, seen and unseen.

Let me start with being chosen as the grand marshal of the Joplin High School homecoming parade 2021, with Principal Stephen Gilbreth and now Superintendent Kerry Sachetta deciding to honor a Lincoln School graduate.

I was honored to serve and be a JET guest on television several times. One young man said, "You don't want to miss her." Thanks to all involved.

Kevin McClintock, then the editor of JOPLIN magazine, called and asked me about being a Woman of Distinction in 2022. An application was placed in my mailbox later that day.

I wasn't feeling well, but Kevin made everything as easy and comfortable as possible, including the ride to Joplin High School for the front cover photo with other women. I was pleased. Thanks to all, including for extra copies of the magazine. They are all over the United States.

My latest thanks is for February's Black history coverage in The Joplin Globe and to the editor. What an outstanding news month. Thanks for the beautiful facts of life about Black history and the African American community.

So much of that history has never been known.

You see what you had missed that

Be alive and well every day and share blessings with each other. The world will be a better place to live and life will be so beautiful, no matter what the situation.

was active every day. February was dedicated as Black History Month, and it is a good thing because you are introduced to such awesome things in life.

I am so proud of The Joplin Globe for printing articles that were used at several schools in California, where Black History Month was started because of a presentation by Brittany, Alicia and Neacia Smith (my grandchildren) having stories from the newspaper.

The late editor Carol Stark had pictures of them and my great-grandson Jaylen in front of the assembly and the Globe could be seen on the blackboard.

Have you ever seen a February with so much African American news and so many articles, events, pictures and presentations in the paper?

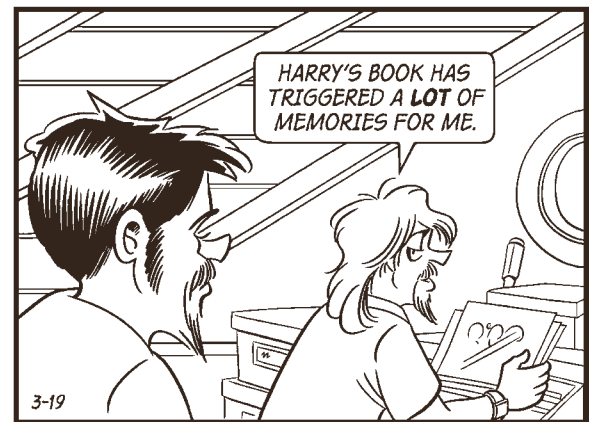
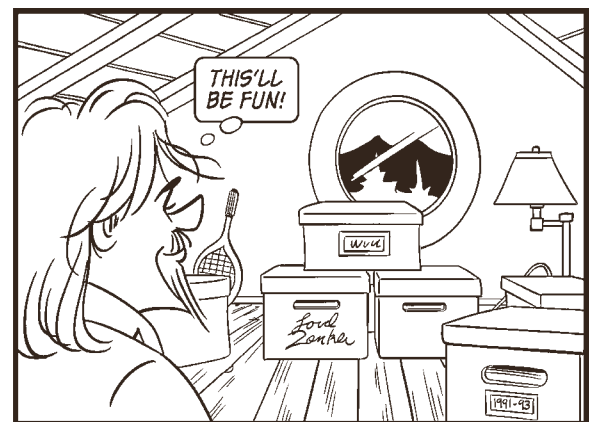
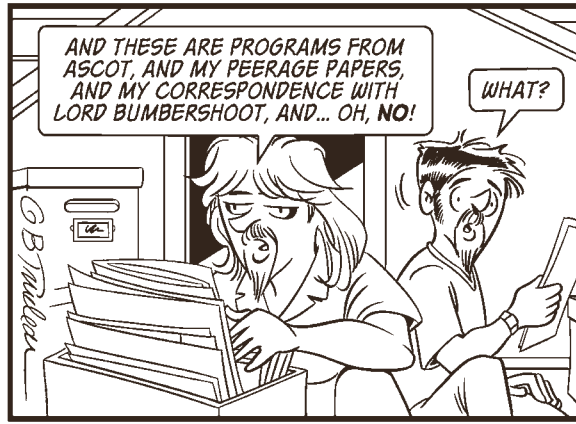
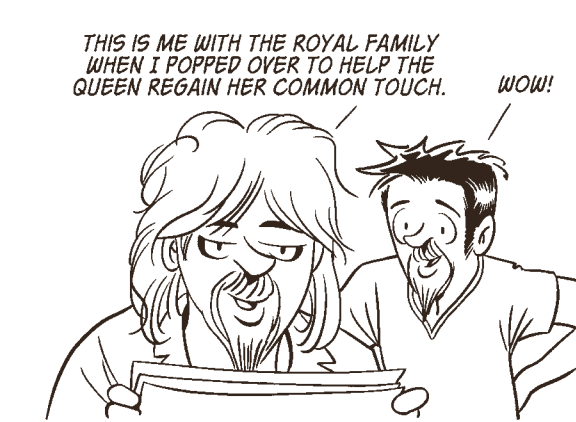
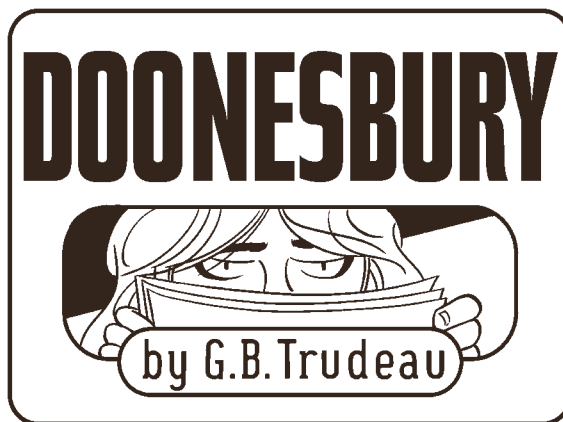
Don't let February go into hibernation. Let Black history continue, no matter what month it is.

Be alive and well every day and share blessings with each other. The world will be a better place to live and life will be so beautiful, no matter what the situation.

It has been a healing factor for me to have such loving contact.

As a person thinks in his heart, so that person is. Let your heart be filled with the fruits of the Holy Spirit. That's why I feel so grateful for all of you in my life. God is good.

BETTY SMITH is a Joplin resident.



President Biden gets one thing right among so many wrongs

Anyone reading this column over the years knows two things:

I abhor the ideology of today's political left and the national division it is promoting without thought or conscience.

If, and when, a member of that abhorrent ideology happens to play a broken clock and get something right in a day, I give credit where credit is due.

And it is at this time that rule number two comes into play, and credit is indeed due to President Joe Biden — credit for his decision Monday to approve the Willow project in the Alaskan National Petroleum Reserve.

The Alaska Legislature has unanimously passed a resolution supporting the Conoco/Phillips project, the governor is on board, the state's entire congressional delegation is in favor and union leaders and the majority of Native Alaskans who actually live on the North Slope support it.

Yet it couldn't be a Biden decision without being a muddled decision.

The project optimum was five platforms, so of course the admin-



GEOFF CALDWELL

Globe columnist

istration only authorized three. And in a Sunday night preemptive strike the Interior Department announced that it was proposing a new rule to remove more than half (13 million acres) of the reserve from future exploration and that Biden would be using his executive authority

to deliver the final blow and ban leasing in the 2.8 million acres that still remained in the Beaufort Sea area.

While the Willow approval is a drop in the bucket compared to the damage Biden has already done to our domestic oil and gas industry, it is still great news for the residents of the state of Alaska and provides a glimmer of hope for some long-term supply stability to those of us in the lower 48.

The saddest part, though, is that we only got this approval because Biden needed to restore his "moderate" label for his 2024 reelection bid.

A rebuke of yet another project would have been devastating not just to Alaska but the nation as a whole. Conoco/Phillips may only get 60% of what it should have, but it's better than the 100% obstruction the president has been delivering to date.

Speaking of which: Does anyone else find it rather strange his obsession with shutting off Alaskan offshore energy production for environmental safety while at the same time dead whales are washing up on eastern shorelines in the exact same locations as exploratory work preparing for massive offshore wind farms?

If those whales were coming ashore at Anchorage, Seattle or San Francisco, you know dang well there would be outrage without end.

But because the energy is renewable, the whales and untold other species are just a bump on the road to that glorious net-zero utopia that awaits us.

So, now that we have the credit-is-due covered, a little news from the wrong side of the ledger.

Remember those 9,000 leases that Biden kept repeating that

big oil just wasn't using? Turns out that was off by about a full quarter. In a statement to Fox News Digital, the Bureau of Land Management admitted that "companies have over 6,600 approved and unused drilling permits on federal lands." Of course, they blamed the error on the Donald Trump administration for a "reporting discrepancy resulting from a transition to a new database in mid-2020."

And the blaming Trump doesn't stop there. There's the "we inherited a broken immigration system" while stopping wall construction and ending every other program that was starting to work. Meanwhile, over 100,000 Americans are dying from fentanyl poisoning each year and millions of people who crossed the border illegally are inside the country with little to no supervision.

That Norfolk Southern disaster in East Palestine, Oh? Yep that's Trump's fault, too. This one for rolling back braking regulations. Yet the facts are that nothing rolled back under the Trump administration would have prevented the derailment.

An overheated bearing ignored by the crew is what caused the disaster. Nothing more, nothing less.

And blaming Trump for the recent Silicon Valley Bank failure is equally ridiculous.

Community and regional banks were getting hammered by the 2010 Dodd-Frank bill that was meant to avoid another 2008 financial fiasco.

In 2018, a bill to help that critical part of our banking system was passed and signed. I

It was a measure that even Barney Frank admitted, "It does not in any way weaken the regulations we put in there for the largest banks or that were there to prevent the kind of crisis we had 10 years ago."

I get those who hate Trump for his tweets and inability to control his ego. But his policies worked and we were all better for them.

But to keep Biden for personalty while his policies make everything worse? Even Forrest Gump can't grasp that level of stupid.

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