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when the *Leader* won the Missouri Press Association's Gold Cup Award as the best large weekly in the state.

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# Jefferson County LEADER



'Once a week but never weakly'

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## Granted

### Jefferson Foundation doles out \$2.7 million to area organizations

By Tony Krausz  
For the Leader

In its latest round of grant-giving, the Jefferson Foundation has awarded a total of \$2,751,866.29 to 89 local organizations.

The foundation, which awards two rounds of grant awards each year, announced the latest group of recipients on May 8.

Executive vice president Missy Endres said 161 organizations requested about \$8.6 million for the last round of grants.

"We are really proud of the grants we were able to make," Endres said. "We have some really good ones in there."

### Mercy Foundation grant

The top recipient was Mercy Health Foundation Jefferson, which received \$250,000 to recruit psychiatric specialists to the hospital.

"This \$250,000 grant will really help us to fill some very significant gaps that we continue to have serving patients at

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Sabrina Skaggs of House Springs, left, performs an acrobatic routine. Below, Skaggs and Jahlan Baum perform an aerialist routine.



## Up in the air

### County teen performs with circus as acrobat, aerialist

By Katelyn Mary Skaggs  
For the Leader

For Jefferson County teenager Sabrina Skaggs, life is a circus, literally.

Sabrina, a Northwest High School sophomore, has been training as a circus performer since she was in fifth grade. "I honestly can't imagine my life without circus," she said.

Sabrina, 15, the daughter of Rose and Robert Skaggs of

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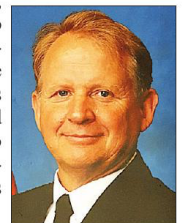
## Haskins floats idea for parks sales tax

By Steve Taylor  
For the Leader

Jefferson County Councilman Brian Haskins wants county residents to vote in April 2020 on whether they want to institute a 3/8 percent sales tax devoted to parks.

Haskins (District 1, High Ridge) said the sales tax would generate an estimated \$9 million, and according to his proposal, 27 percent of that revenue would go to cities for their parks and the rest would go to the county to maintain and expand its parks programs.

The sales tax, Haskins said, would complement the current property tax of 2.73 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation that funds the county's Parks and Recreation Department. That property tax funds almost all of the department's \$1 million



Brian Haskins

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