

# St. Joseph Newsleader

Friday, Jan. 26, 2018  
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Est. 1989

## Town Crier

### Local K of C to sponsor youth free-throw contest

All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2017 Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Championship to be held Sunday, Jan. 28 at the All Saints Academy-St. Joseph gym. Registration and practice is at 12:30 p.m. and the contest begins at 1 p.m.

The Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Championship is sponsored annually with winners progressing through local, district and state competition. International champions are announced by the K of C international headquarters based on scores from the state-level competitions. Last year, more than 120,000 sharpshooters participated in more than 3,600 local competitions.

All contestants on the local level are recognized for their participation in the event. Participants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For any additional information contact Mark Berg-Arnold at 320-363-1077.

### Program helps support leadership development for minorities

The Juggad Leadership Program seeks to provide Central Minnesota's minority community with the knowledge, skills and resources necessary to become effective leaders at the grassroots level. The program is accepting nominations for participation in this year's class and self-nominations are encouraged. Businesses and organizations may nominate individuals to participate in the program. Those interested in participating in the program must complete an application. Selected participants will meet monthly, from March to August, with a graduation ceremony in September. Applications are due Friday, Feb. 9. The program planning committee will review the applications and notify those selected by the end of February. Apply at <http://www.jugaadlp.org/apply>. For more information, email [info@jugaadlp.org](mailto:info@jugaadlp.org) or phone 320-310-2246.

### Bake, cook for Quiet Oaks

Quiet Oaks Hospice is an eight-bed residential home. They have highly skilled nursing staff and a high staff-to-resident ratio. Family members can stay overnight in one of three guest rooms. Quiet Oaks provides home-cooked meals for residents and their immediate family. Volunteers are needed to help prepare meals. Volunteers can also bake breads, cookies and other treats. Contact Molly, volunteer coordinator/house manager, at 320-240-7962 or [vcoord@quietoakshospicehouse.org](mailto:vcoord@quietoakshospicehouse.org).

## Text-to-911 still in early stages

by Vicki Ikeogu  
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It's been nearly two months since the Minnesota Department of Public Safety launched the text-to-911 service statewide. But since the service has been active, law enforcement throughout Stearns County have seen limited use of the technology.

"As far as I know, we haven't had any 911 calls through texting," said St. Joseph Police Chief Joel Klein.

And the same is true in Sartell.

"We had handled one domestic situation where the caller was unable to talk but was able to communicate to us through texting," said Sartell Police Chief Jim Hughes.

While the number of text-to-911 calls is not as high as Stearns County Public Safety Services Supervisor Mary Lieser and Stearns County Dispatch Supervisor Michele Burke had originally anticipated when the service went public on Dec. 5, the two believe use of the service will increase as time goes on.

"Other states have implemented it before us," Burke said. "But it's just coming here now."

The text-to-911 system, according to Burke, works similarly to a traditional voice call. People text their emergency situation to 911 where a dispatcher answers the call for service.

"It rings (the dispatch center) like a phone line does,"

Text • page 4

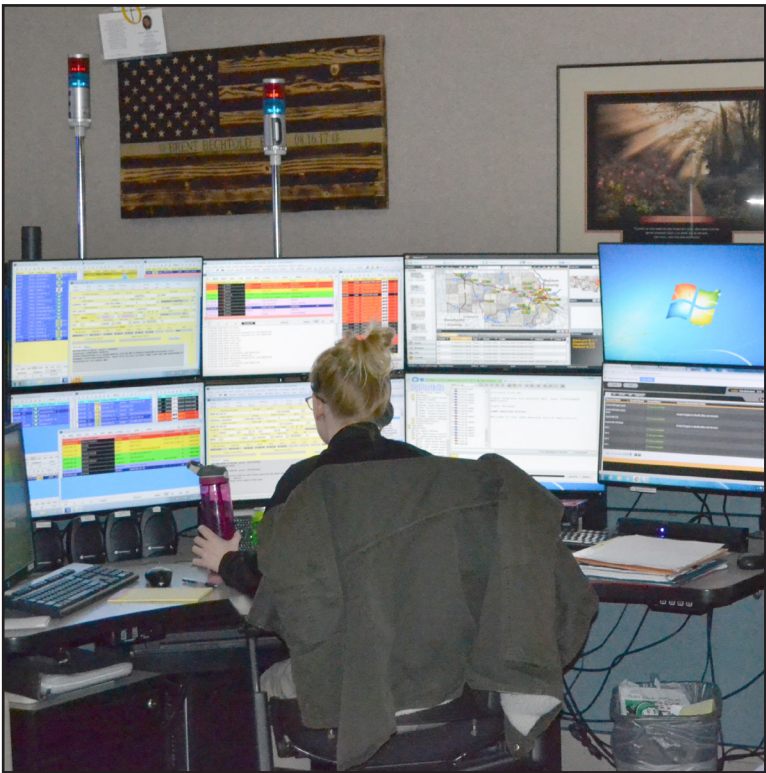


photo by Vicki Ikeogu

**Text-to-911 is still in the early stages throughout the state. Many dispatch centers, such as the Stearns County Dispatch Center in St. Cloud, do not have the appropriate infrastructure to receive texts. Text-to-911 service calls are currently funneled through Mille Lacs County.**

## Community reacts to white nationalist posters

by Mike Knaak  
[editor@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:editor@thenewsleaders.com)

Community leaders are speaking out and planning action after white nationalist posters appeared on main streets in St. Joseph last week.

About two dozen members of Cultural Bridges, a group formed more than a year ago to help immigrants, plans to ask the St. Joseph City Council to support a resolution affirming St. Joseph as a welcoming community.

"We can't be silent, but

we don't want to wage war either," said Dianne DeVargas, a Cultural Bridges member after a Monday night meeting. DeVargas is a St. Joseph resident.

Group members plan to draft a resolution and submit it to the city council for its next meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5.

The two-dozen Cultural Bridges members also talked about creating their own posters that would display "welcoming, inclusive" messages. Group members suggested conducting a community dialog meeting

to connect people of different cultures.

Other community reaction to the white nationalist posters came from the leaders of the College of St. Benedict, St. John's University and the Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict.

"As academic communities committed to the liberal arts, we embrace the free exchange of ideas and free speech," said a letter from the two college presidents. "But as Catholic and Benedictine communities, our callings go deeper. The Rule of Benedict in-

structs us that 'all guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ.' As learning institutions, we have an opportunity and obligation to expose and denounce expressions of hate."

The statement from the Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict said, in part, "We do not meet hate with hate. Instead, again following the teaching of Christ, who tells us to 'love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,' we pray not only for those

Posters • page 3

## 'A Night of Hope for Place of Hope' concert set Jan. 26

by Cori Hilsgen  
[news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto:news@thenewsleaders.com)

If you are looking for something to break up the boredom of staying inside during the cold month of January, the Social Justice Concerns Committee at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell is hosting "A Night of Hope for Place of Hope" concert at 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 26 to benefit Place of Hope Ministries in St. Cloud.

The Rev. Kevin Anderson and Nathan Mathews will perform at the concert, which will feature Anderson's latest

recording, *HOPE*. He uses spiritual insights from 30 years of priesthood to form a tranquil sound that has been described as "Enya meets John Denver meets God."

Anderson said the event is for all ages and faith backgrounds and is a night based on hope to offer hope. It's meant to be an evening of song and reflection and a mini-retreat night.

Mathews said the two plan to perform works Anderson wrote and/or assisted with. The two have worked together on Anderson's compact disc recordings and have performed

at many retreats/reflections concerts and benefit concerts.

Mathews may also play a few piano songs he wrote for a recording he created in 2001 called *Inroad*.

Anderson, a singer and songwriter, is a pastor at Christ Our Light Catholic Church, which serves Princeton and Zimmerman. Before that, he was pastor at the Newman Center serv-



Anderson



Mathews

ing the campus of St. Cloud State University, taught religion at Cathedral High School and was a campus minister for the College of St. Benedict. He also served as associate pastor at St. Mary's Cathedral St. Cloud and St. Mary's Parish in Little Falls.

Anderson grew up in Elk River where many of his family

Hope • page 5



People

Blotter

**Two St. Joseph students** were recently named to the fall dean’s list at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

They and their majors are as follows: **Emily Thiessen**, a senior, biochemistry and criminology; and **Nate Whitley**, a senior, physics.

Students must earn a minimum 3.50 grade-point average or higher to qualify for the honor.

**Emily Boysen**, daughter of Terri and Gene Boysen, St Joseph, was recently named to the fall dean’s list at Augustana University, Sioux Falls, S.D. Students must earn a minimum 3.5 grade-point average to achieve this honor. Boysen is a junior nursing major. She is also one of 145 Augustana students who are

studying abroad in January. Boysen is traveling throughout India studying life, religion and music in contemporary India.

**Three St. Joseph students** have been named to the fall semester dean’s list at Ridgewater College, Willmar. Students must earn a minimum 3.5 grade-point average to achieve this honor.

They are: **Matthew Hellmann**, **Grace Phillip** and **Haily Schwegel**.

**Connor MacKinney**, St. Joseph, has been named to the fall dean’s honor roll at Montana State University, Bozeman. Students must earn a minimum 3.5 grade-point averages to achieve this honor.

**Tyler Kelly**, St. Joseph, has been named to the fall semester dean’s list at University of Minnesota-Morris. Students must earn a 3.66 minimum grade-point average to achieve this honor.

**Brandon Block**, St. Joseph, graduated with honors from North Dakota State University, Fargo. He earned a bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering.

**Katelyn Sinn**, a software engineering major from St. Joseph, was recently named to the fall semester dean’s list at Iowa State University, Ames.

Students must have earned a minimum 3.50 grade-point average to achieve this honor.

*If any readers have tips concerning crimes, they should call the St. Joseph Police Department at 320-363-8250 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at 320-255-1301 or access its tip site at [www.tricountycrimestoppers.org](http://www.tricountycrimestoppers.org). Crime Stoppers offers rewards up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for crimes. This information is submitted by the St. Joseph Police Department.*

**Dec. 21**

11:23 a.m. Theft. 13th Avenue NW. A man came into the St. Joseph Police Department stating his Christmas projector had been stolen around 9:30 p.m. the day before. His wife arrived home around 9 p.m. and observed a tall thin man by their house. When they woke up the projector was gone. Estimated value was \$50. The victims did not have any suspects or vehicle description.

**Dec. 22**

12:22 a.m. Verbal dispute. 211 Iris Lane E. Officers were dispatched to a verbal where a man said his wife found out he had a girlfriend and would not give him his phone. Both parties had been drinking and the officer transported

the male complainant to Road Side Inn at his request. Nothing physical. The woman was not cooperative so neighbors came to stay with her.

**Dec. 23**

10:49 p.m. Medical. 109 Minnesota St. W. An officer was dispatched to a medical at Sal’s Bar. A man was arguing with another man and said, “you’re going to have to call the cops because I’m going to stab him.” He then proceeded to pull out a pocket knife and was attempting to pull out the blade. The bouncer slapped the knife out of his hands and pushed him to the ground. The male suspect then struck his head on the wall. Gold Cross Ambulance arrived on scene and transported him to St. Cloud Hospital. The male suspect was arrested for disorderly conduct.

**Dec. 24**

9:34 a.m. Suspicious vehicle. 700 15th Ave. NE. An officer responded to a suspicious vehicle of a woman who wouldn’t wake up in the driver’s seat with the car running. The officer arrived on scene and spoke with the woman who stated she was resting and needed a few minutes alone.

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A drunk driver ruined something precious. Amber Apodaca.

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

Photo by Michael Mazzoni

U.S. Department of Transportation

Ad Council

contributed photo

The kindergarten class at All Saints Academy in St. Joseph sang the National Anthem at the Jan. 6 St. John’s University basketball game.

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Joe Town  
**Vibe**

# The history behind St. Joseph Action Group

by John Stevens, Intern, SJU '18

*Note to our readers: This column is part of a new series from a blog recently started by a loosely knit independent group of area business people and residents who love and want to promote the energy and enthusiasm of downtown St. Joseph. They've named themselves Joe Town Vibe, and their purpose is to promote the positive creativity, vitality and vibe of events, businesses and people here. We'll be running their weekly Friday blog post here. The author today is SJU intern, John Stevens, who will be providing a weekly column through April. His work is paid for by donations of many in the group and a grant from the Eugene McCarthy Center. Joe Town Vibe welcomes other positive community members. (www.joetownvibe.com)*

There are times in most communities when local government leadership begins planning a project they learn is not popular with the community. St. Joseph is no different. In the early 2000s the St. Joseph City Council initiated a plan for a different route for traffic and future traffic growth, and that plan included installing a road through the woods on St. Benedict Monastery's property. A group of concerned individuals came together with several Benedictine Sisters and formed the St. Joseph Action Group. The group's main purpose and motivation was to prevent the road on land the Sisters considered not only important to wildlife, but sacred.

More than 15 years later, the group is a self-described watchdog which looks for opportunities to improve St. Joseph and its downtown area. Between the early 2000s and now, the St. Joseph Action Group has been taking on projects to improve the community. All their projects have held a common goal in mind, to make downtown St. Joseph an attractive and thriving community destination, and their projects have strengthened the community. Before downtown St. Joseph was elevated to its current glory, there were many eyesores across the area, especially during the recession that started in 2008.

There were several retail storefronts in the downtown area which were vacant. The empty stores were depressing and visually dragged down the rest of the downtown area. The St. Joseph

Action Group had a quick and easy solution to give the buildings a face lift. They had kids at local Boys and Girls Clubs and other programs draw and create pictures to hang in the windows of the vacant units. The project was a huge success, and even thriving businesses requested the locally produced children's artwork for their windows. It became competitive as the various clubs and programs competed to create the best images, and some of the groups even brought in help from local artisans.

The kids' project was not only for fun, but it also led to the sale of the vacant building. When a prospective buyer expressed concern about one of the units in the building seemingly lacking sidewalk frontage and commercial use, the St. Joseph Action Group didn't hesitate to step in and help. In a short time, the group and its growing number of volunteers opened Closet 2 Closet, a thrift store with retail windows to the sidewalk. The store was a product of an extremely successful two-week garage sale the group ran in the previously awkwardly arranged storefront. Closet 2 Closet quickly became a destination for locals and visitors to come search for clothes, kitchenwares, games and more all while enjoying conversation with the volunteers. Closet 2 Closet was more than a store, it was a gathering place.

All the workers were volunteers and all the profits were used to fund other projects the St. Joseph Action Group was planning. The store stayed open for four years and was sorely missed when it closed. Closet 2 Closet only closed because the St. Joseph Action Group had committed they would move out when the owner of the building found a new tenant – as the main goal of the group's venture was to prevent the space from being vacant. Like the window art pictures projects, Closet 2 Closet led to the space being occupied all while strengthening the St. Joseph community.

The profits of Closet 2 Closet allowed the action group to fund and host public forums with candidates for local elections. In addition, the profits allowed for new projects – like the annual Christmas-tree lighting, which has become a cherished event in St. Joseph for the past eight years. The event has grown, adding new elements every year. The lighting

now includes a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, a community dinner, crafts and an honorary illuminator. The lighting has become quite the spectacle and brings the community together every winter.

The St. Joseph Action Group initiated bringing hanging flower baskets to the downtown area of St. Joseph every summer. The group has partnered with Thomsen Garden Center, which creates the flower baskets, and the city, which maintains and waters the flowers. The action group has since phased themselves out of the project, which is now run by outstanding citizens. The project, which started with 25 flower baskets, had around 75 baskets last summer and will likely grow again this summer. The baskets are cherished by locals and are noted by visitors from across the country every summer.

All the projects the St. Joseph Action Group has undertaken throughout the years have benefited the community immensely. Improving the aesthetics of the community was a major benefit of all the projects, yet the enhanced community was perhaps just as important. While making downtown St. Joseph an attractive, thriving destination for the community and visitors, these projects have also improved the relationships of those living in St. Joseph, bringing the community together.

What's next for the St. Joseph Action Group? The group plans on continuing to spread the word about what is happening in St. Joseph. The group is here to stay and is constantly adding new volunteers eager to improve the community in which they live. The St. Joseph Action Group meets quarterly to discuss the community and the status of past, present and future projects. The group that started as a few individuals concerned about a potential new road, now seems to have a hand in nearly every community improvement project. The individuals who are a part of the group show a tremendous drive and dedication to improving their community. It's individuals like these that improve communities and fill the voids which governments cannot fill.

*Special thanks to Margy Hughes who provided the history of the St. Joseph Action Group in a Jan. 18 interview.*

## Posters

from front page

who are the target of racist and white supremacist propaganda, but also for those who propagate these un-Christian and shameful expressions of hate.”

Monday night's Cultural Bridges meeting included students from St. John's and St. Ben's as well as several Somali women.

“I want my community to get to know people

in St. Joseph and get to know each other's cultures and share our foods,” Anisa Mohamed said. “We need to get to know each other more deeply.”

DeVargas said Cultural Bridges was formed to help the approximately 50 Somali families living in St. Joseph by tutoring children and helping the families become part of community life.

“We need them to hear we are a welcoming community,” DeVargas said.

## People



**Lt. Col. Jeff Howe completed nearly 40 years of combined military service in December with the Minnesota Army National Guard. At his retirement party, he was presented with the Legion of Merit. In addition to his military service, Howe has participated in the volunteer fire department and serves in the Minnesota House of Representatives from District 13A, which includes the St. Joseph and Cold Spring areas.**

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# Area disc golfers brave the cold for charity



photo by Vicki Ikeogu

**Josh Miller of Andover watches his disc fly toward Hole 8 at Millstream Park in St. Joseph. Miller was one of about 80 participants in the 2018 St. Cloud Ice Bowl.**



photo by Vicki Ikeogu

**Chris Hall of Zimmerman launches a disc through the woods at Millstream Park in St. Joseph.**

by Vicki Ikeogu  
news@thenewsleaders.com

The colder the better. Because for Sauk Rapids resident Cody Parsons, it's not truly an Ice Bowl tournament unless the mercury in the thermometer dips below zero.

And on Saturday, Jan. 13, it did just that.

With temps around seven below zero, about 80 avid disc golfers from around the area – including a man who made the trek from Missouri – threw on some extra layers, ripped open a few packets of hand warmers and downed some piping hot coffee as they made their way around St. Joseph's Millstream Park for the 26th annual St. Cloud Ice Bowl.

"I mean, disc golfers, they play all year round," Parsons said. "It doesn't matter if it's 40 below with the wind chill, they are still out throwing."

Parsons has been disc golfing around Central Minnesota for more than a decade and has competed on the professional stage for the last several years.

But for the past four years, the Sauk Rapids resident has been kicking off the new year by coordinating the Ice Bowl tournament – a disc golfing fundraiser for the St. Joseph Food Shelf.

"The Ice Bowl, I think, is a way for everybody to help give back to the local community," Parsons said.

"Granted a lot of the players aren't from the area, but they come up and help donate. But I think it's just the sense you are giving back to a community. And St. Joseph has been a great community when it comes to disc golf. They are very supportive of the sport."

Disc golf is very similar to traditional golf. But instead of using clubs and golf balls, players use specially designed discs.

"Instead of swinging a club and hitting a ball, you are using your body as the momentum to transfer the energy to the disc," Parsons said.

Each basket, like the holes in regular golf, has a certain number of attempts players have in order to come in at par or under.

This year the disc golf tournament was a 21-hole course. Parsons said the entire event starts with a players' meeting at 10:30 a.m. with the first discs being thrown around 11 a.m. The typical tournament takes about three hours.

The winners in various categories – open professional, master professional, grand master professional, advanced, amateur and women's disc golfer – get to take home trophies and bragging rights. But the true winners Parsons wants disc golfers to remember are the local charities the Ice Bowl tournament participants help raise money for.

"The majority of the money raised (at our Ice Bowl) goes to the St. Joseph Food Shelf," Parsons said. "But people will still donate to Cath-

olic Charities or the Salvation Army. When I took over (coordinating) a few years ago everything was divided equally among the three. But my main focus is St. (Joseph) because our tournament is in St. (Joseph)."

This year, the Ice Bowl participants raised \$6,732 for the food shelf through entrance fees, a silent auction, a raffle and a whine jar (because if you were caught whining about the cold temperatures you had to donate a dollar); 65 pounds of food were also donated.

Parsons said the St. Cloud Ice Bowl is one of several Ice Bowl disc golf tournaments across the country. And typically the Central Minnesota disc golfers are the most generous when it comes to the fundraising side.

"Out of roughly 200 Ice Bowl events last year, we took fourth in the amount of money raised nationwide," Parsons said. "St. Cloud has had the reputation of usually placing in the top 10 nationwide for money raised from the Ice Bowl event."

And as the sport continues to grow in popularity on the local level and on the national scene, Parsons said he believes the Ice Bowl tournament will continue to draw crowds – even in frigid temperatures.

"It's a growing sport," Parsons said. "And the people who play are always willing to help out and give back. And because of that I don't see the Ice Bowl slowing down anytime soon."

## Text

### from front page

Burke said. "And when dispatch opens up that message on their screen it will appear almost like a TTY similar to the deaf and hard of hearing. They have machines they can use to make their phone calls where they type back and forth to whoever they are talking to. And (text-to-911) sort of acts like that."

Burke said because of a lack of appropriate infrastructure in place at Stearns County, all of the text-to-911 calls are being handled through the Mille Lacs County Dispatch Center.

"The state is broken up into regions and we are part of the Central Region," Burke said. "So what happened was they wanted the whole state to go live all at the same time. But not all (county dispatch centers) were able to do that because either they needed upgrades or equipment. So they have one agency per region right now at least who is taking the text-to-911 calls for the rest of the region. And right now, we are not live. Mille Lacs County is the one who is taking the text-to-911s in our region."

Burke said she estimates nearly a dozen of the state's 87 counties have the necessary infrastructure to support text-to-911 calls. Most of the sys-

tems are concentrated down in the Twin Cities metro area. But Burke said each multi-county region has at least one text-to-911 equipped facility.

Lieser anticipates Stearns County to receive the necessary technology during the first half of 2018.

However, while each region is able to handle texting, Hughes said text-to-911 should be a last resort for many.

"If you can make the call, make the call," he said. "Don't text."

Hughes said, one of the major disadvantages to texting an emergency to 911 instead of making a voice call is texting does not provide an accurate location for the emergency.

"When you call, we can often pinpoint your location much faster," he said. "And often times the dispatchers are able to pick up on cues from background noises or the inflection in your voice as to what is going on in that situation."

DPS says text-to-911 has the same 160-character limit as typical texts and could potentially bounce back if the texter is roaming. In addition, there is currently no language translation service for 911 texts.

Text-to-911 calls have often taken longer than traditional voice calls, Burke said.

"You are going to get a better response (with a voice call)," she said. "And especially now, you won't have to deal with a relay from county to county. But if you have a hearing-impaired person or someone who cannot speak, it's obviously going to be better for them to text, but we would always prefer a voice call if (you are) able."

Lieser said examples of appropriate uses for the text-to-911 call would be in situations where a person could jeopardize their safety by calling.

"(One) actual call has been a domestic," she said. "And those are the times you want to use it. When you don't want someone else to know you are making that phone call."

Another example, Burke said, was if the caller was inside a vehicle being driven by someone under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

"If you feel like your safety might be jeopardized because you are making that call, then that would be a good reason (to text)," she said.

Burke said in states where text-to-911 has been active, voice calling is still the preferred method of communication with law enforcement.

"Studies about this have shown when people are en-

countering an emergency they would rather make a voice call than stop and text," she said. "Because you feel like you are getting more of an immediate response."

For those situations where texting is the best option, DPS recommends texting the exact address and type of emergency into the message field using simple wording and avoiding abbreviations, emojis and pictures. Questions from the dispatcher should be answered promptly.

"The physical act of texting 911 is not that difficult, but it's important people follow these steps and provide us with the most accurate information," said Darlene Pankonie, chair of the Next Generation 911 Committee. "If there's a delay in answering a dispatcher's questions, or if you don't tell us where you are, we can't help you. This will lead to valuable time lost in an emergency and take dispatchers away from other calls."

Text-to-911 provides the public with another option when it comes to reporting emergency situations to law enforcement. And for Lieser, that is a good thing.

"It just gives the public another tool," she said. "And if we can help somebody by that text, then texting is worth it."

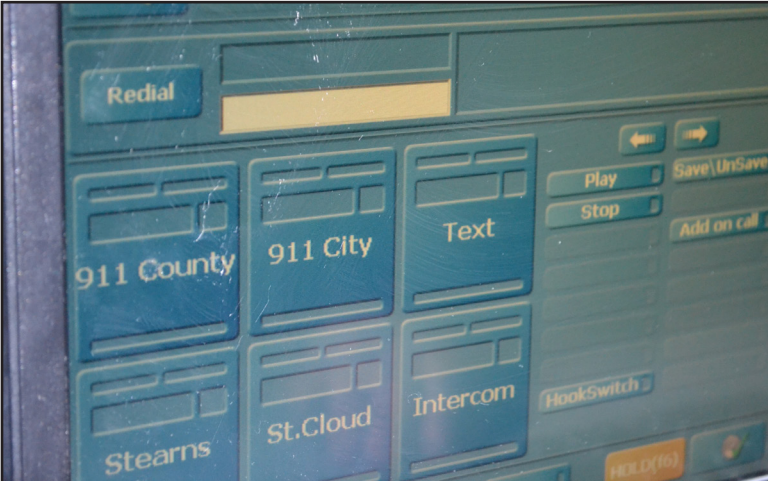


photo by Vicki Ikeogu

**A sample screen of how text-to-911 would look once the software has been put in place inside the Stearns County Dispatch Center in St. Cloud.**





photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Young strings musicians from across central Minnesota spent the afternoon of Jan. 12 in Ritsche Auditorium-Stewart Hall in St. Cloud learning how to play “rockstar-style” from Mark Wood, an Emmy-winning composer, educator, original member of the Trans Siberian Orchestra and inventor of the premier electric violin, dubbed The Viper. The Central Minnesota Youth Orchestra brought the workshop called “The Mark Wood Experience: Electrify Your Strings!” to St. Cloud. Students practiced songs, including Queen’s “We Will Rock You,” The Beatles’ “Eleanor Rigby” and Michael Jackson’s “Beat It!”

# CMYO, Wood make orchestra ‘rock’



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Mark Wood coaxes the audience to applaud a student performing on one of the electric violins that would later be raffled off during the Mark Wood Electrify Your Strings concert at SCSU’s Ritsche Auditorium-Stewart Hall.



photo by Carolyn Bertsch

Mark Wood plays the violin he invented called “The Viper,” which contains the sounds of an entire orchestra in a single instrument during the Jan. 13 “Electrify Your Strings” concert.

## Hope

from front page

still resides. He majored in music at St. John’s University in Collegeville and has graduate theology degrees from Loyola University in Chicago and St. John’s School of Theology.

For the past 36 years, Anderson has studied voice with Dr. Shirley Ann Holzer of St. Cloud.

Mathews is the city manager for Bemidji. He grew up in St. Cloud, attended St. Augustine’s school and graduated from Cathedral High School. He met Anderson while he was attending John XXIII Middle School, and the two have been creating music together for 30

years.

Mathews said he has played liturgical music all of his life. He graduated from St. John’s University in Collegeville with a degree in English and a minor in piano performance. During college, he was involved in campus music ministry at the College of St. Benedict.

Mathews studied Suzuki piano with Terri Dulugosch of St. Augustine’s Parish as a child and studied classical piano with Dr. Paul Wirth at the Central Minnesota School of Music in middle school and high school. He also studied classical piano with Dr. William Ibes of SJU. After graduation from the university, he worked at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis. as director of liturgical music for four years.

Mathews earned a master’s

degree in public administration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and previously worked as the city administrator for the outstate Minnesota areas of Staples and Winnebago.

He currently accompanies liturgies at St. Phillip’s Catholic Church in Bemidji.

Mathews and his wife, Elizabeth, who have been married for 17 years, have three children.

Anderson has performed many concerts in the St. Cloud area. Those have included benefit concerts for the Anna Marie Shelter and Cathedral High School. He was a featured singer during Cathedral’s *Rock Around the Clock* fundraisers for the arts.

Anderson also played the role of Jesus in the St. Cloud

Theatre Group production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, appeared on numerous recordings sponsored through Together Encounter Christ, and won first place in the National Association of Teachers of Singing in 1991.

Anderson, a singer and songwriter, teamed up with Mathews in the early 1990s when Mathews was a student of his at Cathedral High School.

Anderson said he wrote the music, but Mathews brought it to life with his piano music.

Place of Hope Ministries in St. Cloud focuses on restoring and bringing hope to people who are struggling. Its ministry services include hospitality, meals, sheltering homeless residents, Sober Support, Hope for Veterans, teaching life skills, children’s outreach,

jail and prison outreach, developing orphanages in Africa and much more.

The mission of the St. Francis Xavier Social Justice Concerns Committee is to “foster education, prayer and action around various social justice concerns of the day and to reach out to the parish in various ways to build the reign of God in our midst.”

Molly Weyrens from Central Minnesota Catholic Worker said the group holds discussions about various topics, sponsors those who are homeless for a week each year and seeks to keep Catholic social teaching alive in the parish. Housing and hunger are the group’s current issues.

There is a nominal fee per person or a family group rate for the event.



# Opinion

## Our View

### Fischbach's new role needs Constitutional solution

Constitutions are meant to be vague. Those documents are foundations for our state and national governments. They set down the basic principles and powers of our governments. The legislature, executive and courts decide the details.

That works fine until something odd happens.

Something odd has happened and it's time for an update to Minnesota's Constitution.

The chain of unusual events started when Sen. Al Franken resigned amid charges of sexual misconduct.

Minnesota's Democratic governor, Mark Dayton, appointed his lieutenant governor, Tina Smith, to replace him.

That move sent both political parties to their law books and copies of the Minnesota Constitution that calls for the president of the Senate to become lieutenant governor.

The current Senate president is Republican Michelle Fischbach, who represents the St. Joseph and Sartell-St. Stephen areas in District 13.

Fischbach and Republicans argue she can do both jobs. DFLers say the Constitution prohibits her from holding both offices and they want her to resign her Senate seat. A Ramsey County judge will decide the matter after a Democrat in District 13 filed a lawsuit.

The Constitution says "No senator or representative shall hold any other office under the authority of the United States or the state of Minnesota, except that of postmaster or of notary public. If elected or appointed to another office, a legislator may resign from the legislature by tendering his resignation to the governor." The words "shall" and "may" provide room for dispute.

There are practical and political arguments on both sides.

First the practical. Fischbach's claim she can do both jobs makes sense. This is a short legislative session focused on bonding, Fischbach is an experienced legislator and Dayton and his lieutenant governor won't be running for re-election. Fischbach's seat isn't open until 2020. If Fischbach resigns her Senate seat, the governor would call a special election to fill it. She has offered to collect only her Senate pay.

The real battle hangs on the political issues because the Republicans could lose control of the Senate. They hold a narrow 34- to 32-seat advantage. If a DFLer wins a special election to replace Dan Schoen (a Democrat) who resigned after sexual harassment claims, then the Senate would be split 34-33. If the DFL wins the lieutenant governor case in court, the split would be 33-33 pending an election to replace Fischbach.

The courts may end up deciding the issue. A permanent solution would be to amend the state Constitution so the governor can appoint a new lieutenant governor to be confirmed by the Senate.

In 1857 when the Constitution was written, there was so much discord Democrats wouldn't sign a document with Republican signatures and Republicans wouldn't sign a document bearing the signatures of Democrats.

There is evidence both documents were presented to Congress when it approved Minnesota's Constitution and the state was admitted to the Union on May 11, 1858.

Now 160 years later, the tradition of discord continues.

St. Joseph • Sartell-St. Stephen

# Newsleaders

Reaching EVERYbody!

The ideas expressed in the letters to the editor and of the guest columnists do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Newsleaders*.

Letters to the editor may be sent to news@thenewsleaders.com or P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, MN 56374. Deadline is noon Monday. Please include your full name for publication (and address and phone number for verification only.) Letters must be 350 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for space.

## White-nationalist group puts up poster ignorance

**Dennis Dalman**

*Editor*



demonstrations there in which a racist murderer slammed his car into a group of people, killing a young woman.

Some of the blunt poster sentences are these:

"We have a right to exist."

"You will not replace us."

"It's okay to be white."

"There are 2 genders."

"Hate speech is free speech."

Then there is a preposterous sentence, which is not really a sentence. Typically, white nationalists are not very well educated, in grammar or anything else for that matter.

The wannabe sentence states: "You expect to be sheltered from ideas that challenge your narrow world view, well prepare to be triggered."

Here we have a group of people who are anti-black, anti-immigrant, anti-Jewish, anti-LGBTQ, and this group is telling the rest of us that we are "sheltered from ideas," that we have a "narrow world view." It's

## Know the facts on government shutdown

**Connor Kockler**

*Guest Writer*



leadership. They control all the levers of government, so the shutdown is entirely their fault right? Well, it's not quite that simple. While the House can pass appropriations bills by a simple majority, which it did the preceding Thursday, in the Senate they require 60 votes. The Republicans hold only 51 Senate seats, which means nine Democrats were needed to keep the government running.

So what was the holdup? The answer is a program called DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Under this program created by President Obama in 2012, around 800,000 illegal immigrants who were brought to the United States as children were protected from deportation. In September 2017, President Trump rescinded the program and gave Congress until March 5, 2018, to send him a bill concerning it before it expired. Democrats want language about DACA included in the government funding, while Republicans and Trump want DACA to be part of a wider immigration deal including money for a wall and other immigration measures.

In the Senate, 45 Republicans and 5 Democrats voted to continue to fund the government, while 44 Democrats and 5 Republicans voted against the resolution. By

almost funny because look who's talking. The words warn us that we will be "triggered." (no doubt a veiled threat of being shot). Or do they mean to gas us all?

Why do those people feel so insecure? Why do they feel so threatened by diversity, by people whose skin happens to be darker than theirs? Why do they wrap themselves in such hatreds? Is there anything they do like, besides themselves? Why can't they welcome the diversity that is an underlying strength of America and always has been.

Ray Sjogren, a St. Joseph resident, took it upon himself to take down the posters, as did St. Joseph police because putting posters on telephone poles is not allowed.

"If we're silent then we're complicit," Sjogren said.

Yes, complacent and complicit.

Thank you, Mr. Sjogren; thank you, police officers.

Let's all speak up against the neo-Nazi garbage.

A good way to counter that crap is to donate to UniteCloud, a website started by Natalie Ringsmuth of Waite Park that promotes kindness, understanding, diversity and equality among all the good people who live and work here.

percentages, this means almost 90 percent of the 51 Republican senators voted against the shutdown, while the opposite is true for 90 percent of the 49 Democratic senators. Whether or not you believe the Republicans should have caved to Democratic demands, Democrats are mathematically responsible for the shutdown.

This was a similar pattern to 2013, when the vast majority of Republicans voted to shut down the federal government over Obamacare. They were rightly blamed then because the math worked the same way. The Democrats have now committed the identical action here in 2018.

Of course, when legislative bickering like this happens, we all lose. I would have hoped to see some sort of bipartisan deal, but politicians in Washington seem to be more interested in making stands on their favorite issues rather than working for the common benefit of the American people.

If we want to keep things like this from continuing to occur, we as citizens need to remain vigilant and hold our lawmakers accountable. We need to follow the news and events and see which politicians are working for us, and which are working for their political party. Keeping a close eye on things, and voting out those in Congress who aren't doing their jobs, is the only way to have the functioning government we deserve.

*Connor Kockler is a Sauk Rapids-Rice High School student. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other interests.*



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Feb. 28, 2018 at 1 p.m. at 523 54th Ave., City St. Cloud, County of Stearns, State of Minnesota 56303, the following property will be sold by public auction by the Sheriff of Stearns County:

**A 1970 “Skyline” manufactured home, VIN SU1435D, and any contents therein or about the premises. The manufactured home is located within the Riverview Park Manufactured Home Community.**

This sale will be held to satisfy a claim upon the above-described property held by RVP, LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes sections 504B and 514. Upon information and belief, this property is owned by John Patrick Grillo. A Writ of Recovery of Premises, issued by the Stearns County District Court on Dec. 13, 2017, in favor of RVP, LLC, against John Patrick Grillo, the then current occupant of the property known as 523 54th Ave. #47, St. Cloud, Minnesota 56303, has been executed by the Stearns County Sheriff on Dec. 26, 2017. The amount of the claim against the above referenced property is \$2,310 computed to the date of sale at the rate of \$30 per day, exclusive of the expenses of said sale and any expenses occurred after this notice.

Dated: Jan. 19, 2018

LAMBERT & ASSOCIATES

/s/ Amanda J. Johnson

333 N. Main Street, Suite 110

Stillwater, MN 55082

Publish: Jan. 26, Feb. 2 and 9, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Feb. 28, 2018 at 1 p.m. at 523 54th Ave., City St. Cloud, County of Stearns, State of Minnesota 56303, the following property will be sold by public auction by the Sheriff of Stearns County:

**A 1971 “Star” manufactured home, VIN GA36M01743, and any contents therein or about the premises. The manufactured home is located within the Riverview Park Manufactured Home Community.**

This sale will be held to satisfy a claim upon the above-described property held by RVP, LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes sections 504B and 514. Upon information and belief, this property is owned by John Patrick Grillo. A Writ of Recovery of Premises, issued by the Stearns County District Court on Dec. 13, 2017, in favor of RVP, LLC, against John Patrick Grillo, the then current occupant of the property known as 523 54th Ave. #27, St. Cloud, Minnesota 56303, has been executed by the Stearns County Sheriff on Dec. 26, 2017. The amount of the claim against the above referenced property is \$2,310 computed to the date of sale at the rate of \$30 per day, exclusive of the expenses of said sale and any expenses occurred after this notice.

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Community Calendar

***Is your event listed? Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, P.O. Box 324, St. Joseph, Minn. 56374; fax it to 320-363-4195; or, e-mail it to news@thenewsleaders.com. Most events are listed at no cost. Those events are typically free or of minimal charge for people to attend. Some events, which have paid advertising in the Newsleaders, are also listed in the calendar and may charge more.***

**Saturday, Jan. 27**  
**Chili Cookoff,** 5-7 p.m., Northland Bible Baptist Church, 3686 CR 8 SE, St Cloud. Meal is free but rsvp required. 320-252-5677 ext. 0.

**Sunday, Jan. 28**  
**Joe Town Table,** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., American Legion, 101 W. Minnesota St., St. Joseph. centralmncw@gmail.com.

**Youth Free Throw Championship,** sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, boys & girls ages 9-14, 12:30 p.m., All Saints Academy Gym, 32 W. Minnesota St, St Joseph. Contact Mark Berg-Arnold 363-1077.

**Saudi Night: Alsalam Alai-kom** (“peace be with you”), 5-7 p.m., traditional middle-eastern food, music and dance as well as education skits. \$5 students, \$7 at the door, faculty & others \$8. Atwood Memorial

Center Ballroom 720 Fourth Ave. S. St. Cloud, contact Jeff Wood at 320-308-2284 for more information.

**Monday, Jan. 29**  
**St. Joseph Park Board,** 6 p.m., St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. 363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.

**Tuesday, Jan. 30**  
**Registration deadline** for Greater St. Cloud Community Pillars Forum, 7:30-10 a.m., Terry Haws Room, River’s Edge Convention Center, 10 Fourth Ave. S., St. Cloud. Diane, 320-492-7360. greaterstcloud.com/community-pillars.  
**National Alliance on Men-**

**tal Health,** 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. 320-259-7101.

**Wednesday, Jan. 31**  
**American Red Cross Blood Drive,** 1-7 p.m., St. Cloud State University. 720 Fourth Ave. S. 800-733-2767.

**Thursday, Feb. 1**  
**St. Joseph Food Shelf,** open 1-3 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW, St. Joseph.  
**St. Joseph Planning Commission,** 6 p.m., St. Joseph City Hall, 75 Callaway St. E. 320-363-7201. cityofstjoseph.com.  
**Great River Regional Coin Club,** 6:30-8:30 p.m., Mill-

er Auto Marine Sports Plaza, 2930 Second St. S., St. Cloud. 320-241-9229.

**Sauk Rapids Jaycees,** 7 p.m., VFW, 901 N. Benton Drive, Sauk Rapids. srjaycees.weebly.com.

**Rice Lions Club,** 8 p.m., Lions Building, Westside Park, 101 Fourth St. NW.

**Friday, Feb. 2**  
**Benton County Museum,** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 218 First St. N., Sauk Rapids. 320-253-9614. mnbentonhistory.org.

**St. Joseph Area Historical Society,** open 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Old City Hall, 25 First Ave. NW. stjosephhistoricalmn.org.

<p><b>WANTED TO BUY</b> <b>WANTED TO BUY: Basswood logs by truckload delivered</b> to Dodgeville, WI. Bark intact, harvested in dormancy, delivered FRESH cut. Pre-arranged purchases only. Call Al Ladd at 608-935-2341 ext.333 (MCN)</p> <p><b>ADOPTION</b> <b>PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? Call us first.</b> Living expenses, housing, medical, and continued support afterwards. Choose adoptive family of your choice. Call 24/7. 855-390-6047. (MCN)</p> <p><b>AUTOMOBILES</b> <b>DONATE YOUR CAR TO CHARITY. Receive maximum</b> value of write off for your taxes. Running or not! All conditions accepted. Free pickup. Call for details. 855-752-6680 (MCN)</p> <p><b>DONATE YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR BOAT TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND.</b> Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. 1-800-283-0205 (MCN)</p> <p><b>CASH FOR CARS: We Buy Any Condition Vehicle,</b> 2002 and Newer. Competitive Offer! Nationwide FREE Pick Up! Call Now For a Free Quote! 888-366-5659! 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(MCN)</p> <p><b>EMPLOYMENT/HELP WANTED</b> <b>NEW AUTHORS WANTED! Page Publishing</b> will help you self-publish your own book. FREE author submission kit! Limited offer! Why wait? Call now: 855-623-8796 (MCN)</p> <p><b>Hormel Foods in Austin, Minnesota is hiring</b> Industrial Mechanics and Electricians. Great pay and benefits. Apply at www.hormeljob.com. Hormel Foods Corporation is an EOE Minorities/ Females/Protected Veterans/Disabled. (MCN)</p> <p><b>CLASS A TRUCK DRIVER. North Central region.</b> Earn up to \$70,000. No touch freight. Good benefits. All mile paid. Nice equipment. 2 years experience needed. Call 507-437-9905. Apply</p>	<p>on-line WWW.MCFGTL.COM (MCN)</p> <p><b>FINANCIAL</b> <b>Are you in Debt? Get help now with a 30 minute</b> Phone debt analysis. Mon-Fri 9:00 am to 8:00 pm, Sat: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. All eastern time. 1-888-306-0480.(MCN)</p> <p><b>Buying a home and need a mortgage?</b> Or, have a home and want to lower your monthly fees and refinance? Getting a mortgage is quicker and easier than ever. Call now! 855-715-4721 (MCN)</p> <p><b>Diagnosed with Mesothelioma or Asbestos Lung Cancer?</b> If so, you and your family may be entitled to a substantial financial award. We can help you get cash quick! Call 24/7: 866-924-0504 (MCN)</p> <p><b>Over \$10K in debt? Be debt free in 24-48 months.</b> Pay a fraction of what you owe. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 855-995-1557. (MCN)</p> <p><b>Denied Credit?? Work to Repair Your Credit Report</b> With The Trusted Leader in Credit Repair. Call Lexington Law for a FREE credit report summary &amp; credit repair consultation. 888-501-3159. John C. Heath, Attorney at Law, PLLC, dba Lexington Law Firm.(MCN)</p> <p><b>FOR SALE</b> <b>FRUIT &amp; NUT TREES From \$15.</b> Blueberry, Strawberry, Grape, Asparagus, Evergreen &amp; Hardwood Plants &amp; MORE! FREE Catalog. WOODSTOCK NURSERY, N1831 Hwy 95, Neillsville, WI 54456. Toll Free 888-803-8733 wallace-woodstock.com (MCN)</p> <p><b>Trailer Sale! Close-out on 4-place drive-on/drive-off</b> snowmobile trailers; Triton 2-place enclosed snowmobile trailers; CM horse &amp; livestock trailers (FREE SPARE); 2018 6'X12' V-nose, ramp door cargo \$2,780.00; 500 &amp; 900 gallon fuel trailers \$6,299.00 &amp; up; 515-972-4554 or www.FortDodgeTrailerWorld.com for info &amp; prices!</p> <p><b>HEALTH &amp; MEDICAL</b> <b>Stop OVERPAYING for your prescriptions! SAVE!</b> Call our licensed Canadian and International pharmacy, compare prices and get \$25.00 OFF your first prescription! CALL 888-438-6461</p>	<p>Promo Code CDC201725 (MCN)</p> <p><b>OXYGEN - Anytime. Anywhere. No tanks to refill.</b> No deliveries. The All-New Inogen One G4 is only 2.8 pounds! FAA approved! FREE info kit: 844-852-7448 (MCN)</p> <p><b>Got Knee Pain? Back Pain? Shoulder Pain?</b> Get a pain-relieving brace at little or NO cost to you. 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# A blend of local talent percolates at open mic



photo by Mike Knaak  
Singer Joe Eckman pauses during his set at open-mic night on Tuesday, Jan. 23 at the Local Blend.

by Patric Lewandowski  
news@thenewsleaders.com

There’s a special tradition that’s grown up during the past eight years in St. Joseph. Whether it’s the dead cold of winter or a beautiful summer evening, every Tuesday, performers gather at Local Blend for one of the longest continuous open-mic nights in Minnesota, hosted by Dave Cofell and Adam Hammer.

“We get players of all abilities,” Cofell said, “from young kids who are just starting out (to seasoned veterans). Usually we’re a little taken aback because they’re so good.”

There is certainly a mix of talent both familiar with and new to the Local Blend stage.

“I’ve been coming just over a year,” said musician Joe Eckman. When asked what makes Local Blend’s open mic special, with no hesitation, he replies, “Everybody is really enthusiastic about listening and just enjoying the art.”

Glen Irvin, who recently moved to the St. Joseph area, played for the first time Jan. 23 on the Local Blend stage. “The whole venue is full. I expected like four people here on a Tuesday,” Irvin said.

One of the things Cofell and Hammer pride themselves on is the community aspect of the open mic and its welcoming nature. “People come in, they play, they hear other people play; they start as strangers and over time become friends.

A true strength of the Local Blend’s open-mic night is the variety of acts that perform. While most acts are music, there was even a bit of stand-up comedy on Jan. 23.

“It could be anything,” Cofell said. “We have spoken word, keyboard players, people just bringing in odd instruments, but it’s mostly guitar.”

Besides the usual mix of people covering favorite songs and performing their own, Cofell often hosts a once-a-month song-writing challenge as part of the open mic. “We’ve had loads of great songs written,” Cofell said. Topics have ranged widely in the contests, from happy songs about death to weather or cars.

Local Blend’s open mic is every Tuesday from 7 to 10 p.m. Acts should arrive at 6 p.m. to sign up for a 15-minute slot, but there are four call-in slots available at 2 p.m.

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