

# Reaching Everybody! Newsleaders

Friday, Nov. 1, 2019  
Volume 31, Issue 21  
Est. 1989

## Town Crier

### Winter farmers' market opens at community center

The Sartell Farmers Market is open from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2, inside the Sartell Community Center, 850 19th St. S. Come join us for the first market of the winter season. You will find many great items including the following: eggs, meat, squash, onions, potatoes, salsa, BBQ Sauce, honey, maple syrup, baked goods, canned goods, handmade crafts and much more. Get a jump on your holiday shopping and plan for great meals for the coming month.

### Turn clocks back Sunday morning

Daylight saving time, which started in March, ends Sunday, Nov. 3. At 2 a.m. Sunday, or before retiring Saturday night, residents should turn clocks back one hour to reflect the ending of daylight saving time.

### Fare for All set Nov. 11

Fare for All's next distribution will be from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 11 at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St. Joseph. Holiday packs, including an 9- to 10-pound Jennie-O whole turkey, chicken breasts, Johnsonville Italian sausage, rotisserie turkey tenderloin, sage pork sausage, green beans and a Mrs. Smith's pumpkin pie, will be available. Fare for All is a budget-stretching program that allows people to save up to 40 percent off fresh fruits, vegetables and frozen meats. Distribution is once a month. This event is open to everyone who wants to stretch their grocery dollar. Cash, credit, debit cards and EBT cards are accepted. For more information, visit fareforall.org or call 320-363-4232.

### Food-packaging event needs volunteers

Volunteers are needed for the seventh annual We Are Thankful food-packaging event on Sunday, Nov. 17, at the River's Edge Convention Center, 10 Fourth Ave. S., St. Cloud. Three volunteer shifts are available from 9-11 a.m., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 1-3 p.m. Donations are also needed to pay for ingredients. For more information, call the United Way of Central Minnesota at 320-223-7991 or mkrippner@unitedwayhelps.org.

**INSERT:**  
Country Manor  
Foundation



photo by Mike Knaak

### Ghostly greetings

Two neighbors in southeast St. Joseph teamed up again this year to create an elaborate Halloween display. Sharon Fiereck and Mary Kay Hoeschen have combined their decorations and skill for the past six years and alternate the display between their yards. This year the decorations enliven Fiereck's yard at 118 Fifth Ave. SE.

## Initiative started for outdoor SaveStations

by Cori Hilsgen  
news@thenewsleaders.com

According to Advocates for Health, sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death in our country and claims about 350,000 lives each year. It kills 1,000 people per day or one person every two minutes and about 95 percent of victims die before they reach the hospital or other emergency help.

These are some of the reasons why local resident Bruce

Bechtold recently started an initiative to get automatic external defibrillator (AED) SaveStations installed around the Pleasant Acres neighborhood near St. Joseph.

AEDs are portable machines that are used to deliver electrical shocks through the chest to the heart to people who have suffered a sudden cardiac arrest.

An AED SaveStation is a place where an AED is installed in a temperature-controlled and monitored box.

People can access AEDs at SaveStations when a sudden cardiac arrest occurs. In such a crisis, people helping the victim should immediately call 911 and begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The AED can be used to shock the victim's heart into beating again. When first responders arrive at the scene, they can then take over to help the patient.

Bechtold was employed by the Stearns County Sheriff's Office for 32 years, the last 14

as the chief deputy. During those years he said he performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation on several people but noticed after the introduction of defibrillators in the hands of first responders, the number of lives saved increased.

Bechtold said when he was working for the Sheriff's Office he had a defibrillator assigned to his squad car and brought it in his house at night.

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## St. Joseph Jaycees help fund BizTown trip

by Cori Hilsgen  
news@thenewsleaders.com

Are fifth- and sixth-graders ready to run and operate businesses?

St. Joseph Catholic School fifth- and sixth-graders recently had a chance to show how efficient they could be in the business world when they took a trip to Junior Achievement BizTown.

The St. Joseph Jaycees helped fund the students' trip to the 12,000-square-foot city with 18 businesses, in St. Paul. The St. Joseph Jaycees is a community service group for men and women ages 18-41 that helps fund area needs.

St. Joseph Catholic School fifth-grade teacher Tess Koltes had contacted the St. Joseph Jaycees to ask about fund-

ing and said the organization's donation saved each family more than \$20 for the day.

Tim Nelson, St. Joseph Jaycees president, commented on their donation for the trip.

"The St. Joseph Jaycees are committed to sponsoring opportunities for the youth within our community," said Nelson. "Junior Achievement BizTown is such a

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contributed photo

St. Joseph Catholic School students Connor May (left) and Kolton Harren get ready to build at BizTown.

## CRAFT-VENDOR BAKE SALE

**Saturday, Nov. 2**  
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

American Legion - Waite Park  
17 Second Ave. N

## TURKEY BINGO

**Sunday, Nov. 10**  
Noon- 3 p.m.



VFW 428  
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Sponsored by VFW 428 Auxiliary  
All proceeds go to local Veterans

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(formerly Index 53)

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www.lssmn.org | Janel.heinen@lssmn.org



# Aging Mastery classes taking place at Heritage Hall

by Cori Hilsen  
news@thenewsleaders.com

If you are age 50 and older and interested in participating in a fun educational behavior change incentive program for aging well, you have a chance to attend classes from 6:30-8 p.m. on Thursdays at the Church of St. Joseph Catholic Church Heritage Hall in St. Joseph.

Classes began in September, but are ongoing. During the classes, a variety of experts present on topics related to aging.

Topics that have been discussed so far include exercise, nutrition/healthy eating, advanced care planning, medications and fall prevention.

Financial planning is the scheduled topic for Nov. 14. Additional dates and topics will be announced later.

Parish nurse Marjorie Henkemeyer said the program is designed to promote aging well and helps individuals to explore

aspects in their lives such as exercise, nutrition, advanced care planning, financial planning, sleep, medications and community engagement.

"The program helps individuals to work to set goals for a positive approach to aging," she said.

According to the National Council on Aging website, the Aging Mastery Program is a nationwide program with a presence in more than 260 sites. More than 11,000 participants have completed the classroom program.

The Aging Mastery Program's core curriculum covers 10 topics. Classroom experiences include interactive learning with an emphasis on peer-to-peer interaction.

There are also elective Aging Mastery Program classes that can be offered as a follow-on to the 10-class core program for graduates. These classes address topics such as patient/physician

communication, memory, home safety, malnutrition and bucket lists.

There is also an Aging Mastery Program for Caregivers program available. This class educates caregivers about the impacts of caregiving and also provides them with the tools they need to stay healthier and happier in the caregiving journey.

Since launching in 2013, results have shown older adults in the program significantly increased their social connectedness, physical activity levels, healthy eating habits, use of advanced planning, participation in evidence-based programs and adoption of several other healthy behaviors.

The class is sponsored by the Central Minnesota Council on Aging and Whitney Senior Center.

There is no fee for the classes and registration is not required. For additional information call Henkemeyer at 320-363-4588.

## Applications open for legislative pages

High school juniors have an opportunity to spend a week at the Capitol as a legislative page.

Applications for the page program are now open for the 2019 session with a Nov. 28 deadline.

High school pages attend meetings with legislators, constitutional officers, members of the judiciary and others. Pages also assist members and staff during House floor sessions and participate in mock committee hearings.

Twelve week-long slots are available from early February until mid-May and stipends are available to defray expenses.

"We often talk about how today's students are active learners and the House's page program is a perfect fit for that approach," Rep. Lisa Demuth (R-Cold Spring) said. "The insights pages gain at the Capitol simply can't be learned from a textbook since students literally are in the front row as the legislative process takes place."

The House of Representatives page program has been in place for more than 40 years. Participants are selected through a formal process that includes an application, faculty recommendation and an essay.

More information is available at [www.house.mn](http://www.house.mn) by clicking the "High School Page Program" link near the bottom of the site or by calling 651-296-4373.

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if you would like your business included. Check out the online Business Directory  
at [thenewsleaders.com](http://thenewsleaders.com) which hyperlinks to each business' website.

## Free Community THANKSGIVING MEAL



**Sunday, Nov. 24**  
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Heritage Hall at the Church of St. Joseph**  
12 W. Minnesota St.

For more information call Mary Plafcan at 320-249-5718,  
Church of St. Joseph at 320-363-7505.

Sponsored by St. Joseph Catholic Church, Central MN Catholic Worker and Resurrection Lutheran Church

Sartell-St. Stephen • St. Joseph

Reaching Everybody!  
**Newsleaders**

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# Initiative

## from front page

"It felt comforting to know I had that device that I could help my family and neighbors if the need arose," Bechtold said. "After I retired, I no longer had that bit of 'insurance' around anymore."

After reading several articles in the St. Joseph Newsleader about the SaveStations in St. Joseph, he said he felt his rural neighborhood could really benefit from them.

"We have exceptional first responders (sheriff's deputies and St. Joseph Fire/Rescue), but given our location, the response time is longer," he said.

Bechtold reached out to Advocates for Health and began working with them. He said they are a great resource.

He also contacted his neighbor and cousin, Mark Hilsgen, to see if he would be willing to help.

"Mark was very eager to help since his life was saved by a defibrillator," Bechtold said.

Hilsgen experienced a sudden cardiac arrest in church on Oct. 17, 2010, and was saved by other parishioners (many of who are trained medical professionals) who administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation and used an AED to shock his heart.

Hilsgen was fortunate St. Joseph First Responder Justin Honor still had an AED in his vehicle because he had taken an AED course the night before and hadn't yet returned the AED to the police station.

Hilsgen said he is very supportive of the SaveStations.

"It saved my life," he said. "If there wouldn't have been an AED available, I wouldn't be here. I'm all for them being located closer to people to save lives."

Hilsgen said when he experienced his sudden cardiac arrest there was only a 3.5 percent survival rate for sudden

cardiac arrest victims. Now, that survival rate is about 10 percent for the area and he believes that is due in part to more SaveStations being installed in the area.

Betty Pundsack, who has been a teacher at St. Joseph Catholic School for more than 40 years, also experienced a sudden cardiac arrest on April 10, 2017, while at work and shared her story.

She said she has no recollection of the events, but she has been told that after she collapsed while talking to another teacher, that teacher called 911 and asked for help. Three former second-grade-students of Pundsack's, who were members of the St. Joseph Fire and Rescue squad and were dropping off their children, assisted and started cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Two medical professionals were also dropping off their children at school and administered the AED, which Pundsack had collapsed underneath.

Pundsack said she was transported to the hospital and remained there for 10 days.

"I am totally in awe of the circumstances and outcome and the heroes who assisted me onsite, in transit and at the hospital and humbled by the fact I survived," Pundsack said. "The AED truly saved my life."

Bechtold said his initial idea was to install one SaveStation in a central area in the Pleasant Acres area (he and Hilsgen do not live in Pleasant Acres but live close to the area). The Advocates for Health group suggested four stations to more adequately cover the area.

Bechtold said they hope to have residents install the SaveStations on their garages in certain geographic areas to maximize the benefit and reduce the response time.

"We are hoping to raise \$14,000 to cover the four wall-mount stations, which



photo by Cori Hilsgen

**Local residents Mark Hilsgen (left) and Bruce Bechtold stand by a wall-mounted AED SaveStation, located at the St. Joseph Community Fire Station, which was donated in memory of Ken Twit, by his wife, Audrey. Bechtold and Hilsgen are part of an initiative trying to raise funds to install four SaveStations around the Pleasant Acres area of St. Joseph.**

includes signage and a maintenance agreement," Bechtold said.

The wall mount stations are less expensive.

Bechtold said they hope to obtain many donations of any amount but larger donations will help achieve the goal of four stations.

"A contribution of any amount will be appreciated and go as an investment in ourselves, our families and our neighbors," he said.

They would also appreciate having more residents helping with the task of home visits since the neighborhood is large and sprawling.

"The more people involved, the more efficiently we can get the word out," he said.

Anyone interested in donating or helping with the coordination and fundraising can contact Bechtold by phone at 320-363-4989 or email him at bechtoldbp@aol.com or Hilsgen by phone at 320-363-7304 with questions or if they would like to volunteer in the coordination and fundraising.

Donations can be made on this website:

<https://crowdfunding.savestation.ca/campaign/30/pleasant-acres-neighborhood>.

Or checks can be written to Advocates for Health. A receipt will be mailed with any donations made by check or cash.

Advocates for Health have applied for CentraCare grants to donate the defibrillators. The money raised will be used to purchase the climate-controlled SaveStations.

Bechtold grew up in the St. Joseph area and he and his wife, Pat, have lived in the Pleasant Acres area for 29 years. They have four adult children. Their son, Sam, is married to Carrie and they have one son, Bodie. Their daughter, Mary, is married to Blake Bellefeuille, and their other two children are Ted and Kate.

Hilsgen grew up in St. Cloud. He and his wife, Lisa, have lived in the Pleasant Acres area for 27 years. They have twin daughters, Amber and Allie.

# Schools still need reading, math tutors

Tutors are still needed for the Minnesota Math Corps and the Minnesota Reading Corps.

Tutors are being sought for three different levels of commitment: 35, 25 or 18 hours a week.

Tutors receive a stipend every two weeks, and can earn up to an additional \$4,200 for student loans or tuition, which can be gifted to a family member if the tutor is 55 or older.

Many tutors also qualify for additional benefits such as free health insurance and child care assistance.

Two math tutors are needed in St. Joseph.

Sartell schools are looking for three reading tutors and one math tutor.

Math and literacy tutors are trained by Math Corps and Reading Corps. Tutor candidates come from a variety of backgrounds, ranging from high school graduates to retirees. Mid-career individuals considering a professional change are also excellent candidates.

Parents also find serving as a tutor is a great way to support their child's school.

Apply at [readingandmath.net](http://readingandmath.net) or call 866-859-2825.

Get a Jump on your Holiday Shopping!

## Holiday Craft Sale

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Saturday, Nov. 2  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

VFW 428  
9-18th Ave. N., St. Cloud

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# Gold Star Mother Jeanette Faughn remembers her daughter, Marine husband

*The American Legion is celebrating its 100th birthday in 2019. Profiles of St. Joseph-area veterans are being published in each Newsleader during 2019. The Newsleader is joining with Post 328 to recognize veterans and Legion members who served during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and other theaters of conflict and Cold War tensions.*

by Tom Klecker

**Jeanette Faughn, 82,  
Gold Star Mother**

**Bonnie Sue Faughn,  
Gulf War Era**

For those readers who have followed these articles during this past year, please note the departure from the usual format.

We will pay respectful honor and gratitude to two women – mother and daughter.

Jenny Faughn was born at St. Cloud Hospital and was raised on a dairy farm just north of St. Joseph. Jenny and her 11 siblings helped with farm work, a part of which involved the day-to-day operation of the Kuebelbeck Dairy. Family members bottled the milk and cream and then delivered to homes and grocery stores in town, usually before going to church or school. Later Jenny's brother, Jim, continued the milk route driving his old familiar milk truck.

Jenny describes herself as a straight-A student while she attended the Catholic (aka Lab) School in town. Jenny did not go to high school in spite of scholarships being available. She recalls her father's decision being such that the six girls should get a job unless of course they planned to go into the convent and become nuns.

Jenny continued to help out on the farm, but she also worked as a waitress at Sal's Cafe for more than a year. Later she worked as a nanny for a family that lived in South St. Paul.

At the age of 20 Jenny met her future husband, Leonard, who had just returned from the Korean War. After six months of dating they married and lived in South St. Paul. Leonard, a Marine, suffered from PTSD, which imposed understandable stress on the family.

From their marriage Jenny and Leonard had nine children, eight girls and one boy. Jenny says that raising this large of a family was "all for the greater honor of God. It was the best years of my life." She partic-

ularly remembers all the times the family just packed up and went camping.

At one time Jenny was a seamstress for Macalester College in St. Paul.

With the circumstances surrounding Bonnie's death in 1994, happy times seemed to quickly evaporate. Leonard's manner of grieving the death of his daughter was substantially at odds with Jenny's grief-loss issues.

After 60 years of marriage, Leonard died on Dec. 4, 2016, while a patient at the St. Cloud VA Health Care System in St. Cloud.

From this marriage came nine children, 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Jenny now lives in an apartment at Woodcrest of Country Manor.

Daughter Bonnie was Jenny's third child. By temperament Jenny describes her daughter as "shy and somewhat a people pleaser."

After graduating from South St. Paul High School, Bonnie "bounced around odd jobs" for ten years.

Perhaps in part to make her father proud, Bonnie enlisted in the Navy at age 27. She went to boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Training in Chicago.

Her first duty station was the Naval War College located at Newport, Rhode Island. The war college is the highest educational institution of the U.S. Navy. Bonnie worked in the war gaming department as a computer operator. In this enhanced naval war gaming system she provided software and training support.

Bonnie's next duty station was Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Sicily. Centrally located right in the middle of the Mediterranean, this Italian island is 96 miles from Tunisia, North Africa. Thus, its location has significant military importance. Some of Bonnie's duties were classified.

Just prior to her death, Bonnie, now an E-5, Petty Officer Second Class, had signed up for another four-year hitch. Bonnie loved the Navy, was engaged to be married, had a lovely apartment off base and had bought air fare for a planned trip to Rome. She was in her groove, so full of life. Bonnie ran marathons and had several friends to share in her numerous interests. She traveled Europe. She found for herself a new Catholic spirituality that provided much serenity.

All that joy, purpose and duty came to an abrupt and tragic end for this 31-year-old sailor. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service concluded



photo by Mike Knaak

**Gold Star Mother Jeanette Faughn holds her daughter's memorial flag.**

that Bonnie's death was likely a victim of foul play.

From Jenny's perspective she believes her daughter's death even now is shrouded in mystery.

The two officers who came to tell Jenny and Leonard that their daughter was deceased could not share any other information. It was only two weeks later when Jenny had to identify the body of Bonnie that she found out the cause of her death was ambiguously attributed to foul play.

Bonnie's co-workers were prohibited from sharing any information with the family. After contacting Rep. Colin Peterson, some information did come to light. According to Jenny, it was fully two years before she and Leonard got any real information about the death of their daughter.

As one might expect, Jenny still is wanting answers. She recently sought help in securing any and all information about the circumstances surrounding Bonnie's death. Jenny has contacted Sen. Amy Klobuchar's office, in spite of the fact 25 years have passed since Bonnie's life ended in 1994.

Initially, Bonnie was buried in a cemetery in Menahga. Upon the death of Jenny's husband, Leonard, Bonnie's remains were exhumed and buried with her dad in the new cemetery in St. Joseph.

Perhaps given the substantial lapse of time, additional answers to long held questions may not be forth coming.



**Bonnie Faughn**

## Gold Star Mother

The designation of a Gold Star Mother was a term initially coined by President Woodrow Wilson at the end of World War I. When a mother loses a son or daughter while they are on active duty in the military, they are automatically designated a Gold Star Mother.

On June 4, 1925, 25 mothers of deceased military sons or daughters met in Washington, D.C., and formed the nation-

al organization known as the American Gold Star Mothers Inc. From that day on the tradition was born to hang a small flag (Gold Star-centered on a white field) in the front window of the home.

Later a flag of similar size was popularized during World War II. In lieu of a gold star, a blue star denotes the fact the mother who resides in that particular home has a son or daughter on active military duty.

# BizTown

## from front page

great opportunity for students to experience how employment and the economy operate. It gives us great joy to see kids have so much fun while learning."

He added these are the things that help motivate their volunteer group to give back more to the area.

Koltes and sixth-grade teacher Susan Huls spent several weeks preparing the students before the day-long BizTown simulation event. Students learned about writing a resume, applying for a job, depositing a payment, writing a check, using a debit card, setting price points for businesses to make a profit and how to work as a team.

At BizTown, volunteers help small groups of students make important business and finance decisions. Through the classroom lessons, hands-on activities and participation in the simulated economy, students gain an understanding of how what they learn in school can be applied in the real world.

Twenty-three students participated in BizTown. Businesses that were operated by the St. Joseph Catholic School students included U.S. Bank, Mortenson Construction, Cargill STEM and Delta. These businesses are all Minnesota-based and are sponsors of the Junior Achievement BizTown sites.

St. Joseph Catholic School students commented about their BizTown experience.

Aquiliana Wolf was the chief executive officer of U.S. Bank at BizTown.

"This is the best," Wolf said. "It is a hands-on experience using computers for depositing money and printing pay-check(s)."

Saima Velline worked as a teller at the bank.

"There is a lot of technology in these businesses," Velline said.

Henry Dullinger was the chief financial officer of Mortenson Construction.

"We got to build stuff, sell it and get paid for it," he

**Biz Town • back page**



contributed photo

St. Joseph Catholic School student (front) Kenzie Harren does paperwork as (back, left to right) Will Velline, Amber Pankratz and James Hanauska complete STEM experiments at BizTown.



St. Joseph Catholic School student Peyton Phillipp works at Mortenson Construction during BizTown, a day-long business simulation event in St. Paul.

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## Arts and Crafts Sale

Friday, Dec. 6  
4-8 p.m.

Food  
Bake Sale  
Refreshments  
Arts  
Crafts

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Heritage Hall at the Church of St. Joseph  
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# Wreaths Across America

If you're looking for a unique cause to stand behind this holiday season, Wreaths Across America is an organization who honors fallen soldiers with memorable wreath-laying ceremonies.

Annually, in December, Congress designates a Saturday as National Wreaths Across America Day. In 2019, that day is Dec. 14.

Today, the group coordinates ceremonies in 1,600 locations in cemeteries and at sea around the world. Whether you volunteer your time or contribute a monetary donation, the cause is a wholesome movement to support.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

In 1992, Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company, found his company with a surplus of wreaths as the holiday season ended. As a child, he visited Arlington National Cemetery after winning a trip to Washington, D.C. The experience would stick with him and ultimately lead him to donate

his extra product to an older section of the military cemetery that was receiving fewer visitors and attention for the buried soldiers.

The wreath-laying ceremony in Arlington went on silently until 2005, when an image of the adorned stones spread across the internet and went viral, prompting the movement to become a registered nonprofit. In 2014, the group met their amazing goal of covering the entirety of the Arlington National Cemetery with 226,525 wreaths.

Today, with the help of volunteers and donations, the group distributes wreaths to all 50 states and offers

learning tools to teach younger generations about the significance of our military members.

## HOW TO DONATE

You can make a monetary contribution by sponsoring wreaths to be used during ceremonies. It is a passionate way to say "thank you" to a fallen soldier who sacrificed their lives for our country's freedom. Another unique donation they accept is assistance from trucking companies to trek their wreaths across the country. The Honor Fleet is made up of generous truck owners who distribute the symbols throughout the nation.

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## HOLIDAY SALUTE | GIVE TO CHARITY

# Donate to a Military Family

Some of the most honorable citizens in the country struggle financially to give their families the holiday celebration they deserve.

You can say thanks and show support to their sacrifices by supporting a notable charity who distributes your donations responsibly to those in need.

If you're unsure how to go about finding an organization and the right way to donate, here are a few charities to consider.

## OPERATION HELP A HERO

This organization offers all-around support for serving military members, veterans and their families. A part of their mission is to connect with servicemen and service-women year-round. Around the holidays, Operation Christmas Spirit is their unique way to offer relief, gifts and support throughout the season.

Their website makes it easy to do your part in supporting their cause and the military. Whether you make a financial donation or volunteer your time to operate a charity event or coordinate a gathering, the organization is always in need of volunteers.

## SOLDIER'S ANGELS

This nonprofit group pro-



© ADOBE STOCK

vides comfort to military members through numerous charities. Two of their holiday focused chapters include:

Adopt-A-Family offers gifts for military children and provide parents with grocery store gift cards to create a delicious holiday meal.

Holiday Community members coordinate the sending of cards, letters and stockings to service troops and veterans.

According to the organization, donations have helped contribute to these impressive statistics.

- More than 120,000 items provided to veterans at their VA Medical facilities in 2017.
- 851,000 care packages sent to deployed service members over the last 15 years.
- More than 22,000 veterans were provided with food

assistance throughout the country in 2017.

## TOYS FOR TOTS

Established in 1947, the Toys for Tots program was developed by Marine Corps Reserve Maj. Bill Hendricks, whose wife handcrafted dolls to give to children in need. Hendricks was unable to find an agency to help distribute the toys, so they decided to start their own

service. Today, the Marine Toys for Tots Program is attributed to distributing an average of over 18 million toys to seven million less fortunate children annually. Donating to the cause is easy, as most businesses participate in collecting gifts over the holidays. If you can't find a donation center in your area, urge local companies to take part in the giving tradition.

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SUNDAY 9AM-9PM

# Refugee/immigrant news: Somali woman seeks a home in our midst

*Tani waa kuu muhiim adiga. Fadlan aqri.*

*Ogeysiis! Importante para Usted, por favor léalo. Please read!*

Announcements brought to you by Cultural Bridges of St. Joseph, a committee of Central Minnesota Community Empowerment Organization. We are dedicated to ease your transition into our community.

by Kaylee McGovern

I'm not from Minnesota. I was born and raised in Washington state, just north of Seattle, but St. Joseph has been my other home for the last two years or so as I work toward my degree in elementary education at the College of St. Benedict.

At home, I loved hosting people and practicing hospitality, but I never knew how impactful it could be until I moved away from home for school. I often read the biblical commands to "welcome the foreigner, for you too were foreigners," but being away from home showed me firsthand what mercy true hospitality is. Since coming to St. Joseph, many have extended welcome to me. But there are others in Minnesota who need hospitality more than I do, and I fear they go unwelcomed.

I had the privilege of meeting one of our Somali neighbors, a woman named Liin Guure, affectionately known as "Maama Liin" by her community. In my time speaking to her, I was struck by how much her answers to my questions echoed the sentiments I myself have spoken about Minnesota and about home. When asked what she missed, her answers about parents and siblings and home called forth images of my own brothers and little blue house. When she talked of the beauty of their land, the rivers and oceans and the animals, I smiled for all the times I've



contributed photo

Kaylee McGovern, College of St. Benedict student, talks with "Maama" Liin Guure.

been eager to show off pictures of my home's landscapes.

Though her descriptions of home amazed me, Maama Liin herself impressed me the most. She was a teacher for 10 years in Somalia, and she explained that the chance to read and write and speak in English are so important to her here. She is exactly the kind of lifelong learner I want to be. Especially humbling was her answer to my question about what we can do here in St. Joseph to help Somali families feel welcome. She told us that they love to be included in community, but we also can come to them to allow them to welcome us. It was a powerful picture of someone who has every right to expect hospitality but who instead seeks to give. She doesn't need our stuff or our jobs or our money. She needs to be seen as the giver and provider that she is. Even her affectionate title "Maama" comes from the fact everyone in the community comes to her for help and advice. She is known as giving, helping and kind in her own community. I

feel privileged to know I live in a town where someone like her resides.

I could write about the social, academic, and yes, even economic benefits of having refugees in our community. There are many. However, I think Maama Liin's story speaks for itself, showing we are the fortunate ones that she would seek a home in our midst. She comes from a wonderful place, full of beauty and abundance and she offers herself and talents freely to those around her. Anywhere she chose to live would be blessed to have her, and yet she lives here in St. Joseph.

While Maama Liin is a person I won't soon forget, I know she isn't the only person we're lucky to have here in our community. Before I met her, I knew that welcoming the stranger was the right thing to do. Now, I'm quite sure there's no greater privilege.

If you have any questions, please contact Juliana Howard at 715-791-8976 or Jamal Elmi at 320-310-2351.

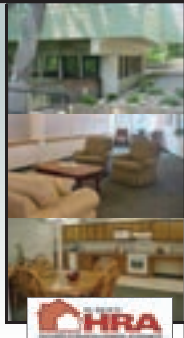
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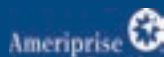


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## Ladies weekend

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Saturday, Nov. 9  
10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Sunday, Nov. 10  
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

# Summer market ends on a high note

Customers and vendors alike were delighted to enjoy temperatures in the mid- to high 60s for the final outdoor St. Joseph Farmers' Market of the season.

The market will move from the parking lot to the inside of Resurrection Lutheran Church beginning Saturday, Nov. 9.

The market's hours will be 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Additional information can be found on their website: [www.stjosephfarmers-market.com](http://www.stjosephfarmers-market.com)



photos by Carolyn Bertsch

**Aiden Vaneps, 4, of St. Joseph smiles as he is handed a complimentary miniature pumpkin from David Morreim of Pattison Farm, St. Cloud, Oct. 18 at the St. Joseph Farmers' Market. Sarah Vaneps and her three sons – Aiden; Tyler, 8; and Aaron, 13 – enjoyed visiting all of the vendors.**



**Lisa Wallin of St. Joseph, also known as "The Kids Craft Lady," helps Brayden Emslander, 8, also of St. Joseph, create a Halloween backpack buddy craft Oct. 18 at the St. Joseph Farmers' Market, as his mother, Lisa, looks on.**



**Four friends purchase honey Oct. 18 at the St. Joseph Farmers' Market. They are (left to right) Shurki Ahmed, 14; Nimo Abdi, 15; Fatha Dadow, 15; and Khusema Jama, 15, all of St. Joseph.**

## Joetown Christmas Treasure sale begins Nov. 7

by Cori Hilsen  
news@thenewsleaders.com

If you are starting your holiday shopping, you have a chance to find some treasures at the annual Joetown Christmas Treasure Sale at the Church of St. Joseph Heritage Hall parish center.

The sale will be from noon-6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 7, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8 and 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9.

In the past three years, the sale has helped raise \$19,000 to help with the restoration of the church's pipe organ.

Parish Nurse Marjorie Hen-

kemeyer, who has been an active organizer for the sale, said the proceeds for this year's event will go toward building an information center (a kiosk) for Heritage Hall.

Shoppers will be able to shop for slightly-used Christmas treasures of all kinds, including large and small Christmas trees, indoor and outdoor decorations, linens and hand-crafted wooden decorations.

Something new this year will be a Joyous Toyland section offering used games and toys.

Dessert and coffee will be served at the event for customers who want to take a break

from shopping.

"Thanks to the generosity of so many individuals, we once again have a large selection of Christmas treasures as well as slightly used games and toys," Henkemeyer said. "The Joetown Christmas Treasure Sale is a wonderful way to shop, enjoy exploring the treasures and enjoy coffee and dessert."

The sale is under the direction of the Church of St. Joseph Willing Hands group.

To volunteer at the sale or for more information, contact Henkemeyer at 320-363-4588 or [mhenk2929@aol.com](mailto:mhenk2929@aol.com).



contributed photo

**These are some of the treasures available at last year's Joetown Christmas Treasure Sale. This year's sale will be Nov. 7-9.**

# Opinion

## Our View

### Social networks are publishers, not platforms

When online message boards, chat rooms and discussion lists first appeared in the digital world, they were much different than today's social media environment.

In the 1990s, they were viewed as digital "bulletin boards," much like physical bulletin boards, where contributors could post words and photos for public display.

At the time, lawmakers, under pressure from free speech advocates, wrote Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, which protects the bulletin board — the platform — from legal responsibility for what's posted. Without the protection, web services and social networks would be targets for lawsuits and would become censors for users' content, advocates argued.

The law needs to be changed.

Social networks such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are much more than platforms. They are publishers, much like legacy media such as television, radio, newspapers and magazines, and they should be held to the same legal standard. Social media and networks that publish comments from users should be subject to the same libel laws as other publishers.

The extremely rich and powerful digital "platforms" don't just host the posts and deliver them to readers. They are publishers. The software behind who sees what posts and how readers see them are curated — "edited" — much the same way stories and photos are edited for broadcast or print readers.

However, in legacy media, gatekeepers apply values such as impact, timeliness, prominence and proximity. Those same values are not coded into Facebook's software that instead monetizes outrage and extremism.

Publishers are held to account for libelous reporting or comments, and social media should be too.

Regulations governing political advertising on digital platforms also should be tightened to reflect technology of the 2020s, not the 1990s.

As another election season approaches, this is especially important. The nation learned the hard way how social media political ads interfered in the 2016 election.

When a political ad appears in print or in a broadcast, it carries text that says who placed it and who is responsible for the content. The tiny words appear at the bottom of the television screen or the printed ad, but they are there and if you make an effort, you can read them.

That standard should be applied to political ads on social media.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar has introduced legislation holding social media publishers accountable for political advertising. In addition to disclosing who paid for the ad, websites and digital platforms would have to keep on file fairly extensive information on purchasers, their target audiences, the number of views generated, the dates and times of publication and the rates charged. The bill would require online platforms to make all reasonable efforts to ensure foreign individuals and entities are not purchasing political ads in order to influence the American electorate.

In the 1990s, the noble notion that bulletin board users would police themselves prevailed. Good speech would drive out bad speech by empowering millions of users to have their say. Now, social networks are rich and powerful. With sophisticated software and business practices, they have become publishers.

The Communications Decency Act should be updated to reflect today's digital world.

## In search of DC friends, Trump needs a dog

"If you want a friend in Washington," Harry Truman once said, "get a dog."

Truman is one of my favorite presidents. He faced the more consequential challenges of the 20th century — dropping the first atomic bomb, desegregating the military, recognizing the state of Israel. And he did it with a no-nonsense attitude.

If you visit Independence, Missouri, devote a half day to visiting Truman's presidential library. It's impressive, but a more intimate window to Truman's world requires a short walk. From the museum head south about a mile to his house. It's also open to the public.

The white, two-story wood-frame home, with the detached garage, reminds me of the mid 20th century homes of our grandparents. Neat, simple, comfortable, functional. The house reflects the attitude of the man who clearly understood Washington and the need for a pet.

Donald Trump should take the advice of Truman, who had a cocker spaniel, to brighten his day.

A stage full of Democrats can't wait to unseat Trump next year by attacking his lack of character and chaotic first term.

Courts across the country blocked his most aggressive policies on immigration, presidential power and environment.

Despite his decrees, a growing

**Mike Knaak**  
Editor



number of present and former officials answered congressional subpoenas to offer evidence for an impeachment case.

Outraged Republicans and Democrats forced him to cancel hosting world leaders at his Florida resort.

Even his most loyal Republican defenders blasted his military decision in Syria.

He could use some friends — or a loyal dog.

Trump is the first president in nearly 120 years not to have a canine companion in the White House. The last president not to have a dog was William McKinley. (McKinley's pet was a Mexican double-yellow-headed parrot, which he named Washington Post, according to the Presidential Pet Museum.) Things did not end well for McKinley. He died of gangrene a year into his second term after a failed assassination attempt.

Trump often compares himself to Abraham Lincoln and peppers his interviews and speeches with Lincoln references.

"If you can believe it, Abraham Lincoln was treated supposedly very badly, but nobody's been treated bad-

ly like me," Trump said, apparently forgetting Lincoln was assassinated.

Lincoln could be pet inspiration. When Lincoln left Springfield, Illinois, for Washington, he left behind the family dog, Fido. Lincoln was a great fan of cats but he and his family also had a few dogs, including Jip, at the White House.

Trump admires Andrew Jackson and a portrait of the seventh president hangs in the Oval Office. Jackson's pet was a horse, but he's also said to have had a parrot, Poll, that was taught to swear. Maybe Trump could teach a parrot to say "No collusion" or "Make America Great Again." That'd be a great attraction at his rallies.

I was glad to see Trump enjoy another American tradition this week when he attended Sunday's World Series game at Nationals Park. He didn't throw out the first pitch though. Trump is the first president since William Howard Taft not to have thrown a pitch at a Major League Baseball game and I can understand why. When his image was shown on the giant TV screen Sunday night, the crowd booed and chanted "lock him up."

Trump should practice his delivery during the winter so he's ready for next season's opening game.

In the meantime, he should consider adding a pooch, pony or parrot to his White House family.

## New measures making roads safer

During the last few months, there have been several measures taken by the state of Minnesota and local police forces in an attempt to reduce driving accidents and make the roads safer for all drivers. There is the increasing prevalence of roundabouts and other better-designed intersections, the new hands-free law that took effect in August, and most recently, the blue traffic lights being installed around the area. I applaud these steps and argue we should continue to do more to work towards zero traffic deaths. That includes us individually as drivers.

Driving is something that most of us do every day. We drive to work, school, appointments and events. It's such a common activity that often we don't recognize how dangerous it can be. According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, there were 79,215 accidents reported last year. That's about 217 per day across our state. These crashes resulted in 381 deaths and 27,877 injuries. That's a lot when most traffic incidents are wholly preventable. Though I wish everyone could just drive safely and make things easier for everyone, I recognize it isn't that easy. That's why some of the measures that have been implemented during the past few years are so useful and effective.

Roundabouts have been popping up all over recently. While I recognize some people are confused about how to use them, once that hurdle is eclipsed, they are a great way to both prevent accidents and make accidents

**Connor Kockler**  
Guest Writer



that do happen less severe. By making drivers go around an intersection rather than through it, a roundabout almost eliminates the risk of dangerous t-bone collisions, which are a common occurrence in stop-sign intersections. They also reduce traffic speed in nearby streets, making them safer, and are great for drivers by reducing the amount of time you have to wait to get through the intersection compared with stop signs.

The new hands-free law is also a great step by the state as a whole to reduce distracted driving, which is another major cause of traffic accidents and fatalities. Now, using a phone in the car without using a hands-free mode or device can bring fines. And honestly, it's just good common sense. If you can't pay attention to something or someone else at home while you're using your phone, it'd be logical you can't pay attention to driving while using one either.

Next, the blue traffic lights, that have a lot of people talking. What are these mysterious lights that are now starting to be affixed to traffic signals all over? Well, they actually have a pretty straightforward purpose; stopping red-light runners. It's very simple, the blue lights are linked in the

system to the red lights turning on. Whenever the red lights are on in that part of an intersection, the blue lights also turn on.

This allows police officers to sit at a safer spot farther down the road, spot a runner going through with the blue lights and then pull the offender over. Previously, the police would need two cars, one to sit in front of the red light and spot someone going through, and a second one to then give chase on the other side of the intersection. So the blue lights reduce police manpower needed to enforce red lights, as well as making things safer and easier for officers.

While all of these measures are making a strong impact, we as drivers and commuters should also do our part. Being conscientious of other drivers, obeying speed limits and generally following the rules of the road makes things safer for everyone. Bad decisions while driving can affect your life and friends and family. No one should have to deal with the aftermath of a tragic, preventable car accident. I'm optimistic about the progress we've made so far, and I'm looking forward to further actions, at all levels to make driving safer and easier for everyone.

*Connor Kockler is a student at St. John's University. He enjoys writing, politics and news, among other interests.*

Community Calendar

**Is your event listed?** Send your information to: Newsleader Calendar, 1622 11th Ave. SE., St. Cloud, MN 56304., e-mail it to [news@thenewsleaders.com](mailto: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, Nov. 2**  
**Browse, Buy and Blessings Christmas Sale**, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Whitby Gift Shop, St. Benedict's Monastery, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph.

**Sunday, Nov. 3**  
**Breakfast**, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, 8:30 a.m.-noon, Church of St. Joseph Heritage Hall. Sausages, eggs, hash browns, pancakes, fruit and caramel rolls.  
**System Change for Climate Justice**, 10:30 a.m., St. Cloud Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 3226 Maine Prairie Road, St Cloud. Speaker is CSB/SJU professor Corrie

Gross.  
**Monday, Nov. 4**  
**St. Joseph Food Shelf**, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.  
**St. Joseph City Council**, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.

**Tuesday, Nov. 5**  
**Memory Writers** group develops topics and turns in stories, 10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S, St Cloud.  
**St. Joseph Lions Club**, 7 p.m., Millstream Park Pavilion 101 Fifth Ave. NW., St Joseph. Joanne Bechtold, 320-363-4483.

**Wednesday, Nov. 6**  
**Advocates for Independence**, 2-4 p.m., Independent Lifestyles, 215 Benton Drive N., Sauk Rapids. 320-529-9000.  
**St. Cloud school district board meeting/work session**, 6:30 p.m., District Administration Office, 1201 Second St. S., Waite Park.

**Thursday, Nov. 7**  
**St. Joseph Food Shelf**, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.

**Saturday, Nov. 9**  
**Browse, Buy and Blessings Christmas Sale**, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Whitby Gift Shop, St. Benedict's Monastery, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph.  
**St. Joseph Winter Market**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church fellowship hall, 610 CR 2.  
**Dine and Dialogue**, 2:30-4:45 p.m., Great River Regional Library, Mississippi Room, 1300 St. Germain St., St. Cloud. Join community leaders in a discussion about how American values transcend religion and race.

**Monday, Nov. 11**  
**Veterans Day program**, sponsored by the St. Cloud Metropolitan Veterans Council, 1:30 p.m., Building 8 (Auditorium), St. Cloud VA Medical Center, 4801 Veterans Drive.

**Fare for All**, 3:30-5:30 p.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2 N.  
**St. Joseph Township Board**, 8 p.m., Towhship Hall, 935 College Ave. S., St. Joseph.

**Tuesday, Nov. 12**  
**St. Joseph Planning Commission**, 6 p.m., Government Center, 75 Callaway St. E.  
**Holistic Moms Network**, 7-8:30 p.m., Good Earth Cop, 2010 Veterans Drive, St. Cloud. 320-252-2489.  
**National Alliance on Mental Health**, 7-8:30 p.m., Calvary Community Church, 1200 Roosevelt Road, St. Cloud. The group helps parents raising a child with mental illness learn coping skills and develop problem-solving skills. 320-654-1259.

**Wednesday, Nov. 13**  
**Breakfast Club**, 9-10 a.m., Stearns History Museum, 235 33rd Ave. S. Free for members, nominal fee for non-members. 320-253-8424.

**St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce**, 11:30 a.m., Resurrection Lutheran Church, 610 CR 2, St Joseph. [stjosephchamber.com](http://stjosephchamber.com).  
**St Joseph Y2K Lions Club**, 6:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave NE. Kay Lemke 320-363-8663.

**Thursday, Nov. 14**  
**St. Joseph Food Shelf**, open 1-3 p.m., 124 First Ave. SE, St. Joseph.  
**St. Joseph Senior Citizens**, 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Community Fire Hall, 323 Fourth Ave. NE.

**Friday, Nov. 15**  
**St. Cloud Singles Club Dance**, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., American Legion, 17 Second Ave. S., Waite Park. 320-339-4533. [stcloudsingles.net](http://stcloudsingles.net).

**Sunday, Nov. 17**  
**Best Omelette in Town**, 8 a.m.-noon, American Legion, 17 Second Ave. N, Waite Park. Fee includes hash browns, toast, coffee, juice and water.

News Tips?

Call the Newsleader at 363-7741

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10 am to 2 pm

Sal's Bar and Grill, St. Joseph, MN

Vendors: Scentsy, Thirty-One, Norwex, Color Street, Tupperware, Avon, LaZarre Custom Design's, Damsel in Defense, Premier Jewelry, Thrive by Le-Vel, Lipsense, Mrs. Goodcookies, doTerra Essential Oils, and many more.

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#LiveBetter

## Biz Town

from page 5

said. "Building the town park bench was difficult, mostly due to trying to fit all the bench parts together."

Camryn Eiyneck was a flight agent for Delta.

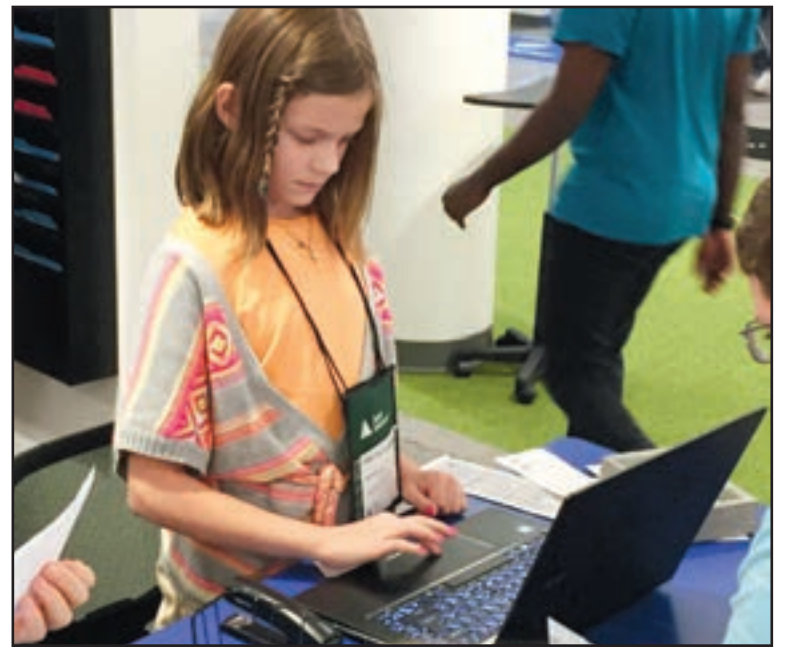
"I'm learning how to write checks," Eiyneck said. "I don't like it, but I'm learning to do it."

James Hanauska was a chief financial officer of the Cargill STEM employees and said he liked working in a professional community. He liked that he could buy items to keep but didn't like waiting in line for a sale to be completed.

Anna Kremer was the chief financial officer of Delta.

"We actually paid off our loan," she said. "Henry Gramke and I figured out how to work our virtual reality experiment with a little help from the staff. It was pretty cool."

Other BizTown businesses included AllianzBiz Journal, Cafe, Cambia, City Hall, KS95/KSTP radio station, Pentair, Polaris, Taylor Communication, Xcel Energy and more. Three schools operated the



contributed photo

St. Joseph Catholic School student Elise Gramke works as a teller at U.S. Bank at BizTown.

18 businesses at BizTown.

Parent volunteers were available in each business to help answer questions. Shane Eastman monitored U.S. Bank, Andy Breth monitored Cargill STEM, Julie Velline monitored Mortenson Construction and Gina Dullinger monitored Delta Air.

At the end of the day at BizTown, Huls and Koltes splurged on themselves by purchasing boarding tickets from Delta. Huls

bought a ticket to London and Koltes bought a ticket to Paris. Unfortunately, the tickets were only good at BizTown.

Huls and Koltes said they want to publicly thank the St. Joseph Jaycees who paid for the field trip to BizTown.

For information about the St. Joseph Jaycees, contact the organization's membership vice president, John Hazen, at 320-761-1705.

## Woods Christmas

### OPEN HOUSE CELEBRATION

Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 9th & 10th

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