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# Area groups provide turkey dinners to those in need

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A couple of area organizations dedicated to helping those who find themselves homeless or alone on Thanksgiving reached out on the holiday to provide fellowship and a warm Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings.

The Salvation Army of Jasper and Newton Counties reached out with meals delivered to homes and seats in the main room at the Salvation Army headquarters on Eighth Street in Joplin to serve more than 100 more people.

"This morning has already been a joy filled morning," said Salvation Army Capt. Larry Carmichael. "Folks arrived just before 6 a.m. to really bring the meal to life. And at 10 a.m., we began turning what's been prepared into more than 350 meals to deliver out to senior adult communities and shut-ins throughout both counties. We have drivers going as far as Carthage and as far as south as Neosho. And then, of course, we have Messenger Towers in Mercy Village. They receive dozens of meals as well."

Residents and some homeless people started streaming into the Salvation Army cafeteria at 11 a.m. to sit down and have their meal served by dozens of volunteers.

"Many of us get the joy of sitting at a restaurant and being served but not everyone has that opportunity,"

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John Hacker | Globe

**Volunteer Dane Dennis** serves Jerry Mallett a Thanksgiving meal at the Salvation Army of Jasper and Newton Counties on Thursday. More than 100 people dined at the Salvation Army between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. while the group delivered about 350 meals to residents across Newton and Jasper counties.




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**More than 1,600 runners** from across the country break out of the starting gate on Main Street in front of the Schroeder Family Exploreum on a cold Thanksgiving Tuesday morning to run 5 kilometers in the Joplin streets to raise money for the exploreum.

# TURKEY TROT BRINGS 1,800 RUNNERS, WALKERS IN THANKSGIVING COLD

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Runners in Thursday's Joplin Thanksgiving Turkey Trot 5K run and 1 mile run/walk faced brutal cold and a brisk wind making it feel even colder, but only a few runners who signed up failed to show for the race.

Neely Myers, executive director of the Schroeder Family Explorium, the host organization for the 15th annual Turkey Trot, said only about 50 people who signed up didn't make it for the starting gun at 7:30 a.m. for the 1-mile run and 8 a.m. for the 5K.

Myers said 200 people signed up for the 1-mile fun run and more than 1,600 people signed up for the 5K.

"I mean, that's an incredibly small percentage," Myers said. "We kind of thought that maybe some people would stay home — and that's OK — but most of the people came out. This Turkey Trot means a lot to people, this tradition. It's become something people do before they eat their Thanksgiving dinner."

Myers said the number of runners was the most they've seen in the two years that the Schroeder Family Exploreum has run the race, which is a certified 5K that began and ended on Main Street in

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# Joplin Schools launches survey in search for new superintendent

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The Joplin Schools Board of Education announced this week that the search for the district's next superintendent has begun.

The board is partnering with the Missouri School Boards' Association and is asking for public input.

As part of the search process, the board has announced an online survey that will be open through Sunday, Dec. 6.

"Feedback from students, staff, parents and community members will help our Board of Education identify the leadership qualities and priorities that matter most in our next leader," the board said in a statement.

To participate in the survey, go to **https://joplinschools.org/superintendent-search.**

The survey wants to identify strengths and points of pride for the district, opportunities and areas for improvement, the top professional skills and personal qualities needed in the next superintendent, and advice for the next superintendent.

The district has opened an application period through Jan. 18 to be followed by board screening and review of applicants later in January. Initial interviews are scheduled to begin the first week of February with final interviews set for the week of Feb. 8, according to MSBA.

The hiring salary range has been put at $215,000 to $280,000, with a benefits package and an initial two- to three-year contract.

Some of the listed requirements for the next superintendent include:

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# Business groups look for boost on Small Business Saturday

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Two area business groups want folks in the Joplin area to support local small businesses not just this weekend but throughout the year.

Small Business Saturday, an annual holiday shopping event that encourages people to shop at small businesses, is this Saturday. Situated between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, the event serves to boost small, independent local businesses.

"Small Business Saturday is a national event that American Express started to bring more visibility to communities and consumers to encourage them to shop small and support small local businesses," Erin Slifka, senior vice president of Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, said.

The annual event started in 2010 and has been officially cosponsored by U.S. Small Business Administration since 2011, according to the SBA. The agency cites the event as an important part of small businesses' busiest shopping season.

"Our local small businesses ... generate our local tax revenue and contribute to our economy," Slifka said. "We want to make sure everyone is intentional about where they spend their dollars. Before they make purchases outside of our community, we want them to make sure they see what Joplin has to offer because those are unique purchases that really help build the fabric of our community. ... That is something we hope people do not just during the holiday season put throughout the year. ... We're just building a stronger Joplin for everyone."

Shopping local helps maximize the worth of a community's dollars and benefits the local economy.

Ivy Hagedorn, assistant director of the Downtown Joplin Alliance, said that this year the business group is using this week and this weekend as the kickoff the Shop Small All Season Long campaign.

"It's not one day alone. One day alone really isn't enough to give them your support — rather than shopping the big-box stores or Amazon or Walmart, let this be the season to kickoff shopping with small local retailers."

Hagedorn touted small, local businesses as a great source of gifts for those who might be hard to shop for.

"You can find custom gold and silver jewelry, you can find high-end running shoes and loungeware, you can find wonderful gift items — candles and slippers and gourmet food items — you can find vintage and antique items. Downtown, we'll have a brand-new upscale small antique mall opening up right on Small Business Saturday weekend, called the The Story Mercantile."

Hagedorn went on to say that Joplin has local galleries and artists offering a lot of special gift items for Christmas, and that Empire Market offers not just farmers market items but also artists' creations for gifts and stocking stuffers. She noted that gift certificates and gift cards from

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