

# Mille Lacs Messenger



Wednesday, December 4, 2019

\$1.00

**Executive order signed**  
An executive order was signed last week for a task force on murdered and missing indigenous women  
**page 21**



PHOTO BY BOB STATZ

## Winter Wonderland

Mille Lacs residents were treated to a weekend of snow storms that ushered in winter in a big way, dropping over a foot of snow in many areas around the lake causing slow going on the roadways but also painting beautiful landscapes including the one in an Onamia front yard pictured above.

## Local churches giving to others on Thanksgiving

by T.A. LeBrun  
news@millelacsmessage.com

Giving of one's time over the holidays is a true expression of sacrifice. And this is exactly what Onamia churches and a Lions club did this Thanksgiving in Onamia.

Holy Cross, Bethany Lutheran churches and the Onamia Alliance Church, along with the Onamia Lions, hosted a community Thanksgiving dinner last Thursday at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Onamia. The community Thanksgiving dinner is in its 25th year and started in

1994 when Ole and Marian Veasen and Jim and Pam Olson organized the event. For many years, it was hosted by Bethany Lutheran Church. Norma Holen hosted it in the most recent years, and this year when it was moved to Holy Cross, Margaret Hitzemann took over.

The volunteers served turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green bean casserole, sweet potatoes, cranberries, rolls, and pie to approximately 150 people.

The dinner is a collaborative effort with the Onamia

Dinner to 22



PHOTO PROVIDED

Holy Cross, Bethany Lutheran and Onamia Alliance churches of Onamia held an annual community Thanksgiving dinner last week. Volunteers Carolyn Swanson and Pat Estrem (above) make a green bean casserole.

## Chaos erupts at Mille Lacs Nexus Academy Sends staff members to the ER



by Mark Wasson  
mwasson@millelacsmessage.com

Law enforcement responded on Tuesday, Nov. 26 to an assault on staff members by juvenile residents at the Mille Lacs Nexus Academy that injured three staff members and sent two staff members to the hospital.

According to the incident report, a Mille Lacs County Sheriff's deputy was called to assist the Onamia police department for an incident at the academy and was told by dispatch that things were escalating. Upon arrival, the deputy was updated that things were continually getting worse.

A deputy arrived and circled around the building. Once around the rear of building, the deputy noted a female staff member running toward the squad car frantically. The staff member told the deputy that two staff members were injured and that things were so out of control that the injured staff haven't been able to be transported to the hospital yet.

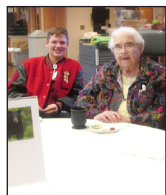
The deputy saw a staff member with a large cut over their eye that was actively bleeding.

After law enforcement spoke with Nexus staff members, three 16-year-old residents were placed under arrest.

According to the incident report, some staff members were crying and visibly shook up due to the events that had taken place.

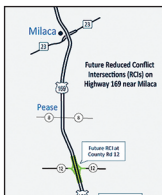
Two staff members were transported to the hospital by ambulance.

Nexus Academy to 6



**Wild game tasting**  
Mille Lacs Health System serves wild game samples for residents

Page 2



**County**  
County board tables spending on reduced conflict intersection in Milaca

Page 9



**Thanksgiving community meal**  
Shepherd of the Lake Church hosts Thanksgiving meal

Page 13



**Sports with Statz**  
Isle girls basketball starts out strong

Page 17

**KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY PROFESSIONALS**  
YOUR INTEGRITY FIRST TEAM

**1 WE ARE KW**

**HANS WOELFLE**  
320-515-1337  
www.MinnesotaHomesAndCabins.com  
210 MAIN STREET, ISLE MN 56342  
320-364-2005  
14091 BAXTER DR., #116, BAXTER MN 56425  
EACH KELLER WILLIAMS OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED.

Spectacular 3 bed/2 bath 1 level home on wooded 2.5 acre lot near Mille Lacs Lake. Open concept large kitchen and a center Island. Lg master bedroom w/walk-in closet, lg master bath w/ separate shower and jetted tub, new wood laminate flooring in most of the home, new panel doors and cove molding. There's an above ground pool, patio with fire pit, lawnmower shed and a 30x40 pole barn. This home is close to Mille Lacs Lake and is just across the street from hundreds of acres of state land! Home includes a lake access with 100' of shore! This immaculate home is ready to move in!



18331 325th Avenue, Isle, MN 56342  
MLS# 5334150 \$199,900