

Blanket records 2021's highs

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Throughout 2021, local crocheter Maureen Franek recorded the daily high temperatures with one line of stitches. The color of the stitches depended on the how hot—or cold—the day was.

The 5-foot x 8-foot temperature blanket bares vivid hues of red, blue, yellow, and green, each marking one of 2021's 365 days.

"My daughter, Anna, found this idea online and thought it would be a fun project," Franek stated. "We picked out the yarn colors together and made a key with the colors."

The key breaks down the temperatures into 11 categories, with each category having its own designated colors. Cooler colors are paired with colder temperatures, and warmer colors are matched with warmth.

Franek crocheted her first row on January 1, 2021, and continued crocheting one row each evening, until the temperatures started rising.

"Once it started getting warm, it was hard for me to work on the blanket so I made a spreadsheet and kept track of the daily high temperature," she explained. "I tried to catch up occasionally so I didn't get too far behind."

The "top" edge of the blanket, representing January,



Photos courtesy of Maureen Franek
Maureen Franek of Montgomery recently finished crocheting a temperature blanket, a record of 2021's daily high temperatures indicated by colors. (Right) The key Franek created and used to make the blanket. (Inset) Franek.

begins with dark greens and blue, before moving into the extreme cold purple lines of February.

Sixty-two of the blanket's bright red rows—the most prominent color—represent 80°F days.

"Thankfully, below zero had the least rows... I think only 2 or 3," shared Franek, who plans to use the temperature blanket around house this year. "It's super warm."

Temperature Blanket	
High	Color
> 90°	Red
80-90°	Red
70-80°	Red
60-70°	Yellow
50-60°	Yellow
40-50°	Green
30-40°	Green
20-30°	Green
10-20°	Blue
0-10°	Blue
< 0°	Purple



Submitted Photos
American Legion Post 108 Commander, Anita Janda (left), six National Guard members, and Sons of the American Legion Commander John Theis, prepare to take meals to a nursing home in Le Center on January 3.

Legion, National Guard feed nursing home residents

The American Legion Post 108 Le Center family (veterans, Sons of the American Legion, and Auxiliary) supported their National Guard members who were "deployed" to help support their nursing home in Le Center.

"The post decided since the guard members were away from their families we would give them a thank you meal," said Collin Scott, Post member.

The meal consisted of the Legion's Monday night wings and fries. The food was delivered by the post commander, Anita Janda, the Sons of American Legion Commander, John Theis, and Legion Manager, Regina Pumper.

According to Collins, the group put the spread together before wing night started that evening.

"Wally Blaschko, the cook, and his crew were more than happy to put off wing night for a few minutes to make sure they had properly prepared an acceptable amount of wings and fries (20 to go boxes with at least 10



American Legion Post 108 Commander, Anita Janda loads food for a nursing home with SAL Commander, John Theis.

wings in each box, plus fries," said Scott.

The soldiers who assisted came from all over the state (Red Wing, Mankato, Rochester, etc). Collins said this particular group of soldiers had never worked together, and went through "Nursing Aid Training" together before being sent to Le Center. Mike Vance, Officer

in Charge, expressed his appreciation the American Legion was taking care of the soldiers while they were away from their families.

"It feels great to have provided some comfort to the Le Center community, but now that their three-week tour is coming to a close, it feels good they are going home to their families," Vance said.

COVID-19					
	Positive cases		Vaccinated		
County	Total	Deaths	1st Dose	2nd Dose	
Le Sueur	5,253	43	17,061	16,107	
Rice	123,334	152	41,985	39,526	
Scott	31,495	218	103,200	96,994	
Waseca	4,415	35	10,775	10,206	
State	1,104,494	10,838	3,784,898	3,550,974	

From Minnesota Department of Health.
Case data as of 01-11-2022. Vaccination data as of 01-09-2022.

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