

HEALTH & WELFARE

Minnesota Homeless

10-13-16

Hundreds of people working to make sure every Minnesotan has a safe, affordable place to call home came together this week in Rochester. The conference was called "Facing Forward Together," sponsored by the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless. According to the Minnesota Housing Partnership, since 2000 rent prices have gone up by six percent, but income has dropped by sixteen percent when adjusted for inflation. Anne Krisnik, executive director of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, says that's left a lot of families and elderly people on the brink of homelessness...

..."have winter boots." :15 (Krisnik A)

Minnesota's Welfare to Work Program hasn't seen an increase since 1986. A family of three receives a maximum of up to 532 dollars a month in assistance. Krisnik says advocates will be back before lawmakers in January to ask again. She says policy changes have to be made to move people out of poverty...

..."or other challenges." :16 (Homeless Policy)

More than 60 percent of Minnesota's homeless are people of color or American Indian. A Minnesota Homeless Study found that more than 93-hundred people were homeless last year. One alarming statistic, according to Krisnik, is the number of elderly residents who are homeless. A report by the Wilder Foundation found the number of Minnesota homeless between ages 55 and 80 is up nearly 45 percent.

8A

Diabetes Awareness Month

11-12-16

During National Diabetes Awareness Month, health professionals are trying to get the message out about a serious complication that often comes with the disease: diabetic foot ulcers, or D-F-U's. Vascular surgeon Dr. Gary Gibbons says several things cause them. One is diabetic neuropathy, which is when the nerves in diabetics are affected by sugar and it causes loss of sensation in the foot. Many diabetics also have circulation problems, and often wound healing is much slower in those with diabetes. Gibbons says 29 million Americans are diabetic, and another 8 million are but don't know it...

..."during their lifetime." :15

Nearly half a million people in Minnesota have diabetes, and another 1.4 million have prediabetes, which means they're at risk of developing the disease. Native Americans, African-Americans, Hispanics and older men are more likely to develop foot ulcers, along with people who use insulin, or have diabetes-related kidney, eye or heart disease.

The C-D-C says diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States, killing nearly 80 thousand people every year.

6A
7:30

Thanksgiving For The Food Shelf

11-22-2016

The Fergus Falls Food Shelf usually faces high traffic around the holidays and this year will be no different says Food Shelf Executive Director Lorna Fugelston...

LORNA FOOD SHELF 29 SEC

OUTCUE: "...you'd like to come out and donate your time."

The Fergus Falls Community Food Shelf operates solely on the generosity of Fergus Falls residents, businesses, organizations and churches in the area and serves approximately 1,000 people each month, with 400 of those under the age of 18.

6A
1625
7:30
8A

Nov 52

Thanksgiving In The Detention Center

11-23-2016

It won't be just another day at the Otter Tail County Detention Center in Fergus Falls. Thanksgiving or any holiday for inmates can be a lonely one, but jail staff do provide special meals for the inmates. Detention Center Director James Stewart...

JAMES STEWART DIR DETENTION CTR THANKSGIVING 31 SEC

OUTCUE: "...realize they're getting a pretty good meal for lunch."

The jail currently holds up to 111 inmates. There are also special meals on Christmas, New Year's and some religious holidays.

1625
7A
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1189

PRW
WLM

Cold & Flu Treatment

12-10-16

Cold and flu season is officially here and according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Americans catch about one billion colds every year. Seven in 10 use over-the-counter medications to treat the symptoms. Pharmacist Dr. Leiana Oswald says many of these meds – from cough syrup and throat lozenges to nasal sprays – contain the common drug ingredient acetaminophen. She says it's safe and effective when used as directed, but there is a limit to how much you can take in one day...

... "accidentally overdose." :13 (Oswald)

Acetaminophen is found in more than 600 different over-the-counter and prescription medicines and the C-D-C says acetaminophen overdoses send an estimated 26-thousand people to the emergency room every year.

7:30

Minnesota Homeless

12-17-16

At any given time, 93-hundred people in Minnesota are homeless. Last Thursday, a vigil and march was held in Minneapolis to recognize those who have lost their lives on the streets, and two more events are planned between now and Christmas. Marchers carry signs with the names of the deceased, and hold a vigil and memorial service. Anne Krisnik, who heads the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, says the idea is to recognize those who have died as individuals, rather than as homeless statistics...

... "where they are." :12

There will be a Homeless Memorial Day Procession and Service in Moorhead on Wednesday, to mark the Winter Solstice, which is the longest night of the year. And a Christmas Eve event is planned at Duluth City Hall at noon. Krisnik says Minnesota has made some progress, including a decline in the number of homeless veterans, and more assistance for people who need help navigating support services. But there are still thousands of people statewide without homes.

Food Pantry Use Up

12-17-16

There were 1-point-6 million visits to food pantries during the first six months of this year in Minnesota, and a large chunk of the people coming in were senior citizens. Hunger Solutions did a comparison of the first six months of 2012 and 2016, and found senior visits were up 49 percent this year. The group's Joe Walker says older folks were hit especially hard when the economy tanked a few years ago. He says those who run local food shelves have been doing a lot of outreach, trying to get more of the state's seniors to accept food donations, and he adds it's not always easy to convince them...

... "something out of it." :11

Visits to Minnesota's food pantries were up in other age groups as well, with the number of adults increasing by ten percent. Walker says the number of children needing assistance dropped slightly between 2012 and 2016. In the first six months of this year, there were 125-thousand more visits to local food shelves than in 2012.

7A

Alzheimer's Disease Study

12-17-16

A first-of-its-kind study on Alzheimer's disease is underway, and people who have shown little or no signs of it are being sought to participate. The idea is to use an antibody to clear out the amyloid protein that's associated with Alzheimer's, to prevent or slow the onset of the disease. Dr. Reisa Sperling at the Center for Alzheimer's Research and Treatment says they're doing a clinical trial and looking for people age 65 to 85 who have early changes in their brain, but don't yet have any symptoms...

... "for the study." :16

More than five million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's. By 2050, scientists expect the number to triple to 15 million or more. Experts say women and people of color are more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease. Some who volunteer for the study will be given an antibody during the three-and-a-half-year study, and others will get a placebo. Volunteers are being sought across the country. Information is online at 'A4study.org.'

6A
1207
7:38

DNR Stresses Ice Safety On Area Lakes

12-20-16

The recent report of a vehicle going through the ice at Big Pine Lake has highlighted the need for ice safety on recently frozen over lakes. DNR Conservation Officer Chris Vinton...

CHRIS VINTON CON OFFIC 16 SEC

OUTCUE: "...less than a week ago."

Vinton says that if you do venture out on ice that you are unsure of that you are equipped with an ice claw or spike as well as ice cleats. Clear ice that has a bluish tint is the strongest. Ice formed by melted and refrozen snow appears milky, and is very porous and weak. Most Importantly, Ice covered by snow should always be presumed unsafe.

1626
7:30

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PRW

Salvation Army Donations Down

12-22-2016

With just a few days left in The Salvation Army's Christmas Campaign, donations are down significantly about \$2.3 million across the Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota and North Dakota when compared to this time last year. Fergus Falls Captain Linda McCormick says there could be various reasons...

CAPT LINDA DONATIONS DOWN 13 SEC

OUTCUE: "...either what we need or what we ask for."

At this time last year, \$5.3 million was donated in outstate areas of Minnesota and across North Dakota. The Fergus Falls Salvation Army is still Looking for bell ringers, if interested contact their office directly.

6A
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1628
New

DLM
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