Someone's in the kitchen with Kumar

**Branstad** visits

Elliott Test

Kitchen in FM

**JEFF HUNT** jhunt@dailydem.com

Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad heard there were good things going on at Elliott Test Kitchen so on Thursday he decided to stop by and see for himself. According to Branstad, as part of his statewide tour he had several stops to make in

"I was informed that this test kitchen was a great educational program," Branstad said. "It's been helping students in Fort Madison and I wanted to see it

Branstad explained he was scheduled to visit Keokuk and decided to stop at the test

Branstad said he will be visiting the Keokuk Area Hospital

kitchen while in the area.

to hear an announcement of

'That will give KAH real

Branstad said he also plans to

visit a newly reopened foundry

KAH signs

deal with

a merger with Unity Point

stability," Branstad said.

Lee County.

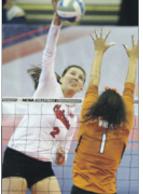
first hand."

Health.



## **HTC TACKLES** HUNGER

**National Honor Society** students at Holy Trinity take part in Kids Against Hunger – packaging more than 3,000 meals that will be sent to towns in the U.S. as well as to other countries.



December 16, 2016

Nebraska team loses in



**INSIDE TODAY** 



Mikaela Foecke's NCAA semifinals.

**MEGAN MCNEILL** Mississippi Valley Publishing

UnityPoint

**KEOKUK - Supporters** of Keokuk Area Hospital filled a conference room and spilled into the hallway Thursday afternoon as Keokuk Health Systems and UnityPoint Health announced their affiliation agreement effective Jan. 1.

Among the dignitaries was Iowa Gov. Branstad.

"I remember that hot day – June 13, 2014 – when I signed House File 2460 outside in front of the hospital," Branstad said. "You've come a long way. House File 2460 was the economic appropriations bill that year. It authorized the state to provide a \$5 million loan through the Iowa Finance Authority.'

Branstad served eight years on the board for Unity-Point when it was known as Iowa Health System.

"I know a fair amount about UnityPoint Health, and it's a great system," he

He thanked those involved in forming the agreement "for your perseverance and the difficult decisions you've made over the last six years to get to this point ... Saving Keokuk Area Hospital ensures that we maintain high-quality health care in this community, and ensures that Keokuk remains a very competitive business environment.'

Duane Fitch, president of turnaround company Fitch Healthcare, commended Branstad for his support of

"Governor, we thank you for the confidence and trust you placed with our board of directors, our medical staff, our employees, and our entire community," Fitch said. "Quite simply, you saved this hospital for generations to come."

### **VERMEER: UNITYPOINT** NEEDS KAH

"We are very excited to welcome Keokuk Health Systems into the UnityPoint

SEE KAH, PAGE 13

# Lexington Square residents, workers struggle with low staffing issues

lowa Gov. Terry Branstad, middle, takes a serving of pasta from Holy Trinity Catholic School

watches other students from behind. Branstad visited the Test Kitchen on Thursday, as well

as two other Lee County locations - including the Keokuk Area Hospital and a foundry that

has focused on education and

trip has killed two birds with

economic development and this

and Elliott Test Kitchen student Danielle Scheetz while kitchen owner Kumar Wickramasingha

Branstad said as governor he

**CINDY IUTZI** Mississippi Valley Publishing

was reopening.

once by a company in India.

"Some local people have

reopening it," Branstad said.

purchased it and now they are

KEOKUK - Resident council members at a local nursing home are concerned about the facility's high staff turnover, too few staff on duty - especial-

their jobs properly. It's a life and death issue for Janice Larsen,

ees who they allege don't do

ly on weekends - and employ-



Larsen







Smith

Sheila Jackson, who all live at Lexington Square in Keokuk and are on the council. They recently

Victor Smith and

complained to the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals Health **Facilities Division** about conditions. sparking an inspection/investigation that was carried out from Oct. 17 to Nov. 2.

"The thing about it is, we have complained and complained and tried to work with staff, and it did us no good," Larsen

said earlier this week. "The three of us got together and decided it was time to do something. It was out of concern for ourselves, because we aren't getting the care we should, and it was out of concern for the other residents."

Larsen, 62, is paraplegic and has multiple sclerosis and renal kidney disease.

"If I'm not taken care of properly, I can get infections," she said. "I have to be fed and they take care of my hygiene. I've lived here for nine years and I've never seen them this bad before."

Larsen believes the number of aides on duty should be increased from three to five to be able to handle the roughly 90 residents' needs.

"Three aides cannot take care of residents," she said. "On weekends it's awful here. People are calling in (sick) or not showing up."

The nursing home has been trying to hire staff, but it's employee attendance and

# State inspects, evaluates whether staff meets needs

one stone.

"I think this is a great exam-

ple of how people are getting

SEE VISIT, PAGE 13

**CINDY IUTZI** 

Mississippi Valley Publish-

Oversight of nursing homes' operations falls to the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals.



Werning



**Findley** 

David Werning, DIA public information officer, said his department can only enforce to the extent of the law. "If a facility does

not have sufficient staff to meet the residents' needs it is often reflected in a facility's failure to provide assistance with mobility, feeding, activities of daily living, etc.," he wrote in an email. "Violations

for these types of deficiencies are cited under federal rules (F tags) such as F 353, sufficient staff; F 312, activities of daily living – care for dependent residents; F 318, range of motion - treatment and services; and F 323, facility free of accident hazards."

Remediation and fines are penalties for amassing deficiencies and vary according to

retention that seems to be the difficulty, according to Larsen.

"They need more incentives for the ones who've stuck it out," she said. "They need to be rewarded. They take extra good care of you, and they're pleasant. They're caring, they meet your needs and go above and beyond."

Larsen said new aides and nurses don't last very long.

"A few new hires who are going to be good, aren't getting the training they need before they're pulled to the floor," she said.

Many of the new hires often are overwhelmed and frustrated, Larsen said.

"There are others who are slackers," she said. "(The nursing home administration) is hiring anybody."

The facility has hired about

severity of the infraction.

Iowa State Code 483.30 covers nursing services requirements: "The facility must have sufficient nursing staff to provide nursing and related services to attain or maintain the highest practicable physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being of each resident, as determined by resident assessments and

individual plans of care." Werning reads that to mean the obligation for adequate staffing falls to the facility's administration and owner. When deficiencies turn up after inspections, it may be because responsibilities are not being

Staffing issues are a specialty of Di Findley, executive director of Iowa CareGivers, an independent nonprofit 501(c)(3) founded in 1992. Iowa Caregivers consults with the state.

# CARE/ACTION GAP

The founding of Iowa Caregivers is the result of "growing concerns about the shortage and high turnover rates of those who work in direct care such as certified nurse aides and home care aides," accord-

SEE **INSPECTION**, PAGE 2

five men, which for the most part is not a problem for Larsen.

"I don't know if they feel uncomfortable or what," she said. "The last two nights (Saturday and Sunday) I didn't get pericare either night."

Peri-care refers to washing the of a patient's private parts. Compounding Larsen's concerns, she didn't get her peri-care until 1:45 p.m. the

next day.

# **JACKSON**

Sheila Jackson, age 63, has been at Lexington Square for five years.

"I can't walk," she said. A self-described "advocate for people who need help," Jackson complained to the state on

SEE **LEXINGTON**, PAGE 2



# **NEW NOVEL**

Columnist Terri Schlichenmeyer says "The Mistletoe Secret" by Richard Paul Evans is a notch above most romance novels.

**P6** 

# NOTABLE



# **WEST POINT**

has even more Christmas decoration out now than last year. Check it out! See Page 12.

### **DEATHS** Carol Walljasper, 77,

Fort Madison Elaine Huddleson, 92, Atlantic Donald Worrell, 97, Kahoka, Mo.

## **INSIDE**

OPINION	4
CLASSIFIEDS	14-15
COMICS	10
CROSSWORD	13
EDUCATION	5
AREA NEWS	6,12
PEOPLE	11
OBITUARIES	3
RELIGION	7
SPORTS	8-9

### FIND US! www.dailydem.com





www.dailydem.com

president of corporate

counsel for UnityPoint.

tion of support and wise

projects, we can help to

stabilize the financial

situation of local com-

"We are committed

to changing how health

munity hospitals."

care is reimbursed,

volume to a fee for

moving from a fee for

value," Vermeer said.

"This is a population

base where we can work

more efficiently, provide

a higher level of service,

"When we can tap into

UnityPoint's fee sched-

reimbursements and

use their leverage to

arm-wrestle the insur-

ance companies into

giving us better reim-

bursements," said Dr.

Neville Crenshaw, chief

of KAH's medical staff.

more money and make

a really exciting time."

Fitch Healthcare for

the work it's done to

strengthen and keep

more improvements. It's

Vermeer commended

KAH afloat over the past

"Then we can make

ule, we can improve our

quality and satisfac-

tion."

to manage populations

integrity and general

"Through a combina-

# **KAH:** Top priority is the emergency room

(Continued from Page 1)

family," said Kevin Vermeer, UnityPoint president and CEO. "We are principled around strong, local, community health care ... We very much need and welcome the support of this local community and its hospital. That's one of the reasons we wanted to be a part of this hospital. We saw the commitment of this community to this health care organization.'

He believes "Keokuk fits right in with the type of organizations we have throughout the state of Iowa and into Central Illinois and Wisconsin."

"For us this has been a pretty normal transaction and very smooth," Vermeer said. "Both sides have really tried to figure out how to make something work that will benefit the people in this community in the long term. We're excited and ready to get going."

The top priority is the emergency department, according to Vermeer. The ER is where many people enter local health care.

"Having a very strong emergency department in a great facility where providers want to come work and the community feels safe and comfortable coming to is a critical piece for us in all the communities we operate in," Vermeer

Walt Stephens, KAH **Board of Directors** chair, said that in addition to emergency room renovations, the hospital hopes to add more doctors, another clinic "and maybe even get a maternity ward if we can justify it. Your continued support will

show us what is needed in Keokuk."

'Turnaround journey' concludes

Fitch reflected on his organization's nearly four-year "turnaround

journey" at KAH. "Our new strategic partnership with UnityPoint Health and **Quincy Medical Group** ensures that Keokuk Area Hospital will continue ... to provide access to health care throughout our communities indefinitely into the future," Fitch said.

The affiliation also sustains KAH's role in the community and Lee County's economic wellbeing by preserving more than 350 jobs and making an annual economic impact of about \$20 million.

"This number grows indefinitely when you consider the inability to recruit industry into an area without a hospital," Fitch said.

Stephens believes KAH would not have survived the past several years without direction from Fitch Healthcare.

"This we pledge to you: That Keokuk Area Hospital will continue to be a first-class acute care hospital providing the highest quality health care," Stephens told the crowd. "Kevin, we pledge to you that Keokuk Area Hospital will earn our place in UnityPoint and make you proud of us being part of your family."

Securing the future UnityPoint has an advantage in securing lower-cost financing because of its larger size.

"We can provide savings to the community because we can borrow money at a cheaper rate," said Denny Drake, senior vice

Wishing you

and your

family the

very best

this holiday

season!

**Holiday Hours:** 

Pilot Grove

Savings Bank Pilot Grove • Houghton • Donnellson West Point • Mt. Pleasant • Packwood

Winfield • Ft. Madison • Keokuk • Fairfield Toll Free 888-283-2265 www.pilotgrovesavingsbank.com

Close at noon

Close at noon

Closed

Closed

December 24

December 26

December 31

January 2

# **VISIT:** Kitchen getting attention from others

(Continued from Page 1)

involved and making a difference and helping kids by encouraging them and assisting them," Branstad said.

The Elliott Test Kitchen at 807 Ave. G, is owned and operated by Kumar Wickramasingha. Wickramasingha, a chef by trade, opened the test kitchen to provide a place for students to get assistance with homework after school with the assistance of 40 teachers. Later he added classes for students to prepare for the ACT. To make things interesting, Wickramasingha also teaches cooking classes where students are invited to eat their assignments.

Wickramasingha said people need to know that the test kitchen is a non-profit organization and no fees are charged for the services there.

"If we get any support of any kind, it is greatly appreciated," Wickramasingha said.

The Elliott Test Kitchen is named for James T. Elliott IV, successful Chicago businessman and former math teacher who encouraged Wickramasingha to pursue the unique academic concept: offer a safe place to study in a structured setting and provide a meal after the after-school session.

Wickramasingha said the unique blend of feeding the mind as well as the stomach has attracted interest from other Iowa towns.

Branstad said since his nomination as Ambassador of China, he hasn't spoken with

**CROSSWORD** 

**ACROSS** 

1 Makes

finer

6 Tourney

**11** Put on a

13 "House-

14 Canyon

15 "Toodle-

17 Organ

part

18 Voucher

20 Opposed

23 Feature of

26 Tea party

guest

28 Knightley

of films

fect Spy"

author 31 Beat

walker

33 Scathing

34 Locale

38 Self-

40 Merge

36 Sharpen

respect

reviews

contents

32 Clip

29 "A Per-

a '50s car

22 Clumsv

makeup

pedestal

boat" star

12 Left at sea

By THOMAS JOSEPH

46 Lake

**DOWN** 

1 Pitcher

2 Oath

Maglie

words

role

5 Dis-

4 Goodie

3 Rampart's

patched

6 Comic bit

7 Missionary

8 Serious

9 There-

fore

part

**16** Battery

shame

10 Escalator

Turkana

setting

Chinese President Xi Jinping, but is hearing some good feedback. "... President-elect

(Donald) Trump saw that I have a unique relationship in China. Now it's not going to be an easy job by any means because we have some significant differences in policy. So I hope I can be an effective communicator," Branstad said.

To see how your can help support the Elliott Test Kitchen, log on to tkef.org.



Yesterday's answer

18 Snowman's eyes 19 Robust

21 Winged victory 23 Service period

24 Vitamin extra 25 Siestas 27 Needed

30 Join the crew 33 Tubular pasta 34 Relaxing places

35 Douce' 37 Corn cover 39 Bungle 41 Essay **42** LAX

paid quess THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1-8! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803

Lee County Health

Department





# First Hospice in Southeast Iowa

- Hospice care provided in home, assisted living & long-term care nursing facilities
- Pain & Symptom Control Music & Massage Therapy
- Emotional & Spiritual Support
- Bereavement Services

Medicare/Medicaid certified

Services provided in Lee, Des Moines, Van Buren & Henry counties in Iowa, and Hancock & Henderson counties in Illinois



Touching the Community with Care

2218 Avenue H, Ft. Madison, Iowa 52627 **CHD** (319)372-5225 or (800)458-6672 ~ www.leecountyhd.org

Brian Jones,

Financial Advisor

# STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST Closing prices for

DIV PE LAST CHG. YTD NAME DIV PE LAST CHG. YTD AT&T Inc 1.96f 16 41.50 +.40 +20.6 1.04 16 36.79 +.24 +6.8 AMD 10.86 5.60 13 168.02 Agilysys Altria 10.61 +.68 +42.2 +.16 +6.2 IntPap 1.85f 20 53.60 66.26 +.32 +13.8 JPMorgCh 1.70 19 51.10 2.28 14 115.82 +.40 +18.2 +.63 +10.0 +.90 +12.8 -.48 +3.6 Ameren JohnJn 3.20 18 115.89 McDnlds 23 122.36 Apple Inc 23.16 14.00 +.49 +37.6 -.73 +89.7 -.70 +6.3 BkofAm Merck 16 62.37 +.57 +18.1 Microsoft 62.58 BarrickG -.10 +12.8 Boeing .60 20 -.02 +12.3 -.40 -3.7 .96 24 124.64 +2.29 +3.5 Caseys Oracle 40.86 3.08 26 94.53 +.79 +39.1 ... dd 7.03 -.05 +56.2 4.28 dd 117.05 +1.09 +30.1 OrbitATK 1.20 86.00 Caterpillar 3.01 22 105.30 1.28f 13 32.75 ChesEng PepsiCo +.83 +5.4 Chevron Pfizer -.07 +1.5 60.23 +.78 +16.4 PhilipMor -5.9 -3.3 Pier 1 .28 26 ProctGam 2.68 23 CocaBtl 1.00 29 171.66 +3.94 8.57 +2.09 +68.4 41.55 +.34 CocaCola .80m 22 38.42 2.40 20 101.40 +.68 +17.1 +.85 +32.9 Scotts SearsHldgs 95.41 10.31 ConAgra Deere -.22 -49.9 1.56f 18 104.39 +.34 -.7 1.84 19 58.35 +.69 +13.3 SilganHldg +.83 +16.7 DowChm Textron 49.01 DryShp rs 5.40 +1.85 -97.9 ЗМ Со 22 176.02 1.52 23 2.08f 24 74.89 +1.18 +12.4 71.37 +3.70 -15.3 TimeWarn 1.61 17 95.32 UtdTech 2.64f 16 108.13 EliLilly ValeantPh ... 15 VerizonCm 2.31f 15 .06 +.00 -96.8 90.89 +.31 +16.6 13.60 ExxonMbl 3.00 36 51.81 15.56 +.05 -10.7 14.61 -.04+115.8 31.26 -.24 +.4 32.99 +.55 +1.0 WalMart 2.00f WellsFargo 1.52 71.08 55.19 FrptMcM GenElec

WhitingPet

-.10 +31.0 | Yahoo ... dd -.17 +12.3 | Yamana g .02m 88

For complete stock listings, go to dailydem.com/business

15.51

... dd

38.41 -2.50 +15.5

# **MONEY & MARKETS**

## **Pilot Grove** Savings Bank **INVESTMENT SERVICES** Working for Southeast Iowa

Pilot Grove • Houghton • Donnellson West Point • Mt. Pleasant • Packwood Winfield • Fort Madison • Keokuk • Fairfield 319-385-3822

bjones@pilotgrovesavingsbank.com bjones@ibasecurities.com

> curities offered through IBA Securities, a division of Broker Dealer Financia Services Corp. Member FINRA & SIPC

INDEXES							
	HIGH	LOW	LAST	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD	
DOW	19951.29	19811.50	19852.24	+59.71	+0.30%	+13.93%	
DOW Trans.	9361.17	9224.01	9258.86	+40.50	+0.44%	+23.31%	
DOW Util.	650.21	640.70	649.23	+4.18	+0.65%	+12.36%	
NYSE Comp.	11170.65	11086.39	11131.89	+33.22	+0.30%	+9.74%	
NASDAQ	5485.12	5439.39	5456.85	+20.18	+0.37%	+8.98%	
S&P 500	2272.10	2253.77	2262.03	+8.75	+0.39%	+10.67%	
S&P 400	1681.06	1661.06	1670.74	+6.41	+0.39%	+19.46%	
Wilshire 5000	23743.93	23537.04	23636.41	+92.24	+0.39%	+11.66%	
Russell 2000	1374.82	1354.46	1366.41	+10.39	+0.77%	+20.30%	

# FUNDS OF LOCAL INTEREST

LONDS OF FOCAL	l
FUND	
American Funds AmBalA m	
American Funds CapIncBuA m	
American Funds CpWldGrIA m	
1 . 3	
3 1 1	
Vanguard MulntAdml	
Vanguard PrmcpAdml	
Vanguard STGradeAd	
Vanguard TgtRe2025	
Vanguard TotBdAdml	
Vanguard WelltnAdm	
	FUND  American Funds AmBalA m American Funds CaplncBuA m American Funds CpWldGrlA m American Funds CpWldGrlA m American Funds FnlnvA m American Funds IncAmerA m American Funds IncAmerA m American Funds InvCoAmA m American Funds NewPerspA m American Funds WAMutlnvA m Dodge & Cox IntSik Dodge & Cox IntSik Dodge & Cox Stock Fidelity SooldxPr Fidelity Contra FrankTemp-Franklin IncomeA m Harbor IntlInstl T Rowe Price GrowStk Vanguard DivGr Vanguard HitCrAdml Vanguard IntlStkldxAdm Vanguard MulntAdml Vanguard STGradeAd Vanguard TotBdAdml Vanguard TotBdAdml Vanguard TotBtlAdm Vanguard TotStldx Vanguard TotStldx Vanguard WellslAdm

Vanguard WndsllAdm

### NAV CHG. 4-WK. 1-YR. 5-YR. LOAD +.03 +2.0 +8.8/B +11.4/A 5.75 -.03 +2.2 +7.1/B +7.7/A 5.75 +7.3/B +10.7/B 5.75 +.05 +3.8 +13.6/B +15.4/B +.12 +3.6 +10.3/A +16.1/A 5.75 +2.5 +10.9/A +10.0/B +3.8 +16.0/A +15.2/B +2.1 +3.1/D +11.9/A 5.75 +4.2 +14.0/D +14.3/C 5.75 36.97 43.28 +4.8/A +3.7/A +2.7 39.65 +.03 +9.6/A +8.7/A +4.6 +23.2/A +18.2/A 194.59 +1.01 +4.0 +13.1/B +15.6/A +2.9 +4.7/C +14.5/B +3.6 +16.9/A +8.1/A 100.03 +.20 +1.6/C +5.5/D 53.84 +2.3 +2.9/D +16.1/A +3.9 +13.1/B +15.6/A 209.86 -2.6 +1.9 -7.2/B +17.7/D +5.9/A +6.0/C 82.91 NL 50.000 -.01 24.75 NL 10,000 -0.3/B +2.9/B +2.8 +12.0/A +17.7/A -0.5 +2.3/B +2.2/A 115.57 +.86 NL 50.000 10.60 NL 50,000 +7.8/B +9.4/B -.02 -1.5 -.01 +1.9 +1.5/D +2.0/D +5.7/A +6.0/C 10.55 NL 10,000 14.79 3.000 +4.0 +13.9/A +15.6/A +3.9 +13.8/A +15.5/A 56.90 +.23 +.10 +0.7 +7.7/B +7.6/A NL 50.000 62.53 +2.8 +11.6/A +11.2/A +.20 +3.9 +14.7/C +14.4/C

%RETURN/RANK