

Winner of Journal's How to Cook a Turkey contest has eye for art

Kayla Gahagan Journal correspondent | Nov 23, 2017



The reason 7-year-old Isabella Hammell says she knows how to cook a turkey is because her grandpa taught her dad, who then passed the directions to her.

Isabella's turkey cooking skills were on full display this year in the Rapid City Journal's How to Cook a Turkey contest, in which she was the winner. Isabella's drawing was chosen from hundreds of entries, and she will receive a \$50 Target gift card.

“I wasn’t thinking I was going to win,” said the Black Hawk Elementary School second grader. “I thought someone from one of the upper grades was going to.”

Isabella is the daughter of Joshua and Kristi Hammell. Kristi is a teacher at the Black Hawk school and said her daughter was excited and surprised to win.

“She loves to draw and paint,” Kristi said.

Isabella participates in the school’s Young Rembrandts art program and her artwork is displayed at home. “It was really surprising,” Kristi said. “It’s nice to see that type of recognition.”



Journal managing editor Chris Huber said the annual contest is a fun way to include kids in the newspaper.

"I was very impressed with her creativity, and her drawing of the turkey living on a farm," he said. "She clearly has a gift for storytelling."

In Isabella's How to Cook a Turkey explanation, she said you first have to put the turkey in the oven at 189 degrees. Then, put seasoning on the turkey every one minute. Finally, take the turkey out to cool.

Isabella, who said she doesn't know yet what she will do with her \$50 gift card, said she enjoys the Thanksgiving holiday. "You get to spend time with family," she said.

And even more so, she enjoys art time in school. "I like having time to draw really good pictures," she said. "And when we're drawing, it's silence."

She encouraged other kids to enter the contest and try new things. "Give it one shot, and maybe you'll like it and can try again," Isabella said.

Isabella's winning entry, and a select number of others, will be featured in Section D of today's paper.