

\$1.00

McINTOSH

Since 1888

Times

Hub of the Thirteen Townships

McIntosh, Minnesota



The First National Bank crew out at Win-E-Mac School on Tuesday night assisting in the building of the new playground. Pictured (l-r) Annie Schow, Sheree Breckel, Nikki Grande, Paulette Kringlen, and Phil Lee.



Raking out the woodchips that will be under the new playground equipment at Win-E-Mac school is Connie Strom.



Tony Haugen and Brady Hewitt take a break as they volunteer with the construction of the new playground at Win-E-Mac school.



Volunteer, Joel Strom brings in the heavy equipment to help move and spread out the woodchips as the final phase of the Win-E-Mac playground is completed.



The Patriot Promoters presented the Win-E-Mac School with \$500 for the new playground. Pictured is Denise Stark and Superintendent Randy Bruer and Scott Winter from Midwest Playscapes in Bemidji.



Follow the signs to the Backyard Cottage on the West side of McIntosh.



Inside the Backyard Cottage you will find great, unique finds for home décor and gifts.

Rewriting the Rural Narrative

The message that was brought to those that attended the presentation from University of Minnesota Extension's Ben Winchester was that of a new economy and the change that needs to come from small town residents in how we view and talk about our rural communities and small towns.

It seems that the rural story has already been told. Small towns keep getting smaller. Churches, schools, clinics, businesses, and now post offices, have closed their doors as the lucky few migrate out to the big cities. This deficit framework dominates how we discuss and envision our rural communities.

However, the real story of rural Minnesota and it's small town is rich and diverse, with positive trends occurring under the radar.

The population of rural Minnesota has changed significantly during the past 40 years. Counter to popular narrative, since 1970 there have been newcomers aged 30-49 moving into small towns, which positively impact our social and economic structures.

A job was not in the top 10 reasons why people are moving to rural communities and small towns. Some reasons included affordable housing, simpler pace of life, safety and security.

Who are the newcomers? Of people choosing to move to

rural communities and small towns there is only 36% who move back to their home towns. The other 64% are moving in because Quality of Life is the trump card.

At the same time, there is a new urbanity found across the rural landscape that changes how we look at urban-rural interactions. The next 15-20 years appears to be a great opportunity for small towns, as a once tight housing supply begins to open up through the changing residential preferences of the retiring baby boomer generation.

People often lament a brain drain in rural Minnesota, which is the loss of 18 to 25 year olds who leave their small home towns after high school. But as they leave, there is also a migration of 30 to 49 year olds and their young children. In many cases, those that are moving into our rural communities and small towns offset, and even surpass the numbers of those moving away.

This is hopeful news, but the trend must be sustained. The new economy characteristics include that fact that brick and mortar does not equal economic success. More people are focused with more self-employment and consultant work for short periods of time. Jobs and occupations are much more diversified now, there is more

Rural Narrative... Continued on page 4 ...

The McIntosh Times

will be **CLOSED**

on

TUESDAY,

4th JULY

in observance of

Independence Day.



Ben Winchester from the University of Minnesota Extension presented "Rewriting the Rural Narrative" in Thief River Falls on Tuesday, June 13th.

Celebrate Independence this July 4th

While July 4th is synonymous with American independence, one of the United States' founding fathers felt that July 2nd was a more appropriate date to celebrate the colonies' declaration of independence from Great Britain.

John Adams, who would serve as the second President of the United States, felt July 2nd was the correct date to celebrate the colonies' independence and even protested July 4th by refusing invitations to appear at events on that day during his lifetime.

Adams' contention dates back to June 7, 1776, when Richard Henry Lee, the Virginia delegate of the Continental Congress, first introduced a motion calling for the colonies to declare their independence.

Voting on Lee's motion was postponed, though a five-man committee consisting of Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas

Jefferson, Robert R. Livingston, and Roger Sherman was appointed to draft a statement justifying independence from Great Britain.

Lee's motion was approved on July 2nd, and Adams even wrote his wife, Abigail, that the day would be celebrated as the anniversary of the colonies' independence for many years to come.

But that was not to be, as American independence is instead celebrated on July 4th, the day when the Continental Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence.

The Fourth of July has been a federal holiday since 1941. Though that may seem like a long time for the country to wait to celebrate the independence it declared in 1776, the tradition of the Fourth of July, often referred to as Independence Day, dates back to the dawn of the American Revolution and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Since then, July 4th has been recognized as the dawn of American independence, and celebrations that included fireworks and parades can be traced back to the 18th century.

On July 4, 1777, the city of Philadelphia, which would become the first capital of the

United States of America, held the first annual commemoration of American independence, and exactly one year later George Washington ordered that all of his soldiers be offered double rations of rum to commemorate the anniversary.

In 1781, Massachusetts was the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday, and the day was actually declared a federal holiday by the U.S. Congress in 1870.

However, that declaration did not grant a paid holiday to federal employees.

That benefit came in 1941, which is why that year is now recognized as the first year when the Fourth of July officially became a federal holiday.



Community Calendar

Wed. June 28: McIntosh Library 12pm to 5pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Computer Class at McIntosh Library 1pm to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's

Thurs. June 29: McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Fri. June 30: McIntosh Library 12pm to 5pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Mon. July 3: McIntosh Library 10am to 3pm; Children's Story Time at McIntosh Library 10:30am; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Tues. July 4: Independence Day! Happy 4th of July

Wed. July 5: McIntosh Library 12pm to 5pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Computer Class at McIntosh Library 1pm to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Thurs. July 6: McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Fri. July 7: McIntosh Library 12pm to 5pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Mon. July 10: McIntosh Library 10am to 3pm; Children's Story Time at McIntosh Library 10:30am; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Tues. July 11: McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm



Donna Tradewell celebrated her 34+ years of ASCS/FSA service and will be retiring at the end of June.



Floyd & Gerri Balstad who live on the west end of Union Lake near Erskine have beautiful landscaping and is this weeks McIntosh Times/Community Club yard of the week.



There were many friends and family that stopped into the FSA office last week to wish Donna Tradewell a happy retirement.



Immanuel Lutheran Celebrates 100 Years

The sun shone brightly, the sky a warm clear blue, the birds chirped a cheerful summer song and a new "Welcome" banner greeted the faithful with the warmth of a rising sun. Friends and family, young and old, current and former members, those that flew in from afar as well as those who biked from their home just a few blocks away, all walked through the familiar doors and up the stairs filling the pews in the sanctuary one by one, coming home to celebrate 100 years of fellowship and worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Warm greetings with joyous smiles were exchanged. The bell rang out after years of silence. The organ and piano, masterfully manipulated, pumped out glorious melodies leading voices that filled the sanctuary lifting the hearts and souls of all who attended. Many were the descendants of charter members, whose families have worshiped together for a century.

It all began in October 1915 when Lutheran worship services were conducted in Edward's School in Lessor Township, then later organized as Zion Lutheran Church of Lessor Township on January 2, 1917. On September 16, 1917 Candidate P.J. Seltz was ordained and installed as the first Pastor to lead the congregation. Shortly after his installation, he conducted services in McIntosh giving birth to the Immanuel Lutheran Congregation.

Immanuel Lutheran Church was organized January 20, 1918 and was incorporated July 20, 1920.



There were approximately 20 members in the early congregation.

For several years, the worship services were conducted in various buildings and sanctuaries that were available. On May 21, 1923 the Congregation purchased the present church which was then known as St. Luke's Norwegian Lutheran Church for a cost of \$3,000. Dedication services were held in July 1923. In early 1926 the Congregation purchased a parsonage at a cost of \$3,000.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church of Lessor Township dissolved in November 1927 and the members joined the Immanuel Lutheran church. Early in the years the Congregation was subsidized by the Mission Board of the Old Minnesota District. In 1932 the congregations of McIntosh, Fosston, and Mentor joined together to call a pastor and

become self-supporting. Immanuel Lutheran officially joined the Minnesota District of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other states.

A special service was held on June 4, 1944 in which the mortgages for the church and parsonage were burnt. According to an article in the McIntosh Times, "The church was well filled for the momentous occasion...A table had been prepared with a large vase, and the papers were burned in this container. During the burning the congregation united in singing 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God'...A social hour was held in the church parlors at the close of the evening...Brief toasts during the social hour were made by Rev. Fellwock and Rev. Schuett." The parsonage was later sold and in April 1963 the Walter Berg home was purchased for a parsonage at a cost of \$14,000. This par-

sonage was also later sold.

Through the years the congregation has remodeled its facilities to improve its function and capacity. The front entry structure was added to the church in 1980. The kitchen, chancel, nave walls, carpeting, floor, acoustical tile in the ceiling, new doors, and organ, are some of the various remodels and updates that the structure has seen throughout the years. The latest update was the new construction and remodeling of the steeple, completed in 2016.

The Pakard Organ is a pump organ from the early days and remains on display in the vestibule of the church. It was replaced by the Wurlitzer Electronic Organ. The Wurlitzer Organ was dedicated January 9, 1949, but is no longer in use. The present Allen organ was purchased in 1975.

Today we find few children attending our weekly services; as a result those in attendance have been meeting with Pastor John Anderson of Poplar Lake Lutheran Church for Confirmation each week for the past year. The children are encouraged to attend summer Bible Camp and other churches for Release Time classes and Vacation Bible School.

The Immanuel Ladies Aid meets monthly and is active in several projects such as Devotion Sessions at McIntosh Senior Living and Pioneer Memorial Care Center. The Aid is also responsible for Alter Guild, Christmas dinners, Bible Studies, fellowships before and after church services.

Special services for the 25th Anniversary were held on Jun 7, 1942. The 50th Anniversary celebration was held in 1967 and the 75th Anniversary on July 5, 1992. Now, having celebrated the 100th Anniversary this past weekend, on June 25th, 2017, the church looks forward to a future filled with faith and love.



A Sincere "Thank You" to all who came to my 90th Birthday party. Thank you for the cards, gifts and good visits. Also, to all my kids, Thank you.

Evonne Hartel M14C

NOTICE

ELECTION AND ANNUAL MEETING

VERNES CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The annual election and meeting of the Vernes Cemetery Association will be held on Monday, July 10, 2017 at the Vernes Lutheran Church. The meeting shall start at 7:00 p.m. and all association members are invited to attend. Association members are all members of Vernes Lutheran Church and anyone else who has relatives or friends buried in the cemetery. Again, all members are encouraged to attend.

Gordon Syverson
Secretary/Treasurer
Vernes Cemetery Association M14-15C

LINDFORS
Insurance Agency
will be
CLOSED
ON THE
4th of July

Community Birthday and Anniversary Calendar

Wed. June 28: Judy Webster, *Craig & Jill Lende, *Ryan & Angela Linden

Thurs. June 29: Jerome Voxland, Cole Shaver, David Herom

Fri. June 30: Jade Pries

Sat. July 1: Justin Burslie, Carla Grundy-son

Sun. July 2: Nickolas Schow, Hudson Smeby, *Paul & Julie Schow, *Dan & Mary Salvhus

Mon. July 3: Chase Svalen

Tues. July 4: Josh Bartz, Barb Urness, *Phillip & Amy Carlson

Septic System Fix-up Program

Polk County Environmental Services has a cost share grant/loan program that is available to property owners in Polk County that have non-compliant septic systems.

Funds are made possible through a grant received from the Minnesota Clean Water Legacy Act.

There is still funding available for 2017. The County will provide a cost share grant/loan contributing 25% of installation cost up to a maximum of \$2,500.

The remaining loan will have a .0001% interest rate

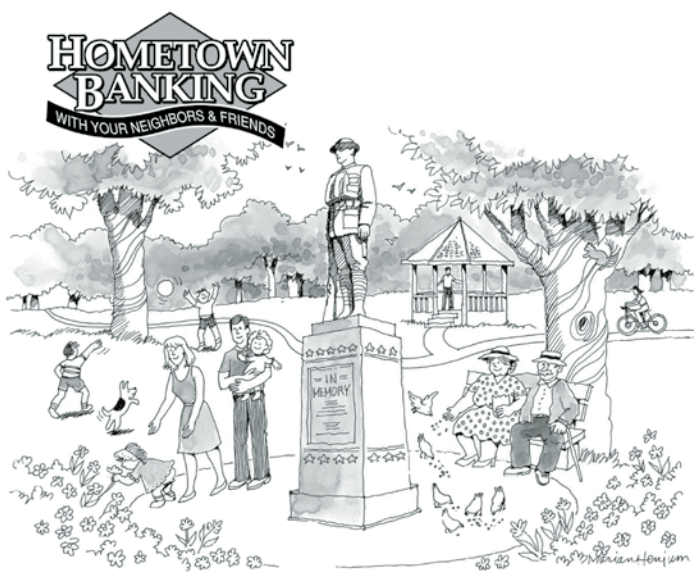
Septic...

Continued on page 4 ...

MAC TO FLUSH WATERLINES

The City of McIntosh will be flushing waterlines and hydrants each Thursday throughout the summer.

Residents are encouraged to watch for rusty or dirty water on these days. Fill washing machines to check water before adding clothes.



First National Bank of McIntosh will be closed Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

first national bank of McIntosh
FDIC
260 Cleveland Ave. SW
PO Box 129
McIntosh, MN 56556
www.fnbmcmintosh.com
Phone (218) 563-2865

Happy Birthday, America

On July 4, 1776, fifty members of the Continental Congress voted to adopt the Declaration of Independence.

This important document set forth the reasons for declaring our independence from Great Britain.

This Fourth of July we celebrate America's birth as a nation.

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL GUIDE

This space for rent at \$127.40 for 6 months.

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McINTOSH Times

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"Serving the Win-E-Mac area"

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ST. MARY'S CHURCH Fosston

Fr. John Suvakeen, Pastor

Sun. July 2: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

Wed. July 5: 3:30pm Mass at First Care Nursing Home, Fosston

Fri. July 7: 5:30pm Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley (First Friday)

Sun. July 9: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

Mon. July 10: 2pm Mass at Good Samaritan, Clearbrook

Tues. July 11: 1:00pm Mass at McIntosh Nursing Home

If you have any questions please call 435-6484.

CALVARY-IMMANUEL LUTHERAN PARISH

Winger/Bejou Supply Pastor

Gordon Syverson

Sun. July 2: 8:30am Worship at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship at Calvary

Sun. July 9: 8:30am Worship at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship at Calvary

OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

McIntosh

Supply Pastor

Gordon Syverson

Sun. July 2: 11:15am Worship Service.

Sun. July 9: 11:15am Worship Service.

GOSEN LUTHERAN CHURCH Independent

Gary Johnson, Pastor
www.gosen-church.com

Face Book: Gosen Church

Wed. June 28: 1:30pm Bible Study at The Country Place; 7:00pm Bible Study at Don & Sharon Ramberg's

Fri. June 30: 10:00am Telecast of the Luther League program on Garden Valley Cable TV, Channel 2

Sun. July 2: 9:30am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00am Worship Service

Wed. July 5: 10:30am Sunday worship service telecast of Garden Valley Cable TV, Channel 2; 1:30pm Bible Study at The Country Place; 7:00pm Bible Study at Don & Sharon Ramberg's

For information on free rides to any of the above activities call 218-268-4242 or 218-687-3461 Gosen Church is located 4 miles south of the junctions of Hwy. 2 & 59 or 4 miles north of Winger; then ½ mile east on County Road 206.

MCINTOSH AFLC

McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:

Pastor Karl Anderson

Thurs. June 29: 7:00am Men's Breakfast at Mt. Carmel

Sun. July 2: 9:30am Worship at Mt. Carmel; 11:00am Worship at Trinity

Thurs. July 6: 7:00am Men's Breakfast at Mt. Carmel

Sun. July 9: 9:30am Worship at Mt. Carmel; 11:00am Worship at Trinity

VERNES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC)

McIntosh

Pastor Jill Torgerson

Sun. July 2: 9am Worship

Sun. July 9: 9am Worship

DOVRE

FREE LUTHERAN

Pastor Don Edlund

Wed. June 28: 7:00pm Bible Study

Sun. July 2: 10:00am Worship Service

Wed. July 5: 7:00pm Bible Study

Sun. July 9: 10:00am Worship Service

Wed. July 12: 7:00pm Bible Study

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH McIntosh

Rev. John Anderson, Pastor

Sunday July 2: 8:45am diving Worship with Holy Communion and Confirmation
Sunday, July 9: 10:45am Divine Worship Service (please note time change)

Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays



Winger News

Linda Pulskamp

Greetings once again from Winger and the Union Lake areas, where we have had a topsy turvy weather pattern, with some nice days but it always seems to be windy, and then we have had a some stormy weather in the area but we seem to have been lucky and missed the brunt of any damaging weather.

The month of June is getting close to ending, and with it the 4th of July is right around the corner and the celebrations that go with it, close behind the 4th is the Polk County Fair in Fertile which always has days and nights full of activities for all. No wonder summer goes so fast!

Thursday the 16th Chad Carlson was a visitor with Milton Carlson at the Carlson home.

Jerry Wang and his daughter Angie Aronson were visitors this past week with Martha Henney at the Pioneer Home at Erskine.

Tuesday the 20th Dave and Elaine Hendrickson of Minnetonka spent the day with her sister Lucy Brtek. They had a very enjoyable day visiting. The Hendrickson's had also been visiting with Dave's brother at Perham.

Paul Carlson was a visitor at the Milton Carlson home on Saturday and while there put in Milton's air conditioners.

Craig and Bev Helgaas were visitors at the Pulskamp home on Thursday, while Bev went on to Gully to spend a couple days with her sister Cindy Johnson, Craig stayed at the Helgaas home where he and Butch took on some out door projects.

On Sunday the 18th James, Roxanne, Jamie and Jayden Peterson of Isanti were morning visitors with Milton Carlson at the Carlson home. That day at noon Roy, Lisa and Ryan Schaumburg hosted dinner at their home for Mike, Kari and Oliaviyah Keller, Milton Carlson and Lonnie and Judy Gieseke at the Schaumburg home. Also a guest for dinner was Ryan's friend Krysten. That evening Milton Carlson along with Kris, Sheila, Jade, Jasmine, Vincent and Carson Benesh, Monte, Kristen, Emma, Tory, Mia and Hadley Erickson and Dustin, Nikki, Dusty Wayne and Evelyn Carlson of Fosston were all supper guests at the Paul and Donna Carlson home.

Martha Henney had a very

enjoyable phone visit with Eugene Dahlgren last week. Martha stated how wonderful it is that they can keep in touch with their phone calls and how she appreciates the phone calls.

Last Sunday Richard Brtek spent the day with his Mom, Lucy Brtek. They had a wonderful day together and while there Richard groomed her yard for her.

Kelly Johnson and Granddaughter Lilly were visitors last Friday at the Pulskamp home along with Reha Sanstead of Erskine.

Sheila and Jade Benesh were Monday visitors with Milton Carlson at the Carlson home.

Gail and Terry Johnson of Karlstad were visitors with Martha Henney at the Pioneer Home at Erskine this past week.

On Tuesday the 20th Milton Carlson was invited to the Taylor and Jessica Carlson home in Fosston for supper as they had recently moved into a new home, it was a special evening for supper as Grandpa Milton was the only guest.

Mark and Betty Syverson were visitors at the Pioneer Home last Saturday afternoon with Helmer and Verlys Homme, an afternoon of visiting and playing rook was enjoyed by all.

Martha Henney had a phone call and wonderful visit on Tuesday with her cousin Audrey Ellingson of Battle Lake.

Wednesday afternoon Judy Gieseke was a visitor and coffee guest with Milton Carlson at the Carlson home.

Seems like Lucy Brtek has a wild life refuge of her own on the Brtek ponderosa, she recently sighted a bear, has seen the Momma Deer with her newborn babies in the fields out there and hears the pheasants as they are close by too!

Once again this is the news, always open to more!

Until next week may you all have a good one and I want to wish you all a Happy 4th of July.



Regional Ag News

Ed Gindele,
Extension Educator

You Can Take the Birch out of the Forest But...

Birch trees are found in cool northern forests where the soil is slightly acidic.

Birch trees are found in cool northern forests where the soil is slightly acidic. We find paper birches naturally in the Turtle Mountains and the Pembina Gorge, for example. In the forest, a layer of leaf litter protects birch roots from grass competition and keeps the soil cool and moist. A birch in the city, however, may live under much different conditions. Beautifully landscaped yards with well-manicured lawns are a harsh climate for a birch tree. When stressed by these conditions, birches will be attractive to the bronze birch borer, birch leafminer, a yellowing called chlorosis due to basic (high pH) soils, and to dying back because of moisture stress. Such stressed birch trees often die from the top down, leaving a homeowner wondering whether to prune or remove the tree.

Although many birch trees succumb to bronze birch borer every year, even more are reported with moisture stress. If a birch tree still has more than half of its leaves, you can improve its growing conditions by providing a more forest-like environment for its roots. If you are planting a new birch tree or even replacing an old one with another birch tree, follow these recommendations.

- Deadend the sod in a wide circle around the tree and replace it with 3-4" of organic mulch (wood chips). The mulch will decay and return organic material to the soil, and will need to be refreshed periodically. To deal with weeds and grass that will become estab-

lished in the mulch, spray the weeds with glyphosate. Mulch will cool the soil and help keep moisture in the rooting zone. It will also reduce heat buildup. After applying the wood chip mulch, pull it back from the trunk a few inches to keep voles away from the trunk.

- Avoid using weed and feed type fertilizers within about 25 feet or so of the tree. These contain broadleaf herbicides that trees can take up through their roots, causing additional stress.

- During dry periods in the summer, water deeply. This is best done with a lawn sprinkler since tree roots will extend out farther than you think. There is a concentration of feeder roots at the tree's drip line, but roots will extend at least as far as the tree is tall, and usually farther. You will not only be adding moisture, you will be cooling the root zone.

- Bronze birch borers leave little D-shaped holes. Inspect the main trunk and larger branches for these indicators of bronze birch borer. If a birch still has more than half of its foliage, both systemic and spray treatment options are available. Treatments are only effective when the tree is in the early stages of infestation.

- Birches with yellow leaves are usually suffering from a lack of iron or manganese or both. These elements are not in short supply in the soil, but are simply not available to the tree when the soil is very basic. Replace these trees with non-birch and non-maple species that can tolerate more basic soils.

Source: Lezlee Johnson North Dakota Forest Service, Forest Health Manager

MDA warns of dangers of poison hemlock

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is warning residents about the dangers of poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), a toxic member of the carrot family. Residents should be on the lookout for the weed, take extra precautions when handling it, and not ingest any parts of the plant.

Poison hemlock flower

Poison hemlock can grow up to eight feet tall. The flowers are small and white with umbrella shaped clusters on the tops of stems, and it is currently in bloom in parts of the state. The stems are hairless and have purple blotches. The plants emit an odor. The flowers of poison hemlock look similar to wild carrot (*Daucus carota*) and water hemlock (*Circuta maculata*). However, the fern-like leaves and purple blotches on the stems of poison hemlock distinguish it from these related species.

All parts of poison hemlock (leaves, stem, flowers, and roots) are poisonous. If a person may have ingested poison hemlock, Minnesota Poison Control should be called immediately at 1-800-222-1222.

If the individual is unresponsive or having trouble breathing, call 911. People have also reportedly been poisoned by handling the plants. A person should avoid exposure by wearing a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and gloves. If an animal may have ingested poison hemlock, contact your local veterinarian.

Purple blotches on the stems of poison hemlock distinguish it from wild carrot and wild parsnip.

The weed has been recorded in isolated pockets of Minnesota, most recently in the southeastern part of the state. It appears to be spreading quickly in the St. Charles and Lanesboro areas. However, poison hemlock may be growing elsewhere in Minnesota. If residents suspect they have found poison hemlock, take a picture of the plant and email it to arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us, or they should contact their local University of Minnesota Extension office.

More information and photos of poison hemlock can be found on the MDA website.

Funding available to help low-income individuals and families buy or repair homes

USDA Rural Development has funding available for very low- and low-income individuals and families seeking to purchase or repair a home in a rural area. Income limits have recently increased.

"Our housing staff will work one-on-one to ensure quality customer service for all applicants," said Acting State Director Mike Navin. "To help prepare would-be buyers for this exciting step, USDA requires applicants to take a homeownership education course that will inform them of the buying process and help safeguard their important investment."

USDA's Direct Home Loan Program offers financing to qualified very-low and low-income applicants that are unable to qualify for traditional financing.

No down payment is required, and the interest rate could be as low as one percent with a subsidy. Applicants must meet income and credit guidelines and demonstrate repayment ability.

The program is available in rural communities of 20,000 people or less.

Data shows that Rural Development's home loan programs increase economic development and job creation in rural communities.

For example, according to the National Association of Realtors, the sale of an existing median-priced home generates

more than \$58,000 in economic activity.

This includes direct real estate industry supports, home furnishings, appliances and landscaping and other economic activity.

The maximum loan amount for repair is \$20,000 at a one percent interest rate, repayable for up to 20 years.

Grants of up to \$7,500 are available to homeowners 62 and older and must be used to remove health or safety hazards, such as fixing a leaking roof, installing indoor plumbing, or replacing a furnace.

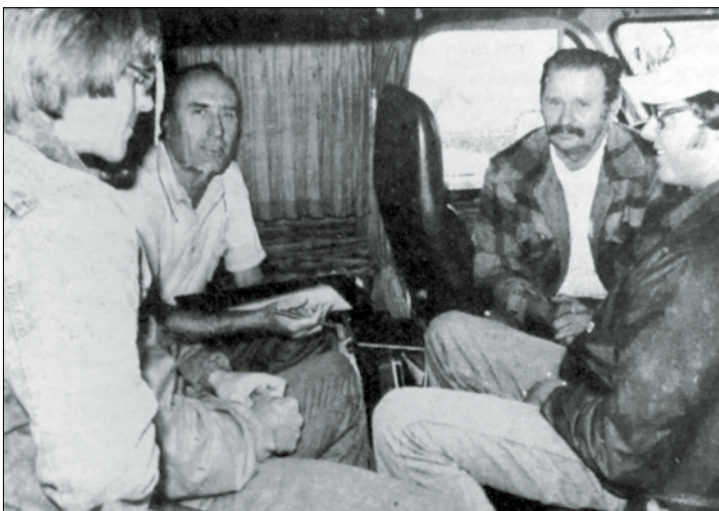
Time is limited to receive these funds.

Qualified applicants have until the end of September 2017 to apply. Contact a USDA Rural Development employee today in your area to see if you qualify.

For more information in the following counties: Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau Counties; please contact USDA Rural Development at 201 Sherwood Ave S., Thief River Falls, MN 56701 or 218-681-2843 x 4. You can also visit USDA's website at www.rd.usda.gov/mn.

Story to Share?

If you have a story or photos you want to share, please send to: mcintoshtimes@gmail.com



40 years ago...1977: Young farmers conversing with Congressional Mobile Van Operator Lyle Freer, for Congressman Arlan Stangeland in McIntosh, Monday, were Dave Stordahl and Lee Narum. Farm Prices were discussed, as well as postal service, grant for Mac Tennis Court, Stock water program under ASCS and the Panama Canal.



30 years ago...1987: The Lions in charge of frying, Rodney Sonsteli, Bob Vesledahl, and Lynn Aasen didn't get time to visit.



20 years ago...1997: (L-R) Office Assistant, Jan Galland, and Manager, Biane Boucher, admire some of the many plant and floral tributes received by the King Town Farmers Mutual Insurance Company as they celebrated their 100th Anniversary on June 14th.



10 years ago...2007: Jack and the Magic Beans. Cast Row 1: Andrew Lundeen, Sydney Melby, Spencer Paradis, Joe Patenteau, Elena Snegarev. Row 2: Anna Eyman, Maria Briggs, Amanda Paradis, Alexis Hanson, Stephanie Smith, Michelle Sundquist. Row 3: Jeanette Soto, Michelle Soto, Becky Cote, Austin Paradis, Matt Lundeen. (not pictured, Amy Paquin)

Random Things and Stuff



Where Are You From? FLORIDA

By: Emily Lynne

It is always fun getting to know people from around the world. Here at camp this summer, I have this very opportunity! Not only do I get to spend the summer with people from all different states, but all different countries! Each week, I am going to interview someone from a different place and share my results in my article.

To start, I am interviewing my roommate from Florida. Here are 10 things to get to know a Floridian.

1.What is something unique about your home

place?

a.Jacksonville is the largest city in the US by land area, and also has over 8 bridges because of the beaches and rivers.

2.What is your favorite place to visit where you are from?

a.The beach, also the springs in Ichetucknee because it is a natural lazy river.

3.What is your occupation?

a.Nursing student, I don't sleep ever.

4.Do you know of any celebrities that are from your home place?

a.Yes, Lynyrd Skynyrd

5.What is a unique food item to your home place?

a.The classic beaches meal is cheese pizza from Al's and pumpkin donuts from Cinotti's which are only sold during the month of October and national donut day, people even order them in advance!

6.How far is Minnesota from your home place?

a.1,313 miles

7.What is your favorite thing about Minnesota?

a.It is super cold, and all the lakes are really pretty!

8.Do you have any traditions in your home place?

a.Yes, every year we have the opening of the beaches parade and the dancing in the streets parade (a giant block party with concerts).

9.What are the most popular sports in your home place?

a.Jacksonville Jaguars, even though they lose every season. But the most popular is the surfing.

10.Would you ever travel back to Minnesota? Why or Why Not?

a.Yes, but not during the winter. It would be nice to go back to the North Shore and explore more of Lake Superior.



Andrew Hanson (Win-E-Mac teacher) and Samantha Buckley as Robert Martin and Janet Vandergraf in the Thief River Falls Area Community Theater's production of "The Drowsy Chaperone" this past weekend.

Pestle & Vessel by Alison Opdahl

Dear City of McIntosh & McIntosh Fire Department,

Because I am only three, Momma is writing this. Thank you for the Easter Egg Hunt at Erickson Park. I saw so many people, big and little. And there were eggs everywhere! Pink, blue, purple, yellow and green. I didn't like listening to Momma when she said I had to wait to put eggs in my bag. So she took me to get a red ticket to put in a bucket for a chance to win a bike; I picked the pink, white and green huffy with unicorns on it.

When Momma finally let go of my hand, I got to pick up lots of eggs. They were hidden in the grass, around rocks and even in the tree branches. After we emptied our eggs into our bags we put them back in the tote for next year. Then Momma held me while the mayor started the bike drawing. First it was the little boy's bike, then the big boy's bike then the big girl's bike, and finally the little girl's bike... and then...! Momma told me I won a bike! I got to sit on the shiny new seat, put my feet on the pedals and grip the lime green handles. It was just my size.

When Momma buckled me into my car seat later, she told me a secret. "Dinah, God gave you a bike today." "He did?" "Mmm-hmm. He made sure your ticket was the one chosen so you could have a new bike." I smiled and looked at Momma, "That was nice of Him." Momma gave me one of her big kisses then. She likes to do that, A LOT.

When we got home Momma let me ride my new bike down our street. When I got near the dead end, I got off to turn it around. When it was pointed back toward my house, I bent over, put my cheek on the seat and gave my bike a big hug. When I straightened, I asked Momma, "Can I give it back?" Momma looked kind of surprised. "What do you mean, Dinah?" I squinted my eyes a little and said, "Can I give my bike back to God?"

Momma's eyes got a little watery. She smiled at me. "You can, Dinah, if you want to. But sometimes God gives us things to use so we can serve Him." "He does?" "Mmm-hmm." Momma helped me back on. "Okay." I started riding again. I didn't tell Momma I was confused about that new word. I think I will have to grow bigger before I can learn about it. But since then she has been talking about how God can use what He gives us to bless other peo-

ple. Sometimes she talks about another thing too, the theology of toddlers. She says it like it's something SHE wants to learn about.

Did you know bikes can go really fast? Now Momma has to run to keep up with me. Thank you for my bike, God. And thank you City of McIntosh and McIntosh Fire Department for letting God use you to give me a wonderful surprise and Momma a new exercise program.

Love, Dinah Joy Opdahl

septic...

Continued from page 2 ...

and will be paid back over a 10 year term. To Qualify Maximum adjusted annual household income cannot exceed: Household Size/Maximum Income: 1/\$41,350, 2/\$47,300, 3/\$53,200, 4/\$59,100, 5/\$63,850, 6/\$68,550, 7/\$73,300, 8/78,000

Applicants will be required to pay 10% down if approved. If you are interested in learning more about this great program please call Polk County Planning and Zoning at (218) 281-5700 or you can reach us by email at environmental.svs@co.polk.mn.us.

For the remainder of 2017 funding will be available on a first come first serve basis.

Also remember that Polk County Planning and Zoning requires building/land use permits for all construction projects throughout the County.

If you are planning any building/land use projects please contact planning and zoning prior to construction to see what setbacks and ordinance requirements may apply.

More information on building/land use regulations can be found on the Polk County Website at www.co.polk.mn.us under the Environmental Services and Planning and Zoning Department pages.

Nearing the end of his life, a man is surrounded by loved ones. As the final moment approaches, he gathers all his strength and whispers, "I must tell you my greatest secret."

His family urges him to go on.

"Before I got married, I had it all," the man explains. "Fast cars, cute girls, and plenty of money. But a good friend warned me, 'Get married and start a family. Otherwise, no one will be there to give you a glass of water to drink when you're on your deathbed.' So I took his advice. I traded the girls for a wife, beer for baby food. I sold my Ferrari and invested in college funds. And now here we are. And you know what?"

"What?"

"I'm not even thirsty!"

Christian

Fellowship at the Fair

The Christian Fellowship Tent that has been a place of relaxing, inspiration and fellowship going on 44 years has again put together a full program of gospel music for the Polk County Fair in Fertile from July 5th – 9th, 2017. The program begins on Wednesday evening July 5th at 7:00 p.m. Programs will continue Thursday and Friday evenings and continue on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings. The Gloryland Gospel Team of Gully, who has for over 43 years been a part of our program, will sing and play, provide all the necessary sound equipment and MC the program. Without their commitment to the ministry it could not go on.

Wednesday, July 5

7:00 p.m. Gloryland Gospel Team

8:00 p.m. Woman's Quartet from Resurrection Free Lutheran, Beltrami

8:30 p.m. Pastor Phil Larson, United in Christ - Vocal

9:00 p.m. Gloryland Gospel Team

Thursday, July 6

6:00 p.m. Gloryland Gospel Team

7:00 p.m. Share Ministries, Terry & Sandy Nelson

8:00 p.m. North Country Gospel, Lengby – Vocal with guitars

9:00 p.m. Gloryland Gospel Team

Friday, July 7

5:00 p.m. Frasier Family, vocal & instrumental

6:00 p.m. Gloryland Gospel Team

7:00 p.m. Lois & Lois, Middle River

8:00 p.m. Share Ministries, Terry & Sandy Nelson

9:00 p.m. Gloryland Gospel Team

Saturday, July 8

2:00 p.m. Gloryland Gospel Team

3:00 p.m. Kent Dudley

4:00 p.m. MaryAnn Raftervold, Touch a Heart Ministry

5:00 p.m. Share Ministries, Terry & Sandy Nelson

6:00 p.m. Gloryland Gospel Team

7:00 p.m. Clyde Family Singers

8:00 p.m. The Rusty Chords, Southern Gospel Style

Dr. Noah, Marilyn Lee & Cecil Malme

9:00 p.m. Gloryland Gospel Team

Sunday, July 9

2:00 p.m. Gloryland Gospel Team

3:00 p.m. Kazmierczak Kids-Mentor

3:30 p.m. Hope Evangelical Children - Fertile

4:00 p.m. Overtones

5:00 p.m. Share Ministries, Terry & Sandy Nelson

JV Girls Basketball Coach:

The Win-E-Mac School District is currently seeking a JV Girls Basketball Coach. Please send letter of application or contact Aaron Cook:

Aaron Cook, Activities Director Win-E-Mac School District #2609 23130 345th St. SE Erskine, MN 56535 Phone: 218.563.2900 E-mail: acook@win-e-mac.k12.mn.us

This position will stay open until filled. M14-15C

6:00 p.m. Gloryland Gospel Team

7:00 p.m. Hearts in Song, Dr. Noah & Rhonda Rothenberger

8:00 p.m. Phil Jore Family, vocal & instrumental

9:00 p.m. Gloryland Gospel Team

Rural Narrative...

Continued from page 1 ...

multiple job holding, job sharing and self-employment than ever.

To maintain population and rural success, growing and maintaining residents revolves around more than just job and work-related benefits.

How many people do we need to run our small towns? How many leaders are available? These simple questions are seldom asked. There is an expectation that public offices and community organizations will be able to find enough people to serve year after year, but these leadership demands of the community can be compared to the number of residents available to serve the community. This "social organizational infrastructure" is critical in rural communities and must be maintained. On one hand a large number of community organizations can reflect a healthy diversity of social options for residents.

On the other hand, it is a challenge for organizations that depend on the talent, time, volunteers, and financial resources of residents to survive. The changing incolcement and impact affects our communities. Focusing on what needs to be fixed to keep our small towns and rural communities growing is where to focus. Communities and small towns need to quit looking at fixing things that shouldn't or can't be fixed. Winchester stated that there is no evidence that "losing anything is going to make a small town die."

Tips for grilling the perfect burger

Hamburgers are a staple at backyard barbecues. Though burgers are a relatively simple food, mastering the technique to grill burgers is no small feat, as there is more to great grilled burgers than simply firing up the grill and dropping down a patty.

Choose fresh ground beef that has a decent percentage of fat. The fat-to-lean meat ratio should be around 20 percent fat to 80 percent meat. Spend a little more to get freshly ground meat that has not been previously frozen.

Don't overwork the burgers with a lot of handling. This will warm up the fat in the burger, which causes it to emulsify and could make the meat rubbery.

Reconsider adding a lot of herbs, spices or add-ins to the burgers, as such items can detract from the flavor of the meat. Extra herbs and spices also may require extra mixing, which can lead overhanding.

Push a dimple into the top of the burger, which will help prevent the burger from expanding upward and out while cooking and rounding out in the process. The dimple will keep the top of the burger flat, which facilitates easy topping.

Make sure the grill is hot. Burgers do well with high heat and will cook relatively quickly.

Resist the urge to push down on the patty with your spatula. This will cause the juices to spill out and may result in a dry, tough burger.

Let burgers rest before serving. This lets the juices redistribute throughout and makes for a moist and tasty first bite.

How to grill for a crowd

Cooking over an open fire is a staple of warm-weather entertaining.

Tossing some steaks or vegetables on the grill for a family dinner is usually an easy undertaking. But even the craftiest grill cooks may need to apply some tricks of the trade when grilling food for the masses.

Cook a large piece of meat.



Denise Stark presented Win-E-Mac Superintendent Randy Bruer with a check for \$500 from the Patriot Promoters for the theater department.

Fourth of July barbecue essentials

The 4th of July is fast approaching and revelers across the nation are preparing to toast their independence with family and friends. For many Americans, backyard barbecues are synonymous with the Fourth of July, a day that, in the United States of America, commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776.

Precious few Americans can say they have not been present at a 4th of July barbecue or witnessed a fireworks display honoring America's official declaration of independence from Great Britain.

Hosting a July 4th barbecue for the first time may have some hosts anxious about throwing a summer soirée to remember, but fun is sure to be had if hosts remember to include the following backyard barbecue essentials this Independence Day.

Food

No Fourth of July barbecue is complete without food, so hosts should be sure to stock up on popular barbecue fare like hot dogs and hamburgers. Though such foods likely won't be mistaken for gourmet fare anytime soon, Fourth of July revelers often embrace the tradition of grilling up some hot dogs and hamburgers even if they tend to avoid such foods throughout the rest of the year. Hosts should not feel pressured to provide gourmet fare on July 4th, but it is a thoughtful gesture to ask guests in advance if they have any food allergies or need to avoid certain foods for other reasons.

Beverages

It goes without saying that guests will need refreshing beverages at parties held in early July, but be sure to stock

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Rather than individual burgers or chicken wings, think about barbecuing an entire pig or a roast. In many cases, the meat can be set up on the barbecue early in the morning. By the time the evening arrives, the meat should be tender and cooked through. With just occasional checking, turning and basting, this may be the most low-maintenance option when feeding a crowd.

Rent or borrow a second grill. Unless you are working with industrial-sized or commercial equipment, a standard grill may not have enough surface area to cook a lot of food at once. Find a friend or family member who is willing to lend you his or her grill. Having twice the room means you can cook twice the amount of food. You also may be able to rent a larger grill for an event.

Precook the food. You can put bratwurst, hot dogs or burgers on the grill to partially cook them before the party, then store them in aluminum pans. When guests arrive, simply reheat the food to the right temperature and they'll be hot and ready in no time.

Make steak sandwiches. Make the food go further with less work by cooking ribeye steaks or flank steaks on the grill. Slice up the meat and serve it over garlic bread with melted jack or mozzarella cheese. The result will be savory, and such sandwiches don't take much time to create.

Opt for pulled pork. Start the basics of pulled pork in a slow cooker so that the meat cooks for several hours under low heat. If you have a smoker, you can opt to use that, but smokers may take longer to cook the meat and require more maintenance. If you opt for the slow cooker, transfer the meat to an aluminum pan when it is nearly done and put it on the grill to impart that smoky flavor. Add more seasonings to the meat and keep it warm until guests are ready to dine.

Go with hot dogs. Hot dogs are usually precooked and will

up on a variety of beverages so guests are not forced to consume drinks they don't want. Be sure to have plenty of water available to guests, and provide sodas, iced tea and lemonade as well. Offer alcoholic beverages to adult guests, but don't go overboard stocking up on alcohol, as that might encourage guests to overindulge.

Games

Backyard barbecues are most fun when guests are entertained, so plan to have some games available for guests of all ages. Encourage guests to bring a change of clothes or swimsuits if games will involve water or something that might soil their clothing. If you have a pool, purchase some pool games so swimmers can do more than just wade in the water or take a few laps. Plan a Wiffle® ball game for kids and dig some horseshoe pits or buy a ring toss set so adults can engage in some friendly competition as well.

Safety

Though no one wants to think of a 4th of July celebration taking a turn for the worst, hosts must prepare for emergencies. Restock the first-aid kit if necessary and keep a constant eye on guests, especially children, to ensure everyone is having a safe and happy time. Program a list of local taxi companies into your phone so you can easily call for transportation should any guests have too much to drink during the festivities. Hosts should abstain from alcohol so they can serve as designated driver should the need arise at the end of the night.

Backyard barbecues are a staple of July 4th, and there's no reason your summer soirée can't be one to remember for years to come.

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heat up quickly on the grill. Their small size means they don't take up much space, and several can fit on the grill at one time.

Grilling for a crowd is easier when you plan with foods that are precooked or heat up quickly. This way you can enjoy more time with your guests.

How to clean your grill during summer party season

Grilling season has arrived, and amateur grillmasters everywhere are gearing up for another summer of backyard barbecues and family dinners outside under the summer sun. But once you fire up that grill and cook your first hot dog of the season, your work is not quite done. Cleaning the grill after you have eaten makes it easier to prolong the life of your grill and ensure the foods you eat are safe to consume.

Turn the grill off. Unless you own a charcoal grill, chances are your grill has dials that govern how hot the grill gets when cooking. Make sure these dials are turned to the off position before you start cleaning.

Use the residual heat to make cleaning easier. The sooner you start cleaning the grill after you cook, the easier it might be to make the cooking surfaces sparkle.

Use a wire brush to clean the cooking grates. Wire brushes are ideal for cleaning cooking grates. Such brushes can quickly remove grease and food particles, saving grill owners the trouble of scrubbing away with traditional sponges.

Remove food that fell into the well. Food inevitably falls into the well of a grill no matter how skilled a grillmaster might be.

Clean the remaining areas of the grill. Marinade, sauce or condiments may find their way onto areas of your grill, and if left unattended, such substances can make a grill very dirty over time.

Keep your grill looking new through the summer.