

McINTOSH

Since 1888

Times

\$1.00

Hub of the Thirteen Townships

McIntosh, Minnesota



A choir of 4th through 6th graders sang a variety of Christmas songs that spanned the decades during the Win-E-Mac Elementary production of Holly Jolly Jukebox on Monday, December 18th at the WEM Arts and Event Center.

Sew for QOV this Saturday

It is almost here! Saturday January 13th at McIntosh Community Center starting at 9:00 am is where we hope to see many of you helping to create a quilt top for our war veterans. We hope to present 16 quilts this year but we need your help to make this happen. Any amount of time will be welcome. Come at 9 or anytime you can make it and we will be happy to put you to work, be it sewing or ironing. Bring along a friend and together you can create a quilt top.

For those planning to sew please bring your machine, thread and extension cords and anything else you can to help you get your top done.

We will also be having a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share. Plates, napkins and utensils will be provided as



will coffee. Any questions please call Connie Strom at 563-2666 or 218-779-5425.

**Pictured right:** The first kids who went to search for Christmas decorations found the Holly Jolly Jukebox during the 4th through 6th grade Win-E-Mac Christmas play held at the school on Monday December 18th.



Research finds nearly 8-fold price differences at MN hospitals

Health department and employers partner to increase price transparency

Employers and the Minnesota Department of Health have joined together to add some price transparency to the hidden world of health care costs.

This report of actual prices paid for a set of four different common procedures at Minnesota hospitals found huge swings in prices depending on which hospital a patient selected.

For example, while the average price paid for a knee replacement in Minnesota was \$23,997, the range in prices paid to Minnesota hospitals between July 2014 and June 2015 was as low as \$6,186 to as high as \$46,974. This represents a nearly eight-fold difference between the lowest and highest-price hospitals. Likewise, the average price for a cesarean section delivery was \$10,234, with the low price of \$4,693 and the high average price of \$22,831, a nearly five-fold difference.

"This is eye opening information for the purchasers of health care," said Carolyn Pare, president and CEO of the Minnesota Health Action Group, a coalition of public and private purchasers dedicated to improving health care outcomes and the overall value of health care services.

"Employers have long suspected that there is a great deal of variation in both the quality and the cost of health care, but to be able to see the actual numbers provides them an opportunity to make better purchasing decisions. Employers can also help employees and their family members

identify and access more affordable care."

The new report, based on commercial payer data only, is the result of employers teaming up with the Minnesota Department of Health to identify new ways to use the Minnesota All-Payer Claims Database (MN APCD) to better understand what's happening in health care across the state. Information from the report can help employers ask questions about choosing high-value networks that are characterized by high quality care and competitive prices. Representatives from about twenty employers helped design several ideas for analyses and reports, and placed the highest priority on reports about prices paid for common inpatient treatments.

"We were really pleased to demonstrate the value of greater price transparency for employers on this project," said Acting Commissioner of Health Dan Pollock. "We hope this is just the start of future collaborations and ongoing support for using the Minnesota All-Payer Claims Database to help both consumers and employers make informed decisions about health care spending."

"Transparency in markets is key to making sure they work effectively," added Stefan Gildemeister, the state health economist and co-convenor of this initiative.

"By some estimates, pricing failures from the lack of transparent information on health care costs contribute more than 14 percent to waste or inefficiency in today's health care spending. We hope this

and other upcoming analyses on price variation in Minnesota can provide value to individuals and employers, and contribute to discussions about sustainability in health care spending growth."

This report assesses the actual prices paid for hospital facility fees in Minnesota. The prices are gleaned from the MN APCD, which consists of data stripped of personal identifiers, from more than 1.1 billion health care claims coming from private and public payers covering more than 4.3 million people in Minnesota.

More than 100 organizations and programs supply de-identified data to the MN APCD, making it the most robust dataset in Minnesota for assessing costs of, and use of, health care. Anything in the data that might identify patients is removed or encrypted before it is submitted to the MN APCD. The data come from commercial health plans, self-insured employers through their third party administrators, Medicaid and Medicare.

The prices in the new report reflect the fees paid to hospitals for certain types of inpatient treatment. The actual amounts paid by patients and employers are higher, when taking into account fees paid for physician services, prescription drugs, and rehabilitation treatments. The report does not include the names of hospitals, as Minnesota law prevents the use of the database to identify individual hospitals or providers.

Hospitals... Continued on page 2...



Santa and the Holly Jolly Jukebox, which was hidden away at the school and forgotten, are good friends and remember the eras fondly together.



Cameron Svalen was one of the kids who ended up in the school "attic" looking for Christmas decorations and running into the Holly Jolly Jukebox.



The Win-E-Mac Junior High Winter Choir and Band Concerts took place on Monday, December 11, 2017 at the Art and Event Center.



Community Calendar

- Wed. Jan. 10:** 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. Jan. 11:** McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm; McIntosh City Council @ Community Center 5:30pm
- Fri. Jan. 12:** McIntosh Library 12pm to 5pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm
- Mon. Jan. 15:** 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. Jan. 16:** McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm
- Wed. Jan. 17:** School Resumes at Win-E-Mac; 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. Jan. 18:** McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm
- Fri. Jan. 19:** McIntosh Library 12pm to 5pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm
- Mon. Jan. 22:** 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. Jan. 23:** McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; McIntosh Community Club @ Community Center 7:00 pm



## Help available to those struggling to pay heating bills during colder temps

With frigid temperatures expected for much of next week, the Minnesota Department of Commerce encourages eligible Minnesotans to get help paying their heating bills, stay safe through the state's Energy Assistance Program.

The winter weather may be slow in arriving this year, but we know there will be plenty of cold days ahead that can pose a serious challenge for Minnesotans who struggle to pay their heating bills," said Commerce Commissioner Jessica Looman. "Heating your home is a necessity in Minnesota, and energy assistance is essential for vulnerable Minnesotans, especially low income families with young children, people with disabilities, veterans and seniors."

Households that earn less than 50 percent of the state's median annual income (\$48,077 for a family of four) are eligible for the Energy Assistance Program.

Energy assistance funds help low-income homeowners and renters pay for heating bills through grant money paid directly to utility companies and heating fuel vendors on behalf of eligible households.

## Rydell to hold meeting on the future of hunting on the refuge

*Rydell National Wildlife Refuge Public Scoping Meeting on the Future of Hunting on the Refuge.*

On Monday, January 22nd, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff from Rydell National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in Erskine, MN will host a public scoping meeting to seek public input on the future of hunting on the Refuge. Rydell NWR was established in 1992 and is 2,070 acres in size.

The initial Refuge Hunt Plan opened the majority of the Refuge to hunting deer under special, highly regulated conditions. This included a permit-based, antlerless only opportunity during Minnesota's regular gun deer season, as well as a two-day mentored youth hunt and a three-day accessible deer hunt. The antlerless only hunt was conducted as a means of reducing the Refuge's previously high deer population. In recent years, the only hunting allowed on Rydell NWR has been the mentored youth and accessible deer hunts. The Refuge was never opened to migratory birds (e.g., duck, goose, woodcock) or up-

The funding also helps some homeowners repair or replace malfunctioning heat systems.

In October, the Energy Assistance Program received over \$102 million in federal funds, or about 90 percent of the total funds expected for the program this year. The program served over 126,000 Minnesota households last year, with an average grant of about \$520.

The Minnesota Commerce Department administers the Energy Assistance Program in partnership with 30 local service providers throughout the state. The program is part of the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

**How to apply**  
Applicants have until May 31, 2018, to apply. However, energy assistance funding is limited and administered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Households apply through the local service provider in their area. To find your local service provider, call the Commerce Department toll-free at 800-657-3710 or visit the Energy Assistance Program section at the department's website.

land game (e.g., grouse, squirrel, rabbit) hunting.

Hunting is a priority public use on National Wildlife Refuge System lands and the possibility exists to expand hunting opportunities on Rydell NWR. This might include changes to the framework of deer hunting on the Refuge, or opening parts of the Refuge to hunting migratory birds and/or upland game.

We are seeking the public's input on any changes they would like to see in future hunting opportunities within Rydell NWR. Ideas and comments received during the January 22nd public mtg. will be taken into consideration when completing the revised Hunt Plan and associated Environmental Assessment.

The "open house" style public meeting will be held in the Rydell NWR Visitor Center, from 4:30 - 7:30pm on Monday, January 22nd. For more information on the meeting or if you have questions, contact Gregg Knutsen, Refuge Manager, at 218-687-2229 x16 or gregg\_knutsen@fws.gov.

## Take a Kid Ice Fishing Weekend starts this Saturday

*Minnesotans age 16 or older fish free with kids Jan. 13-15.*

During the weekend, Minnesota residents age 16 or older can fish or dark-house spear without an angling or spearing license if they take a child younger than 16 fishing or spearing.

"Ice fishing is a fun way to get outdoors in the winter," said Jeff Ledermann, angler recruitment and retention supervisor with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

"This weekend is a way to encourage anglers to get out and take a kid fishing."

Before heading out, anglers or spearers should check ice conditions locally. Visit <http://bit.ly/TakeaKidIceFishingWeekend> for ice thickness guidelines and more information about taking kids fishing.

**The Right Clothing Keeps Anglers Warm and Dry**

**•Stocking Cap:** May be the most important piece of winter clothing. Wear a knitted or fleece hat or cap that covers ears. In addition, a hood helps block the wind.

**•Scarf or Neck Gaiter:** A scarf, muffler, or neck gaiter

can be pulled over the face if it gets windy.

**•Mittens:** Mittens trap more heat than gloves. Mittens should be thick and warm. Thin gloves worn under mittens are good when mittens need to be taken off for tying knots or taking fish off of hooks. Connecting mittens to jacket cuffs may be a good idea for some.

**•Warming Layers:** Layers of clothing trap body heat between them. Most long underwear (layer next to the skin) made of polypropylene (or silk) wicks moisture away from the skin. The next layers are for insulation. Ideal insulation layer materials retain some insulating qualities, even when wet (such as a wool sweater or fleece jacket). If it's really cold, wear more than one insulating layer. The top layer blocks the wind and may also be waterproof.

**•Socks:** Wear thick wool socks. Some people like to wear two pairs of socks. Be sure to avoid cotton socks.

**•Boots:** Boots should be insulated and rubber-soled. Make sure boots aren't too tight -- toes should have room to wiggle.

**Basic Safety Gear for**

There will be a  
**Bridal Shower**  
in honor of  
**Julie Dyrda**  
*bride to be of*  
**Zachary Boehrsen**  
on **Sat., Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>**  
at 2:00pm at **Mt. Carmel**  
**Free Lutheran Church**  
in McIntosh, MN.  
*Everyone is welcome.*  
The couple is registered at  
Nords Pharmacy, Target  
and Amazon.com.  
M42-43C

### Hospitals... Continued from page 1

In addition to costs, whether the share they are responsible for or the total amount, patients should consider other types of information, such as performance quality, to make informed health care decisions.

The Minnesota Department of Health plans to publish prices for other common hospital procedures, such as heart procedures or back surgery, in 2018. It is part of a broad commitment to expanding the value realized from the MN APCD. For this, the agency is seeking ideas from the public, including employers, for new reports or analyses regarding how to best use the database in the next few years. See MN APCD Request for Information (RFI).

Past reports from the MN APCD include analyses of cost and utilization trends, pharmaceutical spending and use, potentially preventable health care events, chronic conditions, and more. See Publications Using the MN APCD.

This project was funded in part through a \$45 million State Innovation Model (SIM) cooperative agreement, awarded to MDH and the Minnesota Department of Human Services in 2013 by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to help implement the Minnesota Accountable Health Model.

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
MCINTOSH  
**Thursday, January 11, 2018, 5:30 PM**  
— COMMUNITY CENTER —  
**CALL TO ORDER:**  
**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**  
**ROLL CALL:**  
**DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:**  
AGENDA ADDITIONS:  
APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
a. DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2017 REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
b. TRUTH IN TAXATION – DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2017  
**PUBLIC CONCERNS:**  
**OLD BUSINESS:**  
**NEW BUSINESS:**  
a. LIST OF COMMISSIONERS  
b. 2018 COUNCIL MEETING DATES  
c. SET DATE FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT MEETING  
d. RESOLUTION – POLAR BEACH SNOWMOBILE CLUB  
e. MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT – HOFFMAN, PHILIPP & KNUTSON  
**APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS:**  
**COUNCIL & STAFF REPORTS:**  
**MEDIA UPDATE:**  
**NOTICES & CORRESPONDENCE:**  
**ADJOURNMENT:**  
R42C

### Your Ice Fishing Trip

•Hot chocolate & snacks: Keep anglers happy.

•Band-aids: Patch hook pricks or minor cuts.

•Hand warmers: Warm hands and feet.

•Personal flotation device on rope (seat cushion-type): To rescue someone if they fall in the water.

•Sled with attached rope: Carry gear and/or a person, if necessary.

•Wool blanket or sleeping bag: Warm anyone who gets wet or cold.

•Cell phone: Make calls for help.

•Ice rescue claws: One set per person for self-rescue in case of falling through the ice. You can even make your own.

•Sunglasses & Sunglasses: Sunburn is caused from sunlight not heat, glare from the ice and snow intensifies the sunlight and the potential for sunburn.

### Fishing Equipment

•**Auger:** Without this, you can't drill a hole through the ice. Sharp hand augers work well ... you don't need a power auger unless you're drilling many holes for many anglers.

## How to keep pets safe in winter weather

The arrival of cooler temperatures sparks various changes. Chilly air and precipitation can be dangerous, especially to pets that are unaccustomed to extreme changes in temperature.

Pet owners may be well aware of the hazards of warm weather, including the threat of leaving pets in hot cars.

But cold weather also has its share of risks. Heed these tips to keep pets safe and secure.

• **Schedule a well visit.** The American Veterinary Medical Association suggests scheduling a visit with a veterinarian to check for any medical issues.

Cold weather can aggravate symptoms of certain conditions, such as arthritis. A thorough examination can shed light on potential problems.

• **Keep homes humidified.** Going in and out of the house and moving from cold air to dry indoor heat can affect pets' skin. Itching and flaking may result, causing pets to scratch at such areas.

Maintain humidity in the home for comfort. The ASPCA also says to reduce bathing to help preserve essential oils on the skin.

• **Protect paws outdoors.** Pet paws are sensitive to sand, ice, snow, and chemical ice melts. Massage petroleum jelly or another protectant onto paw pads, or consider the use of pet booties.

• **Keep pets indoors more often.** Pets should not remain outdoors for long stretches of time in frigid temperatures, even if they are accustomed to roaming during other seasons, advises The Humane Society of the United States.

• **Provide options for sleeping.** Come the winter, cats and dogs may need new sleep spaces to avoid drafts and stay warm. Give them other spots they call their own.

• **Consider a sweater or vest.** Some pets are more tolerant to the cold than others. However, some dogs and cats may benefit from a sweater, vest or coat designed for pets to offer a little more insulation.

• **Update identification and contact information.** Snow and ice can mask scent cues that help pets find their way home. Update contact information and make sure pets' collars are on tightly.

• **Keep coolant and antifreeze locked away.** Coolant and antifreeze are lethal to dogs and cats and should be kept out of reach. Clean up any spills from vehicles promptly.

• **Provide fresh food and water.** Pets may burn more calories trying to stay warm. Be sure the animal has a little

extra food and plenty of water to stay sated and hydrated.

Winter weather requires pets owners to make changes so pets can remain happy and safe.

**Do you have a story to share?**  
If you have a story, a story idea or any photos you want to share, please send to:  
**mcintoshtimes@gmail.com**

### Notice to Residents of King Township

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of King Township, that the Annual Election of Town Officers and Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2018, at the McIntosh Community Center.

Filing for township offices opens on January 2, 2018, and continues to January 16, 2018, 5 pm. Offices to be elected are:

\* *Treasurer of a Term of 2 years.*

\* *Supervisor for a Term of 3 years.*

Affidavits of candidacy maybe filled out with the interim clerk. There is a \$2 filing fee.

*David Kiecker*  
*King Township Interim Clerk/Treasurer* M41-42C

### Notice to Residents of Lesser Township

Filing for township offices opens Jan. 3, 2018 and continues until Jan. 16, 2018, 5:00 pm, at clerk's home.

Officers to be elected are:

1 *Supervisor for a 3 year term*

1 *Treasurer for a 2 year term*

Affidavits of Candidacy may be filed with the clerk. There is a \$2.00 filing fee.

*Albert Plante, Clerk* M41-42C

### Community Birthday and Anniversary Calendar

**Thurs. January 11:** Dave Faldet, Delores Schow  
**Fri. January 12:** Julie Schow, Amanda Roue  
**Sat. January 13:** \*Les & Mavis Finseth  
**Sun. January 14:** Jan Galland  
**Tues. Janaury 16:** Connor Johnson

•**Scoop:** A big ladle with holes in it. Use it to scoop a minnow out of the bait bucket and keep your holes clear of ice.

•**Sled:** Almost always a necessity for hauling gear to your spot. Use a stable, wide sled with edges to keep things from falling off.

•**Bucket:** The five-gallon kind. In fact, bring several. They can be used as seats (with or without special "lids" you can find at many sporting good stores) and are a great place to stow your catch.

•**Shelter:** If you've got one, bring it. Kids like to get in out of the cold. If you use any sort of heater inside the shelter, know what you're doing and be careful of carbon monoxide.

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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. Jan. 14: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley  
Sun. Jan. 21: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley  
Sun. Jan. 28: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley  
Sun. Feb. 4: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley  
If you have any questions please call 435-6484.

**CALVARY-IMMANUEL LUTHERAN PARISH**  
**Winger/Bejou Supply Pastor**  
**Gordon Syverson**  
Sun. Jan. 14: 8:30am Worship at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship at Calvary  
Sun. Jan. 21: 8:30am Worship at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship at Calvary

**OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)**  
**McIntosh**  
**Supply Pastor**  
**Gordon Syverson**  
Sun. Jan. 14: 11:15am Worship Service.  
Sun. Jan. 21: 11:15am Worship Service.

**GOSEN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Independent**  
**Gary Johnson, Pastor**  
**www.gosen-church.com**  
**Face Book: Gosen Church**

Wed. Jan. 10: 7:00pm Bible Study at Don and Sharon Ramberg's

Sun. Jan. 14: 9:30am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00am Worship Service

Tues. Jan. 16: 10:00am Sunday worship service telecast on Garden Valley Cable TV--Channel 2; 1:30pm Bible Study at The Country Place

Wed. Jan. 17: 7:00pm Bible Study at Don and 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. Jan. 11: 7:00am Men's Breakfast at Mt. Carmel  
Sun. Jan. 14 : 9:30am Worship at Mt. Carmel 11:00am Worship at Trinity; 10:45am Mt. Carmel Sunday School for all ages at 10:45am; Trinity Sunday School for all ages at 9:45am

Thurs. Jan. 17: 7:00am Men's Breakfast at Mt. Carmel  
Sun. Jan. 21: 9:30am Worship at Mt. Carmel 11:00am Worship at Trinity; 10:45am Mt. Carmel Sunday School for all ages at 10:45am; Trinity Sunday School for all ages at 9:45am

Thurs. Jan. 25: 7:00am Men's Breakfast at Mt. Carmel

**VERNES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC)**  
**McIntosh**  
**Pastor Jill Torgerson**  
Sun. Jan. 14: 9am Worship  
Sun. Jan. 21: 9am Worship

**DOVRE**  
**FREE LUTHERAN**  
**Pastor Don Edlund**

Wed. Jan. 10: 7:00pm Bible Study

Sun. Jan. 14: 10:00am Worship Service;

Wed. Jan. 16: 7:00pm Bible Study

Sun. Jan. 21: 10:00am Worship Service; Sunday School following

Wed. Jan. 24: 7:00pm Bible Study

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**McIntosh**  
**Rev. Bruce Blocker, Pastor**

Sun. Jan. 14: (:00am Divine Worship; 10:00am Fellowship Hour and Council Meeting  
Sun. Jan. 21 : 9:00am Divine Worship Service; Fellowship Hour and Annual Meeting  
Sun. Jan. 28: 9:00am Divine Worship Service; Fellowship Hour

Sun. Feb. 4: 11:00am Divine Worship with Holy Communion; 10:00am Fellowship Hour

Holy Communion 1st Sunday of the Month

## BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL GUIDE

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**Toll free: 866-935-9009**

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**10 years ago...2008: Darlene Strom and Alpha Johnson attended this months Pine to Prairie Woman's Connection brunch meeting held at the McIntosh Community Center.**



On Monday, December 11th, the Win-E-Mac Junior High Choir performed for family and friends during the Winter concert in the Art and Event Center.

### Win-E-Mac Giving Tree was a huge success!



Win-E-Mac School wants to send a huge thank you to our local community members, Churches, and organizations that donated to families in need this holiday season. Over 80 children from the school district were identified and received Christmas gifts this year. The 30 families also received gift certificates to local grocery stores. The response from the families were overwhelming thankfulness, hope, and kindness that was shown toward them. Your thoughtfulness means a lot to these families, thank you. M42C

### WEM ECFE

**Tuesday January 16th:** Cozy in the Winter! Wear your favorite pajamas, bring along a favorite blanket or stuffed animal and cozy up with themed learning stations, songs and stories! Enjoy warm hot chocolate and popcorn! Join us at

the ECFE room at Win-E-Mac School from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

**Win-E-Mac Early Childhood Family Education** Classes are for children 0-6 yrs old and families. Registration is not required unless noted. FREE! For upcoming events follow us on Facebook: WEM Early Childhood Family Education. Contact Shannon Svalen, ECFE Coordinator at ssva-len@win-e-mac.k12.mn.us for more information or questions.

### Adults returning to school

Upon taking inventory of their lives at the start of a new year, some people entertain thoughts of returning to school.

Adults who decide to return to school after a long timeframe are following a popular path. According to the education resource Education Corner, a growing number of career colleges and vocational training schools now offer bachelor's and graduate degree programs geared toward working adults.

People return to school for various reasons, including the chance to learn new skills or further develop their existing skills. Some return to school because they are changing careers, while others may have lost a job or desire a promotion and feel that attaining a higher level of education or new skills can make reaching that goal more likely.

Adults who hope to return to school might be surprised

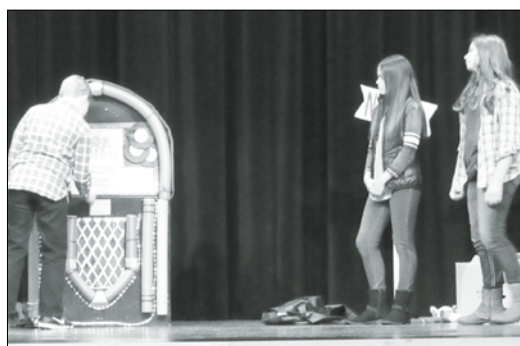
to learn that the educational landscape has changed considerably since they were last in a classroom.

College students are no longer just young men and women who begin pursuing degrees right out of high school. In fact, the number of adults returning to the classroom has increased considerably, often making younger students the exception rather than the rule, says the college financial planner Straighter Line. College students 25 years or older comprise 40 percent of all students enrolled in college.

Adults who are thinking about returning to school are urged to fill out the free applications for student aid to see if they qualify. Grants and scholarships may be available.

Many schools now offer on-line courses that make it easier for working adults to pursue their degrees.

## WEM Elementary presents Holly Jolly Jukebox



### DISPATCHER – Polk County, MN

The Polk County Sheriff's Department in Crookston, MN has a full-time Dispatcher position available. Applicants must possess excellent computer skills, have the ability to speak clearly and concisely, and have the ability to exercise independent judgment, using all information available in critical and emergency situations. High school diploma or GED is required; experience in related field is preferred. Wage range for this position is \$20.98- \$26.67/hour; DOE and qualifications. Full job description and application can be obtained online at <http://www.co.polk.mn.us> 'Job Opportunities' or by contacting the Polk County Administrator's Office at 218-281-5408. Applications for this position will be received until 4:30 p.m. on January 29, 2018. EEO

M42-43C

### WEM School Announcements

**The 2018 After Prom Party** will be hosting a Community Bingo Fundraiser on Sunday, January 28th, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. in the Commons.

There will be \$2000 in prizes including last game blackout for \$500, plus there will be silent auction and baked goods for sale. Tickets are \$20 - if you are interested in purchasing a ticket - please contact one of the juniors.

**Gala for Girls** - Friday, February 2 - 5:30-8:30 p.m. - Crookston Armory - \$40 for each couple (\$10 for each addi-

tional girl). All girls in grades K-6, this is your night! Bring your dad, grandpa, uncle or adult male role model. Forms are in the office.

**The Win-E-Mac Yearbook** staff is taking pre-orders for this year's book. Cost is \$35.00 now and until December 20th and will cost \$40.00 after December 20th. Yearbooks can be purchased during students' noon hours or from Mrs. Winter before or after school. Order forms are available in the office. Be sure to make your order so you are guaranteed a yearbook!



Win-E-Mac Kindergarteners and 1st graders sang songs and performed for their family and friends during the Elementary Holiday program on Monday, December 18th.



Performing for a standing room only crowd on Monday, December 18th at the Win-E-Mac Elementary Holiday Program were the 2nd and 3rd grade classes.