



McINTOSH

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McIntosh, Minnesota

Christmas
(and Santa)
is on it's way

If you live in Winger or McIntosh, Saturday, December 14th, Santa Claus is coming to town!

Winger
Start the day in Winger with the Winger Lion's pancake breakfast beginning at 9:00 am at the Winger Community Center. Santa will come to visit the kids around 10:00 am for a picture and a treat for all.

New this year, the Winger Lions Club will offer Lions KidsSight testing to kids ages 6 months to 12th grade during the event which screens for multiple vision problems which may often go undetected free of charge. A parent or guardian must sign a release form.

McIntosh
Then, come join the fun in McIntosh on Saturday, December 14th for Santa Claus Day sponsored by the McIntosh Community Club. The fun will begin at 9 a.m. where you can grab some goodies, and write a letter to Santa.

To get some fresh air, hay rides will be available, if the weather permits, and songs and stories. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive in McIntosh at 10:00 am to greet the kids as well.

New this year, at 9:30 Julie at the library will have story time, where you can grab a hot chocolate or cider from the beverage station along with signing your family up for a library card!

The McIntosh Bone Builders will again hold the Kid's

Mall at the McIntosh Community Center where kids can pick up gifts for their family for only a quarter each.

There will be help with gift wrapping and choosing the right presents as well. Kids only, please.

There will be some great door prizes supplied by Jered's Grocery and the McIntosh Fire Department.

Make plans to attend and join in the fun and make your final preparations for Santa!

December 20th
On December 20th Christmas in McIntosh will continue with an Open House from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm at Neil's Quality Meats & More with in store specials, product specials, gift boxes and baskets. There will be handmade gifts and Christmas decor as well. Check out the reinvented and reconditioned lamps that are one of a kind.

There will be an Open House at First National Bank and Insurance Agency on Friday, December 20th as well.

King Town Agency will also have an Open House on Friday as well.

Along with business Open House events, The Red Poppy, Howard Soap Company, Minnesota Rust and Joan's Junk Connection will be open for your last minute gift shopping.

Meet your friends and neighbors in McIntosh on Friday, December 20th for more Christmas fun.



Girl bosses hit Main Street McIntosh as the Northwest Minnesota Development Center held a ribbon cutting ceremony for Minnesota Rust, Howard Soap Company, Stordahl Counseling, The Red Poppy and Hair Affair on Friday, December 6th. Pictured (l-r): Katie Schreck, Beauty Room; Ashley Thomas, Beauty Room, owner; Andrea Stordahl, Minnesota Rust, owner; Meghan Palubicki, The Red Poppy, owner; Katherine Howard, Howard Soap Company, owner; Marci Wilson, The Red Poppy; Roxanne Stordahl, Stordahl Counseling, Owner; Katie Roed, Sugar Brook Creative, Owner.



The guys of Northern Spiked Darkhouse Spearing: Trent Oftedahl, Jordan Gunafson and Jered Gunafson. They took a passion for darkhouse spearing and turned it into a successful business.

Darkhouse spearing show draws a great crowd

The first annual Northern Spiked Spear and Decoy show held on November 23rd at the Lean To Tavern in Bejou, exceeded the founders expectations.

"We were hoping for around 200 people to come and check it out. Well, 450 people came through the door between 9am and 5pm," said Northern Spiked's Jordan Gunafson. "There was some people that stopped in just to see what it was all about but most people were shopping!"

"Our biggest fear was, what if our vendors don't have a successful day?" Jordan continued, "That thought was out the window by about 10 am."

As the day went on, the threesome had some of them tell us that they couldn't believe what was happening. Some of them sold 3 to 4 times more product than they usually do at some of the bigger shows.

The MN Darkhouse and Angling Association "Pine to Prairie" chapter, signed up 63 new members and Vern Gent wrapped up his final decoy show after selling them for 16 years.

The trio, Jordan Gunafson,

Jerod Gunafson and Trent Oftedahl are very grateful to have the support that they do in the area and on social media and want to thank everyone who came to our first show and hope to see everyone again next year.



Donna Skeie recently retired from Win-E-Mac School. She worked for 30 years with the School district as a Paraprofessional. Congratulations and Thanks to Donna for years of service to our kids.

Polk County using GIS tech. to improve access to County data

Polk County now shares access to its data and information products online and in real time through its new ArcGIS Hub, powered by Polk County GIS and the Esri Geospatial Cloud. The Hub can be accessed direct at <https://hub-pcg.hub.arcgis.com> or from the Polk County web site at <https://www.co.polk.mn.us> select GIS HUB.

With just a few clicks, citizens can access the county's authoritative data, reducing time spent in phone calls and visits to County departments. The new ArcGIS Hub is designed to share geospatial data, is integrated with the County's critical business systems to provide value through the use of mobile apps, searchable content and a one-stop for information. The technology enables organizations to create simple, focused, and mobile-friendly apps that serve the public. It is providing value to the community by sharing up-to-date information on any device, in any location, and at any time. Christopher Thomas, Esri Director of State and Local Markets, comments,

"Polk County has now raised the bar in delivering county services. The information provided to the citizens provides the much-needed transparency in local government. Not to mention a much more pleasurable experience".

Rick Thompson, GIS Coordinator at Polk County, commented: "We are excited to take advantage of this new technology to work more efficiently and better serve the public. I anticipate that it will become a valuable resource to our community, and I would encourage everyone to visit our Hub and take a look at what it has to offer. We're very pleased with what the technology and working with Pro-West has enabled us to achieve, and we hope it'll be a useful resource for our community"

Polk County worked with local GIS consulting firm, Pro-West & Associates based in Walker, MN to design, develop and implement the new system. Kendis Scharenbroich, GIS...

Continued on page 2 ...



Jack Bailey received his quilt from East Polk County Quilts of Valor on Thursday, December 5th at Pioneer Memorial Care Center with some of his family and area veterans and friends present. Jack fought in the Korean War serving in the United States Air Force from 1948 to 1952. (Editors note: Jack Bailey passed away on December 6, 2019.)



Community
Calendar

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

Thurs. Dec. 12:
Library 4pm to 7pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Fri Dec. 13:
McIntosh Library 12pm to 5pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Sat. Dec. 14:
Santa Claus Visit 9:00am Winger; Santa Claus Day 10:00 am McIntosh

Mon. Dec. 16:
McIntosh Library 10am to 3pm; Children's Story Time at McIntosh Library 10:30am; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Tue Dec. 17:
Library 4pm to 7pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm

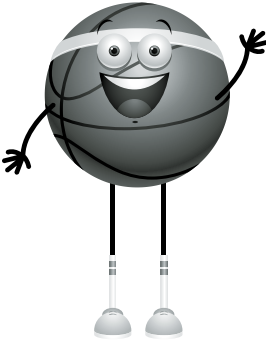
Wed. Dec. 18:
McIntosh Library 12pm to 5pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Thurs. Dec. 19:
Library 4pm to 7pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Fri. Dec. 20:
Christmas in McIntosh event starting at 10:00 am;McIntosh Library 12pm to 5pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Mon. Dec. 23:
McIntosh Library 10am to 3pm; Children's Story Time at McIntosh Library 10:30am; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Tue Dec. 24:
Christmas Eve



Welcome
back to WEM

On December 20 the Win-E-Mac boys basketball team will be honoring the 2000 State Runner-Up team in between the JV and Varsity game that night.

Come on out for the JV game (6:15 tip time), and stick around to reminisce and take in some basketball.

The stories will be flowing, scrapbooks will be shared, old game footage will be watched, and trophies will be displayed.

Let's make this a night to acknowledge the past and show our support for the future.

Polk County breastfeeding initiative recognized at the MCH Conference

Polk County Public Health (PCPH), Crookston Area Chamber and Polk County Breastfeeding Coalition (PCBC) partner-U of M Extension, presented on Thursday, October 3 at the annual Minnesota Community Health Conference sponsored by the Minnesota Department of Health and the State Community Health Services Advisory Committee.

Tammy Conn (PCPH), Terri Heggie, (Crookston Area Chamber) and Megan Hruby (U of M Extension) shared ideas and inspired conference

participants to leave with tools to recreate the "Anytime, Anywhere Initiative" in their own communities.

The learning station included how to welcome breastfeeding families, collaborate with business/community entities, develop and create partnerships to implement an initiative.

Members of the Polk County Breastfeeding Coalition, along with the Polk County Wellness Coalition and the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership, teamed up to create the

Anytime, Anywhere Initiative.

This initiative is to increase awareness for public acceptance of breastfeeding by engaging area businesses, restaurants, and other community entities to sign a pledge supporting breastfeeding mothers throughout their establishment.

Supporting breastfeeding moms includes not asking mothers to leave an area that is open to the public, to cover her baby or stop breastfeeding.



Vern Gast with his wife during the Northern Spiked Decoy Show at the Lean To Tavern in Bejou on Saturday, November 23rd. The show was Vern's last show he would be a seller at.

King Town Mutual Insurance
McIntosh, MN

Open House

Friday, December 20th, 2019
9:00am - 3:00pm

265 Cleveland Ave

Merry Christmas to All!

M38-39C

Senate leadership responds to budget forecast

Today, Minnesota Management and Budget released the November budget forecast.

The forecast indicates that after fully funding state government for two years, there will be a \$1.332 billion surplus available to the legislature. Additionally, the state reserve account, the state's savings account, is at its highest balance ever and fully funded for the first time.

Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka and Senate Finance Chair Julie Rosen released the following statements following the release of the state's November budget forecast:

"State government was fully funded in the last session and we still have money left over. We've funded our priorities, the savings account is full, and it's time to give it back," said Majority Leader Paul Gazelka (R-Nisswa).

"This shows Senate Republican leadership on things like middle-class tax relief and responsible spending continue to benefit the state's bottom line. This surplus needs to be approached with fiscal responsibility and accountability to the taxpayer – this is their money after all.

"Minnesota is just one of 13 states that still taxes social security income," Gazelka continued. "We will look at fully exempting every senior citizen from paying taxes on their social security, providing relief for farmers through section 179, and income rate cuts for families."

We also want to look at one-time options like: tab fee decreases, school safety improvements, cash for roads and bridges, and keep our borrowing through a bonding bill low in light of the extra cash on hand."

"I'm very happy the reserve

GIS..

Continued from page 1 ...

CEO and President of Pro-West and Associates, added: "Polk County is at the forefront of serving the public using GIS technology. The new Hub transforms how public community information is distributed, consumed, and used to support decision-making."

For more information, contact Rick Thompson, Polk County GIS Coordinator, at rthompson@co.polk.mn.us or 218-470-8256.



LARL announces holiday closures

All Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) branches and LINK sites will close at noon on Tuesday, December 24 and will be closed Wednesday, December 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday, with regular hours of operation resuming Thursday, December 26.

The following week all locations will close at or before 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31 and will remain closed Wednesday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day, with regular hours resuming Thursday, January 2.

LARL's branch libraries are located in Ada, Bagley, Barnesville, Breckenridge, Climax, Crookston, Detroit Lakes, Fertile, Fosston, Hawley, Mahanomen, McIntosh and Moorhead. LARL's LINK sites are found in Cormorant, Frazee, Gonvick, Halstad, Hendrum, Lake Park, Rothsay, Twin Valley and Ulen.

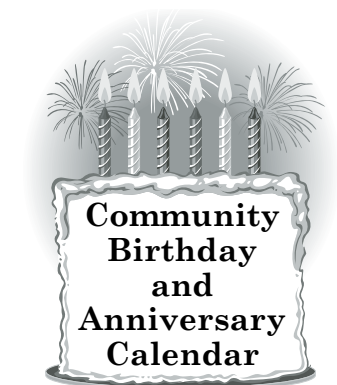
Lake Agassiz Regional Library is a consolidated public library system comprised of 13 branch libraries and nine LINK sites serving the residents of seven counties in northwest Minnesota.

More information is available at www.larl.org.



Hill River Township 2019 One Fund Drive

Results	
Multiple Sclerosis	\$82.00
Salvation Army	\$220.00
MN Medical Found.	\$22.00
Heart Fund.....	\$327.50
Cancer Fund	\$597.50
Red Cross.....	\$222.50
DAC.....	\$180.00
Leukemia Society.....	\$25.00
American Diabetes Assn.	\$218.00
Northland Rescue Miss.....	\$50.00
Samaritan's Purse.....	\$50.00
St. Jude's Hospital.....	\$15.00
MCCL Local Chapter #45.....	\$50.00
Total:.....	\$2,060.00
Solicitors:	
Tim Disrud	
Jeff Matson	
Ron Roed	
Sidney Finseth	
Chairperson:	
Betty Syverson	
Raymond O. Sundrud, Clerk/ Treasurer	
Hill River Township	



Wed. Dec. 11:
Coby Burslie, Mya Haaven
Thurs. Dec. 12:
Valerie Brekke, Heidi (Vesledahl) Haaven, *Patrick & Karen Rolf
Fri. Dec. 13:
Teresa Horgeshimer, *Don & Lois Boehrsen
Sat. Dec. 14:
Clayton Salvhus
Tues. Dec. 17:
Don Ostenson

McINTOSH Times

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ST. MARY'S CHURCH
Fosston
Fr. John Suvakeen, Pastor

Sun. Dec. 15: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

Sun. Dec. 22: 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. Dec. 15: 8:30am Worship at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship at Calvary

Sun. Dec. 22: 8:30am Worship at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship at Calvary

OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
McIntosh
Supply Pastor
Gordon Syverson

Sun. Dec. 15: 11:15am Worship Service.

Sun. Dec. 22: 11:15am Worship Service.

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

Sun. Dec. 15: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00 a.m. Worship Service, Fellowship dinner following the service; Ladies Aid annual meeting

Tues. Dec.17: 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship service telecast on GVT7V--30; 1:30 p.m. Bible Study at Pioneer Memorial Care Center

Wed. Dec. 18: 7:00pm Bible Study at 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
Wed. Dec. 11: 7:30pm Bible Study at Mt. Carmel

Thurs. Dec. 12: 7:00am Men's Breakfast at Mt. Carmel

Sun. Dec. 15: 9:30 Trinity Worship; 9:45 Trinity Sunday School for all ages; 10:45 Mt Carmel Sunday School for all ages; 11:00 Mt. Carmel Worship; There will be a Pot-Luck Dinner honoring Evonne Hartell for her years of service to the church following the service at Mt Carmel

Wed. Dec. 18: 7:30pm Bible Study at Mt. Carmel

VERNES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC)
McIntosh
Pastor Jill Torgerson

Sun. Dec. 15: 9am Worship; fellowship coffee following worship

Sun. Dec. 22: 9am Worship; fellowship coffee following worship

DOVRE
FREE LUTHERAN
Pastor Don Edlunds
Wed. Dec. 11: 7:00pm Bible Study on Ezra and Nehemiah Everyone Welcome

Sun. Dec. 15: 10:00am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School

Wed. Dec. 18: 7:00pm Bible Study on Ezra and Nehemiah. Everyone Welcome

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
McIntosh
Pastor Bruce Blocker,

Sun. Dec. 15: 9:00am Worship; 10:00 Fellowship Hour; 10:15am Sunday School

Sun. Dec. 22: 9:00am Worship; 10:00 Fellowship Hour; 10:15am Sunday School

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH NALC
Erskine, Minnesota
Pr. Scott Baker, interim

Sun. Dec. 15: 10:30am Adult Bible Study; 9:15am Sunday School; 10:30am Worship

Sun. Dec. 22: 10:30am Adult Bible Study; 9:15am Sunday School; 10:30am Worship

RODNES LUTHERAN CHURCH
Erskine
Pastor Joel Smeby

Wed. Dec. 11: 10:00am Bible Study at Crossroads; 7:00pm Bible Study at Rodnes

Sat. Dec/ 14: 8:00am Men's Prayer Group

Sun. Dec. 15: 10:00am Worship

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL GUIDE

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FSA and Extension launch education meetings

Starting this month, the Farm Service Agency and University of Minnesota Extension will begin a series of free education meetings to help crop producers understand decisions regarding the 2018 Farm Bill reauthorization of ARC and PLC programs.

The seminars are offered all across the state, being held in 46 different counties and will be led by Extension educators and FSA; no registration is required.

Details are available here or by going to z.umn.edu/2018FarmBill.

The ARC Program is an income support program that provides payments when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guarantee level. The PLC Program provides income support payments when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its effective reference price.

All farm producers with interest in the cropland must make a farm program election by March 15, 2020. This election will apply to the farm for 2019 and 2020.

Crops grown in Minnesota that are covered by this program include: corn, soybeans, wheat, barley, canola, sunflowers, oats, sorghum, lentils, dry peas, garbanzo beans and flax.

"This program offers different options to help producers mitigate risk, but the choice of which program to enroll in can be difficult due to the complexity of it," said Kevin Klair, University of Minnesota Extension economist and program leader at the Center for Farm Financial Management at the university.

"We encourage producers to attend an educational meeting and to use the national decision aid tools to run scenarios

for their farm."

Producers will need to communicate with landowners on program decisions, Klair added. For instance, yield updates are landowner decisions, while other program decisions are made by the farm operator.

Those interested in learning more but unable to attend an in person meeting are encouraged to view online presentations at farmbill.umn.edu.

More information from Extension on the Farm Bill and events is available at <https://extension.umn.edu/business/abm-events>.

For more information on FSA disaster assistance programs, please contact your local USDA service center or visit farmers.gov/recover.

Crop insurance data needed before FSA WHIP+

Farm Service Agency is receiving inquiries regarding eligibility for Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP+) due to 2019 moisture. WHIP+ provides assistance to eligible producers who suffered crop losses due directly to flooding.

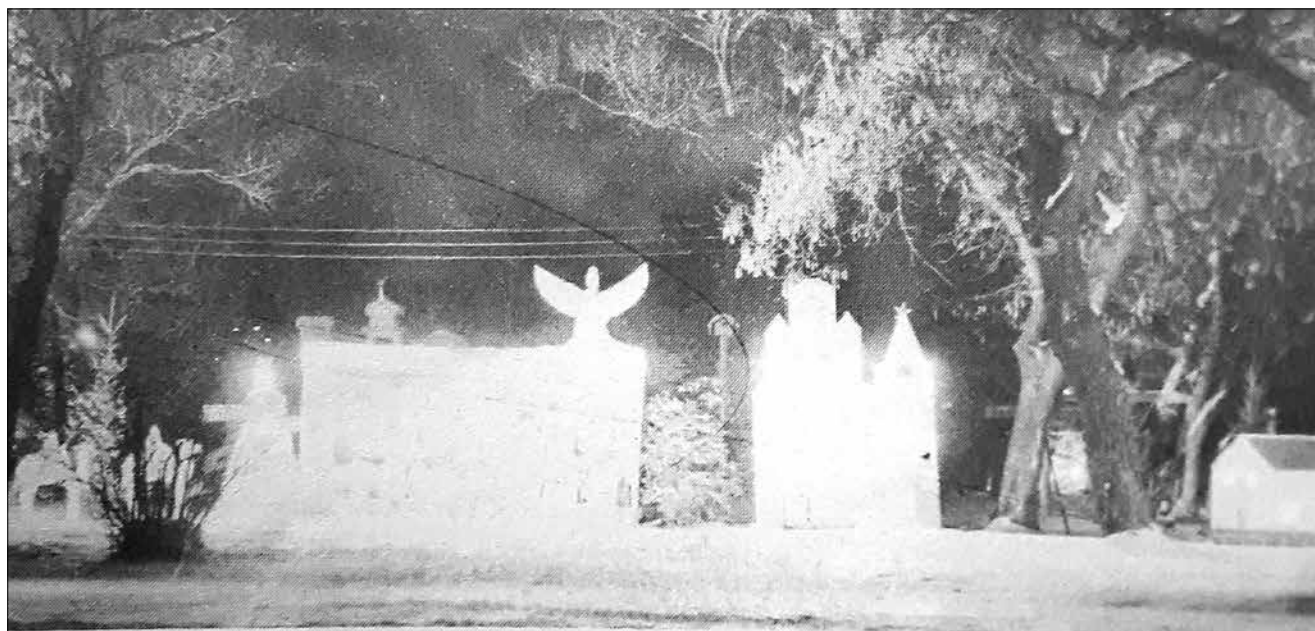
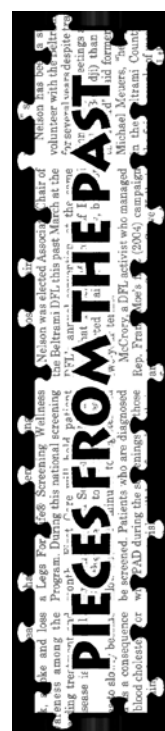
The following definition of flood has been developed by the MN State FSA Committee for purposes of WHIP+. Disaster events directly related to flooding must have occurred to be eligible for WHIP+. Other qualifying disaster events in Minnesota include tornados and blizzards that resulted in a crop loss as determined by RMA.

A flood is a temporary condition of overflowing water submerging land that is usually dry with 2 or more inches of standing water for 2 or more consecutive days. Examples

are: when rivers or streams overflow; unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters tied to a water source such as wetlands, rivers, streams, creeks (including drainage systems); when dams or levees break; rapid snow melt.

Flooding could result in: Crops which become submerged with 2 or more inches of standing water for 2 or more consecutive days; Erosion caused by currents which cause property damage.

Crop damage not caused directly by flooding is not eligible for assistance under WHIP+. For example, excessive rainfall which delayed wheat harvest which then caused a loss of quality, such as low falling numbers, would not be a qualifying cause of loss for WHIP+ since the crop damage was not a direct result of flooding.



50 years ago...1969: Christmas display hobby at the C.A. Ness home and yard is aglow at Christmas time every year with lighted decorations. The items displayed are made by Mr. Ness and he has added new units almost every year.



40 years ago...1979: The Homestart children meet every two weeks with Verna Sather, Home Base teacher, and her assistant, Ruth Davidson, both from Fosston. They are making table decorations before their Christmas Party with their mothers. (l-r) Jacob Haas, Jimmy Langemo, Richie Hoiland, Chris Hammer, Anita Skeie and Kris Rost.



20 years ago...1999: Armond and Irene Sannes sampled several of the goodies at the Holiday Open House hosted by the staff at the First National Bank in McIntosh.



30 years ago...1989: (L-R) Marvin Rolf, Commander of the McIntosh VFW Post #6801, Bernie Smith, president of the McIntosh VFW Auxiliary, Stephanie Voxland, first place winner of the local Voice of Democracy contest and Kevin Abrahamson, coordinator of the contest at Win-E-Mac.



10 years ago...2009: Winger Lions gathered for a picture with Santa Claus after serving breakfast to about 70 people. Back row: Dale Balstad, Steve Massmann, Matthew Massmann, Floyd Balstad, Gary Sonsteli, Orrie Flermoen; Front row: Elmyrna Kaupang, Santa, Gerri Van Den Eide, and Aaron Iverson.

Win-E-Mac recognizes students of the Month in elementary for December



Jon Hill

Jon Hill had been chosen to represent the Kindergarten class for the character trait of gratitude. He is truly grateful for all things, big and small. His smile says it all when he is excited and appreciative about something. He appreciates his friends and his family. Grateful people tend to love to learn. Jon loves to learn and works hard to succeed when something is difficult. He always looks at the bright side of situations and encourages others to do the same. Like Jon, grateful people tend to show more happiness, and one look at Jon's smile proves this!



Hannah Shimp

Hannah Shimp often shows gratitude for the many things in her life, including her peers and teachers. She is a very kind, appreciative girl who is hardly seen without a smile on her face. Hannah is not one to complain and simply goes with the flow. She is a constant reminder to be thankful for the little things and to always express gratitude towards one another. I am very thankful to have a student like this in my classroom.



Lynn Burd

Lynn Burd has been chosen from the 2nd grade for the character trait gratitude. Students in second grade don't often express gratefulness, they just don't think about being

thankful for the things they have, they tend to take it for granted. We have been working hard on gratitude journals to express what we are thankful for. Lynn has shown he has a true understanding of what gratitude means by what he writes, as well as his actions in school. He has a sincere appreciation for what he is given. Lynn always makes sure to say thank you to his classmates when they help him or give him something. He also expresses gratitude to the adults when given help in class. Lynn is a true example of someone who shows gratitude. Congratulations Lynn!



Alex Molina

Alex Molina is a 3rd grader that shows his gratitude in many ways! He is always one of the first in the room to say, "Thank You". It can be a thanks you for a treat or even a math worksheet. He never asks for more or something better. Alex even shows his gratitude when he is given quiet time to just read. Involving others in activities he's doing, listening carefully to what others have to say and sharing kind words about others are some of his best traits. Alex is a person that will offer to help a friend or teacher in any way possible. Thanks for being such a gracious person Alex.



Logan Kutsev

Gratitude: A feeling of thankful appreciation for favors or benefits received.

Logan shows gratitude to others by really listening to what they have to say. He makes someone's day by giving out compliments on little

things like a great shirt, a nice smile, or on a job well done. Logan always thinks of others first. He considers someone else's feelings with every action and word. Patience is not everyone's virtue, but Logan gives his best effort to remain patient with those in his class. Congratulations Logan!



David Cymbaluk

David Cymbaluk demonstrates gratitude on a daily basis. Whether it is thanking the cooks as he goes through the lunch line, showing appreciation for his classmates ideas by listening to them talk and giving constructive feedback, or just using his manners to help create a more pleasant classroom, David knows the importance of having strong character. Thank you David for helping make 5th grade and the entire school, a better place to be.



Joy Neubert

Joy Neubert has been chosen to represent the 6th grade for the character trait of gratitude. A person who shows gratitude is someone who looks at the glass half full, is happy with whatever they receive, and expands that feeling to others. Joy is truly a person who lives life looking at the glass half full. She is happy for anything she receives and does not complain when things do not go her way. She is always looking at the brighter side of every situation. Joy is a person that everybody wants to be around because she is always spreading joy to others with her contagious smile. Keep up the great work Joy!



There were 56 sets of items, including sets of mittens and hats given to the Head Start program from the Mitten Tree located and Neil's Meats & More and sponsored by Neil's and Minnesota Rust. Pictured is Andrea Stordahl from Minnesota Rust, Sheila Olson from Head Start, and Bob Bursheim from Neil's Quality Meats & More.

How to create a durable gingerbread house

Gingerbread cookies and houses are one of the many symbols of the holiday season, alongside Christmas trees and twinkling lights.

In fact, few confections symbolize the holidays more so than gingerbread.

Many a child (or a child at heart) has spent hours carefully trying to create decorative gingerbread houses.

Although gingerbread recipes span various cultures, gingerbread houses originated in 16th century Germany.

The fairy tale "Hansel and Gretel" helped solidify the popularity of gingerbread, which became part of Christmas traditions.

Even though gingerbread houses can be fun to make, there's no denying it can be exacting work - especially for those who strive for perfection.

Prepackaged kits attempt to take some of the guesswork out of the equation, but those who are crafting from scratch can employ these tips as they build their gingerbread houses.

· **Go for form and not flavor.** Few gingerbread houses ever get eaten, so focus on finding a dough that will bake up rock hard as opposed to one that tastes good.

· **Get the right icing texture.** Pastry artist Catherine Beddall says royal icing is the preferred "glue" to adhere gingerbread pieces.

Beddall says icing should be thick like peanut butter and not runny.

· **Mind the dough.** Do not roll out the gingerbread dough too thin or it may become brittle after being cooked.

Always cut out shapes before the gingerbread is baked.

Let the baked pieces sit overnight to cool completely before using them to build.

· **Patience is key.** Allow the icing to dry for at least a couple of hours after adhering each piece and before moving and handling the house, says Beddall.

Work in stages so that individual items can be decorated and allowed to dry. Then the

walls can be put together, followed by the roof pieces.

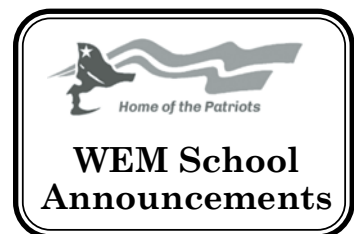
· **Kids likely will need help.** Children may not have the patience or steadiness to handle complete gingerbread construction.

They can decorate the separate pieces of the house while the components are laying flat, which is easier for kids. Adults can do the main assembly later on.

· **Utilize a template.** Free-handing may not be easy. Cut out templates using cardboard or posterboard for various gingerbread pieces.

One of the most important tips is to have fun. Don't take gingerbread house making too seriously as a novice.

Rather, enjoy the experience and the centuries-old tradition



Junior High Band & Choir Fall/Winter concert

The Win-E-Mac Music Department is pleased to announce the Jr. High Band & Choir in concert on Monday, December 16, 2019. The concert will begin at 7:00 and will take place in the Win-E-Mac School Arts & Events Center! The concert will feature the Jr. High Band & Choir performing several selections, including some holiday music! Please come out and enjoy an evening of music!

Senior High Band & Choir Fall/Winter Concert

The Win-E-Mac Music Department is pleased to announce the Sr. High Band and Choir will be presenting their annual Fall/Winter concert on Thursday, December 12, 2019, beginning at 7:00 P.M. The concert will take place in the Win-E-Mac School Arts & Events Center. This concert will feature the Sr. High Band and Sr. High Choir performing a wide variety of music for your listening enjoyment! There will also be a chance for the audience to sing along with the SH Choir on a couple Holiday songs! As traditional, the concert will conclude with the singing of "Peace, Peace" by candlelight. Come and enjoy an evening of musical entertainment!

The Win-E-Mac Alumni Tournament will be held on Saturday, December 21. Registration and formation of teams will take place between noon and 1:00. With games starting at 1:00. No matter if you want to go up and down the court one time, play all day, or just come and watch, we would love to have you. Registration is \$10 with the proceeds going towards the Win-E-Mac boys basketball account.



Kalli Roy and Ensley Haskett helped out the Patriot Promoters during the Friday night event in McIntosh with the Hot Chocolate and Smores bar outside of Minnesota Rust.

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

7 facts about the winter solstice

Nocturnal animals and human night owls may rejoice during the winter solstice. On the winter solstice, people can witness the Earth's longest night and shortest day of the year for their respective hemispheres.

For individuals living in the northern hemisphere, the winter solstice generally occurs between December 20 and 23 each year.

Those in the southern hemisphere experience the winter solstice between June 20 to June 23.

In 2019, the northern hemisphere's winter solstice occurs on December 21. The solstice may come and go unnoticed, but it's an interesting day on

the calendar.

1. **Not only will the winter solstice** occur on a specific date, it also occurs at a specific time when the Earth's semi-axis tilts furthest from the sun.

This corresponds to when the North Pole is aimed away from the sun on the 23.5 degree tilt of the Earth's axis. At this point, the sun also shines directly over the Tropic of Capricorn.

The information and trivia site Mental Floss says the solstice happens at the same moment for everyone on the plane. However, the hour it occurs depends on your time zone.

2. **Areas of the Northern Hemisphere** can have varying lengths of day and night on

the solstice. For example, New York City may have nine hours and 15 minutes of sunlight on the winter solstice. If that upsets New Yorkers, they may be happy to be outside parts of Finland, some of which get less than six hours of sunlight on the solstice.

3. **The word "solstice" is derived** from Latin and means "sun stands still." It was chosen to describe this cosmic phenomenon because the solstice sun seemingly appears in the same position at noontime for several days before and after the winter solstice - at its lowest point in the sky.

4. **It is easy to mistake the solstices** for the equinoxes, which also occur twice a year.

However, the equinoxes occur in fall and spring and mark when the sun is directly above the equator and night and day are of equal length.

5. **Despite the winter solstice** indicating the beginning of the astrological winter, it may not be the coldest time of the season.

Usually those temperatures are reserved for January and February.

6. **The Farmer's Almanac reports** that many cultures marked the arrival of the solstice as a time of death and rebirth. Early man also kept track of the days by observing the sun's position in the sky. In fact, historians believe Stonehenge was created to monitor

the sun's yearly "movement."

7. **Many traditions associated** with Christmas originated during Pagan celebrations for the winter solstice.

For example, Scandinavians would burn a jule (yule) log in the hearth in honor of the god Thor. Thor's job was to bring the sun's warmth back to the people.

While the winter solstice and the lack of sunlight synonymous with it may not be something everyone looks forward to, there is a silver lining.

Following the winter solstice, the hours of sunlight gradually increase by the day, eventually paving the way for the spring equinox.