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McIntosh, Minnesota



The history behind popular New Year's traditions

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are a time to both reflect on the past year and to look forward to the excitement the months ahead will bring. There may be confetti, there are probably noisemakers and some bubbly is likely overflowing from champagne flutes.

New Year's celebrations can be traced back thousands of years to ancient Babylon. And as with many holidays with deep histories, traditions are the hallmark of many New Year's celebrations.

While many people perform these traditions by rote, it can be interesting to delve into the history behind various components of New Year's celebrations.

Champagne

Toasting the new year with a sparkling wine can be traced back to French champagne producers. Champagne, a sparkling wine from a specific region of France, was used in the baptism of the Frankish warrior Clovis. Soon, champagne became a key part of religious events, coronations and soirees, as well as secular rituals that replaced formerly religious rituals, according to the book "When Champagne Became French" by Kolleen Guy. Champagne manufacturers eventually linked the bubbly to festive occasions and New Year's celebrations became another ideal time to pop the cork on a bottle.

Ball drop

While not everyone can venture to New York City's famed

Times Square to watch the ball drop in person, millions tune in around the world to watch it on television. Original celebrations in New York centered around listening to the bells of Trinity Church ring at midnight, but the New Year's Eve celebrations were later moved to the New York Times building in 1904. Fireworks were part of those celebrations, but hot ash and sparks falling on spectators led to a ban on fireworks, and event organizers needed another spectacle to draw crowds, according to PBS. Publisher Adolph Ochs asked his chief electrician Walter Palmer to create something visually appealing. Inspired by the maritime tradition of dropping a time ball at harbor so that sailors could set their own timepieces while at sea, Palmer devised the idea of dropping an illuminated ball on New Year's Eve. This has been tradition since 1907.

Resolutions

New Year's resolutions can be traced to the Mesopotamians. Ancient Babylonians also made spoken resolutions during a 12-day-long New Year Festival. These resolutions were oaths made to the sitting or new king and were considered essential to keeping the kingdom in the gods' favor. The Romans also had a similar tradition of swearing oath to royalty at the start of the year. Many of these traditions merged into modern resolution-making, according to Live Science.



Alexander Kildal's sisters, Brylee and Paisley, were happy to see Santa. However, Alexander was not. Santa and Mrs. Claus made their annual visit to McIntosh for Santa Claus Day on Saturday, December 7th.



Jens Stordahl arrived a little late, but was able to catch Santa & Mrs. Claus during Santa Claus Day in McIntosh.



Each year, Mya Strom is able to visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus about her Christmas wishes.



Hensley and Ryker Chaput with Santa and Mrs. Claus during Santa Claus Day in McIntosh on Saturday, December 7th. Ryker was a bit more excited to spend time with the Claus' than his sister.



Sitting with Mrs. Claus is Logan Kringlen during Santa Claus Day in McIntosh.



The Winger Lions hosted their annual Santa Claus Day with a free pancake breakfast on Saturday, December 14th. There were a lot of kids who had a visit with Santa and got to take home goodie bags. New this year was the Lions Kidsight screening which was a success. Watch for additional screening locations and times. Pictured: (back, l-r) Scott Van Den Einde, Barb Gaalswyk, Gerri Balstad, Brandon Omang, Carsten Zahl, Gary Sonsteli, Elmyrna Kaupang, Floyd Balstad, Bob Vesledahl, Terry Cook, Dale Balstad, Jamie Morvig, Kyle Sonsteli, Laura Perkerwicz; (front) Santa, Jim Tadman, Lil Elf, and Sue Rasmussen. Attended but not pictured: Aaron Iverson.



Harriet Rolf celebrated her 98th birthday at PMCC with her six children a few days before her November 30th birthday. Back row: Paul Rolf, James Rolf, Joel Rolf, Naomi Peterson; Front row: Mary Aadahl, Harriet Rolf, John Rolf.



Winners of the Christmas Coloring Contest of the 8 - 11 age group and the adult age group at Neil's Quality Meats and More were grandmother and granddaughter duo Cora Earls and Barb Faldet.



Athea Bingham of Fosston (age group 4-7) won the Christmas Coloring contest at Neil's Quality Meats & More.

Properly dispose of holiday greens and Christmas trees to protect environment

Invasive pests and diseases can hitchhike into Minnesota.

Insects and diseases can hitchhike on trees and holiday greenery brought into Minnesota from other states. Now, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is asking residents to properly dispose of greenery and trees after the holiday season.

The MDA inspects holiday products for elongate hemlock scale, boxwood blight, Oriental bittersweet, gypsy moth, and many more.

These diseases, pests, and plants can easily hitchhike into and around Minnesota. For instance, boxwood blight and Oriental bittersweet could be found in greenery and centerpieces. Gypsy moth and elongate hemlock scale are two insects that can be moved on Christmas trees.

Elongate hemlock scale

feeding on the underside of a Fraser fir branch.

The biggest concern this season is elongate hemlock scale which has become an issue for Fraser fir producers in the mid-Atlantic states. Elongate hemlock scale are very small insects that secrete a waxy coating for defense and feed on the sap from hemlocks, firs, and spruces.

They have piercing/sucking mouthparts they insert into the host plant for feeding. The scale can cause needles to yellow and fall off. (PHOTO: Elongate hemlock scale feeding on the underside of a Fraser fir branch.)

The MDA has been working with suppliers and sellers in Minnesota to remove trees, wreaths, and other greenery infested with elongate hemlock scale from sale. This scale is not known to occur in the state and there are concerns it could

become a problem for Minnesota Christmas tree producers, nurseries, and local forests.

If you know your Christmas tree and greenery are not from Minnesota or are unsure where it originated, do your part when the holiday season is over to protect our environment from a variety of pests and diseases. Follow this advice:

- Do not toss trees and greenery into backyard woods or your compost pile.

- Use a city or county organized tree and greenery pick-up or drop-off.

- If your city or county does not have an organized pick-up or drop-off, burn the greens. Always check with local ordinances first and follow them.

If you suspect your greenery or tree may be infested with an invasive insect or disease, contact the MDA's Arrest the Pest line at 1-888-545-6684 or arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us.

**Ad deadline:
Noon Friday**

Did You Know?

Minneapolis, Minnesota is the 20th best city to keep a New Year's Resolution. To determine where Americans are most likely to stick to their goals for 2019, WalletHub considered some of the most popular (and most commonly broken) resolutions to rank more than 180 U.S. cities based on their conduciveness to self-improvement.

FARM LAND RENTAL/LEASE

The Polk County Highway Department is soliciting Quotes until 4:30pm, December 31, 2019 for rental/lease of County Property - farmland to be used for pasture and hay stumpage. The property is located in Sections 25 and 36 of Angus Township. The total acreage available is approximately 293.5 acres, more or less. A legal description and information regarding the rental/lease of this property is available at the Polk County Highway Department. If you are interested, please contact Darin Carlstrom at (218) 281-3952 ext. 8254 or by email darin.carlstrom@co.polk.mn.us. You may also visit the Highway Department, Monday-Friday from 8am-4:30pm. Located at 820 Old Highway 75 South, Crookston, MN.

FARM LAND RENTAL/LEASE

The Polk County Highway Department is soliciting Quotes until 4:30pm, December 31, 2019 for rental/lease of County Property - farmland to be used for pasture and hay stumpage. The property is located in Section 22 of Liberty Township. The total acreage available is approximately 150 acres, more or less. A legal description and information regarding the rental/lease of this property is available at the Polk County Highway Department. If you are interested, please call our office: 218-281-3952 or visit our Highway Department office at 820 Old Highway 75 South in Crookston, MN for more information. Office hours: 8-4:30 Monday-Friday.

Gosen Luther League Sunday School Christmas Program

The Gosen Luther League along with the Sunday School will present their Christmas program on Friday evening, December 27th, at 7 o'clock.

Music will be provided by Jennie Shaver, Kendra and Allysa Morinville, and the Troy and Karalynn family. A Nativity skit will be presented. There may be additional music as well.

Refreshments including Christmas goodies and a candy bowl will be served following the program.

Join us as we seek to honor the new-born King Jesus.

Gosen Church is located 4 miles south of the junctions of Highways 2 & 59 or 4 miles north of Winger; then 1/2 mile east on County Road 206.

For information call 268-4242 or 687-3461.

Great last minute gift ideas

Tradition is a hallmark of the holiday season. Religious services, family gatherings and trips to see Santa Claus are just a few of the many traditions.

Many holiday shoppers also adhere to the time-honored tradition of last-minute shopping. These last-minute gift ideas may be just what shoppers need to put smiles on the faces of their loved ones this holiday season.

- **Books:** Books are often overlooked, especially now that so many readers use e-readers. But books can be an ideal gift and especially convenient for last-minute shoppers, who can even gift e-books.

- **Experiences:** A 2017 survey by the global research firm NPD Group found that roughly 40 percent of holiday shoppers planned to give experiences as gifts last year. Experience gifts open up a host of possibilities for last-minute shoppers stuck on what to give those loved ones who seemingly have it all.

- **Food/beverage:** Television channels such as The Food Network have changed the way many people look at food. When gifting the family foodie, last-minute shoppers may not need to look further than the latest hotspot restaurant or specialty grocery store for the perfect gift.

- **Streaming service subscriptions:** Many people are cutting the cord with their cable companies in favor of streaming services such as Netflix and Hulu.

Last-minute holiday shopping is easier than ever, especially for shoppers willing to think outside the box.



Community Birthday and Anniversary Calendar

Wed. Dec. 25: Nicole Vetteson, Jordyn Zahn

Thurs. Dec. 26: *Bill Jr. & Valerie Fritz

Fri. Dec. 27: Heather Hegre, Erin Jore, Haley Smeby, Dustin Carlson

Sat. Dec. 28: Anita Roy

Sun. Dec. 29: Preston Carlson

Mon. Dec. 30: *Rudy & Kathy Fins-eth

Tues. Dec. 31: *Bryce & Andrea Stordahl



ST. MARY'S CHURCH Fosston

Fr. John Suvakeen, Pastor

Sun. Dec. 29: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

Sun. Jan. 5: 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. 29: 8:30am Worship at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship at Calvary

Sun. Jan. 5: 8:30am Worship at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship at Calvary

OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) McIntosh

Supply Pastor

Gordon Syverson

Sun. Dec. 29: 11:15am Worship Service.

Sun. Jan. 5: 11:15am Worship Service.

GOSEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Independent

Gary Johnson, Pastor
www.gosen-church.com
Face Book: Gosen Church

Tues. Dec. 24: 10:00am Sunday worship service telecast on GVTv--30; 1:30pm No Bible Study at The Pioneer Memorial Care Center

Wed. Dec.25: 6:30pm No Bible Study at Sharon Ramberg's

Fri. Dec. 27: 7:00pm. Sunday School/Luther League Christmas program (see article elsewhere in the paper)

Sun., Dec. 229 9:30am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00am Worship Service

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 1/2 mile east on County Road 206.

MCINTOSH AFLC

McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:

Pastor Karl Anderson

Thurs. Dec. 26: 7:00am Men's Breakfast at Mt. Carmel

Sun. Dec. 29: 9:30 Mt. Carmel Worship; 9:45 Trinity Sunday School for all ages; 10:45 Mt. Carmel Sunday School for all ages; 11:00 Trinity Worship;

Thurs. Jan. 2: 7:00am Men's Breakfast at Mt. Carmel

VERNES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC) McIntosh

Pastor Jill Torgerson

Sun. Dec. 29: 9am Worship; fellowship coffee following worship

Sun. Jan. 5: 9am Worship; fellowship coffee following worship

DOVRE

FREE LUTHERAN

Pastor Don Edlunds

Wed. Dec. 29: 7:00pm Bible Study on Ezra and Nehemiah Everyone Welcome

Sun. Jan. 5: 10:00am Worship Service and Children's Sunday School

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH McIntosh

Pastor Bruce Blocker,

Sun. Dec. 29: 9:00am Worship; 10:00 Fellowship Hour; 10:15am Sunday School

Sun. Jan. 5: 9:00am Worship; 10:00 Fellowship Hour; 10:15am Sunday School

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH NALC

Erskine, Minnesota

Pr. Scott Baker, interim

Sun. Dec. 29: 10:30am Adult Bible Study; 9:15am Sunday School; 10:30am Worship

Sun. Jan. 5: 10:30am Adult Bible Study; 9:15am Sunday School; 10:30am Worship

RODNES LUTHERAN CHURCH Erskine

Pastor Joel Smeby

Sat. Dec. 28: 8:00am Men's Prayer Group

Sun. Dec. 29: 10:00am Worship

Sat. Jan. 4: 8:00am Men's Prayer Group

Sun. Jan. 5: 10:00am Worship

Wed. Jan. 8: 10:00am Bible Study at Crossroads; 7:00pm Bible Study at Rodnes



Our New Year's Wish For You

We'd like to thank everyone for banking with us this past year. As your local Independent Bank, we look forward to serving you in the coming years.

We wish you all the warmth and blessings of the holiday season. May you have a New Year filled with joy, happiness, and prosperity

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www.fnbmcintosh.com

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Polk County snow & ice control policy reminder

The Polk County Highway Department would like to remind Polk County residents of their policies for snow and ice removal this winter.

Snow and Ice Control Policy

The removal of snow and ice from the county's roadways is one of the most important jobs confronting the County Highway Maintenance Department during the winter months. The safety and comfort of the public shall at all times be the primary consideration of all county maintenance personnel. Snow and ice removal operations must be conducted in such a manner so as to provide the safest, most economical means of opening the county's highway system within a reasonable amount of time after each winter storm event.

The following Policy has been established to provide guidelines for the public and for plow operators to follow in order to ensure consistent practices for snow and ice removal during winter storm events.

Polk County does not have a bare road policy and does not assure a completely bare road. Entire sections of roadway are not usually salted. Users of the road system are reminded to exercise caution and drive with care. The legal speed limit may not be possible at all times.

Dispatching of Snow Plows

The decision to plow and/or sand will be made by the Highway Engineer and/or Maintenance Supervisor, based on the following guidelines:

1. The County will not dispatch plows until after the snowfall and/or wind has stopped, EXCEPT: (a) in an emergency or other special circumstances; or (b) when conditions allow reasonable accomplishments to be made.

2. The County will perform snow removal on bituminous surfaced roads when we receive appreciable accumulations, generally 1 to 2 inches. 1" of wet heavy snow or 2" light snow will be used as a general rule of thumb.

3. The County will perform snow removal on gravel roads when accumulations exceed four (4) inches. Gravel roads will not be plowed in early season until snow pack has been formed.

4. The County will perform ice control measures when icy conditions seriously affect travel.

Hours of Operation

The County is staffed for one shift of snow and ice removal. In a snow event, the necessary County personnel and equipment will be mobilized by the Maintenance Supervisor. Any deviation from the start time must be approved by the Highway Director and/or Maintenance Supervisor.

The normal weekday early start time during a snow event is between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Weekends and holidays will receive a reduced level of service, due to lower traffic volumes and the limited resources available.

Operator duty shifts are generally limited to a maximum of 12 hours per day for safety reasons; therefore most routes will not have coverage between 5:00 p.m. and 5:00

a.m. the next morning.

Operations will be halted when: (a) service levels are reached; (b) coverage time has elapsed; (c) conditions are too hazardous; or (d) reasonable accomplishments cannot be made.

Operations

Generally, the following three phases will be used in snow removal operations:

1. Make the roads passable: Clean one lane in each direction.

2. Widen the lanes to edge of shoulders and apply abrasive/chemical mixture: The County will perform sanding operations at problem areas, including: curves, hills, intersections, and bridges. The County does not assure a completely bare road and will not typically sand entire sections of highways.

A blend of 8-10% salt to sand is generally used in sanding operations; this is modified as the temperature and/or conditions warrant. Salt use will be limited at temperatures below +20 degrees; below +20 degrees salt becomes ineffective.

Gravel roads shall not be plowed to a bare surface or sanded unless directed by the Highway Director or Maintenance Supervisor.

3. Clean up: Remove ice and slush off roadway after salt and sun have been allowed to work.

Depending upon the situation, more than one phase may be accomplished at one time.

Plowing Priorities

It is the goal of the Highway Department to serve the majority of the public in the quickest way possible. Roads with higher traffic volumes will typically receive higher priority. The following are the priorities plow operators will strive to adhere to:

1. County bituminous surfaced roads, starting with high collection areas close to town and working out towards rural areas thereafter.

2. County gravel surfaced roads.

3. Township roads (unorganized town roads and those done on a contract basis)

Personal Property

Mailboxes, fences and other items damaged during snow and ice removal are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Only those items that were damaged by actual contact with County equipment will be repaired at the County's expense. The Highway Department does not provide special mailbox installations or decorative designs. Damaged supports will be replaced with the Department's swing-away type support. Any mailbox that is repaired or replaced by the Highway Department does not imply a change of ownership.

The County is not liable for damages to fences, vehicles, and/or other objects placed on County right of way.

Residential Plowing

County residents are reminded that it is unlawful under Minnesota Statutes 160.2715 to plow snow from driveways onto or across County roads. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass or cause drifting, creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Accidents and damages caused by snow piles placed in the roadway may result in liability

to the property owner.

Stranded Motorists

Plow operators may assist stranded motorists by contacting local law enforcement and/or emergency personnel. Plow operators will not attempt to remove a stuck vehicle.

Emergencies

The Sheriff's Office should be contacted for all emergencies requiring plowing. Plows will not be dispatched from regular routes or called in for extra duty unless it is an emergency coordinated through the Sheriff's Office. Icing bridges or snow drifting on roads are expected aspects of winter travel and generally is not adequate justification to dispatch plow crews.

No Travel Advisory

No Travel Advisories issued by the State Patrol and/or Sheriff's Office apply to all County snow and ice removal crews. When a No Travel Advisory is issued, local media is contacted and all plows are pulled from their respective routes.

Information

Questions or concerns regarding snow removal should be directed to the Polk County Highway Department at (218)281-3972 during normal business hours (M-F, 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.).

Summary

This policy was developed to provide general guidelines for both County personnel and the traveling public. This policy intends to cover the majority of situations normally encountered in winter storm events. If situations arise that is not part of the above policy, the County

Highway Engineer or Maintenance Supervisor will deal with them on a case-by-case basis. Each decision to mobilize the snow plow crews is a judgment call based on the particular weather conditions combined with past experience along with the resources available at the time and, therefore, may not adhere strictly to this general policy.

Guidelines for Plowing Priorities

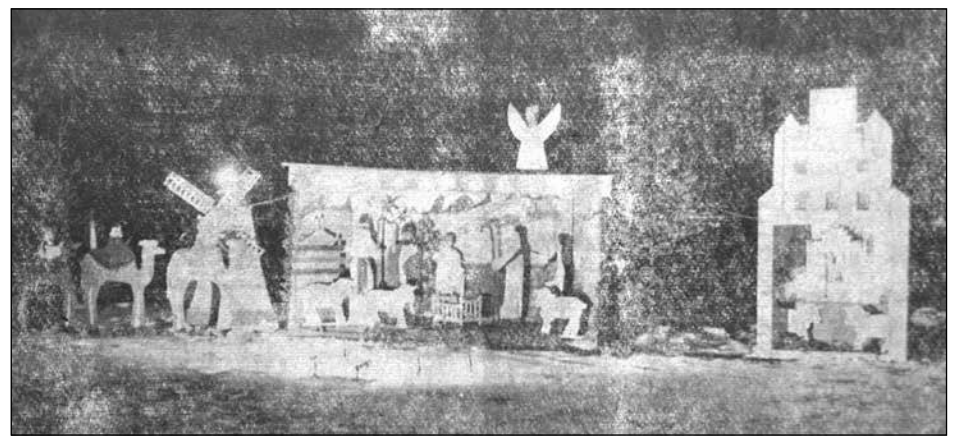
The department should endeavor to have the bituminous routes open within 4 hours and the complete system open within 48 hours. The bituminous routes have been broken down to 3 levels: Priority: Extremely high traffic volume areas of high collection. Primary: Areas of rural collection, moderate to high volume. Secondary: Low traffic count, low volume rural areas.

1. Priority roads: Both lanes should have bare wheel paths with intermittent or completely bare pavement before coverage time is reduced.

2. Primary: Both lanes should have intermittent bare wheel paths with sanded hills, curves, intersections and stop signs.

3. Secondary: One wheel path in each lane should have intermittent bare pavement with sanded hills, curves, intersections and stop signs.

4. Each snowplow route will be reviewed annually and during the season upon the plow operator's request and any necessary changes will be made depending on resources available. Some routes will contain segments that may require additional levels of service.



60 years ago...1959: This night photo taken shortly before Christmas at the Carl Ness home, shows the nativity scene on the left and church on the right which was constructed many years ago by Mr. Ness. Each year at the beginning of the holiday season, Mr. Ness places the scene in his front yard overlooking Highway 2 on the west edge of town. The Christmas setting is colorfully painted and beautifully lighted. Each year Mr. Ness adds some item to the scene. This Christmas spectacle has undoubtedly instilled a little of the true spirit of Christmas in many who have driven past during the holiday seasons of the past several years.



40 years ago...1979: "The Stockings were Hung" was a Christmas operetta given by the Mac-Winger Elementary students by the kindergarten through 6th grade in the McIntosh School gym. Each group sang their own number. These are the dolls.



30 years ago...1989: "Born Today" was sung by a vocal ensemble, Nikki Berg, Katina Bruggeman, Cam Hoass, Julie Wang, Shannon Haugen, Tracee Holen, Cheri Roed, Stuart Ingman, Dan Mork, Ryan Tangen, and Dan Vesledahl.



20 years ago...1999: Dwayne Carver and Molly and Dolly, his team of Belgian horses, were a real hit on Santa Claus Day in McIntosh as the children rode through the streets of McIntosh on a decorated wagon.

January events at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge

Candlelit Ski & Owl Prowl

The evening of Saturday, January 11th the Friends of Rydell and Glacial Refuges Association will be hosting a Candlelight Ski and Owl Prowl event at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) near Erskine, MN.

The timing of this event coincides with a full moon, and hopefully good snow conditions, clear skies, and moderate temperatures! The Rydell NWR Visitor Center will be open throughout the event, which will run from 4:45pm to 8:30pm.

Although all five of Rydell NWR's trails will be open for cross-country skiing or snowshoeing, Golden Pond and Church Lake trails will be groomed and lighted for this event.

Even though luminaries

will be distributed along these two trails, we recommend that visitors bring along a headlamp, if they have one, just in case it is cloudy and there is minimal moonlight.

As visitors traverse the trails, multiple owl calling stations will be set up where the calls of several owl species (e.g., saw whet, barred, great horned) will be projected into the woods to try to generate a response. Who-who-who knows what you might hear! We will have several pairs of adult and child size skis, as well as snowshoes, available for visitors to use. If you have questions, contact Lisa Wiersma at 218-687-2229 x10 or lisa_wiersma@fws.gov. If temperatures are below zero or wind chills are in the double-digits below zero, the event will be cancelled and potentially rescheduled at a later date.

Snowshoe

Lacing Workshop

On Saturday, January 18th the Friends of Rydell and Glacial Refuges Association will be hosting a Snowshoe Lacing Workshop at the Rydell NWR Visitor Center. The one-day workshop will run from 9:00am - 5:00pm. Class participants will learn how to lace their own pair of Ojibwa-style snowshoes. This is a fun, hands-on class. You will be able to work at your own pace with provided instructions and friendly presenters to assist you along the way. Pre-registration is required and class size is limited to 12 participants. The deadline for registration is January 3rd. To obtain more information and to get a registration form, contact Lynda Knutsen at 218-689-4320 or lynda_knutsen@fws.gov.



10 years ago...2009: Tim Anderson is presented with the award for 25 years of continual membership with the Winger Lions Club. Tim, seated, received the award from District 5M11 Governor Jeanine Windels.

Santa Claus Day in Mac



Aubrey Gunufson can't believe she is seeing Santa while her brother Dawson tells Santa about his Christmas list during Santa Claus Day in McIntosh.



Karl Schow helps Santa and Mrs. Claus out delivering gift bags.



Mrs. Claus with Mackenzie and Rhett Roed on Saturday, December 7th in McIntosh for Santa Claus Day, sponsored by the McIntosh Community Club..



Leland and Allis Horsley spend some time with Santa and Mrs. Claus in McIntosh on Saturday, December 7th.



The Hewitt brothers get to tell Santa what is on their wish list for Christmas.



Not to sure about Santa, but wanting to see Mrs. Claus is Logan Kringlen.



Wyatt Lee tells Santa what he would like for Christmas at Santa Claus Day in McIntosh.



Spending some time with Santa and Mrs. Claus is Austin Johnson.



Henry Swanson gets to tell Santa what is on his Christmas List.

Grace Community Food Shelf thanks community for support

As we come to the end of the year it is a great time to say Thank You to all the people from Erskine, Winger, McIntosh, and Mentor that have helped so many of our friends and neighbors by supporting the Grace Community Food Shelf!

Here are just a few of the things that we are thankful for this year:

- To the Win-E-Mac Honor Society on their recently completed food drive that brought in 720 pounds of much needed food. This is the largest food drive of the year for the Food Shelf. Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and friends that gave so generously to this drive!
- To the volunteers that worked the Food Shelf and gave 970 hours of their time to make the Food Shelf operational!
- For the support that allowed us to provide 17,536 pounds of food for distribution throughout the year. We average 1,461 pounds of food a month to families in need.
- For the people from the area that donated financial support of \$8,500 this year

that makes it possible for us to have \$890.00 per month to purchase the food we need.

• To the many groups and individuals that donated 2,480 pounds of food this year for those in need.

• For the ability to provide assistance to 331 total households for the year that represent 754 people. We average 28 families each month and these families are comprised of 63 people.

• For the North Country Food Bank that provided 14,570 pounds of the food for year at an average cost of \$.45 per pound. We couldn't do this without them!

• To Groceries Plus that has provided the Food Shelf with the ability to get a good price on food we needed to purchase as well as donations of food along the way.

Thank you to the many people and organizations that make the Grace Community Food Shelf available to our friends in neighbors in need for 2019. The volunteers of the Food Shelf look forward to 2020 knowing that our communities are there to support us moving forward.



Autumn Plante (with dad, Nick and mom, Clarissa Neste) is not as happy to see Santa as her parents are.

WEM Principal's Reading Challenge reward for December

The month of December, Win-E-Mac Elementary was presented with Mr. McKeever's Reading challenge to read 1000 books. We surpassed that challenge, and each child who participated earned a cookie decorating afternoon on Thursday December 19th. Fun was had by all, and Mr. McKeever is very proud of his elementary students. Good job Win-E-Mac! Cookies, frosting and sprinkles were provided by the WEM Literacy Committee.



Paul and William Klawitter with Santa and Mrs. Claus when the couple visited McIntosh.



Santa and Mrs. Claus were happy to see Tristen Randklev come for a visit when they visited McIntosh on Saturday, December 7th for Santa Claus Day.



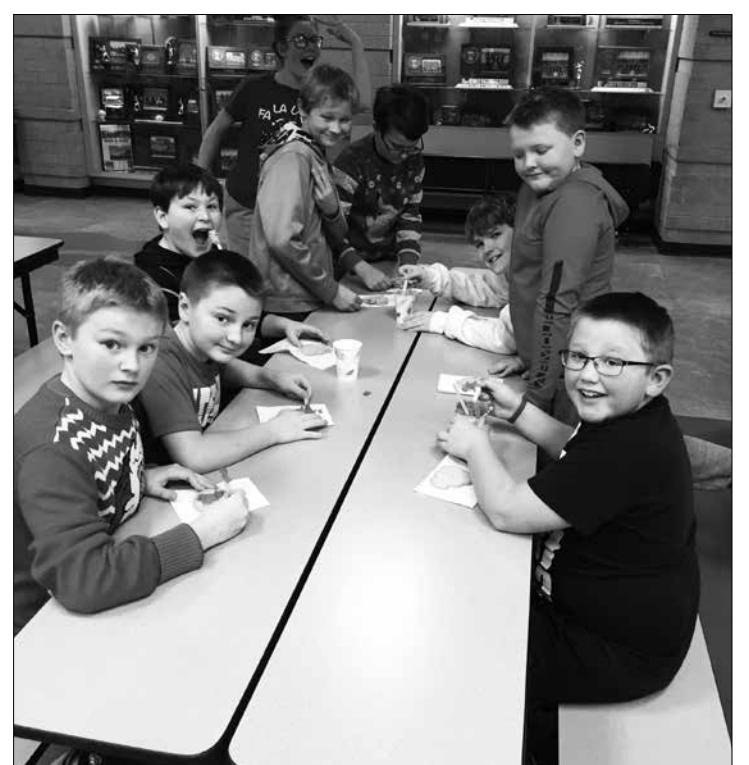
Bridger Huschle visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus in McIntosh on Saturday, December 7th.



Visiting with Santa and Mrs. Claus is Leland Terway.



Max Urdahl brought Santa a letter when he stopped on Santa Claus Day in McIntosh.



WEM announces High School Students of the Month



tude in class. Not only does she do very well in all her classes, she is always friendly and willing to help others.

Alina Basargin
The Social Studies department selects Alina Basargin as our student of the month in reflecting GRATITUDE. Alina arrives to class every day with a smile and positive attitude. She also demonstrates an appreciation and GRATITUDE with the Win-E-Mac School when she needed to be gone recently for an extended time for personal reasons. In working with teachers through Google Classroom she was able to stay on task in her classes and she expressed her appreciation with me as well as the school for assisting her during her absence upon her return. Thank you Alina!



Kianna Tadman
The science department chooses Kianna Tadman. Kianna is a very gracious person. She appreciates any opportunity she is given and uses them to better herself and others around her. Kianna is very polite and appreciates anything anybody does for her. Kianna is a great role model for her peers. Congratulations. Keep up the good work!



Liliana Jaeger
I can't tell you how refreshing it is to have Liliana in my English class. On many mornings, she and I greet each other with a smile and a "Guten Morgen". Liliana always goes above and beyond what I ask the senior class to do. I think she does this in part because she's truly grateful to be here. There are things that even I take for granted sometimes; take the sunsets that we have in Minnesota, for example. We follow each other on Instagram, and I noticed that she'd posted a few pictures of sunsets, so I (somewhat jokingly) asked her about it: "Do you not have sunsets in Germany?" Her response: "Not as beautiful as you have here." It was a brief conversation, but it helped me to remember to be grateful for what I have, to not take anything for granted. In short, I am so grateful that Lil-

Alivia Winter
The Math department chose Alivia Winter. Alivia shows a tremendous amount of Grati-

iana has come to Win-E-Mac!



Rebecca Army
Gratitude: a state of being grateful; a feeling of thankful appreciation for benefits received. Given this term and its definition, the Technology Department would like to proudly nominate Rebecca Army as its Student Achievement Award winner. As a teacher, the word 'thanks' when helping students is always nice to hear, even when some of the times that word seems forced, almost programmed to come out of the mouth. When Rebecca says thank you, she does it with a smile on her face and with a different inflection in her voice. It just has a different vibe to it, like you can actually feel the gratitude in her voice.

You can tell Rebecca appreciates her teachers, friends and others around her, and she is not afraid to express appreciation. Rebecca is a pleasure to have in class, not only because she is a great human being that does well in school, but that she truly thankful with the effort put forth by those involved in her education.



Sidney Roed
The Fine Arts department (vocal music) recognizes Sidney Roed for demonstrating the quality of GRATITUDE. Sidney is always so appreciative of whatever help she receives. This past month, she has been working hard on her solo for solo contest. She always shows gratitude when I help her prepare, and is always willing to take suggestions on how to do even better! When selected for other events like honor choir, Sidney is truly grateful for the opportunity given to her, and makes the most of it! It is so

nice to work with appreciative students like Sidney!



Zachary Simonson
Family Consumer Science department gladly nominates Zach Simonson for recognition for his spirit of Gratitude. You can find this tall young man with a smile on his face and a warm greeting as he walks through the halls at Win-E-Mac or on his local job.

It is evident through Zach's behavior and words that he enjoys the 'good in life'. He's optimistic, enthusiastic and not self-centered. Zach is not afraid to volunteer, take on challenges and yet kindly listens and respects the ideas of others.

Zach will confidently accept help with appreciation that he can grow from it and move forward to something bigger and better. Continue expressing your grateful spirit, Zach!

Did you know?
Who hasn't been frustrated at one point or another searching for a misplaced phone or car keys?

Looking for lost items has the potential to zap efficiency and waste a lot of time. A 2017 "Lost & Found Survey" by Pixie, a smart location solution for iPhones, says the average American wastes 2.5 days a year just looking for lost stuff. In addition, \$2.7 billion is spent each year replacing misplaced items. Items that most commonly go missing include television remotes, phones, car and house keys, glasses, shoes, and wallets.

In addition to using tracking devices to keep tabs on commonly misplaced things, there are other steps people can take to avoid misplacing their belongings. Create a designated place to store frequently used items.

That means each day a set of keys should be taken and returned to a hook by the door or in a table in the entryway to your home. Remotes should be kept in a specific spot, too, perhaps right by the television or on an end table next to the couch.

Avoid distractions as much as possible when handling these items, so you are certain you return them to their correct locations. Plus, don't be lazy.

Placing items back where they belong each and every time instead of dropping them anywhere not only helps keep things from going missing, but also contributes to a tidy home



The kids from The Clubhouse caroling at Howard Soap Company last Friday afternoon.



Some of the kids and staff of The Clubhouse Childcare Center in McIntosh spent Thursday afternoon in town caroling at the local businesses on Main Street.