

\$1.00

McINTOSH

Times

Hub of the Thirteen Townships

Since
1888

McIntosh, Minnesota

The Story of the birth of Jesus

Christmas traditions focus on several different aspects of family and spiritual life. While many stories are shared around Christmastime, perhaps none bears more significance than the origin of the Christmas celebration.

Sharing the Christmas story is an integral part of our holiday gatherings. Where we live, in NW Minnesota, as well as around the world, our families focus on faith making it the forefront during this festive time of year.

The Conception of Jesus

Mary was a woman living in the Galilee area of Nazareth. She was engaged to a Jewish carpenter named Joseph. An angel visited the Virgin Mary and told her that she would conceive a child - a son - by the power of the Holy Spirit. When the son was born, she would name him Jesus. Mary questioned the angel, who reassured her that anything was possible by God and that Jesus would be God's own son.

Joseph was troubled when he found out Mary was with child and even considered breaking their engagement, which was allowed under Jewish law. But God soon sent another angel, this time to Joseph, in a dream. The angel reassured Joseph that his marriage to Mary and the birth of this child were His will. Joseph awoke from his dream and took Mary as his wife soon after, ready and willing to raise the

child despite the public humiliation he may experience.

The Census

During this time the Romans had control over many parts of the world, including where Joseph and Mary resided. Ruler Caesar Augustus decreed that every person living under Roman rule had to return to his town of origin to participate in a census so everyone could be taxed accordingly. Joseph, hailing from Bethlehem, had to return to the town with his very pregnant bride.

They traveled for many days and, upon arriving in Bethlehem, found that the inns were full and there was no available lodging. Mary and Joseph took shelter in a stable and prepared to welcome their son.

Jesus' Arrival

According to the Gospel of Luke, Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son, while in the stable. She wrapped him in cloth and placed him in a manger because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior

has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. -Luke Chapter 2

Many people visited the baby Jesus, including three wise men from the East who traveled by following a guiding star to bestow gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh on the baby king.

When Joseph and Mary had performed all the things necessary according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Nazareth with Jesus, who was growing strong in spirit and filled with wisdom and the grace of God.



Andrea and Bryce Stordahl and their children Jens and Adler stopped at the McIntosh Community Center on Saturday, December 12th for a visit with Santa Claus.



Happy to see Santa was Jayden Moore who was one of many to see him during Santa Clause Day in McIntosh.



Addison Anderson made her first visit with Santa on Saturday, December 12th at the McIntosh Community Center.



Mya and Hailee Erickson stopped in for breakfast and a visit with Santa on Saturday, December 12th in Winger.

Mac Council ammends dog ordinance

The McIntosh City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, December 10, 2015 at the McIntosh Community Center.

All members of the Council were present.

The Final Budget for the year 2016 for the City of McIntosh was passed unopposed. Budgeted revenue for the year is \$963,286 and total budgeted disbursements is \$963,186.

There was an amendment to the Animal Ordinance as well. The Ordinance was amended to include the wording that any designated enforcing officer for the City is able to enforce the provisions of the ordinance, meaning any City employee or elected official will be able to enforce a violation of this ordinance.

As well, the ordinance was amended to no longer include a portion of the 'Running at large' section of the ordinance. Any dog or other animal that is not claimed within the time specified in the ordinance may be sold or disposed of in any manner that is seen fit.

The ordinance also was modified to allow only 2 dogs per premises unless approved by the City Council, City Clerk,

Animal Control Officer, or designated enforcing officer to a maximum of 3 dogs. The only way this would be allowed is if in the past more than 2 dogs have been licensed by the City. This shall not carry to other dogs if current dog is no longer being licensed.

Again, any dog or cat that is living within the City limits of McIntosh is required by this ordinance to be licensed, unless the animal is owned as a service animal which is capable of being properly identified as from a recognized school for seeing eye, hearing ear, service or guide animals, and the owner is a blind or deaf person, or a person with physical or sensory disabilities, then no license is required.

Ulteig Engineering presented the City of McIntosh with a Capital Improvement Plan. It is a five year plan and includes information about utility and street improvements and community building improvements. The plan is meant to be used by the City staff when planning for future improvements, presented as the first step in the planning stages of a projects for scheduling and

financial planning. The Council made a motion to table the Capital Improvement Plan until spring.

There were positive funds in the McIntosh Economic and Development Association fund that MEDA is able to offer for the end of the year 2015.

An update from Marcus & Millichap, the brokers who have Poplar Meadows listed for sale, provided no progress in marketing and recommended the City lower the asking price. The Council unanimously agreed to lower the asking price of Poplar Meadows Senior Living from \$2,800,000 to \$2,500,000.

Councilmember Melissa Finseth reported that there was a complaint concerning the state of Cottage Avenue. The Council is in the process of looking at what can be done to improve the condition such as filling in the potholes until the road can be fixed properly.

The state of the ice rink in town was a question from Councilmember Wanda Stordahl. If the rink ever does get set up, there is someone who would be willing to give skating lessons. She also let the Council know she thought the City decorations for Christmas looked very nice and festive. She also commented and thanked the members who set up the billboard east of town.

City Clerk Elena Boianoff let the Council know that City Maintenance Manager, Larry Hedlund, was unable to have the Bjella Building sidewalls repaired, but will get sandbags to lay along the wall to prevent further leaking and will find a contractor to get it fixed in 2016 when the weather warms up.

Mayor Toby Strom informed the Council that there have been sightings of coyotes within the town. He had information about where they may be coming from and will speak with the property owners about trapping.



Stopping to see Santa at the McIntosh Community Center on Saturday, December 12th were Macie and Ensley Haskett.



How cute are these elves? Helping out Santa and Mrs. Claus during Santa Claus day in McIntosh were Karlie Schow and Cameron Svalen.



What is Christmas without candy cane ice cream? Phil Lee served up ice cream to everyone during Santa Claus Day in McIntosh on Saturday, December 12th.

Community Calendar

Wed. Dec. 23: No School at Win-E-Mac; 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; Bingo at The Club Bar & Grill 6:30pm

Thurs. Dec. 24: No School at Win-E-Mac; McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Fri. Dec. 25: Merry Christmas; City Offices, Library and Mac Times office closed

Mon. Dec. 28: 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. Dec. 29: McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Wed. Dec. 30: 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. Dec. 31: McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm; Bingo at The Club Bar & Grill 6:30pm; Win-E-Mac Elementary Program 7:00pm

Fri. Jan. 1: Happy New Year!

Mon. Jan. 4: 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 5: McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran's 11:30am to 1:30pm

Deck the HOUSE HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST

The winners of the McIntosh Community Club holiday lights home decorating contest, in no particular order are: Wesley Brekke, Melissa & Larry Finseth and Linda and Walter Sylstad.

Check out next week's edition of the McIntosh Times to see pictures of the winning houses.

Houses were judged on lighting, theme and overall holiday spirit.

The judging took place on Friday, December 18th.

Listen to the Music of the Holiday

Saturday December 26th the Win-E-Mac Senior High Band and Choir concert will be featured on the radio!

Tune in to 96.7 (KKCQ) at 3:00pm to hear the concert.

Please join us for a
90th Birthday open house
honoring
Lorraine (Nornes) Lee

Saturday, December 26th
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

McIntosh Community Center

~ No gifts please ~

M38-39P

New Years Eve Supper at
Ness Cafe
Thursday., Dec. 31
Serving will start
at 4:30 pm

YOUR CHOICE OF:

- Prime Rib
- Our Famous Barbeque Ribs
- Broasted Chicken
- Ribs & Chicken Combo Platter
- Butterfly Shrimp or Walleye
- PLUS Full Salad Bar!
- Free Dessert as well!

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R39-40C



The Christmas Basket Winner for the week of December 7th from Neil's Meats was Shirley Bakken from Erskine, MN.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Each election year, there have few if any candidate debates for State offices. Minnesota District 01B, for example, has had only two debates in recent election cycles—one in Crookston and the other out of District 01B in Thief River Falls.

Presenting too many candidates for local offices or tight screening of questions in has discouraged real voter participation in these "debates".

Voter interest in these campaigns would be rekindled with newspaper and radio

50th Anniversary

Come one, come all, to help celebrate the
**50th Wedding Anniversary for
Jim & Betty Herdliska**

An Open House will be held at the
Erskine United Methodist Church (located 1 block east of the bank)
Sunday, January 3, 2016 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Please join us, as we celebrate this milestone in their lives
All are invited...

R39-40C

sponsored debates scheduled in District 01B towns like McIntosh, Fosston-Lengby, Erskine, Oklee, Fertile, Red Lake Falls, Crookston and East Grand Forks.

Candidates given a town-hall stage to explain and defend their views on local economics, taxes, public safety, health care, education, farm policy and public works maintenance will make it clear how they view responsible government.

Each election is too important to leave it to the choice of a few activists and PAC money character assassinations mailed repeatedly just before elections.

Minimal questions for these debates are how long should we allow PAC money to corrupt the political process and democracy.

Certainly, questions also have to be raised about post high-school education costs to keep future generations competitive.

Even risking "gotcha" questions, candidates with the courage to present their views in strong and vigorous debates would gain voter respect by demonstrating a healthy, transparent democratic process. It would also give people more time to decide their vote.

If sponsoring newspapers and radio broadcasters justify their public service claims by actually giving people opportunities to engage in these town hall debates, dysfunctional government from poor voter turnout can be reversed. Fair debates would educate voters and counter the discouraging ongoing, one-sided, propaganda labeled "entertainment".

Sincerely,
Erwin R. Rud
Fosston, MN

A big Thank you to all the participants in the McIntosh Area Thanksgiving Service. There are so many willing people.

Thanks to Our Savior's Congregation in McIntosh for hosting the service, a thanks to all who brought food items and an offering. They were divided equally among Loaves & Fishes in Fosston, Erskine Food Shelf and Oklee Food Shelf. Each of the food shelves received \$377.

The whole evening was very inspirational.

Thank you,
Pastor Gordon Syverson

M39C

NOTICE

Hill River Township Filing Notice

The filing dates for the township of Hill River, County of Polk, State of Minnesota will be from Tuesday, December 29, 2015 until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, 2016. Filing will be for one (1) Supervisor for a term of three (3) years and one (1) Clerk/Treasurer for a term of two (2) years.

The filing fee is \$2.00. Filing is to be at the Clerk/Treasurer's home.

Raymond O. Sundrud,
Clerk/Treasurer
Hill River Township

M39-40C

Did you know?

Leaving cookies and milk for Santa Claus is a Christmas Eve tradition. Children regularly place a dish of cookies and a glass of milk by the tree on Christmas Eve so that Santa has enough energy to complete all of his gift-giving before kids wake up on Christmas morning. The tradition of leaving cookies out on Christmas Eve may trace its origins to Saint Nicholas. On the feast of St. Nicholas on December 6, children would leave food and drink for the saint and any attendants. The treats would be exchanged for gifts. While that's one theory behind the tradition, others think it is linked to the history of the Christmas tree and the edible decorations that adorn it. Santa would snack on the ornaments. Even after edible decorations gave way to inedible ornaments, the tradition of leaving a snack for Santa remained. Whatever the origins behind the tradition, millions of children dutifully leave milk and cookies for Santa on Christmas Eve



Wayne and Vicki Strom stopped by First National Bank for their Christmas Open House on Friday, December 18th in McIntosh.

Church News

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

Wed. Dec. 23: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston
Thurs. Dec. 24: 5:00pm Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 8:00pm Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley
Fri. Dec. 25: 8:30am 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

Sun. Dec. 27: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley
Sun. Jan. 3: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

If you have any questions about the schedule please call 435-6484.

CALVARY-IMMANUEL LUTHERAN PARISH
Winger/Bejou
Supply Pastor Gordon Syverson

Thurs. Dec. 24: 5:30pm Worship at Calvary
Fri. Dec. 25: 10:00am Worship at Immanuel
Sun. Dec. 27: 8:30am Worship Service at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship Service at Calvary
Sun. Jan. 3: 8:30am Worship Service at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship Service at Calvary

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

Thurs. Dec. 24: 4:00pm Worship Service
Sun. Dec. 27: 11:15am Worship Service
Sun. Jan. 3: 1:15am Worship Service

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

Wed. Dec. 23: 1:30pm Bible Study at The Country Place
Sat. Dec. 26: 8:00pm Prayer Meeting
Sun. Dec. 27: 9:30am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 10:45am Worship Service

Tues. Dec. 22: 10:00am Sunday Worship service telecast on Garden Valley Cable TV - Channel 2

Wed. Dec. 30: 1:30pm Bible Study at The Country Place;

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.

VERNES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC)
McIntosh
Pastor Paul Magelson

Sun. Dec. 27: 8am Worship
Sun. Jan. 3: 8am Worship



McINTOSH Times

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DOVRE
FREE LUTHERAN Pastor Don Edlund

Wed. Dec. 23: NO Bible Study
Sun. Dec. 27: 9:30am Worship Service; No Sunday School
Wed. Dec. 30: 7:00pm Bible Study on Jewish Roots
Sun. Jan. 3: 9:30am Worship Service; No Sunday School
Wed. Jan. 6: 7:00pm Bible Study on Jewish Roots

MCINTOSH AFLC
McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:
Pastor Karl Anderson
Trinity:
Wed. Dec. 23: 7:30pm Bible Study

Sun. Dec. 27: 11:00am Worship Service
Wed. Dec. 30: 7:30pm Bible Study
Sun. Jan. 3: 11:00am Worship Service

Mt. Carmel:
Thurs. Dec. 24: 7:00am Men's Breakfast

Sun. Dec. 27: 9:30am Worship Service; 10:45am Sunday School; 12:30pm Confirmation
Thurs. Dec. 31: 7:00am Men's Breakfast

Sun. Jan. 3: 9:30am Worship Service; 10:45am Sunday School; 12:30pm Confirmation

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
McIntosh

Rev. Mark Peske, Pastor

Thurs. Dec. 24: 4:00pm Christmas Eve Carol Service
Sun. Dec. 27: 9:30am Worship Service; No Sunday School or Confirmation

Thurs. Dec. 31: 5:00pm New Year's Eve Service
Sun. Jan. 3: 9:30am Worship Service; No Sunday School or Confirmation

Service Broadcast, TV Channel 12 Wednesdays at 10am - Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays

Polk County Public Health

Polk County Health provides monthly foot care clinics at locations throughout the county. Foot soaks and nail trimming are provided. This is not a diagnostic clinic. Referrals are made to medical doctors when necessary. A fee of \$20 is charged per client participating in the clinic. County residents are encouraged to call Polk County Public Health for further information. All clinics are open to the public. Please register for an appointment at the location of your choice.

The foot care clinic will take place in McIntosh at the McIntosh Office of Polk County Public Health in the lower level of the Bjella Building on the first and third Thursday's of the month. You can call 218-281-3072 for an appointment. Foot care is by appointment only, you must call the office if you wish to visit a schedule.

If you have any questions about foot care clinics or other services provided by PCPH, please call offices at : Crookston 281-3385; East Grand Forks 773-2431; or McIntosh 563-2010.

Community Birthday and Anniversary Calendar

Wed. Dec. 23: *Bob & Betty Tangen
Thurs. Dec. 24: Philip Lee, Candace Haaven, Anthony Grande, Jered Agnes
Fri. Dec. 25: Kevin Ek, Jordyn Thompson, Nicole Vetteson, *Albert & Ruth Mandt
Sat. Dec. 26: *Bill Jr. & Valerie Kritz, *Howard & Sharon Froszen
Sun. Dec. 27: Erin Jore, Haley Smeby, Heather Hegre, Dustin Carlson, Rueben Brekke
Mon. Dec. 28: Anita Roy

HOMETOWN BANKING
WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS & FRIENDS

Christmas Greetings

"And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger."
Luke 2:16

Christmas is a time to gather with loved ones, to share friendship and faith, and celebrate the birth of Christ.

May your home be filled with special moments, warmth and happiness this season.

First National Bank of McIntosh will close at noon on Christmas Eve and all day Christmas Day in observance of Christmas.

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M39C

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M3-28C

THE WINGER ENTERPRISE

3

Wednesday, December 23, 2015

Winger News

by Linda Pulskamp

Hello again from Winger and the Union Lake areas where is is rather wintery feeling. Colder than we are used to and with the wind the cold bites. The wind is a big factor in that is seems colder than the actual temperature when it is blowing, and can create frost bitein no time at all.

I hope that many of you were able to see the holiday train go through the area last Sunday evening, it was quite a sight to see it go through the country side and with the fog the colors seemed to radiate into the fog creating an awesome sight.

There are still a lot of colds and flu circulating the area, hope you all stay well for Christmas.

Sympathy to the family of Orlien Sollie who passed away very early this morning December 17th, to his wife Darlene and his children and grandchildren, sisters Carol Fjelstul and Geraldine Engdahl and his extended family of cousins. He was the son of Norman and Gena (Roe) Sollie. His funeral will be held on Monday December 21st at the Vernes Lutheran Church rural McIntosh.

Congratulations to Danny and Angie Brtek on the arrival last Friday of their baby girl, Morgen Danny born at the hospital in Fargo and welcomed home by big sister Teegan. Grandparents are Becky Johnson, Kelly Johnson and Lucy Brtek of Winger and Willie Brtek of Naytahwaush. Great Grandma is Helen London of Fosston.

Last Sunday Orville and Edie Lee of Maple Bay were visitors with Helmer and Verlys Homme at the Pioneer Home in Erskine.

Last Saturday Judy and Lonnie Gieseke were visitors with Fern and Milton Carlson at the Carlson home.

While caroling with a group of carolers this past week at Poplar Meadows with a group from their church, Darryl and Marvie Johnson extended a special Christmas "hug" to Martha Henney. Martha and Darryl worked together at the bank in McIntosh.

Mark and Betty Syverson were visitors with Helmer and Verlys at the Pioneer Home last Saturday.

Judy Gieseke was a visitor at the Fern and Milton Carlson home this past Monday.

Last Sunday after visiting at the hospital in Fosston with Angie Brtek and getting acquainted with her new granddaughter Morgen, Lucy Brtek went on to visit with Wilma Wang at Wilma's home and also went on to McIntosh to visit with Joyce Balstad at Mac Manor.

Helmer and Verlys Homme visited briefly last Friday afternoon with Joey Espeseth at the Country Place in Erskine.

Paul Carlson stopped in at the Fern and Milton Carlson on Wednesday the 16th for a visit and cleaned he sidewalk for them while he was there, later that afternoon Donna Carlson was a visitor at the Carlson home.

News is not so much again this week with the hustle and bustle in preparation for Christmas

To all of you readers I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and for those of you traveling my your travels be safe and enjoy the time you spend with your families.

From Bun Manor:

On December 8th, Matthew, Dale, and Bruce Massmann (Steve's Brother from Osakis) boarded a flight in Fargo to travel to Houston to visit Evan and Nikki Massmann, along with Grandpuppy Pepper. This was Bruce's first time flying and first time away from the farm in quite some time. The crew was met by Kenny "Beags" Massmann, Steve's brother from the Valley of Apples on Thursday. As this was Bruce's first trip to Texas, he was given the Houston experience. The group was able to enjoy a trip to Galveston, the Natural History Museum, the Johnson Space Center, and two local breweries. They were able to dine at culinary staples of the Houston experience including two Bar-B-que joints, a tex mex restaurant, and Perry's Steakhouse. In

assuring the southern experience was rounded off, a breakfast at the Waffle House was also enjoyed. Although they do not serve real butter, which was troubling to dairy farmer Bruce, he got over it when he was able to enjoy some grits with maple syrup. Steve was jealous he was not able to visit the Waffle House. The group was also able to enjoy Evan and Nikki's home which they recently purchased. Evan and Nikki are doing well. Dale and Pepper bonded quickly over several hour long games of tug of war. A great time was had by all, and after six days, I am sure Nikki also enjoyed sending the group of bachelors on the plane back north.

Bun's god daughter Megan, her husband Adam Reed and their dog Molly from Cloquet came up to the manor on Friday to spend a couple of days. They went out to Lori and Tannis Balstad's on Sat. to visit with them.

The lake out front finally iced over on the 19th. This is by far the latest in the year the lake has taken to freeze over.

Saturday afternoon Dani and her mother Cherie stopped out at the manor on their way to Fargo with some cookies that Cherie and her husband Bob Lerfald made. That was very thoughtful of them.

Saturday evening Bun and the kids went to the Moran's social in Winger to enjoy the food and company. Some notables were Chet and Connie Smeby, Dick and Donna Larson, Tennis and Lori, Carsten and Joanne, the Natwicks, the Massmanns, Chris Wang, mayor Ole, Lucy, Lynn and Sarah. Bun knew he would see Dick there because any time there is something free you can be sure he will be present.

Massmann did a gender test with a ring on Megan and determined that it is going to be a boy. We will see in April.



Jeremiah Hagen was at Breakfast with Santa in Winger on Saturday, December 12th to visit with Santa.



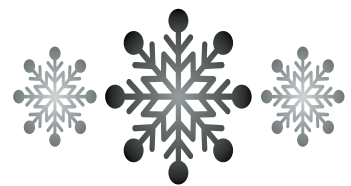
Santa asked Josie Iverson what she wanted for Christmas when she visited with him in Winger on Saturday, December 12th.



Happy to see Santa was Kallie Hand who visited with him during Breakfast with Santa in Winger.

Joyce Balstad had a birthday on the 20th. Dale was the good son who showed up to see her. David and Paul were no where to be seen. Bad boys!

Personal note: May peace, love and the Lord reign all over the world. Merry Christmas everyone!



Pictured right: Laila Roragen was one of the many kids who stopped to see Santa during his visit to Winger on Saturday, December 12th.



30 years ago...1985: A real baby was available again for the sixth year in a row for the Nativity Scene at Calvary Lutheran Church in Winger. This year's baby was Sara Helgaas, daughter of Craig and Beverly Helgaas. Other participants in the nativity scene are shepherds, Danny Vesledahl, Maddie Maxfield; Wisemaen, Artie Mashburn, Jon Vesledahl, Brent Carlson; Mary, Julie Want; Joseph, Jason Carlson; Angels, Jodi Brevik, Heather Benbo and Lori Lucken.



20 years ago...1995: Breanne Juve was the featured soprano of the small women's group who sang during the senior high Christmas Concert in McIntosh on Tuesday, December 19th. Pictured in the background are the supporting sopranos of the group. Amy Nelson, Marji Maxfield, Bobbie Benson, Tia Lagerstrom, Celeste Armstrong and Mandi Hamre.



10 years ago...2005: Veterans at the McIntosh Manor Nursing Home received a gift from Auxiliary member Mary Goodwin, along with a special visit from Santa, at the Christmas Party held for the residents. Vets include Meryl Vetteson, Ed King, Gordon Pittman, and Art Huber.

USDA removes payments to those actively farming

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today finalized a rule to ensure that farm safety-net payments are issued only to active managers of farms that operate as joint ventures or general partnerships, consistent with the direction and authority provide by Congress in the 2014 Farm Bill. The action, which exempts family farm operations, closes a loophole where individuals who were not actively part of farm management still received payments.

"The federal farm safety-net programs are designed to protect against unanticipated changes in the marketplace for those who actively share in the risk of that farming operation," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "To ensure that help goes to those who genuinely need it, such as America's farm families, the Farm Bill authorized USDA to close a loophole and limit payments from those not involved on a daily basis in nonfamily farm management."

Since 1987, the broad definition of "actively engaged" resulted in some general partnerships and joint ventures adding managers to the farming operation, qualifying for more payments, that did not substantially contribute to management. The rule applies to operations seeking more than one farm manager, and requires measureable, documented hours and key management activities each year. Some operations of certain sizes and complexity may be allowed up to three qualifying managers under limited conditions. The changes apply to payments for 2016 and subsequent crop years for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs, Loan Deficiency Payments (LDP) and Marketing Loan Gains (MLG) realized via the Marketing Assistance Loan program.

As required by Congress, the new rule does not apply to

family farms, or change regulations related to contributions of land, capital, equipment, or labor. The changes go into effect for the 2016 crop year for most farms. Farms that have already planted fall crops for 2016 have until the 2017 crop year to comply. For more details, producers are encouraged to consult their local Farm Service Agency office.

Today's announcement was made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill, which builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past six years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for the taxpayer. Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life in rural America. For more information, visit www.usda.gov/farm-bill. To learn more about Farm Service Agency, visit www.fsa.usda.gov.



The Bone Builders Exercise group would like to thank everyone who helped make the "Shopping Mal for Kids" a great day - especially Stacey Knudson, Penney Fullmer, Mary Horacek, Rocky Knudson and Larry Hedlund. Lots of local kids found unique Christmas gifts for their families. The purpose of the event is to help kids experience the joy of giving at an affordable cost.

M39C

Regional Ag News

**Jim Stordahl,
Extension Educator**

Prepare for Ice Dams

Winter has provided little snow as of yet. However, now that we are beginning to get enough of the white stuff just in time for Christmas, it's a good time to prepare for common winter problems that can affect your home. Ice dams are one such common problem on many homes, especially when we have snow coupled with rather warm temperatures.

An ice dam is a ridge of ice that forms at the edge of a roof and prevents melting snow from draining off the roof. The water that backs up behind the dam can leak into a home and cause damage to walls, ceilings, insulation and other areas.

For ice dams to form there must be snow on the roof, and at the same time, higher portions of the outside surface of the roof must be above freezing while lower surfaces remain below freezing.

Since most ice dams form at the edge of the roof, there is obviously a heat source warming the roof elsewhere. This heat

is primarily coming from the house. In rare instances solar heat gain may cause these temperature differences, or may be a combination of both.

In a house, heat moves through the ceiling and insulation by conduction through the slanted portion of the ceiling. In many homes, there is less space for insulation, so it is important to use insulation with high R-value per inch to reduce heat loss by conduction. If ice dams are a problem, you may want to check your attic insulation levels. Certain insulation products may settle over time and become less effective.

In all Minnesota communities it is possible to find homes that do not have ice dams. These homes may have better insulation or it may be due to position of the home, the color of the shingles or the simplicity of the roof lines. But, the biggest factor is heat loss and ice dams can be prevented by controlling it from the home.

If ice dams are an annual problem on your home, the short term solution is to re-

move snow from the roof. This eliminates one of the ingredients necessary for the formation of an ice dam. A "roof rake" and push broom can be used to remove snow, just be careful you don't damage the roofing materials.

The longer term solution is to make the ceiling air tight so warm air cannot flow from the house into the attic space. After sealing air leakage paths between the house and attic space, consider increasing the ceiling/roof insulation to cut down on heat loss by conduction.

This may increase the snow load that your roof has to carry because it will no longer melt. If it is built to current codes, there should not be a structural problem. Roofs, like the rest of the home, should have been designed to withstand expected snow loads. In Minnesota, plans showing design details to meet expected snow loads are usually required to receive a building permit.

Natural roof ventilation can help maintain uniform roof

temperatures, but if the long-term actions described here are done effectively, then only small amounts of roof ventilation are needed to maintain uniform roof surface temperatures.

If heat transfer has been reduced substantially, then snow will build up on the roof and cover natural roof ventilation systems, reducing attic ventilation rates. Natural attic ventilation systems are needed to dry the attic space and remove heat buildup during the summer.

Lastly, other factors such as recessed lights, skylights, complicated roof designs and heating ducts in the attic will all increase the risk of ice dam formation. If you plan to build a new home, these factors should be considered.

For more information, contact me at 800-450-2465 or stordahl@umn.edu. This article was adapted from the UM publication, "Ice Dams". The see the complete article, simply Google the title or contact your local Extension office.

Random Things and Stuff



Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men
By: Emily L. Ferden

The phrase, "Peace on Earth, goodwill to men" gets thrown around a lot during this time of year. To me, this phrase is something that should be said not only during Christmas, but year-around. It is about having a world where there would be no more wars, no more anger, and no more crime. Where people strive to be good, and that they love their neighbors and treat them the way they would like to be treated. Could you imagine what would happen if we lived in a reality like this? How good it would feel every day? Maybe one day this doesn't have to just be a nice dream for our world, maybe it will become a reality. The only way this can become a reality though is if everyone were to choose to live this way.

Peace on Earth. Goodwill to all. Not just to men, but to all people: men, women, and children alike. Having hope in our world, is just one part of this peace that can one day come; and believing that this hope can be a reality. This season, and the rest of the new year ahead, I hope that you and your family strive to bring more peace and love to this world. I hope that you and your loved ones have a very Merry Christmas!

WEM School Announcements

Juniors and seniors: Wild Rice Electric has partnered with the Rural Electric Youth Tour for a trip to Washington, DC, June 11-16, 2016 with other students from across Minnesota. Complete the application and submit to be the selected candidate to have this amazing opportunity. See Mrs. Jore for more details or contact Wild Rice Electric Cooperative for an application.

2015-2016 Yearbook

The Win-E-Mac Yearbook Staff is starting the pre-sale for the 2015-2016 yearbook to be called "A YEAR IN COLOR" The yearbook this year will contain 80 pages. It will be printed entirely in COLOR. A theme of artful color will be the cover and divider concept throughout the yearbook. Seniors, underclass students, events, activities and fun memories will be captured and displayed from cover to cover!

Yearbooks are currently on sale. The cost is \$35.00 now and until December 22nd and will cost \$40.00 after December 22nd. Yearbooks can be purchased during students' noon hours or from Mrs. Winter (room 51) before or after school. Order forms are available in the office. Be sure to make your order so you are guaranteed a yearbook!

FYI -

The Mid-term report cards are now on Student/ParentVue for you to view

Financial Aid Night – for juniors, seniors and parents – WEM School, January 11th, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the Media Center. Items discussed: College financial aid process, question and answers about financial aid, scholarship sources, and door prizes/handouts.



On Saturday, December 12th, Santa Claus visited McIntosh and Calista Lewis was there to visit with him.



Santa asked Ethan Finseth what he wanted for Christmas when he visited McIntosh on Saturday, December 12th.



Stopping in to see Santa during McIntosh Santa Day was Jacob Eggl.



Levi Halstad was able to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus on Saturday, December 12th at the McIntosh Community Center.

Pictured below: Tavin and Raiden Hewitt were able to see Santa during his visit to McIntosh on Saturday, December 12th.



The County Line

By Warren Strandell
Polk County Commissioner, Dist. 2

Local government units have come to the finish line in the development of their 2016 operating budgets. It is a time when elected officials must be able to justify what they are planning to spend to provide needed services and to maintain the organization's infrastructure.

A lot of thought goes into the budgeting process.... not only the obvious of what will be needed in the year ahead but also what will have to be addressed down the road. And, of course, how you are going to pay for things both now and then?

So, what do the numbers look like for Polk County?

The 2016 budget approved by the County Board calls for \$63.4 million in expenditures. The revenue needed to support that budget is to include \$21.4 million from property taxes levied against the \$5.6 billion of real estate valuation in the county.

The balance — \$42 million — is to be provided by the State of Minnesota and the federal government. Most of the state and federal money goes to pay for the social services that they mandate. In total, it has been estimated that about 70% of what counties do is mandated by state or federal law.

Money from the state gasoline tax helps to pay for maintenance of the County State Aid Highway system. Smaller revenue amounts come from the fees paid for services, from grant monies directed to pay for public health, from the state for a small part of law enforcement, etc.

The county will be taking \$655,000 from its general fund balance (often referred to as "reserves") to make things balance. The use of reserves amounts to about 1 percent of the total budget. Using reserves "just to balance the budget" is not a good practice if done regularly. That just pushes the problem down the road and, in the process, can deplete fund balances to a dangerous level.

One-time expenses

The use of reserves can be justified when the general fund is considered to be healthy or when the money is used to pay for "one-time expenses." Included in this one-time category are such things as the construction and/or maintenance of buildings and equipment...

projects and problems that go away once addressed.

In recent years, Polk County has spent considerable "reserve" dollars for the purpose of maintaining and developing infrastructure for many years to come. The biggest of these projects was the use of more than \$8.5 million in fund balance to pay for construction of the Polk County Justice Center.

(Note — The Northwest Regional Corrections Center jail portion of the Justice Center facility was constructed by issuing \$17.5 million in bonds. These bonds are being paid back by the Tri-County Community Corrections (Norman, Red Lake and Polk counties) agency that operates the jail. In recent years, these bond repayments have been more than met by the collection of per diems paid by federal and state agencies and nearby counties when they house their excess prisoners in the jail.)

Polk County has also invested \$2.5 million-plus from reserves to convert the old jail space in the Law Enforcement Center for use by the Sheriff's Department, Emergency Management, the Dispatch Center, and the Information Systems Department.

Building is a fortress

The building has been turned into a model facility that is certain to have a life of another 40-plus years. Built as a jail, it is a fortress... the ideal, most secure place possible for the location of the server room backbone of the county's computer system. An expansion, remodeling of the room is to be completed this coming summer.

Other one-time capital projects just completed, currently underway, or soon to be started include:

- Demolition of the no longer needed Annex Building.
- Improvements to HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) and security systems in the Government Center, Justice Center and jail to improve energy efficiency and safety.
- Remodeling of the Stenberg Building in Fosston to create a satellite office for the Sheriff's Department in the eastern part of the county.
- Relocation of the County Attorney and the Public Defenders offices in the Justice Center as a way to create space

for Public Health to move into the building. This will provide a return on investment by eliminating the cost of leasing outside space for Public Health.

The projected total cost of these needed, one-time projects is \$3 million. The County recently sold bonds for that amount so that all of the projects could be addressed at one time rather than spread out over several years. One of the benefits of this action is that the 1.64% interest rate on the bonds is less than the projected annual rate of inflation for construction projects.

Final levy down

The increase in total expenditures for county operations in 2016 (\$721,754 over 2015) requires an increase of just less than 3.5% in the levy. This levy increase is a reduction from the 5% preliminary levy set in September.

The \$21.4 million local cost for operations for 2016 will be assessed against the \$5.6 billion in real estate valuation in the county. This valuation total includes an increase of \$365 million from a year ago. The increase was created by revaluation of some properties and by about \$25 million in new construction. The tax generated from this additional valuation will go a long way in creating the additional revenue needed for operations in 2016.

Summation: You can be proud of Polk County. It is financially sound, is poised for the future, has good employees all the way through the system and, while the cost of operations in 2016 will be up 3.5%, the effect on individual tax bills will likely be tolerable because of the additional tax base. Outside of unexpected developments, the infrastructure will be in place for the foreseeable future, providing a situation that sets the county up to be debt-free in 10 years.

Thoughts for the day:

Kindness is a language that the blind can see and the deaf can hear. — Mark Twain

Merry Christmas to all... not the politically correct happy holidays, but Merry Christmas!

Disclaimer: Thoughts expressed in this column are those of the author and are not necessarily a reflection of the opinions of the other members of the Polk County Board of Commissioners.



Lily, Joe and Ruby Breckel stopped into the McIntosh Library on Wednesday, December 9th to make an ornament. The Library hosts a craft for kids event each month.



Students at Win-E-Mac were busy the month of November collecting labels. They brought in a total of 4,462 labels!! Mrs. Cook's Kindergarten class brought in the most labels with 1,589 and was treated to a special project! We collect many different labels such as Box Tops which are worth 10 cents each, Our Family, Labels for Education (Campbell's) and Sunny D. All money and points go directly to help the students' enrichment, extra fun projects or outings and new equipment. You can help the school out by sending labels in with a student that goes to Win-E-Mac or by dropping them off in the office. Thanks for supporting us!!

Santa Claus Day in McIntosh



Olivia Tollefson had a chance to tell Santa and Mrs. Claus what she wanted for Christmas on Saturday, December 12th at the McIntosh Community Center.



Mrs. Claus had a chance to visit with Dawson Gunufson during Santa Day in McIntosh on December 12th.



Max Urdahl told Santa what he was hoping Santa would bring him for Christmas during Santa Claus Day in McIntosh.



Olivia and Tatiyana Oliver stopped to see Santa and Mrs. Claus on Saturday, December 12th in McIntosh.



Breelyn Hegre was a bit shy when she visited with Santa at the McIntosh Community Center on Saturday, December 12th.



Out enjoying the day were Carol, Clayton and Clifford Bartz who stopped into First National Bank for a visit during the annual Christmas Open House last Friday.

Wishes Merry & Bright



Pictured above: Jade Bendickson, Jayden Carlson and Paige Lacey had a chance to see Santa and Mrs. Claus during Santa Clause Day in McIntosh on December 12th.



Many people stopped into the First National Bank last Friday for their Annual Christmas Open House to visit and enjoy some goodies. Pictured here are Cheryl Jore, Judi Lindseth and DeAnna Hogenson.



The Kazmierczak kids from Mentor stopped by First National Bank and got to have a picnic with all the goodies at the Christmas Open House.



Neil Bursheim and Geri and Bob Hulst stopped into the Christmas Open House at the First National Bank in McIntosh last Friday to visit and enjoy some coffee and homemade goodies.



Newly retired Mark Lee and his lovely wife, Joan were visitors at the First National Bank Open House last Friday afternoon in McIntosh.



Santa checked his list to make sure that Alec Haskett was on the nice list.

TLC PET

I know many of you have heard the saying, "dog is God spelled backwards." Dogs are full of unconditional love! People can abuse their dog and yet, that dog still holds a heart of love and forgiveness toward their master, ready and willing to obey.

If we are looking, we can hear that gentle inner voice, even in the small daily tasks of our lives. So many times, the Lord ministers to me through animals. When our pets do something wrong, we correct and train that pet to know where the boundaries are, and we give them praise when they get it right. And OH how proud we are when we can see in their eyes that they are finally getting the message we are conveying to them!! Even though they do things that may make us mad or upset us, our love for them does not waver. Our love toward them is unconditional.

In this same way our heavenly Master loves us, and forgives us and trains us through His word. Sometimes we miss

it, and have treated Him bad and held Him without regard, and yet He loves us with a compassionate, unconditional heart. Even the greatest sinner has a place in forgiveness, if only they should ask, it will be granted to them! This is the true message of the Good News of Christmas, its all about the gift of love. During this Christmas season, I hope that you will experience the love of Christ in a new way. To experience the gift of Love and Light that, our heavenly Father gave to us thru the babe Jesus. He came into this earth as a miracle, and left this earth as a miracle for our salvation. And that you would receive His unconditional love toward you! May you have true Joy and "Peace on Earth." May you experience His good will, that HE gave toward all men, women and children....and yes.... even our beloved animals that were also, in the manger with the King of Glory!!! Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord!

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!!

DeAnna Haagenson
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crownpetspa@gmail.com
(Comments of articles welcome)

Here's hoping your Christmas holiday is filled with the gift of love, laughter, joy and good health from the following businesses:

**CITY
OF
MCINTOSH**

**McIntosh
Times**

**The
Coop
Bar & Grill**

*Poplar
Meadows
Senior
Living*

**McIntosh
Country
Store &
Hardware
Hank**

*Ron's
Barber
Shop*

*Lucken
Trucks &
Parts*

*CB
Auto*

**FOSSYTON
TRI-
COOP**

**Dan's
Standard
Service**

**FarmChek
Services**


**PEACE
on EARTH,
GOOD WILL
TOWARD
ALL**

*Neil's
Quality Meats
& More*

**THE CLUB
BAR &
GRILL**

**Jered's
Grocery**

*North
Country
Lumber/
Jason & Chad's
Plumbing*

*Craig
Espeseth,
Inc.*

*Rick's
Repair*

**KingTown
Insurance**

**First
National
Bank &
Agency**

**McIntosh
Motors**

**McIntosh
Senior
Living**

**Stordahl
Tax
Service**

**Moran's
Supper Club
& Lounge**

**Win-E-Mac
Dental**

serving McIntosh and now
Red Lake Falls

**Farm Bureau
Financial
Services**

Greg Gubrud, agent

**CHS-
Winger**

**Minkota
Technologies**

**McIntosh
Cenex**