



Irishman’s Shanty awarded Polk County TZD Traffic Safety Award



The Polk County Towards Zero Death Coalition recently presented Andy Gregg (center, back), owner of the Irishman's Shanty in Crookston, with an TZD Traffic Safety Award. Towards Zero Death is a partnership between the Minnesota Departments of Public Safety, Transportation, and Health and the University of Minnesota. For over 20 years, it's mission is to create a culture for which traffic fatalities and serious injuries are no longer acceptable through the integrated application of education, engineering, enforcement, and emergency medical and trauma services. TZD's coalition comes together to create media releases, news conferences and high visibility mobilizations, all which are geared towards increasing the safety within our communities.



Polk County Sheriff Jim Tadman presents Andy Gregg, owner of Irishman's Shanty with his TZD Traffic Safety Award.

Polk County Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) proudly presented the Irishman's Shanty in Crookston, MN with a well-deserved traffic safety award on February 29, 2024.

Polk County TZD and Minnesota TZD aim to create a culture in which traffic fatalities and serious injuries are no longer acceptable through the integrated application of education, engineering, enforcement, and emergency medical and trauma services. These efforts are driven by local data, best practices, and research.

The Polk County TZD Coalition is thrilled to recognize the Irishman's Shanty for their outstanding commitment to keeping our community safe! The Irishman's Shanty is of-

fering patrons 50% off an appetizer when they choose to leave their vehicle at the establishment and find a safe ride home after consuming alcohol. This establishment is leading by example in promoting responsible choices and preventing impaired driving.

A sincere thank you to the Irishman's Shanty, owner Andy Gregg, and their incredible team for their innovative approach to promoting traffic safety and for their dedication to creating a safer environment for everyone on our roads. Congratulations on this well-deserved award!

For more information on the Polk County TZD, please reach out to Polk County Public Health at 218-281-3385.

The origins of Easter Sunday

Easter takes place on a different Sunday each year. In western Christianity, Easter follows the Gregorian calendar and is thus considered a "movable feast" that is always celebrated between March 22 and April 25. Eastern Orthodox Christianity adheres to the Julian calendar, so Easter will fall on a Sunday between April 4 and May 8 each year. In 2022, the western Christian Easter celebration occurs on

April 17 and the Eastern Orthodox Easter is observed on April 24.

Easter is the most important celebration on the Christian liturgical calendar. While commemorations of Jesus Christ's resurrection likely occurred earlier, the earliest recorded observance of an Easter celebration was in the second century, according to Britannica.

Initial Easter celebrations

were't known as "Easter," which is a word that was borrowed from Pagan spring celebrations of Eostre, the goddess of spring and fertility. It only became associated with Christian usage later on - long after biblical scripture was written. In fact, the word "Easter" only appears in one Bible, the King James Version. But it is likely the word was used as a translation of pascha, or Passover, and not what has come to be known

as Christian Easter.

The earliest Easter celebrations were a version of Passover. According to leading sabbath scholar Professor Samuele Bacchiocchi, Christians universally kept Passover on the biblical date of Nisan until 135 A.D. Early commemorations focused on the crucifixion, and the pain and suffering of Jesus.

Easter...
Continued on page 2 ...



Congratulations to both Win-E-Mac Blue and Win-E-Mac Red teams for placing 2nd and 6th at the Junior High Knowledge Bowl meet last week in Grygla. Win-E-Mac Blue team consisted of Charley Carlson, Ella Langamo, Ella Subbert, Mya Strom, and Stella Davis. Win-E-Mac Red team consisted of Hayden Johnson, Ensley Haskett, Nathaniel Spry, Chloe Howard and Clara Kolden.



Win-E-Mac 5th graders enjoyed their field trip to Detroit Mountain on March 8th in Detroit Lakes. The kids enjoyed learning the basics of downhill skiing and riding the ski lift after passing a skiing course. They want to thank the Winger Lions for their donation to help with the cost of their trip and to the Ski Angel program for their donation as well from Detroit Mountain.



Join the McIntosh Community Club celebrating an early spring with the annual Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt! This year's event will take place on Saturday, March 30th at 1:00 p.m. at Erickson Park in McIntosh. Come find some eggs filled with treats, register for a chance to win a bike from the McIntosh Fire Department, and meet the Easter Bunny for some pictures. Happy Easter from the McIntosh Community Club!



Complaints to MN Department of Commerce about homeowner insurance have doubled since 2020

Homeowners insurance complaints to the Minnesota Department of Commerce have more than doubled since 2020, jumping from 569 in 2020 to 1,185 complaints in 2023. Many of those complaints are from homeowners concerned their claims were denied or they faced high out-of-pocket costs after damage from wind and hail. Some insurance carriers now have exclusions that narrow coverage or require significantly higher deductibles for wind and hail damage, and homeowners are not aware of the changes to their policy until after they file a claim.

Commerce is urging homeowners to look for any changes that may take effect during the next insurance renewal. "To avoid surprises after you submit a claim, be aware of possible changes to your homeowner insurance coverage" said Commerce Deputy Commissioner of Insurance Julia Dreier. "As Minnesota experiences more effects of our changing climate, with more extreme weather events such as hailstorms and windstorms, insurance costs are going to increase, and we want Minnesotans to be prepared."

Insurance for homes and autos have had significant premium cost increases, driven

Cheerful dessert brings smiles to Easter celebrations

The fresh, bright flavor of lemon can bring a cheery ambiance to any occasion when it makes an appearance in delicious recipes.

Lemon essence seems ripe for spring and summer entertaining, and can feature prominently in Easter desserts. Such is the case with this recipe for "Lemon Poppy Seed Pound Cake" from "The Pampered Chef® Stoneware Inspirations" by The Pampered Chef® Test Kitchens.

- Lemon Poppy Seed Pound Cake**
Yield: 16 servings
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups granulated sugar
2 tablespoons lemon zest
2 tablespoons poppy seeds
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
3/4 cup (11/2 sticks) butter, softened (do not substitute margarine)
4 ounces cream cheese, softened
4 eggs
2 tablespoons milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
Powdered sugar (optional)
1. Preheat oven to 325 F.

primarily by these factors:

More extreme weather events that damage more property and cause losses of over a billion dollars in communities across Minnesota and the U.S. It is a sign of how climate change is impacting Minnesotans.

Higher losses and costs for insurers, to cover damages from more costly natural disasters. One impact is higher costs for reinsurance, which insurers must have to cover unexpectedly high amounts of claims.

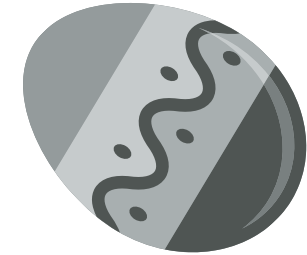
Economic factors, such as higher labor and material supply costs.

"In the past, homeowners' insurance may have covered all of a policyholder's costs to replace a roof or siding, but that

6 Easter egg coloring tips

Coloring Easter eggs is a time-honored tradition dating back more than 2,500 years. There is evidence that people living in the ancient settlement of Trypillia dyed eggs. Ancient Persians also were believed to paint eggs for Nowruz (Persian New Year).

Christians adopted similar traditions to symbolize aspects of the Easter story. Originally Christians dyed eggs red to



represent the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the cross, according to Chase Oaks Church. Good Housekeeping reports early Christian missionaries adapted the dying tradition to include more egg colors to represent different aspects of the Easter story. Yellow represented the resurrection, blue represented love and red remained a symbol of Christ's blood.

Whether families dye eggs to symbolize the Easter miracle or simply for fun, the following are some coloring tips to enhance the process.

- 1. Prevent cracked eggs.** Most colored eggs are hard-boiled. To prevent cracking during the boiling process, add a teaspoon of vinegar and a tablespoon of salt to the boiling water. Additional anti-cracking measures include rubbing half a lemon on each shell before boiling.
- 2. Boil eggs and cool completely.** It takes roughly 10 minutes to hard-boil an egg. Fill a pot with enough water to submerge the eggs, then bring it to a boil over medium-high heat. Gently lower the eggs into the water with a slotted spoon. Cover, reduce the heat to a simmer, and cook for 10 minutes. Drain the eggs and cool in a bowl of water or run

Three out of four Minnesotans with prediabetes unaware they have it

Use Diabetes Alert Day to take action for a healthier you

Diabetes Alert Day was Tuesday, March 26th. A date that is a one-day "wake-up call" that focuses on the seriousness of diabetes and the importance of understanding your risk.

The Minnesota Department of Health is encouraging Minnesotans to take a minute to answer seven questions to find their risk of having prediabetes. It's easy to know where you stand by visiting DoHavePrediabetes.org (PodriaTenerPrediabetes.org in Spanish).

"Taking a minute to answer these questions could be the best thing you do for your health all year," said Teresa Ambroz, manager, and researcher with the MDH Diabetes Program. "With the right steps, you can reverse prediabetes before it becomes Type 2 diabetes. The first step is to

under cold tap water.

3. Don't forget the vinegar. Whether you use colored dye tablets or drops of food coloring from the pantry, use a mix of water and vinegar in the coloring solution. According to Education.com, food coloring is an acid dye and bonds using hydrogen. This chemical process only works in an acidic environment. Vinegar is added to water to make it more acidic and help the dyes adhere more strongly to the eggs and produce brighter colors.

4. Stick to white eggs. Stores sell both brown and white eggs. The species of chicken determines whether the eggs will be white or brown. When coloring eggs, it might be better to purchase white eggs, as the dyes will show up more vividly on the white shells.

5. Create distinctive designs. By covering portions of the bare eggs before dipping into color, people can create unique designs. Things like masking tape, rubber bands, wax (or crayons), and even twine can be used. The dye will only take on the uncovered areas, leaving white behind.

6. Dyes are not the only way to color eggs. Everything from watercolor paint to acrylics to decoupage can be used to cover eggs in vivid colors. Egg decorators also can use colored yarns, fabric or stickers. Search for creative materials to set Easter eggs apart this year.

Coloring eggs is a popular Easter tradition, and there are many ways to ensure this beloved activity produces beautiful results.

find out whether you're at risk, then connect with a health care provider to learn about treatment options, if needed."

Prediabetes means a person's blood sugar is higher than normal and puts them at increased risk of developing Type 2 diabetes. More than 1 in 3 adults – about 98 million Americans – has prediabetes, and 3 out of 4 Minnesotans with prediabetes don't know they have it.

Diabetes is a lifelong condition that affects how the body breaks down sugar. In time, it can contribute to other chronic conditions or lead to complications like chronic kidney disease, loss of vision or nerve damage.

Diabetes can be challenging, but there are support systems and resources to help people manage the disease. Type 2 diabetes is preventable. Focusing on lifestyle changes like increasing physical activity, cutting back on unhealthy foods and sugary drinks, and losing weight can help reduce risk.

For those who qualify, help is available from the Diabetes Prevention Program at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/diabetes/prevent/diabetesprevention.html>.

At the community level, raising awareness about the risks of diabetes is a key piece of the Minnesota's Action Plan to Address Cardiovascular Disease, Stroke and Diabetes 2035 (MN 2035 Plan). The plan lays out detailed strategies and example actions for communities, health care organizations, community and organizational leaders, and people to save lives, reduce health disparities and improve health and well-being.

Easter...

Continued from page 1 ...

Bacchiocchi says that eventually the resurrection emerged as the dominant reason for the celebration that would be known as Easter, and also as the main message of weekly Christian Sunday masses. By the fourth century, the Easter Vigil and celebration were well-established and a symbol of joyful anticipation of the resurrection.

Easter is now celebrated annually by faithful Christians. While Easter is not mentioned in the Bible, scripture depictions helped shape the holiday that would become an integral component of the Christian faith.



Wed. March 27:
Eileen Hegg, Bruce Haaven, Don Boehrson, Patrick Roed, *Toby & Jessica Strom, *Larry & Melissa Finseth

Thurs. March 28: Steve DeFrang
Fri. March 29: Chad Haas, Dean Roy, Norma Ness, Keith Kleven

Sun. March 31: Tom Hegre, David Kiecker, Amanda Schow, Cannon Schow

Mon. April 1: Dylan Burslie, Logan Simonson, *Wendall & Judy Webster

McINTOSH Times

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"Serving the Win-E-Mac area"

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

Thurs. March 28: 7:00 pm Mass of Last Supper, Institution of the Holy Eucharist at St. Mary's. Fosston

Fri. March 29: 6:00pm Passion of the Lord, Good Friday at St. Mary's, Fosston

Sat. March 30: 8:00pm Easter Vigil Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston

Sun. March 31: 8:30am East Sunday Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's,

Sun. April 7: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
McIntosh
Pastor Rene Mehlberg
Synodical Authorized Minister Katie DeMarais

Fri. March 29: Good Friday Worship at 7:00pm

Sun. March 31: rolls and juice at 10:00am followed by Easter Sunday Worship at 10:30 am.

Sun. April 7: 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services

Our Saviors Lutheran Church, McIntosh will run church services on Channel 30 on Garden Valley Channel 30. They will also be available on YouTube on channel One in Spirit - The Journey. Our Saviors service will be available by 8:30 am each Sunday until further notice.

MCINTOSH AFLC
McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:
Interim Pastor: Nathan Dalager

Trinity: (27262 315th St. SE, McIntosh) Sunday Worship: 11:00am; Sunday School: 9:45am

Mt. Carmel: (305 State St. NE, McIntosh) Sunday Worship: 9:30am; Sunday School: 10:45am

Lutheran Parish YouTube Channel

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

Fri. March 29: 10:00am Telecast of the Luther League program with Phil and C'Dale Jore on GVTV--30

Sun, March 31: 9:30am Brunch; 11:00am Easter Worship Service (also on Facebook and gosenchurch.com)

Tues, April 2: 10:00am. Sunday worship service telecast on GVTV--30

Wed, April 3: 6:30pm Bible Study at Sharon Ramberg's home

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.

VERNES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC)
McIntosh
PastorLee Laaveg

Sun. March 31: 9:00am Worship
Sun. April 7: 9:00am Worship

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
McIntosh
Pastor Bruce Blocker,

Sundays: 9:00am Worship; 10:00am Fellowship Hour; 10:15am Sunday School

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Winger

Sundays: 10:30am Coffee Fellowship; 11:00am Worship

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH- NALC
Erskine
Rev. Pam Thorson

Sundays: 9:15am Sunday School; 10:30am Worship
Come early and enjoy fellowship and a good cup of coffee. It will also be available at the same time on Garden Valley Channel 30, Facebook and YouTube.

Please contact the McIntosh Times if you move or have a change in your address so we can keep the paper coming to your home on time.

Social Security announces four key updates to address improper payments

Social Security Commissioner Martin O'Malley today announced he is taking four vital steps to immediately address overpayment issues customers and the agency have experienced. Commissioner O'Malley testified before the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging and the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance (excerpt):

"For 88 years, the hard-working employees of the Social Security Administration have strived to pay the right amount, to the right person, at the right time. And the agency has done this with a high degree of accuracy over a massive scale of beneficiaries. But despite our best efforts, we sometimes get it wrong and pay beneficiaries more than they are due, creating an overpayment.

When that happens, Congress requires that we make every effort to recover those overpaid benefits. But doing so without regard to the larger purpose of the program can result in grave injustices to individuals, as we see from the stories of people losing their homes or being put in dire financial straits when they suddenly see their benefits cut off to recover a decades-old overpayment, or disability beneficiaries attempting to work and

finding their efforts rewarded with large overpayments. Innocent people can be badly hurt. And these injustices shock our shared sense of equity and good conscience as Americans.

We are continually improving how we serve the millions of people who depend on our programs, although we have room for improvement, as media reports last fall revealed. We have also embarked upon a deep dive into the extent of the overpayment problem at Social Security, the root causes of these administrative errors, and the steps we can take as an agency to address these individual injustices.

Our deeper understanding of the complexities of this problem has set us on the following course of action:

- 1. Starting Monday, March 25th**, we will be ceasing the heavy-handed practice of intercepting 100 percent of an overpaid beneficiary's monthly Social Security benefit by default if they fail to respond to our demand for repayment. Moving forward, we will now use a much more reasonable default withholding rate of 10 percent of monthly benefits — similar to the current rate in the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.
- 2. We will be refram-**

ing our guidance and procedures so that the burden of proof shifts away from the claimant in determining whether there is any evidence that the claimant was at fault in causing the overpayment.

3. For the vast majority of beneficiaries who request to work out a repayment plan, we recently changed our policy so that we will approve repayment plans of up to 60 months. To qualify, Social Security beneficiaries would only need to provide a verbal summary of their income, resources, and expenses, and recipients of the means-tested SSI program would not need to provide even this summary. This change extended this easier repayment

option by an additional two years (from 36 to 60 months).

4. And finally, we will be making it much easier for overpaid beneficiaries to request a waiver of repayment, in the event they believe themselves to have been without any fault and/or without the ability to repay.

Implementing these policy changes — with proper education and training across the people, policies, and systems of the agency — is an important but complex shift. And we are undertaking that shift with urgency, diligence, and speed.

I look forward to working with Members to discuss ideas that could address the root causes of overpayments."

NOTICE KING TOWNSHIP

Notice is hereby given that King Township, Polk County, Minnesota is requesting bids for the following services:

- Ditch mowing of King Township roads
- Road gravel, priced per ton
- Road grading of King Township roads
- Snow plowing of King Township roads

The King Township Board reserves the right to reject any and all quotes and to waive irregularities therein and reserves the right to award the contract in the best interest of the township.

Certificate of Insurance must be provided. Proposals should be mailed to King Township Clerk, P.O. Box 62, McIntosh, MN 56556 or remit to King Township Clerk Lucas Thom.

All bids must be received by April 1, 2024.

M1-2C

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL GUIDE

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487-5225 Gonvick, MN

Richards Publishing Co.

Name of County	
Polk County, Minnesota	
Date of Meeting	
February 20, 2024, Convened at 8:00 A.M. -Adjourned at 9:17 A.M.	
Board Members Present	
Gary Willhite -Chair Joan Lee - Commissioner Warren Strandell - Commissioner Paul Reese, Commissioner Paula Waters - Secretary Cathy Gutterud - Board Member	
Board Members Absence	
Mark Holy - Vice Chair	
Staff Present	
Karen Warmack, Director Betty Solie, Support Services Supervisor Molly Paulsrud, Social Services Supervisor Victoria Ramirez, Social Services Manager	
Others Present	
Chuck Whiting, County Administrator Cindy Scott, Tri-Valley FRC Coordinator	

Admin	
Medicare Part B	\$6,289.20
Employee & Board	\$1,940.89
Administration	\$413,098.45
Non-Public	
POS 1-31-24	\$77,428.84
Payroll Pay Date 2-2-24	\$385,799.28
Special Run 2-1-24	\$55.00
1 st of the Month	\$ 72,851.88
Payroll Pay Date 2-16-24	\$400,240.55
Special Run 2-14-24	\$15.00
POS ACH 2-23-24	\$5,300.72
POS 2-23-24	\$339,006.76
MA Insurance	\$ 9,534.14
Medical Transportation	\$ 12,107.89
Special Run 2-23-24	\$265.00
Special Run 2-27-24	\$187.67

Warrants for Publication	
Warrants Approved on 02/20/2024 for Payment 02/09/2024	
Vendor Name	Amount
Always There Staffing	\$5,912.75
Enterprise FM Trust	\$4,291.60
Kittson County Social Services	\$3,308.00
Marshall County Social Services	\$2,789.00
Norman County Social Services	\$2,268.00
Pennington County Human Services	\$3,223.44
Roseau County Social Service Center	\$43,344.42
9 Payments less than 2000	\$7,714.67
Final Total:	\$ 72,851.88

Warrants for Publication	
Warrants Approved on 02/20/2024 for Payment 02/23/2024	
Vendor Name	Amount
Carlin Family Funeral Service	\$2,650.00
Cease Family Funeral Home-Bagley	\$2,900.00
Dahl Funeral Home	\$7,950.00
DHS-Swift	\$10,933.03
Johnson Funeral Service, Inc.	\$2,650.00
Marshall County Social Services	\$7,069.00
Norman County Social Services	\$9,269.00
Pennington County Human Services	\$46,522.44
Polk County, MN	\$273,861.83
Red Lake County Social Service	\$2,772.00
Roseau County Social Service Center	\$23,610.80
Stenshoel-Houske	\$2,650.00
Verizon Wireless	\$4,865.20
33 Payment less than 2000	\$15,395.15
Final Total:	\$413,098.45

Warrants for Publication	
Warrants Approved on 02/23/2024 for Payment 02/23/2024	
Vendor Name	Amount
23 Payments less than 2000	\$1,940.89
Final Total:	\$ 1,940.89

Warrants for Publication	
Warrants Approved on 02/20/2024 for Payment 02/02/2024	
Vendor Name	Amount
2 Payments less than 2000	\$ 55.00
Final Total:	\$ 55.00

Warrants for Publication	
Warrants Approved on 02/20/2024 for Payment 02/14/2024	
Vendor Name	Amount
1 Payment less than 2000	\$ 15.00
Final Total:	\$ 15.00

Warrants for Publication	
Warrants To Be Approved on 03/19/2024 for Payment 02/23/2024	
Vendor Name	Amount
2 Payments less than 2000	\$ 265.00
Final Total:	\$ 265.00

Warrants for Publication	
Warrants To Be Approved on 03/19/2024 for Payment 02/28/2024	
Vendor Name	Amount
1 Payment less than 2000	\$ 187.67
Final Total:	\$ 187.67

Personnel	January 2024.
The Director informed the Board regarding the Probationary Appointment of Billie Baker, Social Worker, effective March 11, 2024.	County Board Information. The Director informed the Board regarding the Resolution to support Clay County to request Minnesota Bond funds for development of Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility. The Resolution was referred to the County Board on February 20, 2024.
The Director informed the Board regarding the Probationary Appointment of Rebecca Strand, Eligibility Worker, effective February 26, 2024.	The Director informed the Board regarding the Resolution to allow distribution of gifts. The resolution was referred to County Board on February 20, 2024.
The Director informed the Board regarding the Probationary Appointment of Sarah Barstad, Case Aide, effective March 4, 2024.	The Director informed the Board regarding Violence Intervention Project contract for 2024. This contract was referred to the County Board on February 20, 2024.
The Director informed the Board regarding the Resignation of Taylor Huss, Social Worker CPS, effective March 1, 2024. Request for replacement was approved at County Board on February 6, 2024.	Program Information. Out of Home Placement Report - January 2024. Screened in Child Protection Report - January 2024. Screened in Vulnerable Adult Report - January 2024.
The Director informed the Board regarding the Status Change of Sarah Perkerewicz, Child Support Lead Worker, effective February 12, 2024.	Molly Paulsrud, Social Services Supervisor, spoke to the Board regarding Reaching Rural - The Fork in the Road Initiative.
The Director informed the Board regarding the Status Change of Cherie Chaput, Fiscal Supervisor I, effective February 20, 2024.	Victoria Ramirez, Social Services Manager and Cindy Scott, Tri-Valley FRC Coordinator, spoke to the Board regarding Family Resource Center updates.
The Director informed the Board regarding the End of Probationary period of Heather Chaput, Eligibility Worker, effective January 9, 2024.	Victoria Ramirez, Social Services Manager, spoke to the Board regarding Provider's Capacity grant and IDI training updates.
The Director informed the Board regarding the End of Probationary period of Andrea Johnson Office Support Specialist, effective February 7, 2024.	The Director shared with the Board correspondence from Clay County dated January 29, 2024, regarding Clay County will be discontinuing hosting services for the Caseworks EDMS solution effective December 31, 2024.
The Director reviewed with the Board the Personnel Organizational Chart dated February 20, 2024.	Karen Warmack, Director Polk County Social Service Center
Budget. The Director reviewed with the Board the following Budget Reports: Social Services Budget Report - January 2024. Social Services Budget Review-January 2024. Social Services Month End Fund Balance Summary - 2002 through January 2024. Out-of-Home Placement Cost Expenditures Report - 2022 through	Mark Holy Chairman, County Social Service Board Attest: Paula Waters Secretary County Social Service Board



Two Win-E-Mac High School robotics teams qualified and competed in the Create U.S. Open Vex Robotics tournament in Council Bluffs Iowa this past weekend. (Pictured above) Team 5300A, a team consisting of Alec Haskett, Wyatt Davis, Chris Roragen, and Foma Chermonov competed in the Red Division and finished with a record of 5-7. They qualified in the tournament as the 16 seed.

LEGAL NOTICE

County Highway Project
BIDS CLOSE: April 26, 2024 at 10:00 AM CDT
Polk County, Minnesota
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS- NOTICE is hereby given that SEALED ELECTRONIC BIDS will be received at until 10:00 AM on Friday, April 26, 2024, by Sam Melbye, Polk County Director of Property Records at Crookston, MN, on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners of Polk County for the construction of the County Project listed below. Sealed electronic bids will be OPENED and READ publicly at 10:00 AM, at the Polk County Highway Department in Crookston, MN. Bids received after 10:00 AM will not be considered. Bids must be submitted electronically through BidVAULT.
STATE AID PROJECT NO. SAP 060-599-294 & SAP 060-599-295
LOCATION: On Hammond Township Road 270th Avenue SW (9.0 miles East of Climax, MN)
On Hammond Township Road 280th Avenue SW (8.0 miles East of Climax, MN)
TYPE OF WORK: Precast Concrete Box Culvert & End Section
Major Items:
10X5 PRECAST CONCRETE BOX CULVERT 86 LF
To obtain plans and proposal and to submit an electronic bid (including electronic bid form) go to the Polk County egram website: https://egram.co.polk.mn.us
All bidders will be required to submit an electronic bid and provide payment of \$100.00 to the Polk County Highway Department.
Proposals, plans, and specifications are also available at: Polk County Highway Department, 820 Old Highway 75 South , Crookston, MN 56716.
Cost - \$100.00 (non-refundable incl. tax)
Electronic bids must be accompanied by a certified check or corporate surety bond in favor of the Treasurer of Polk County for at least 5% of the total amount bid.
The right is reserved to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities or technicalities therein.
Richard C. Sanders
Polk County
County Engineer
M2-4C

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STATE AID PROJECT NO. SAP 060-599-297 & SAP 060-599-298
LOCATION: On Brandsvold Township Road 360th Avenue SE (5.0 miles North of Fosston, MN)
On Russia Township Road 190th Avenue SW (6.0 miles NE of Beltrami, MN)
TYPE OF WORK: Precast Concrete Box Culvert & End Section
Major Items:
10X4 PRECAST CONCRETE BOX CULVERT 42 LF
12X5 PRECAST CONCRETE BOX CULVERT 40 LF
To obtain plans and proposal and to submit an electronic bid (including electronic bid form) go to the Polk County egram website: https://egram.co.polk.mn.us
All bidders will be required to submit an electronic bid and provide payment of \$100.00 to the Polk County Highway Department.
Proposals, plans, and specifications are also available at: Polk County Highway Department, 820 Old Highway 75 South, Crookston, MN 56716.
Cost - \$100.00 (non-refundable incl. tax)
Electronic bids must be accompanied by a certified check or corporate surety bond in favor of the Treasurer of Polk County for at least 5% of the total amount bid.
The right is reserved to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities or technicalities therein.
Richard C. Sanders
Polk County
County Engineer
M2-4C



Team 5300B, a team consisting of Daniel Boianoff and Calvin Hill competed in the orange division and finished with a record of 8-4. They received the 8 seed in the Division. Both teams competed against teams from all over the U.S. and some items as far away as Kazakhstan, Scotland, and China. They represented Win-E-Mac well on a national and world stage.

Minnesota businesses affected by lack of snow can apply for working capital loans from the SBA

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) advises Minnesota businesses engaged in hospitality, winter tourism, their suppliers, and those that provide support services to the hospitality and tourism industry to also consider the impact of lack of snow, low snow or low precipitation on their revenues and operations this past winter when applying for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) for drought.

These working capital loans are available to eligible farm-related and nonfarm-related entities that suffered financial losses as a direct result of these declarations. Examples of eligible businesses include, but are not limited to hotels, restaurants, ski and snowmobile rentals, sleigh rides, snowboard manufacturers, and snow removal services.
These loans are available in the following Minnesota counties Aitkin, Anoka, Becker, Beltrami, Benton, Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Carlton, Carver, Cass, Chisago, Clearwater, Cook, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Dakota, Dodge, Douglas, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Grant, Hennepin, Houston, Hubbard, Isanti, Itasca, Jackson, Kanabec, Kandiyohi, Kittson, Koochiching, Lac qui Parle, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Mahnomen, Marshall, Martin, McLeod, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Pennington, Pine, Pipestone, Polk, Pope, Ramsey, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Rock, Roseau, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, St. Louis, Stearns, Steele,



Stevens, Swift, Todd, Traverse, Wabasha, Wadena, Waseca, Washington, Wilkin, Winona and Wright. Visit sba.gov/disaster for filing deadlines in your county.
Apart from aquaculture enterprises, SBA cannot provide disaster loans to agricultural producers, farmers, and ranchers. Nurseries are eligible to apply for economic injury disaster loans for losses caused by the drought conditions.
The loan amount can be up to \$2 million. Interest rates are 4% for small businesses and 2.375% for private nonprofit organizations, with terms up to 30 years. Interest does not begin to accrue, and monthly payments are not due, until 12 months from the date of the initial disbursement. The SBA sets loan amounts and terms based on each applicant's fi-

nancial condition.
Eligibility is based on the size of the applicant, type of activity and its financial resources. These working capital loans may be used to pay fixed debts, payroll, accounts payable, and other bills that could have been paid had the disaster not occurred. The loans are not intended to replace lost sales or profits.
Applicants may apply online and receive additional disaster assistance information at sba.gov/disaster. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

Polk County Board Minutes

MARCH 5, 2024 BOARD MINUTES

Pursuant to motion of adjournment, the Polk County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:00 o'clock a.m., March 5, 2024. Members present: Commissioner Paul Reese, Commissioner Warren Strandell, Commissioner Gary Willhite, Commissioner Joan Lee, and Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator, Clerk of the Board. Others present Samuel Melbye, Deputy Clerk of the Board, and Ashley Loewen. Absent: Commissioner Mark Holy

AGENDA A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the March 5, 2024, agenda.

CONSENT ITEMS A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the March 5, 2024, consent items: 1. Approve the February 20, 2024, Board minutes. 2. Approve Auditor Warrants. 3. Approve Payment to North American Systems Int'l, Eagan, MN, in the amount of \$80.00 for Freight Charges for the MIS Department. 4. Approve Payment to Johnson Controls, Dallas, TX, in the amount of \$754.42 for RTU4 Servicing for the Facilities Department.

COUNTY BOARD MEMBER ISSUE FORUM 1. Commissioner Reese brought forth that he attended the following meetings: a. No meetings. 2. Commissioner Strandell brought forth that he attended the following meetings: a. MnDOT District 2 Area Transportation Partnership meeting. b. Red Lake Watershed meeting. c. West Central Regional Water District meeting. 3. Commissioner Willhite brought forth that he attended the following meetings: a. Attended County Day at the Minnesota Legislature. b. Polk County Planning and Zoning Advisory Board meeting. c. KROX Valley Talk d. Retirement party for Valerie Bjerk. 4. Commissioner Lee brought forth that she attended the following meetings: a. Household Hazardous Waste Advisory Committee meeting. i. Re-elected as Chair. b. Polk County Extension Service Committee meeting. c. Reaching Rural update meeting. d. State Community Health Services Advisory Committee meeting. e. Received phone call from Polk County resident concerning office support staff availability at McIntosh office. Contacted Polk County Social Services Director Karen Warmack. f. Received email concerning property in Badger Township regarding drainage issue. Contacted Polk County Engineer Rich Sanders.

PUBLIC HEALTH Sarah Reese, Public Health Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to her department: 1. Advertising and Hiring of a Registered Nurse or Public Health Nurse A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the advertisement and hiring of a Registered Nurse or Public Health Nurse, and any subsequent vacancies, within Polk County Public Health.

HIGHWAY Richard Sanders, Polk County Highway Engineer, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department: 1. Award SAP 060-614-023 etc. Bituminous Overlay CSAH 14 and 45 A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve awarding SAP 060-614-023, to Knife River Materials – Northern Minnesota in the amount of \$1,762,174.50 and allow the Administrator and Board Chair to sign the contract. 2. Award SAP 060-608-014 etc. – CSAH 8 (McIntosh), CSAH 105 (Erskine) Mill and Overlay A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve awarding SAP 060-608-014, to Agassiz Asphalt, LLC, in the amount of \$276,681.00 and allow the Administrator and Board Chair to sign the contract. 3. Award CP 124-35-1423 Gravel Road Stabilization CSAH 35 A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve awarding CP 124-35-1423, to Thygeson Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$539,600.00 and allow the Administrator and Board Chair to sign the contract. 4. Award CP 124-03-1429 etc. Route and Seal Cracks A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve awarding CP 124-03-1429, to Asphalt Technologies Corporation in the amount of \$173,130.00 and allow the Administrator and Board Chair to sign the contract. 5. Award Equipment Rental Bids A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve awarding the Equipment Rental Bids to All.

6. Status of Railroad Rock Wind Row Matter Discussion was presented to the Board pertaining to the status of Railroad Rock Wind Row Matter. Brent Wagner, landowner, brought forth that the rocks displaced by the railroad were further spread by the county when the wind row was created. Mr. Wagner is requesting \$2,000 reimbursement for clean-up of the rocks. Mr. Sanders stated that Burlington Northern has received the bill and should be responsible for the reimbursement. Discussion on the reimbursement of \$2,000 included photos of the field and an email from Commissioner Holy which was presented by Commissioner Strandell (Copy on file in the Administrator's Office). A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Willhite to approve the payment of \$2,000 to reimburse Mr. Wagner for the clean-up of the rocks further displaced by the county when building the wind row. After further discussion regarding the liability and consequences of approving the payment without submitting the claim to Polk County's insurance, Commissioner Strandell withdrew his motion. Mr. Wagner will submit a reimbursement request, including all expenses and yield loss, to Polk County Administrator Chuck Whiting to be submitted to Polk County's insurance agent.

SHERIFF James Tadman, Polk County Sheriff, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department: 1. Fill Open Telecommunicator Position in Dispatch Center A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve hiring a Telecommunicator position in the Dispatch Center.

ASSESSOR Mark Landsverk, Polk County Assessor, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department: 1. Abatement Requests A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the Abatement Requests.

ADMINISTRATION Chuck Whiting, Polk County Administrator, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department: 1. Resolution (2024-16) Approving the Establishment of the West Central Regional Water District & Commencement of Water System Establishment Proceedings

RESOLUTION (2024-16) Approving The Establishment Of The West Central Regional Water District & Commencement Of Water System Establishment Proceedings

The following resolution (2024-16) was offered by Commissioner Strandell: WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 116A provides authorization for the County Board of the County of Clay, Minnesota (the "County") to form a multi-county rural water district and establish a multi-county public water system pursuant to the process established in Minnesota Statutes sections 116A.01 to 116A.26; and WHEREAS, The County has, after significant investigation and consultation with appropriate engineering experts, determined that the formation of a rural water district in collaboration with Norman and Polk counties entitled the "West Central Regional Water District" (the "WCRWD"), and the establishment of multi-county public water system vacuities, within Polk County Public Health, is necessary to ensure sustainable access to potable water for County residents and businesses, benefit the public, and promote the public health; and

WHEREAS, To establish a multi-county public water system for the WCRWD pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 116A, the County must obtain an order establishing said system from a state District Court in a judicial district with jurisdiction in Polk, Norman, and/or Clay counties after completion of the proceeding identified in Minnesota Statutes sections 116A.01 to 116A.26; and

WHEREAS, The County previously adopted a resolution (CR11-17-2022-1) to form the WCRWD and authorized the expenditure of resources to further that effort, including the completion of a preliminary survey; and

WHEREAS, The County wishes to amend the WCRWD's proposed territory to be consistent with the attached preliminary survey dated February 2024 (Exhibit A) and move forward with the necessary judicial process required to establish a public water system for the WCRWD and submit the attached legal filing in Clay County District Court (Exhibit B) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes sections 116A.01 to 116A.26; and

WHEREAS, Upon establishment of the WCRWD's public water system and contingent upon and subject to the findings and order of the applicable state District Court, it is intended that the WCRWD would form a water Commission pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 116A.24 and said Commission would govern the WCRWD and its public water system and exercises all power granted to it under state law.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

1. The County Board hereby modifies the territory of the previously formed WCRWD to be consistent with the preliminary survey attached here to as Exhibit A, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 116A.02, subd. 4; and

2. The County Board hereby authorizes the filing of Exhibit B and initiation of proceedings to establish a multi-county public water system to be owned and operated by the

WCRWD pursuant to Minnesota Statute 116A.01 to 116A.26 in Clay County District Court; and

3. The County Board hereby authorizes, upon formation of the WCRWD and establishment of the WCRWD's public water system contingent upon and subject to the findings and order of Clay County District Court, the formation of a water Commission pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 116A.24 to govern the WCRWD and operate its public water system; and

4. The County Board hereby engages and authorizes Flaherty & Hood, P.A. to serve as legal counsel for the County and WCRWD in the required judicial proceedings to establish the public water system and to use the services of and manage qualified experts during those judicial proceedings.

Commissioner Reese seconded the foregoing resolution, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote. YEAS: Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Willhite, and Commissioner Lee. NAYS: None.

2. Legislative Update Discussion along with a handout was presented to the Board from the Minnesota Department of Revenue pertaining to a Draft Idea for a Gross

AUDITOR WARRANTS 02/06/2024	Amount
Vendor Name	
Chiller Systems Inc	6,615.00
Crookston Driftbusters	9,823.19
Crookston Water Department	3,676.10
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	5,159.30
ICON Architectural Group	3,700.00
Johnson Controls	4,663.46
Liberty Business Systems Inc	6,816.17
Mn State Treasury	6,697.50
Polk County Environmental Services	50,373.46
US Bank Voyager Fleet Sys	3,040.22
Xcel Energy	2,075.10
10 Payments less than 2000	6,012.03
Final Total:	108,651.53

AUDITOR WARRANTS 02/08/2024	Amount
Vendor Name	
1 Payments less than 2000	15.00
Final Total:	15.00

AUDITOR WARRANTS 02/13/2024	Amount
Vendor Name	
AMP Robotics Corporation	6,038.23
BELTRAMI COUNTY SOLID WASTE	4,114.70
BELTRAMI COUNTY SOLID WASTE	3,936.24
Carahsoft Technology Corporation	24,900.00
Cole Papers Inc	4,882.08
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	18,801.81
Fischer Rust Law Firm PLLC	2,550.00
Harbott Knutson Larson & Holten PLLP	2,401.25
Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell, PLLC	28,920.00
Lenes Sand & Gravel Inc	51,273.52
Lenes Sand & Gravel Inc	13,604.20
Lepier Oil Company Inc	6,701.06
M & K Porta Potties	8,167.00
Northdale Oil Inc	4,727.78
Polk County	76,976.00
Reserve Account	10,000.00
35 Payments less than 2000	24,932.73
Final Total:	292,926.60

AUDITOR WARRANTS 02/20/2024	Amount
Vendor Name	
Altru Health System	2,653.00
AT&T Mobility	2,732.05
Becker County Human Services	3,203.53
C L Linfoot Co	84,715.30
Clay County Public Health	17,035.82
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	5,191.30
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	26,871.27
Fosston Municipal Utilities	58,815.50
Fosston Municipal Utilities	3,888.03
Great Plains Natural Gas Co	9,542.97
Johnson Controls	2,100.00
Kinetic Leasing	33,766.78
Lenes Sand & Gravel Inc	51,353.08
Norman County Public Health	47,828.61
Northdale Oil Inc	20,028.46
Ottertail Power Co	39,455.74
Ottertail Public Health	10,238.30
Polk County Public Health	111,817.83
Verizon Wireless	2,094.12
24 Payments less than 2000	14,023.13
Final Total:	547,354.82

AUDITOR WARRANTS 02/21/2024	Amount
Vendor Name	
1 Payments less than 2000	15.00
Final Total:	15.00

AUDITOR WARRANTS 02/27/2024	Amount
Vendor Name	
East Grand Forks City	4,747.75
Fischer Rust Law Firm PLLC	2,961.25
Lenes Sand & Gravel Inc	77,671.95
Mn State Treasury	5,900.50
Rokke, Aandal & Associates PLLC	2,040.00
SHI International Corp	191,727.96
14 Payments less than 2000	7,405.02
Final Total:	292,454.43

MANUAL WARRANTS 02/02/2024	Amount
Vendor Name	
Internal Revenue Service	191,779.45
Minnesota Revenue	33,330.29
Final Total:	225,109.74

MANUAL WARRANTS 02/16/2024	Amount
Vendor Name	
Internal Revenue Service	189,483.93
Minnesota Revenue	32,955.91
Final Total:	222,439.84

MANUAL WARRANTS 02/20/2024	Amount
Vendor Name	
Minnesota Revenue	2,354.00
Minnesota Revenue	665.48
Mn Dept Of Rev Tax Division	78,954.22
Mn Dept Of Revenue	28.00
Mn Dept Of Revenue	119.00
Final Total:	82,120.70

MANUAL WARRANTS 02/20/2024	Amount
Vendor Name	
Mn Dept Of Revenue	1,752.00
Final Total:	1,752.00

The McIntosh Times

Operating Revenues Tax. (Handout on file in the Administrator's Office)

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Theresa Ebbenga, NW Regional Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to the Northwest Region of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources along with Nathan Kestner, Emily Hutchins, Doug Franke, and Kerry Ross also of the MN DNR:

1. Discussion Regarding Information Highlighting Polk County

Discussion along with a handout was presented to the Board from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources highlighting some of the successes and opportunities related to natural resources work in Polk County. (Handout on file in the Administrator's Office)

AUDITOR WARRANTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board that the following Auditor Warrants were approved:

MANUAL WARRANTS 02/23/2024	Amount
Vendor Name	
U.S. Bank Corporate Payment Systems	127,137.46
Final Total:	127,137.46
MANUAL WARRANTS 02/23/2024	Amount
Vendor Name	
U.S. Bank Corporate Payment Systems	1,861.55
Final Total:	1,861.55
With no further business the Board adjourned to reconvene at 9:30 o'clock a.m., March 19, 2024.	
ATTEST: Gary Willhite, Chair	
Charles S. Whiting, Polk County Administrator	
Clerk of the Board	
M2C	

Tournament snowstorm lore

There's been a long-standing myth of the "Tournament Snowstorm." The myth goes that the Twin Cities will get a big snowstorm during tournament time. In particular, during the State High School Boys Basketball Tournament. This myth has been around for many years. In 1975, Bruce Watson noted in his book: WCCO Weather Almanac 1975 that the "State Basketball Tournament Storm is no myth. We simply get a lot of storms around the equinox, the general time of the tournament." Indeed, in the 25 years before 1975 there were several large snowstorms that occurred around the basketball tournament.

On Saturday March 22, 1952 thousands of people had tickets for the State Boys Basketball Tournament at Williams Arena. The big storm hit the morning of the finals in 1952, with 13.7 inches falling that day. Public transportation was severely hampered and fans trudged through the snow. The Championship game was between Hopkins and St. Paul that evening and Hopkins won 42 to 29. This was the storm that really get the myth going. Another memorable storm was 11.4 inches on March 23, 1966.

How often does it snow 4 inches or more during the State High School Boys Basketball Tournament? The tournament began in 1913 and in those days was 3 days long. Later the tournament expanded to cover 4 days by the 1990s. Snow events were looked at for each day of the tournament. The number of times four inches or more fell during the tournament were noted over the past 110 years. Meteorologist Ron Trenda provided the initial research through 1987 and the State Climatology Office con-

tinued the check through the year 2023. Note: in 2020 the Boys Basketball Tournament was cancelled due to COVID. Here are the results:

10 years out of 110 had 4 inches or more of snow over "tourney time" (travel day plus the days of the tournament) This means that 9% of the tournaments had a "tournament snowstorm."

In addition, the chances of having a balmy day of at least 50 was looked at. Here are the results:

46 years out of 110 had at least one temperature of 50 or greater during "tourney time." This means that there is a 42% chance of seeing a 50 degree or warmer temperature during the tournament. We've been four times as likely to see 50 degrees rather than 4 inches or more of snow during the tournament!

In the last 40 years or so, the legend has dropped the "basketball" part and is more commonly known as the "tournament snowstorm." This is because over the years, other tournaments have gained in popularity such as wrestling, girls basketball, and boys and girls hockey. The tournament season now lasts over a month and has a much greater chance of seeing a heavy snow event. Thousands of people are affected if heavy snow falls and this makes the snowstorms stand out. In order to have a "real" tournament snowstorm (in the old historic sense) it will have to fall during the boys basketball tournament.

The tournament in 2024 is from March 20-23. Accumulating snow that fell during the 21st and 22nd does not appear to have reached a 4-inch accumulation in the Twin Cities, and would not count as a Tournament Snowstorm.

Harvest decoratives and edibles from MN woodlands and forests

With this year's mild winter, there seems to be more decorative wood product harvesting in Minnesota forests. People harvesting decoratives and edibles from any private or public land must contact the owner of that land and get permission or a permit to forage those woodlands or forests.

You do not need a permit to collect small amounts of berries, mushrooms, or cones from a State Forest for personal use. You also do not need a permit to collect dead fuelwood for fires while in a State Forest.

However, you must obtain a permit from a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Forestry office to:

- Cut or remove any trees or plants for any reason. (birch bark, birch sticks, alder, diamond willow)
- Remove wood from state land boundaries.
- Collect a large amount of berries, mushrooms, or dead fuelwood for personal use or sale.
- Tap trees for syrup for personal use or sale (birch, sugar maple silver maple, box elder, black walnut).
- Harvest Christmas trees, decorative tops, or boughs in State Forests.

Make sure you call ahead and inquire about the process with the local DNR Forestry office.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has websites and publications that review the laws and policies regarding harvesting decorative forest products. Publications on sustainably harvesting treetops, boughs, decorative poles, and state laws regarding harvesters and buyers are detailed on this website.

Minnsota State Park Rules

Harvesting edible fruits and mushrooms is allowed in Minnesota state parks, as long as they are for personal consumption.

Commercial harvesting is not allowed. It is not allowed to pick wildflowers or other plants (edible or not), even for personal use.



Morel mushrooms are one of many species you may find in Minnesota woodlands and forests.

Minnesota DNR Foresters are available in all regions of the state to assist and work with woodland owners with sustainable management plans of their natural resources found within their property.

Minnesota is home to 17.6 million acres of forest land. Sustainable forest management is vitally important, providing a healthy forest, economy, and environment to the people of Minnesota. The DNR Utilization and Marketing Program has resources reviewing wood products and decorative industries in Minnesota.

If you are foraging for edibles or decoratives in woodlands, you need to be aware of how you can spread invasive species unknowingly throughout the woodlands. The Minnesota Harvester Handbook is an excellent wild gatherers resource. The University of Minnesota Extension and other contributors developed this resource. Copies can be purchased at the University of Minnesota Bookstore. A monthly woodland newsletter can be found at My Minnesota Woods (https://extension.umn.edu/natural-resources/my-minnesota-woods).