



McINTOSH Times

\$1.00

Hub of the Thirteen Townships

Since 1888

McIntosh, Minnesota



Founders and an important part of Freedom Christian Academy in Erskine, Jason and Holly Breckel, Amber Finseth, and Sofia and Denton Nikolayson hosted the Annual Breakfast at the Farm at the Breckel's Hilltop Ranch in rural McIntosh on Saturday, June 1st. There was a pancake and sausage breakfast, live music from The Snowmen, a petting zoo, kids events, vendors and much more fun for everyone. FCA is a an Interdenominational Christian School giving children the opportunity to learn in an environment where their education is based upon strong, Biblical values and concepts.

What is the summer solstice?

Many people anxiously await the first day of summer and look forward to activities that are tailor-made for warm weather. The first day of summer is known as the summer solstice, which marks the official start of astronomical summer. The solstice features more hours of daylight than any day of the year, according to Space.com. The next summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere occurs on June 20, 2024 (the Southern Hemisphere celebrates the solstice on December 21, 2024).

light depends on the latitude. At the equator, the time from sunrise to sunset is about 12 hours.

Although many people celebrate the summer solstice primarily for the extra hours of daylight, the solstice has historically been assigned deeper meaning in many cultures. In Scandinavian countries, the solstice is celebrated as a holiday known as Midsummer's Eve, which is observed on a weekend near the time of the summer solstice. Festivities include dancing, singing, drinking, cleaning house, lighting bonfires, and more.

The National Weather Services says the summer solstice happens at the moment the earth's tilt toward the sun is at a maximum. The sun will appear in its highest elevation with a noontime position that will not move much for several days before and after the summer solstice. The word solstice is derived from the Latin word "sol," meaning sun.

During the summer solstice at Stonehenge in the United Kingdom, the sun will rise behind the entrance to a stone circle and the sunlight will flow into the center of the monument. Researchers believe solstices have been celebrated at Stonehenge for thousands of years.

During the summer solstice, the sun travels the longest path through the sky, which is why it is the day with the most daylight. The length of day-

light depends on the latitude. At the equator, the time from sunrise to sunset is about 12 hours.

NW MN competitive advantages are reflected in higher occupational wages

While it is well known that Northwest Minnesota wages are generally lower than statewide wages, there are unique features of the Northwest that make wages for some occupations similar or even higher. Advantages are often reflected in high concentrations of employment in certain occupations.

or higher wages than statewide. Figure 1 (see page 4) includes the broad occupation group as well as the selected specific occupations to show that often similar occupations in these groups are closer in wage to statewide than the total of all occupations.

It stands to reason that if a region has a competitive advantage in certain economic activities, there is likely to be a concentration of regional employment supporting those activities.

However, some groups are even further from the statewide wage. For example, Management occupations as a group have wages that are 23.5% lower in the Northwest. Life, Physical & Social Science occupations are 16.6% lower. These two broad occupational groups also have relatively low employment concentrations in the Northwest. Management is 0.78 the concentration of statewide, while Life, Physical & Social Science is 0.69 as concentrated. The group with the highest concentration is Farming, Fishing & Forestry with 2.42 times the statewide percentage of employment. It is also the group that is closest to statewide wages.

Figure 1 (see page 4) identifies selected occupations with high employment concentrations and relatively high wages compared to Minnesota statewide. Only a small, manageable sample of highly concentrated occupations are featured here.

Indeed, the Northwest's natural resources provide competitive advantage that allows workers to add great value to the goods and services produced, thereby reaping higher wages. Occupations from Farmers, Ranchers & Other Agricultural Managers, to Zoologists & Wildlife Biologists, to Forest & Conservation Technicians, to Agricultural Equipment Operators, to Farm Equipment Mechanics, to Food Processing Workers, to Packers & Packers all add value to the natural resources of the region, making their work relatively highly compensated.

For all occupations, Northwest wages are 9.7% lower than statewide, with a median annual wage of \$47,369 compared to \$52,460 for Minnesota. This reflects the fact that the majority of jobs are in the higher paying, and higher cost of living, Twin Cities Metro Area. Specifically, an estimated 1,743,500 of the 2,881,100 jobs in the state, or just over 60% of Minnesota jobs are in the Twin Cities.

Seven of Minnesota's 18 Native American Casinos are in the Northwest Region, and Gambling Runners are instrumental to these operations. No doubt the region's natural beauty attracts tourists to support these operations. Likewise, Upholsterers are essential for the Transportation Equipment Manufacturing industry that builds boats, ATVs, and snowmobiles that are used to recreate in the region.

The Twin Cities Metro has larger employers, including corporate headquarters, with highly paid employees. Also, large metro areas attract many top specialists due to the large market served. Large metro areas also tend to have higher-priced real estate, and higher cost of living in general.

Electrical Power-Line Installers & Repairers enable electricity to be moved through the vast region, while Earth Drillers (directional drillers) install utilities through rural distribution areas where trees and wetlands make overhead lines or trenching less feasible. Thus, the challenges of dis-

stance and natural features also lead to high value-added occupations.

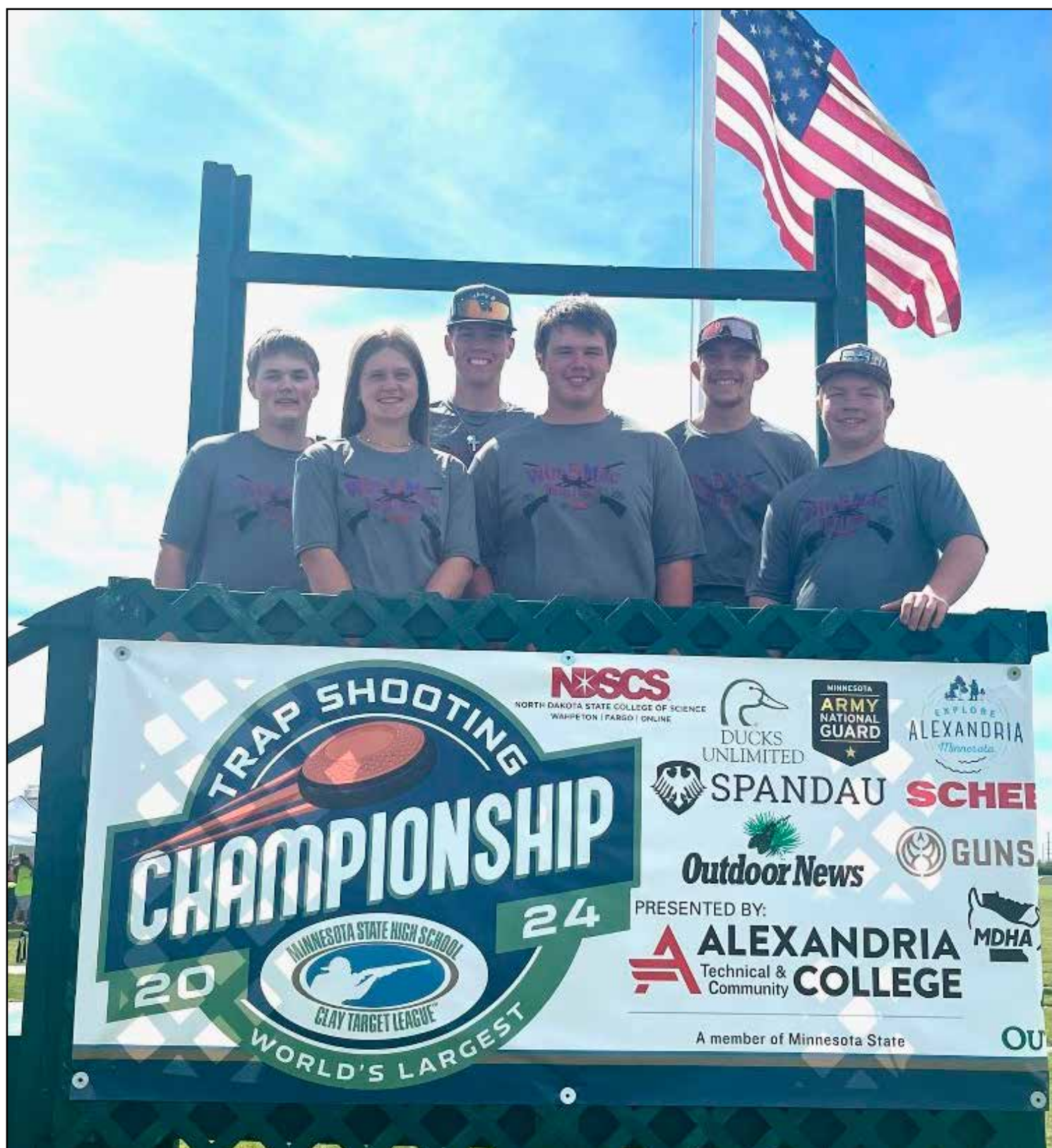
An important implication of this analysis is that a young person who wants to live in the Northwest could choose one of these highly concentrated occupations for a career in or-

der to earn close to the same or higher wages compared to statewide and have even more purchasing power considering the much lower cost of living.

For More Information contact Anthony Schaffhauser at anthony.schaffhauser@state.mn.us.



Paisley Tofstad pets a bunny at the Freedom Christian Academy Breakfast at the Farm event held at Hilltop Ranch on Saturday, June 1st.



The Win-E-Mac Trap Shooters, Hudson Smeby, Brayden Sander, Alec Haskett, Alyssa Morberg, Chris Roragen, and Hunter Westcott, recently attended the Minnesota State High School Trap Shooting Championship in Alexandria.

McIntosh Council minutes for May 2024

Regular Council Meeting
Thursday May 9, 2024
5:30 p.m.
Community Center
Call to order: Mayor Strom called the meeting to order at 5:30

Pledge of Allegiance:
Roll call: Members present: Toby Strom, Jordan Gunufson, Luke Burd, Luke Syverson, Beth Hagen

Melissa Finseth – clerk/treasurer

Guests: Matt Thompson, Juanita Hepburn, Scott Gustafson, Crystelle Philipp – Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell, PLLC

Determination of quorum:
Quorum was met.
Agenda additions:
f. building permit – Boe
g. Reese property – yard site
h. Dump truck
Motion by Beth Hagen and seconded by Luke Syverson to approve the agenda additions. Passed unopposed.

Approval of minutes:
a. April 16, 2024 regular council meeting minutes
Motion by Luke Burd and seconded by Jordan Gunufson to approve the April 16, 2024 regular council meeting minutes. Passed unopposed.

Public concerns:
Matt Thompson informed the council that there is a water pooling issue on the south side of his property in the city's right-of-way. Council discussed having the right-of-way graded to allow the water to flow to the alley east of Matt Thompson's. Mr. Thompson offered to do the work himself, but Mayor Strom said that the city may need to grade the entire right-of-way. Mayor Strom confirmed, later, that he will inspect the right-of-way and let the city clerk know what needs to be done.

Juanita Hepburn and Scott Gustafson were in attendance to discuss issues they've been having with a neighbor's dog running loose onto their properties as well as other properties in the neighborhood. Letters will be written to all

parties involved with animal ordinance laws.
Chrystelle Philipp of Hoffman, Philipp, & Martell, PLLC was in attendance to discuss the 2023 financial audit. A copy of the full audit report will be available to the public in the city clerk's office.

MEDA and Poplar Meadows:
a. Rental status
Poplar Meadows currently has 23 residents. 1 bedroom in the extended care unit is available for rent. The 1 bedroom and 2 – 2 bedroom apartments have deposits in for June 1st.
b. Approve Poplar Meadows monthly bills
Motion by Luke Burd and seconded by Beth Hagen to approve the monthly bills in the amount of \$67,347.75. Passed unopposed.

c. Revenue status
It was reported that the financial status, for Poplar

Meadows, is improving with the increases coming in. The months of June and July are projected to expand the increases for second and third quarter finances.

Old business:
None.
New business:
a. Joint resolution – orderly annexation
Motion by Luke Syverson and seconded by Jordan Gunufson to adopt a joint resolution for orderly annexation. This annexes certain portions of the township into the city and is described in parcel numbers: 40.00105.00, 44.00106.00, 44.00111.00, and 90.00001.00. All council members voted in the affirmative.

All members of the King Township board voted in the affirmative during their township meeting on May 7, 2024.
b. Reese property – surveying project.
Tabled until the June 13, 2024 meeting.

c. 2024 county road 8 bituminous overlay project
Polk County Highway Department sent a notification that CSAH 8 will have a bituminous overlay done summer of 2024. This was informational only and nothing was needed to be decided by the city.
d. Homeschool group
Tabled until the June 13, 2024 meeting.

e. Building permit – Baumann
Motion by Luke Syverson and seconded by Luke Burd to approve a building permit

for a 12'x8' shed for Kevin and Karen Baumann. Passed unopposed.

f. Building permit – Boe
Motion by Luke Syverson and seconded by Jordan Gunufson to approve the building permit for a fence for Hunter Boe and Justice Farnworth. Passed unopposed.

g. Reese property – yard site
Motion by Luke Syverson and seconded by Beth Hagen to put the Reese property on bids with the stipulation that the property will be improved by the new owner in one year's time. Passed unopposed.

h. Dump truck
Motion by Luke Burd and seconded by Jordan Gunufson to approve putting the city's dump truck up on McMullen Auction Sales. Passed unopposed.

Approval of monthly bills:
Motion by Luke Syverson and seconded by Luke Burd to approve the monthly bills in the amount of \$42,779.74. Passed unopposed.

Council & staff reports:
Jordan Gunufson asked that the Anchor Mills sign be removed since the city doesn't intend on selling the property.

Notices & Correspondence:
Adjournment:
Motion by Luke Syverson and seconded by Jordan Gunufson to adjourn at 7:06. Passed unopposed.



Winger Lions Fish Fry is June 29th

The 2024 Winger Lions Fish Fry is on Saturday, June 29th, 2024 from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Winger Community Center. Adults: \$15.00 Children (6-12): \$10.00 and Children 5 and under are free.
Menu: Fish (all you care to eat), Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Rolls, and a Beverage. Take out is available.
Proceeds will assist in benefiting ongoing medical expenses for Mike Renna.
This will be a collection site for used eye glasses and hearing aids to support the Lions Club International.



The Gosen Luther League meets on Sunday evening, June 23rd, at 7 o'clock. Dan and Merilee Ottoson will be in concert. They are accomplished Gospel singers, songwriters, and recording artists. Since 1979 the Ottosons have traveled in ministry throughout the United States and Canada and also the Philippines and Mexico. The concert will include southern Gospel songs, hymns, and audience sing-alongs and also a saxophone solo. Join us for an inspirational evening in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ. Refreshments will be served following the program. 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 791-0797 or 280-0821.

Star Lab Planetarium programs on June 21st and July 8th

Local libraries will host StarLab programs as part of Lake Agassiz Regional Library's outer space-themed Summer Library Experience, inviting area youth to learn about stars, constellations and how planets appear in the night sky. The visits are geared for youth ages 5+ but open to all and are offered free-of-charge. The StarLab is a portable planetarium brought to you by the Bemidji Science Center.

Programs are scheduled as follows:
Friday, June 21 at 1:30 p.m. and at 2:15 p.m. at the Fosston Public Library (Register at larl.org/events or call the library at 218-435-1320)
Monday, July 8 at 10:30 a.m. at the McIntosh Public Library (Registration is not required, but those interested can call the library at 218-563-4555 to learn more.)
The Summer Library Experience is offered from June 1 - July 31 at libraries and LINK Sites. A number of fun programs will be held in connection with the reading challenge, including Magic

Shows, theater productions, craft events and much more. All programs are offered free-of-charge. More information is available at larl.org and a full list of programs can be found at larl.org/explore.

**GENERAL NOTICE TO CONTROL OR ERADICATE NOXIOUS WEEDS
POLK COUNTY, MN**

Notice is hereby given this 17th day of June, 2024, pursuant to *Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 1 (2009)* that all persons in Polk County, Minnesota, shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on land they occupy or are required to maintain. Control or eradication may be accomplished by any lawful method, but the method(s) applied may need to be repeated in order to prevent the spread of viable noxious weed seeds and other propagating parts to other lands. Failure to comply with the general notice may mean that an individual notice, *Minnesota Statutes, Section 18.83, Subdivision 2 (2009)*, will be issued. An individual notice may be appealed within two working days of receipt to the appeal committee in the county where the land is located. Failure to comply with an individual notice will result in the inspector having jurisdiction to either hire a third party to complete the work or seek a misdemeanor charge against the person(s) who failed to comply. If it becomes necessary for the inspector to hire a third party, the costs incurred will be placed as a tax upon the land and collected as other real estate taxes are collected.

The supervisors of each town board and the mayor of each city shall act as local weed inspectors. They shall examine all lands, including highways, roads, alleys, and public grounds within their respective municipalities and see that the control or eradication of noxious weeds has been carried out.

A list of the plants that are designated as noxious can be obtained from the Polk County Ag and Drainage web page at www.co.polk.mn.us/agdrainage or by contacting the County Agricultural Inspector, Richard Sanders at 218-470-8253.

M14C



The Snowmen entertained the crowd during this years Breakfast at the Farm at Hilltop Ranch in rural McIntosh. The breakfast event is a fundraiser for Freedom Christian Academy and draws many community members who come out to enjoy a good breakfast and entertainment.



Independence Day program in rural McIntosh

You are invited once again to motor out to the home of Dan & Darlene Dierkes, 28891 350th St SE, McIntosh, on July 4th. At 10:00 AM, Ben Ramse will read the grievances against King George III that caused our forefathers to say, "Enough!". That document, the Declaration of Independence, is as important today as it was in 1776: It reminds us why those brave souls were willing to fight for freedom, and that we need to continue that fight for the next generations.
We will begin precisely at 10:00 and will be done by 10:15, but you are welcome to stay for coffee and lemonade, great conversation, and treats provided by the neighbors. (Thank you to everyone who contributes!)

We will hold it in the garage, rain or shine; some seating is provided, but feel free to bring your own lawn chairs. If you need directions or have questions, please call 320-250-5711 or email darlene1978@gmail.com.

We hope to celebrate our country's independence with you!

Meeting for Harvest Festival

We will have a planning meeting for the McIntosh Harvest Festival on Wednesday, June 26th at 6 p.m. at the McIntosh Community Center. I'd like to get a good idea of who we would have for volunteers and what we would need for additional help. Please make a point to make this meeting or if you can't make it for some reason contact Philip Lee at First National Bank in McIntosh.

Grace Community Food Shelf

Open Hours:
Thursday, June 20th from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.
Questions? 218-687-2250 or foodshelf@gracechurcherskine.org.

Community Birthday and Anniversary Calendar

Wed. June 19:
Adam Carlson, Alex Hedlund, *Kyle & Kayla Jore
Thurs. June 20:
Tom Hegg
Fri. June 21:
Linda Christianson, Eivind Jore, *Jim & Susan Lee
Sat. June 22:
Erik Hamre, *Andy & Stacy Smith, *Jerry & Bonita Shaver, *Jason & Shannon Svalen
Sun. June 23:
Vicky Strom, Fernando Soto, *Kris & Gwen Rue, *Paul & Sandra Jore
Mon. June 24:
Karlie Schow, Holly Schlager, Mark Simonson, Wyatt Schow, *Calvin & Anne Schow, *Steve & Candace Haaven
Tues. June 25:
*Travis & Kelsey Mahlum



ST. MARY'S CHURCH Fosston

Fr. John Suvakeen, Pastor
Sun. June 23: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley; 3:00pm Divine merch Sunday, St. Mary's, Fosston
Wed. June 26: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston
Fri. June 27: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston
Sun. June 30: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley; 3:00pm Divine merch Sunday, St. Mary's, Fosston
Wed. July 3: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston

OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) McIntosh

Pastor Rene Mehlerberg
Synodical Authorized Minister Katie DeMarais
Sun. June 23: 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services
Su. June 30: 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services
Our Savior's 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
Sun. June 23: 9:30am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00am Worship Service (also on Facebook and gosenchurch.com); 7:00 p.m. Luther League Concert with the Ottosons (see article elsewhere in the paper)
Tues. June 25: 10:00am. Sunday worship service telecast on GVTV-30
Wed. June 26: 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

Pastor Lee Laaveg
Sun. June 23: 9:00am Worship
Sun. June 30: 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.

Thriving Life Church Erskine, MN

Sunday servie at 10:00 am
Call or visit us at: 22722 350th Street; 218-687-2343

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL GUIDE

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McINTOSH Times

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Serving the Win-E-Mac area

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Upcoming deadlines for arts grants applications

Applications Open July 1st and have a July 31st deadline for government organizations and non-profits.

It is time to start planning for your fall and winter community arts activities. When the application is available on July 1st your organization will be ready to start applying to meet our July 31 deadline date.

Applications open on July 1 for arts grants to nonprofit arts organizations, communities, schools, and other nonprofit organizations. Applications are being accepted from our seven county Minnesota service area including Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau counties.

Nonprofit arts organizations can apply for general operating funds. The eligible grant amount is based on total expenses within the previous two completed years and the organization's history of arts programming. These organizations will be able to add to this grant, as the year progresses, if they need additional funding. Funding sources for these grants come from Clean Water, Land and Legacy funds and general allocation funds from the State of Minnesota.

Quick turnaround grants for \$500 will be available on an ongoing deadline starting in July. These grants are awarded to performing artists, visual artists, media artists, and creative writing artists from our seven county Minnesota service area including Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau counties.

Individuals must be out of high school and at least 18 years of age to be eligible. College tuition is not an eligible expense. This is the main cat-

egory that individuals use to support their artistic business or advance their technical skills. This category is for non-hobby artists who make substantial yearly income from their art. Support for this program comes from The McKnight Foundation.

Individuals absolutely must reside in our region (for one year prior) and remain living in our region during your entire grant year (2024). In the case of college students, your school or your home mailing address must be in our region. You will have to show proof of residency, usually your driver's license.

All other nonprofits and government organizations can apply for one arts project at a time. Grants are between \$500 and \$10,000. Funding sources for these grants are Clean Water, Land and Legacy funds and general allocation funds from the State of Minnesota.

Organizational arts activities funded through these two very important grant opportunities include festivals, community theatre projects, folk music entertainment, sponsorship of visual demonstrations, creative writing workshops and many other activities that improve the quality of life of people in our communities.

Grant writing session July 17th at 11:00 am.

There will be a grant writing session on July 17 at 11 AM to help you write your grant or answer any questions. You can attend via Zoom or at our office in Warren.

The deadline to apply for a project grant for governments and non-profits is July 31st.

Schools in our seven-county region can also apply for an Artist Residency grant of \$2,600 plus an additional \$400

if the residency needs supplies. Our teaching artist roster is a great resource to view artists available to teach in our area and is available on our website at www.NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org under the artists tab. Another resource to view artists available to enhance curriculum is COMPAS.

Schools can initially apply for one residency. Then based on remaining funding, can request up to three additional residencies into spring and summer. Funding for residency activities comes from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in Minnesota.

In addition, there is Arts Equipment funding for school districts available up to \$3,000 with 25% cash match required

STD data release from MDH

Polk-Norman-Mahnomen Community Health Services emphasizes the importance of Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) prevention and testing as part of your overall health. Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) are also known as sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

These are infections caused by viruses, bacteria, or parasites that are spread through sexual activity, specifically anal, vaginal, and oral sex. Some STDs, such as hepatitis B and HIV, are also transmitted through blood-to-blood contact, through sharing syringes or equipment to inject drugs, body piercing equipment or tattooing needles. Pregnant people with STDs may pass their infections to infants during pregnancy, birth, or through breast feeding.

31,232 STI cases were reported to MDH in 2023 compared to 32,072 cases in 2022

We offer grant training workshops via Zoom or in person at the NWMAC office in Warren. You must RSVP to attend. Email director@nwmac.org with questions. Don't let your questions about the grant process keep you from applying! We are here to help.

To learn more about grant programs and start an application visit www.NorthwestMinnesotaArtsCouncil.org. The grant application process is completely online and NWMAC's Director Mara Hanel can help walk you through the process of using the grants portal to get accustomed to it. Please contact her at director@NWMAC.org or call 218-745-8886.

– a 3% decrease.

Chlamydia remained the number one reported STI in the state with 21,767 cases reported, a 1.6% decrease compared to 2022.

59% of the cases occurred in teens and young adults ages 15 to 24.

One in three cases occurred in Greater Minnesota, with at least three cases reported in every county in Minnesota.

Gonorrhea remained the second most reported STI in Minnesota, with 7,717 cases reported in 2023, a 5.5% decrease compared to 2022.

Syphilis cases decreased 5% from 2022 with 1,748 cases in 2023.

In previous years, most early syphilis cases were among men who have sex with men (MSM). In 2023, 30% of early syphilis cases were among women – up from 10% in 2014. This suggests a concerning demographic shift in the popu-



Joe Collova, who plays Taps each year for the White Cross Ceremony during the McIntosh Memorial Day program, was also this years program speaker.

lation diagnosed with early syphilis.

Congenital syphilis cases increased 44% in 2023 with 29 cases reported, the highest number of congenital syphilis cases reported in at least 40 years.

Syphilis can be cured with antibiotics. Don't hesitate, get tested! Some STI testing can be done with a simple urine sample and screening for HIV, hepatitis C, and syphilis is a simple finger poke.

Getting yourself tested for

STIs is one of the most important things you can do to protect your health. Testing is quick, simple, and confidential.

Contact Polk County Public Health for information about STIs, birth control options and affordable clinic services. STI testing is available by appointment and is a confidential, low to no cost service.

Please call 218-281-3385 or text 218-280-1117 to make an appointment. No one will be turned away for inability to pay.



The McIntosh Community Choir, under the direction of Garnet Aanenson, performed during the McIntosh Memorial Day program.



The Win-E-Mac Marching Band performed during the McIntosh Memorial Day event playing patriotic songs for the crowd.



The Win-E-Mac Trap Shooters recently attended the Minnesota State High School Trap Shooting Championship in Alexandria. The Top Patriot scorers were Chris Roragen (Varsity Male) making 81 out of 100 shots, and placing 234 out of 350; Brayden Sander (Junior Varsity Male) making 81 out of 100 shots and placing 49 out of 210; and Alyssa Norberg (Junior Varsity Female) making 68 out of 100 shots and placing 37 out of 57.

BWSR Accepting Applications for Spring 2025 Lawns to Legumes Grants

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is accepting applications for spring 2025 Lawns to Legumes pollinator habitat grants.

The Lawns to Legumes program aims to increase habitat for at-risk pollinators in residential settings across the state by providing people with reimbursement-based funding, workshops, coaching and gardening resources. Anyone who lives in Minnesota and has a yard, deck, or other outdoor space for planting can apply to be reimbursed for up to \$400 in costs associated with establishing new pollinator habitat in their yards. The program is available to both Minnesota homeowners and renters.

"Lawns to Legumes allows Minnesotans to take a hands-on approach to protecting at-risk pollinator populations," said BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke. "Lawns to Legumes gardeners prove that small-scale habitat projects can have big impacts."

Applications will be accepted through November 30, 2024. If you previously applied for the program, you will need to reapply to be considered for spring 2025 funding.

More than 5,000 residen-



tial habitat projects across all 87 Minnesota counties have been funded since the program launched in 2019. Lawns to Legumes shares online resources such as gardening templates, habitat guides and advice about selecting native plants

for all Minnesotans interested in creating pollinator habitat in their yards.

Lawns to Legumes receives funding from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund and the state General Fund.

Jobs....

Continued from page 1.....

Figure 1: Wages and Employment for Selected Northwest Minnesota Occupations with High Concentrations of Employment Compared to Minnesota Statewide

SOC Code	Occupation Title	Annual Median Wage		Northwest Minnesota Wage Difference	Employment		Percent of Total		Northwest Minnesota Employment Concentration
		Northwest Region	Minnesota Statewide		Northwest Region	Minnesota Statewide	Northwest Region	Minnesota Statewide	
000000	Total, All Occupations	\$ 47,369.21	\$ 52,460.28	-9.7%	219,910	2,881,100	100.00%	100.00%	1.00
110000	Management Occupations	\$ 91,880.81	\$ 120,110.85	-23.5%	12,050	201,710	5.48%	7.00%	0.78
119013	Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers	82,008.48	81,012.85	1.2%	30	140	0.01%	0.00%	2.81
190000	Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	\$ 69,256.61	\$ 83,055.18	-16.6%	1,550	29,220	0.70%	1.01%	0.69
191023	Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists	73,820.42	73,824.54	0.0%	130	570	0.06%	0.02%	2.99
194071	Forest and Conservation Technicians	52,392.14	53,642.81	-2.3%	170	610	0.08%	0.02%	3.65
390000	Personal Care and Service Occupations	\$ 34,616.47	\$ 36,603.86	-5.4%	4,570	59,420	2.08%	2.06%	1.01
393012	Gambling and Sports Book Writers and Runners	53,538.76	52,087.20	2.8%	360	1,770	0.16%	0.06%	2.66
450000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	\$ 45,835.92	\$ 46,038.04	-0.4%	650	3,520	0.30%	0.12%	2.42
452091	Agricultural Equipment Operators	50,146.28	50,255.03	-0.2%	170	720	0.08%	0.02%	3.09
454021	Fallers	58,492.02	58,494.07	0.0%	40	130	0.02%	0.00%	4.03
454022	Logging Equipment Operators	46,453.59	46,951.21	-1.1%	50	240	0.02%	0.01%	2.73
470000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	\$ 60,872.41	\$ 67,482.11	-9.8%	10,750	110,960	4.89%	3.85%	1.27
475023	Earth Drillers, Except Oil and Gas	63,716.57	61,951.80	2.8%	70	330	0.03%	0.01%	2.78
490000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	\$ 53,279.91	\$ 61,440.38	-13.3%	9,840	104,530	4.47%	3.63%	1.23
493041	Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians	62,627.13	62,460.57	0.3%	310	1,630	0.14%	0.06%	2.49
499051	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	101,073.69	102,393.69	-1.3%	290	1,650	0.13%	0.06%	2.30
510000	Production Occupations	\$ 46,187.59	\$ 47,948.28	-3.7%	18,670	203,810	8.49%	7.07%	1.20
513099	Food Processing Workers, All Other	38,929.66	38,679.31	0.6%	450	2,840	0.20%	0.10%	2.08
514111	Tool and Die Makers	63,374.48	63,465.52	-0.1%	190	1,190	0.09%	0.04%	2.09
516093	Upholsterers	48,901.03	48,900.00	0.0%	20	120	0.01%	0.00%	2.18
530000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	\$ 45,509.78	\$ 47,540.50	-4.3%	19,090	225,820	8.68%	7.84%	1.11
537064	Packers and Packers, Hand	39,637.31	38,417.41	3.2%	1,250	7,080	0.57%	0.25%	2.31

Fun ways to celebrate the summer solstice

Summer is a great time to enjoy recreational activities that take advantage of the great outdoors. This year summer arrives on June 20th with the summer solstice, which features the most hours of daylight of any day for the entire year.

Celebrants who want to usher in another summer of fun in the sun can embrace these ideas for commemorating the start of summer.

• **Watch the sunrise.** Get up early and watch the sun come up on the longest day of the year. Then be sure to catch the sunset to enjoy every min-

ute of daylight. Maybe incorporate this event with a nature hike.

• **Host a cookout.** There's nothing that says the first day of summer shouldn't be a reason to gather friends and family for a cookout. June 20th falls on a Thursday this year, so the solstice provides the perfect excuse to take a four-day weekend and celebrate the official arrival of summer.

• **Light a campfire.** Traditional Midsummer's Eve/summer solstice celebrations featured bonfires. Hold on to the tradition by gathering people around a campfire or backyard

firepit. S'mores make the perfect complement to a campfire scene.

• **Pick fresh fruit.** Many berries come into season in the summer. Head to a nearby pick-your-own farm and grab fresh fruit to enjoy right away or utilize your pickings in recipes.

• **Plant a flower garden.** Clean up garden beds or go to the nursery and grab some colorful annuals to spruce up areas around the yard.

The summer solstice is an opportunity to celebrate the arrival of summer and all the fun that comes with it.

for the delayed notice on this.) 2nd session: June 24-July 11th. (Please note: there is no swimming on July 4th. Monday, July 15th will be added instead.)

Win-E-Mac is excited to offer an arts opportunity this summer for students going into third through ninth grades. "Summer Arts Stages," a group out of East Grand Forks, will be in residence from Monday, July 29th through Friday, August 2nd to direct Disney's The Aristocats KIDS! Rehearsals will be from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm every day that week. The performance will be at 7pm on Friday, August 2nd. (Mark your calendars!)

Parents: Please fill out the form below to indicate your interest having your child participate in Disney's The Aristocats KIDS at Win-E-Mac this summer! (FYI: Your

information will be forwarded to my contact at Summer Arts Stages.) <https://forms.gle/c2B-7HA8dnkLsTeR29>

If you have any questions (or if you might be interested in crew rather than cast), please email Andrew Hanson at ahanson@wemschools.org.

The Fitness Center access has now been changed to summer hours. (The Fitness Center is closed during the school day during the school year.) You are now able to get into the fitness center 24/7. If you have any questions, please call Kristi at the school.

The following pick-up times for Century 21 are:

Winger - 7:20 a.m. (The Depot)

McIntosh - 7:40 a.m. (McIntosh Cenex)

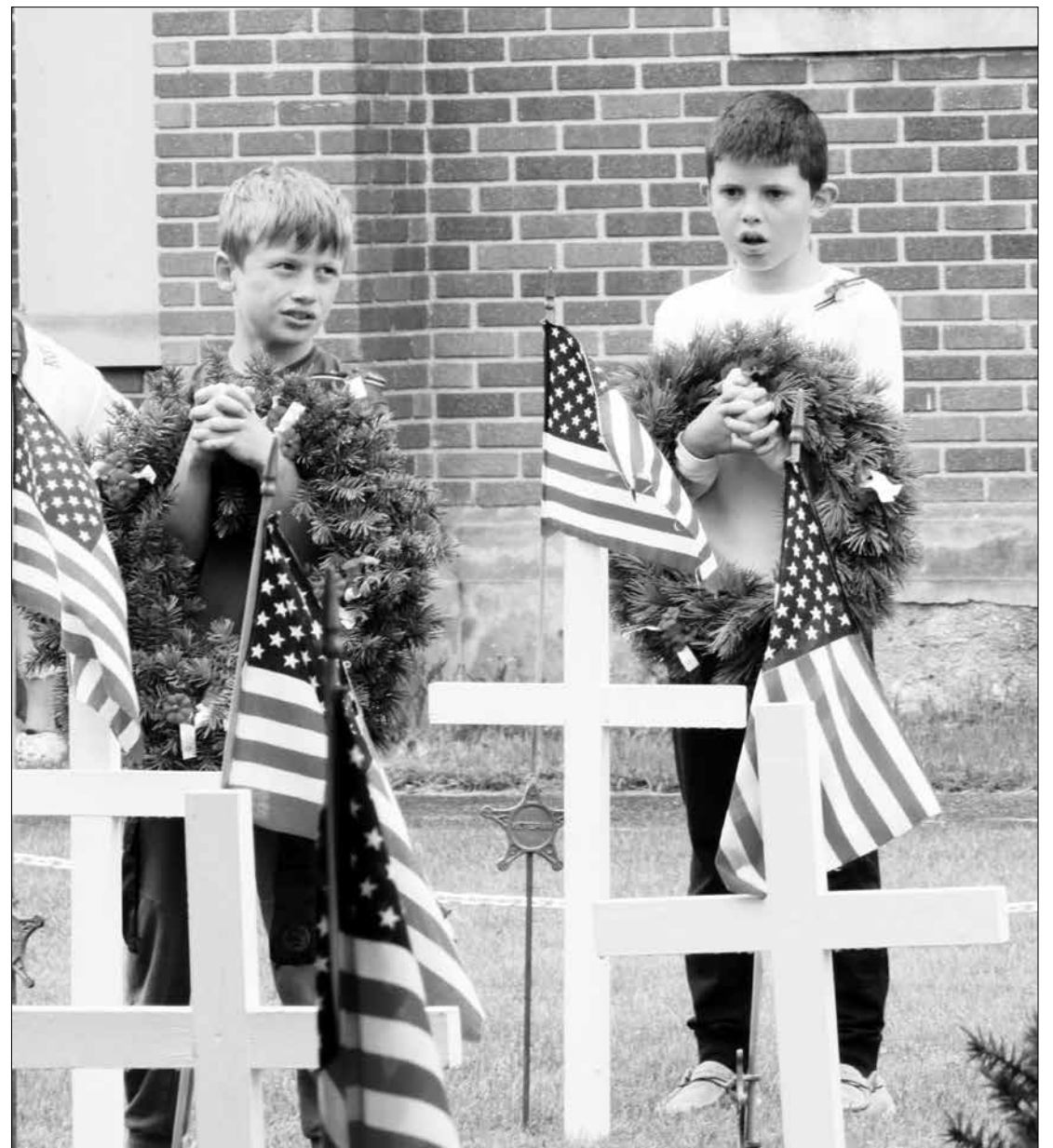
Erskine - 7:50 a.m. (Ness Café)



Autumn Plante, Greta Strom and Maci Lee taking part in the McIntosh Memorial Day White Cross Ceremony.



Alex Hedlund and Mae Breckel hold the wreaths during the White Cross Ceremony in McIntosh on Memorial Day.



Jens Stordahl and Dawson Gunufson take part in the White Cross Ceremony during the 2024 McIntosh Memorial Day program.



Swimming lessons are Monday-Thursday during June and July. Here are the bus times:

Bus times will be 2:30 at WEM School, 2:45 at Mentor C-Store, 3:00 at Winger Depot, and 3:15 at McIntosh Cenex. Drop off points will be at the same locations at approximately the following times: McIntosh at 5:45, Winger at 6:00, Mentor at 6:15, and WEM School at 6:30. Times may be adjusted!

Swimming Lesson Dates: 1st session: June 3rd-20th. (Please note: there is no swimming on June 19th. Apologies