McINTOSH Times
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The Kiecker's are the new owners at Erickson's Smokehouse

On April 1st, Erickson's Smokehouse in Fertile, Minnesota was under new ownership as Kevin and Janessa Kiecker of McIntosh purchased the bar and restaurant from Mark Erickson, who 13 years before purchased the Sandhill Supper Club and revamped the business into Erickson's Smokehouse.

The Kiecker's decided that Erickson's Smokehouse was the right fit for them and their family and it was an opportunity that they felt they could not pass up. They made the decision to purchase the successful business and keep it and the name the same.

Kevin and Janessa are excited about their new business venture and are working hard to familiarize themselves with all that is involved in the day-to-day operations of the bar and restaurant, alongside Mark, who is committed to helping the family familiarize themselves with the business and will stay to help for the next few months.

Erickson said he is confident that the Kiecker's will continue with the success he has had during his time at the Smokehouse. He is thankful to all that have supported himself and his family over the past 13 years and hopes that the same people will be welcoming to the Kiecker's as they are excited to take over and become a part of the Fertile community as well.

Kevin and Janessa are not looking to make any major changes and will both be working at the Smokehouse full-time.

Erickson's Smokehouse will continue to offer never frozen burgers, steaks cut on-site, and never frozen, meats smoked on-site, great food along with great customer service. The restaurant is a scenic 25-minute drive from McIntosh and is open 7 days a week for lunch and supper. The bar is open later, but the kitchen is open at 11:00 am until 10:00 pm daily.

The Kiecker family purchased Erickson's Smokehouse in Fertile, Minnesota on April 1st and have already be working hard. Pictured are new owners Kevin and Jenessa Kiecker with one of their six kids, Koen.

WEM Summer Rec sign-up night

Win-E-Mac will host a Summer Rec Registration Night on Wednesday, April 16th, in the Commons, from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Sign-up for T-Ball, 7 - 13 year old baseball and softball, along with swimming lessons. Lil Patriots Summer Program sign-up will take place in the Library.

Strengthen your faith during Holy Week

.Spring is a special time of year for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the season is a particularly meaningful time for individuals of various faiths. Sacred days for many of the world's religions are celebrated in spring, including Easter.

Christians celebrate Easter, which commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, after a lengthy period of spiritual preparation known as Lent. Directly preceding Easter, Holy Week is a time for prayer, reflection and renewal. Holy Week also can be an ideal opportunity for those who may not be as fully immersed in their faith as they would like to return to the church and embrace all that Christianity has to offer. The following are some unique ways people can deepen their faith this Easter season.

Attend Mass

Various liturgies take place during Holy Week, including the Palm Sunday procession, Holy Thursday (Last Supper) Mass, Good Friday services, and the Easter Vigil. Each of these liturgies carries a special message and significance that offers powerful ways to be in the presence of God.

Pray the Stations of the Cross

The Stations of the Cross are commonly prayed during Lent, particularly on Good Friday. Traditionally there are 14 Stations of the Cross, each depicting a different moment in Jesus' Passion and Death. Praying the stations often is a group church activity, but they also can be prayed solo. Getting an up close and personal understanding of the final moments in the life of Jesus Christ can have a transformative effect.

Confess your sins

Reconciliation, commonly referred to as "going to confession," is a practice that certain Christians denominations, but not all, participate in as part of their faith. Catholics engage in confession as a sacramental grace. While confession is encouraged as often as a person desires, being absolved from sin in preparation for Easter and other major holy days is particularly encouraged.

Visit a holy shrine

People can take a trip to a holy site or shrine during Holy Week as a powerful way to connect with God and deepen their faith. Many church communities have Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapels where people can view a monstrance, which is used to hold the consecrated Eucharist.

Serve others

Use Holy Week as an opportunity to serve others in need. Many churches have food shelves, clothing drives or other ways to help those in need. Volunteering is a great way to show God's love to others.

Holy Week...
Continued on page 4 ...

HOLY WEEK
APRIL 13-19, 2025

135th Annual Fireman's Ball is this weekend in McIntosh

The McIntosh Fire & Rescue Squad is proud to announce the 135th Annual Fireman's Ball. The event will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2025. The famous steak and fries supper will be held at the McIntosh Fire Hall from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm wit a suggested donation of $20 per meal. There will be limited seating at the Fire Hall to dine in, and an option for take-out is available. You can note the time of your pick-up when you return your raffle tickets that have been sent in the mail. All events will be held at the fire hall in McIntosh.

The fire department is very proud of the service that they provide to the city of McIntosh and rural areas. The department is continuously training to provide the best volunteer service that is available and with the support of the community, purchasing much needed supplies and equipment is feasible.

The McIntosh Fire & Rescue Squad members and years of service include:

Mark Simonson, Fire Chief (13 years)

Toby Strom, Assistant Fire Chief (21 years)
Ron Lemer (29 years)
Mark Strom (26 years)
Dave Senn (18 years)
Justin Shultz (16 years)
Brook Simonson (13 years)
Kyle Klein (7 years)
Davin Swanson (7 years)
Dave Erickson (7 years)
Luke Syverson (6 years)
Lucas Thom (6 years)
Hunter Smeby (6 years)
David Conley (6 years)
Matt Thompson (5 years)
Nick Drellack (4 years)
Brady Finseth

The department would like to thank retiring member, Ken Kasprzak for his 24 years of service and Rick Grove for his 18 years of service to the area and community.

There will be additional raffle tickets available from any fireman and at the supper and the department asks that you fill out and return the tickets sent to you by April 12th, so that you are eligible for the drawings and door prizes. You do not need to be present to win a prize, except for the gun.

Everyone is welcome to attend this fun, annual event, and the fire department hopes to see you there!

Mac Library announces call to artists for book return art project

Calling all artists! Lake Agassiz Regional Library is pleased to announce a Request for Proposals (RFP) to create an artistic design for metal book return boxes at the following locations: Hawley Public Library, Lake Park Library LINK Site, Rothsay Library LINK Site and the McIntosh Public Library.

The artwork will celebrate the libraries through one or more region-specific, artistic, cultural, and/or historical attribute(s). Once selected artwork is reproduced on a vinyl wrap, the book returns will be viewable in a high-traffic location outside the libraries for all to enjoy.

Eligibility & Compensation:

The RFP is open to all artists 18 years or older living in Becker, Clay, Clearwater, Mahnomen, Norman, Polk and Wilkin counties working in any medium suitable for a vinyl wrap. Selected artists will receive $750 for their design.

Deadline for Applications: Monday, April 28, 2025 A copy of the RFP is attached and can be found at larl.org/bookreturns2025. This project is funded in part with funds from Minnesota's Art & Cultural Heritage Legacy Fund.

On Friday, March 28th, The Win-E-Mac 5th grade Boys basketball players had the opportunity to play against Thief River Falls 5th graders at the Target Center, on the Minnesota Timberwolves Court. While they didn't take home the win, it was an amazing experience. Players and their families also were able to attend the Timberwolves vs. Phoenix Suns game that evening. The team sends a huge thank you to Erskine Legion, PTS Tours out of Brainerd, CHS Mentor, ASB Erskine, WEM Elementary Basketball, and Dave Stordahl, as their generous donations helped make this happen for the Win-E-Mac players. Pictured (L-R): Bryce Stordahl (coach), Forest (Forry) Burd, Jon Hill, Bridger Huschle, Jayden Peña-Jones, Koen Kiecker, Emmett Rock, Wyatt Lee, Jens Stordahl and Garrett Rock (coach).

MnDOT announces 2025 state construction projects

Online travel planning tools can help motorists safely navigate work zones.

Travelers should prepare to slow down for construction work zones as road projects begin to ramp up across the state, the Minnesota Department of Transportation announced today. The agency has nearly 180 road construction projects this season that will help maintain and improve Minnesota's roads, bridges and transportation infrastructure; improve safety and mobility; and support jobs that will be worked on statewide.

The 2025 construction season includes nearly 180 planned road and bridge projects, plus 51 projects that will improve airports, water ports, railroad crossings and transit infrastructure.

"With construction projects beginning in the coming weeks statewide, drivers should use caution as they see more work zones, more lane closures and orange cones – and most importantly more workers wearing their high visibility safety gear along the highway," said Commissioner Nancy Daubenberger. "We're all safer when we pay close attention, slow down, remain patient and work together to safely share the limited space in a work zone."

More information about safe driving around construction work zones can be found on our MnDOT Work Zone Safety website.

Significant projects this year include:

▪ In northern Minnesota, crews are reconstructing Highway 371 through Hackensack to three-lanes. The project will add a center-turn lane, additional sidewalks and parallel parking on both sides of the road and install a roundabout at the Highway 371/Cass County Road 5 intersection.

▪ In the Twin Cities metro area, repairing five bridges along I-94 in Minneapolis, including the Mississippi River bridge, will require a full closure of eastbound I-94 between 11th Ave. S. and Franklin Ave. S.E. this weekend - 10 p.m. Friday, April 4 through 5 a.m. Monday, April 7. Other projects include resurfacing Interstate 35W in Burnsville and repairing or replacing bridges at three locations; replacing or repairing bridges on I-494 between Edina and Richfield and over the Minnesota River, reconstructing Highway 5/East 7th Street and Highway 61/Arcade Street in St. Paul and Maplewood; repairing 34 bridges and ramps along I-394 and I-94 in Minneapolis; repairing 11 bridges including the John Ireland Boulevard bridge along I-94 and I-35E in St. Paul; and adding a third lane in each direction on Highway 10 in Coon Rapids.

▪ Completing the three-year I-35 Hinckley Bridge Replacement project. In 2025, crews will replace southbound I-35W bridges spanning the Grindstone River and a railroad.

▪ On Highway 12 from Litchfield to Cokato crews will complete the two-year concrete repair, culvert and accessibility improvements project

▪ Expanding Highway 10 through Wadena to four lanes, plus resurfacing Highways 29 and 71 and other infrastructure improvements, begins in 2025.

▪ The 11th Street underpass in Moorhead as the project enters the second of three years of construction. The project also includes constructing two underpasses under BNSF rail lines, paving, sidewalk improvements, utility replacements and other improvements.

▪ Resurfacing eastbound I-94 from Rothsay to Fergus Falls.

▪ From Mankato to St. Peter, work on Highway 22 will begin to replace and repair bridges, install a new roundabout at the Le Sueur County Road 21/Highway 22 intersection and improve lighting at intersections.

▪ Reconstructing Highway 19 in Marshall begins its first year of construction.

Safety in work zones

Motorists should always be prepared to encounter traffic changes when approaching work zones including lane closures, lane shifts, uneven road surfaces, slow-moving heavy equipment and slow or stopped traffic. To keep everyone safe, drivers must:

▫ Obey posted speed limits. The fine for speeding in a work zone is $300.

▫ Drive undistracted. Avoid using cell phones, mobile devices, adjusting the radio – even eating –while in work zones.

▫ Move over. Give workers room to safely complete their work.

▫ Know before you go. Get real-time information about traffic and road conditions at www.511mn.org or get the free 511mn smartphone app at Google Play or the App Store.

▫ Be patient. Expect delays, especially during peak travel times.

▫ Do the zipper merge.

▫ Avoid making unnecessary lane changes.

▫ Never enter a road blocked with barriers or cones.

2025 Minnesota road construction planning and travel tools

Travelers can use several online tools to plan ahead for construction impacts like detours and lane closures.

▪ Visit mndot.gov/construction for the statewide view of the 2025 construction season's projects. The site includes interactive maps linking to more detailed construction project websites, full project lists and other information.

▪ Individual project pages include information about construction schedules, detours and traffic impacts, maps, benefits and project costs.

▪ Know before you go – visit 511mn.org or use the 511 app to get near-real-time travel information.

▪ Sign up for project email updates, or other specific topics.

▪ Follow MnDOT on social media.

A spring lawn revitalization strategy

New growth is a hallmark of spring, whether it plays out in the birth of birds and bunnies or with the returned buds on trees and plant stalks.

While most greenery rebounds naturally, lawns may need a little extra TLC in order to return to their once lush, green glory.

Revitalizing a lawn in spring is a multifaceted process but can be well worth the reward. Here is how to get started when the weather warms, courtesy of The Farmer's Almanac and The Home Depot.

· **Clean up debris.** Spend a few hours raking up leaves from the lawn and removing any other winter debris like twigs so that air can reach the grass below. Also remove any thatch that has developed.

· **Do some weeding.** Pull out any weeds that have poked through early on and apply a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent additional weeds from taking over.

· **Start the aeration process.** A core aerator punches holes into the soil. This enables air and water to penetrate through to the roots.

· **Overseed the lawn.** Apply grass seeds over the lawn, paying special attention to any bare or thin areas so that the seed will fill in the lawn.

· **Time fertilizer correctly.** Apply a spring fertilizer around three weeks after the lawn starts to turn green or after the first two or three mowings. If fertilizer is applied too early it can feed weeds instead of the grass and result in fertilizer runoff.

· **Mow to an appropriate height.** Begin to mow when the ground is dry enough and the grass is long enough to need cutting. Leave some length to the lawn; otherwise, sunlight will reach the soil and encourage weed seeds to germinate.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a hearing has been set for April 25, 2025 at 9:05 a.m. in the meeting room at Polk County Environmental Services, 320 Ingersoll Ave, Crookston, Minnesota, to consider the application of Aimee Peterson, 3077 County Hwy 42, Bejou, MN 56516, for a Large Gathering Permit for an event on May 25, 2025 which will be on a parcel of land located at: Maple Lake Pavilion, 15545 Sandy Beach Rd SE, Mentor, MN and described as: Block One, Subdivision of Reserve and King Edward's Park Lots in Washington heights in Lots One (1) and Two (2), Section Thirty-four (34), Township One Hundred Forty-nine 9149) North of Range Forty-three (43) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, according to the Official Plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the County Recorder in and for the County of Polk and State of Minnesota, parcel #32.00234.00. All property owners within ¼ mile of the proposed Large Gathering Permit are invited to appear at said hearing.

Dated: April 3, 2025
Jacob J Snyder
Planning & Zoning Administrator
M4C

Want a gold star? Get your REAL ID

Torri Agnew has helped thousands of people get their REAL ID over the past seven years. Their reasons vary, but her favorite: Some people just want the gold star.

The most common reason is that people plan to board a plane after May 7th. Agnew, who serves in our Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) division, helped Josey P. get his REAL ID in March so he would be ready for a June flight.

"I decided to get my REAL ID today for travel purposes," said Josey. "It's easier to carry a REAL ID than a passport. I was coming in today anyway to renew my standard license because my birthday is coming up. So, I figured I'd upgrade to a REAL ID."

What exactly is a REAL ID?

A REAL ID is a state-issued driver's license and identification card that meets federal identification security guidelines. It's designed to make counterfeiting more difficult and ensures licenses and IDs meet specific requirements for accessing federal buildings and boarding domestic flights.

You will need a REAL ID to fly within the U.S. on or after May 7th, but that doesn't mean you need to rush to get one.

Agnew says it's important for people to know they can get a REAL ID after May 7th, especially if they don't plan to fly until next fall or winter. Minnesotans can make an appointment with DVS for June, July or even August and still get their license in time to fly in October.

People come into exam stations throughout the day to get a Real ID. For most it's a smooth process but for others the appointment can become a bit frustrating.

"For many customers, the transaction starts out pleasant. But sometimes that pleasant, chill mood changes as they realize they do not have the correct documents," Agnew added.

Agnew feels bad for customers when they don't bring the required documents and have to come back later to complete their application. Reviewing what's required for a REAL ID before their appointment can help people avoid a second trip.

Learn more about REAL ID, including what documents are required, on the REAL ID webpage at https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/license-and-id/dl-and-id-card-information/real-id-dl-and-id-card.

Business & Professional Guide

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The Hickman family would like to say thank you to our amazing community. Words cannot express how grateful we are for every helping hand, every thoughtful card, and all of the financial gifts.

A huge thank you to the Lion's Club, the Erskine Fire Department and other surrounding Fire Departments, our family, neighbors, and friends that have stepped in to lend a helping hand, and to our amazing Win-E-Mac School Family. May God bless all of you."

M4C

Snack on some bunny bait

Bunny Bait is a spring-themed sweet Chex mix of pastel-colored candy, sprinkles, cereal, pretzels, and peanuts, all coated in melted white chocolate.

This no-bake snack mix recipe is so quick and easy to make and the perfect sweet and salty treat for the Easter Bunny.

Bunny Bait

3 1/2 cups Rice Chex cereal
3 1/2cups honey nut cheerios
1 1/2 cups pretzels sticks
1/2 cup salted peanuts
16 ounces vanilla almond bark chopped (2 cups or 8 squares)
10 ounce bag easter M&Ms
1/2 cup butterscotch chips

Prepare a sheet pan by lining it with parchment paper. Set it aside.

Mix together the rice Chex cereal, honey nut cheerios, pretzel sticks, and salted peanuts in a large bowl.

Melt the vanilla almond bark in the microwave using a large microwave safe dish. Microwave it in increments of 15 seconds, stirring after each interval, until it has melted completely

Pour the melted almond bark into the bowl with the cereal mixture and then toss together until thoroughly combined.

Gently fold in the easter M&Ms and butterscotch chips.

Transfer to the prepared sheet pan.

Spread everything out onto the sheet pan evenly and let it set for about 45 minutes.

Once the almond bark has set and hardened, break into pieces before transferring to a serving dish.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a hearing has been set for April 25th, 2025 at 9:20 a.m. in the meeting room at Polk County Environmental Services, 320 Ingersoll Ave, Crookston, Minnesota, to consider the application of R.J. Zavoral & Sons Inc., PO BOX 435, East Grand Forks, MN 56721 filed to receive an Interim Use Permit to allow for the operation of a temporary asphalt batch plant and contractor yard. R.J. Zavoral & Sons Inc have a purchase agreement with Marion Olson & Curtis Olson for the parcel located at 34508 ST HWY 92, Trail, MN 56684. The Interim Use Permit, if granted as requested, would be valid for ten (10) years from the date of issuance for this location, described as: That part of the North Half (N ½) of Section Twenty-Six (26), Township One Hundred Fifty (150) North, Range Forty (40) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, described as follows: Commencing at the intersection of the North Right-of-way line of State Highway No. 92 and the centerline of the township road running North and South between Sections 27 and 26 in Township 150 North, Range 40 West, then East along the North right-of-way line of said Highway No. 92 a distance of 726 feet to the point of beginning, then North parallel to the center line of said North-South township road a distance of 2,286 feet 4 inches to a point, then East parallel to the North right-of-way line of said Highway No. 92 a distance of 2,286 feet 4 inches to a point, then South parallel to the center line of said North-South township road a distance of 2,286 feet 4 inches to a point on the North right-of-way line of said Highway No. 92, then west along said right-of-way line a distance of 2,286 feet 4 inches to the point of beginning, parcel #10.00136.01. All property owners within ¼ mile of the proposed Interim Use Permit are invited to appear at said hearing.

Dated: April 3, 2025
Jacob J. Snyder
Planning and Zoning Administrator
M4C

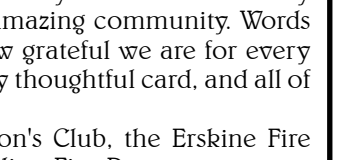
Quilters for East Polk

The Quilters for East Polk County Veterans will hold their spring meeting on Monday April 14, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the McIntosh Community Center.

We will be deciding on recipients for quilts for Memorial Day. We will also have election of officers. We welcome new members so we can keep this worthwhile project going.

Grace Community Food Shelf

Grace Community Food Shelf annual meeting will be April 14th at 2:00 p.m at Grace Lutheran Church. We welcome everyone in our communities to join us. A good way to check us out to be a volunteer.



Thank you to Nick Drellack, Dave Erickson, Justin Schultz, Preston Wenge for responding so quickly to my home. Thank you also to Zach Folkert from the Polk County Sheriff's Department. I am so grateful our community has such dedicated people volunteering as first responders and firefighters. Thank you to the entire Fire Department.

Steve Carlson M4C

Grace Lutheran ladies to be at MSL

Grace Lutheran ladies will be having a program at Mac Senior Living on April 10th at 2pm. Anyone is invited to join us. Singing, entertainment, craft, devotion and fun!

Salem Cemetery Annual Meeting

Salem cemetery association will have their annual meeting on Sunday, April 13th at 2pm at the McIntosh Community center. Donations can be mailed to po box 136, McIntosh MN 56556

Wed. April 9: Dylan Roy, *Kain & Hunter Schow
Thur. April 10: Bobby Strom, Jeffery Brekke
Fri. April 11: Irene Rosten
Sun. April 13: Liam Kringlen, Charlotte Rolf, Brooklyn Ostenaa, Divinity Hedlund
Mon. April 14: Kevin Mandt, Curtis W. Johnson, Benjamin Roue
Tues. April 15: Mike Sultvedt, Paul Votava, Kristi Skeie, Izabelle Ostenaa, Trevor Lecy

McINTOSH Times

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

Wed. April 9: 8:45am Friday School Mass; 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston

Fri. April 11: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston

Sun. April 13: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Palm Sunday Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Palm Sunday Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

Thurs. April 17: 7:00pm Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley (Holy Thursday)

Fri. April 18: 6:00pm Goo Friday Service at St. Joseph's, Bagley

OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
McIntosh
Rachel Roggenbuck, SAM

Sun. April 13: 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services

Sun. April 20: 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 FREE LUTHERAN AFLC
McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:
Pastor:
Jerry Moan

Trinity: (27262 315th St. SE, McIntosh) Sunday Worship: 9:30am; 10:45am Sunday School

Mt. Carmel: (305 State St. NE, McIntosh) 9:45am Sunday School; Sunday Worship: 11:00am

Wednesdays: 6:30pm Confirmation; 7:15pm Free Lutheran Youth meets at Pastor Moan's home

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

Sun, April 13: 9:30am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00am Worship Service (also on Facebook and gosenchurch.com)

Tues, April 15: 10:00am. Sunday worship service telecast on GVTV--30

Wed, April 16: 6:30pm Bible Study at Connie Parr's

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. April 13 : 9:00am Worship

Sun. April 20: 9:00am Worship

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
McIntosh
Pastor Bruce Blocker

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

DOVRE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Winger, MN

Sundays: 9:00am Adult and Children's Sunday School; 10:00am Worship Service

Wednesdays: 7:00pm Bible Study

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Sundays: 10:30am Coffee Fellowship; 11:00am Worship

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Polk County board minutes

MARCH 18, 2025
BOARD MINUTES

Pursuant to motion of adjournment, the Polk County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:30 o'clock a.m., March 18, 2025. Members present: Commissioner Paul Reese, Commissioner Warren Strandell, Commissioner Mark Holy, 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.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the March 18, 2025, agenda.

CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the March 18, 2025, consent items:

1. Approve March 4, 2025, Board minutes.

2. Approve Commissioner Warrants: General Revenue Fund, $56,832.15; Public Works Fund, $105,938.18; Public Safety Fund, $37,752.45; Public Health Fund, $18,054.01; Opioid Settlement, $10,247.10; Forfeited Tax Sale Fund, $901.25; Spec Assmnts (Ditch) Fund, $14,389.00; Environmental Services Fund, $13,459.01; Solid Waste, $378,398.29; Landfill Fund, $24,099.58; Per Diems, $1,275.00; Meal Reimbursements (without overnight lodging), $110.15; and Sign Audit List.

3. Approve payment to US Bank, St. Louis, MO, in the amount of $53,954.66 for procurement card purchases.

COUNTY BOARD MEMBER ISSUE FORUM

1. West Central Regional Water District (WCRWD) Board Appointee.

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to appoint Danny Netland, Beltrami, MN, as the Polk County Representative on the West Central Water District Board.

2. Commissioner Reese brought forth that he attended the following meetings:

a. Tri-Valley Opportunity Council meeting.

b. Six County Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.

c. Land of the Dancing Sky Region 1 meeting.

3. Commissioner Strandell brought forth that he attended the following meetings:

a. Tri-County Corrections meeting.

b. NWRDC Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.

c. MN DOT District 2 Area Transportation Partnership meeting.

4. Commissioner Holy brought forth that he attended the following meetings:

a. Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed 1-Watershed, 1-Plan meeting (virtual).

b. Red Lake Watershed 1-Watershed, 1-Plan meeting (virtual).

5. Commissioner Willhite brought forth that he attended the following meetings:

a. Judicial Ditch 60 Committee meeting.

b. Tri-Valley Opportunity Council meeting.

c. Polk County Extension Committee meeting.

6. Commissioner Lee brought forth that she attended the following meetings:

a. State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) Membership Development meeting.

b. Polk County Extension Honor Awards Nomination meeting (virtual).

c. Six County Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting.

d. Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Behavioral and Mental Health Workgroup meeting.

e. SCHSAC Executive Retreat.

f. AMC Solid Waste Workgroup meeting.

g. Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act (MAAFPCWDA) meeting.

h. Polk County Extension Committee meeting.

SHERIFF

James Tadman, Polk County Sheriff, and Jody Beauchane, Emergency Management Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to their departments:

1. Monthly Sheriff's Report

The February 2025 Monthly Sheriff's Report was discussed and presented to the Board. (Reports on file in the Administrator's Office)

2. 2023-2025 EMPG Agreement

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Agreement, effective 1/1/2023 – 6/30/2025.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Darla Waldner, Executive Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to the Northwest Regional Development Commission:

1. NWRDC 2024 Annual Report

Discussion was held with the Board regarding the NWRDC 2024 Annual Report.

PUBLIC HEARING

Jacob Snyder, Assistant Environmental Services Administrator, came before the Board with matters pertaining to the Public Hearing:

1. Land Use Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Section 26 Cannabis Zoning and Land Use

Discussion was held with the Board regarding an amendment to Section 26 – Cannabis Zoning and Land Use – of the Land Use Zoning Ordinance.

a. Opening of Public Hearing

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to open the Public Hearing at 10:30 a.m.

b. Closing of Public Hearing

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to close the Public Hearing at 10:52 a.m.

c. Approve Resolution (2025-17) Amending the Polk County Land Use/Zoning Ordinance

Resolution (2025-17) was offered by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Holy, Commissioner Willhite, Commissioner Lee. NAYS: None. (See Resolution (2025-17) on file in the Administrator's Office)

d. A motion to approve requiring liability insurance

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve requiring liability insurance which is required for a registered cannabis business that matches the required liability insurance requirements for liquor establishments.

PLANNING & ZONING

Jacob Snyder, Assistant Environmental Services Administrator, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. 2025 Polk County Haulers License – Waste Management of MN

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve Waste Management of MN to obtain a CY2025 Polk County Haulers License.

2. 2025 Polk County Haulers License – Tim Wilson Excavating LLC

A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve Tim Wilson Excavating LLC to obtain a CY2025 Polk County Haulers License.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Karen Warmack, Social Services Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to her department:

1. Social Worker-CPS Replacement Request

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve filling a Social Worker-CPS position, and to fill any internal subsequent position vacancies occurring because of this action.

2. Out-of-State Travel Request

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the out-of-state travel request for Victoria Ramirez to attend the National Family Resource Center Conference on May 5 – May 8, 2025, in Washington DC.

3. Cultural Navigation Services Contract

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the contract with Anna Corona to provide Cultural Navigation Services in the amount of $6,200.00 from April 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.

HIGHWAY

Richard Sanders, Polk County Engineer, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. Resolution (2025-18) County Transfer of Excess Municipal Funds to Regular Funds

RESOLUTION (2025-18)

County Transfer of Excess Municipal Funds to Regular Funds

The following resolution (2025-18) was offered by Commissioner Strandell:

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 162.08, Subd 4 (d), provides that accumulated balances in excess of two years of municipal account apportionments may be spent on projects located outside of municipalities under 5,000 population when approved solely by resolution of the County Board.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Commissioner of Transportation transfer $1,200,000.00 in excess of two years apportionment into the Regular Construction Account.

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

2. 2025 Stabilized Aggregate Base (BASE 1) Bids – CP 125-48-1440, CP 125-51-1441

A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve awarding the bid to Wm D. Scepaniak, Inc. of Holdingford, MN, in the amount of $937,860.00 and have the Administrator sign the contracts.

3. Redetermination of Benefits – County owned ditches within the Sandhill River Watershed District

Polk County has met and discussed with the Sandhill River Watershed District the project to redetermine benefits of those ditches draining into the Sandhill River as part of the Watershed Districts Redetermination of Benefits for the Sandhill River Ditch. April Swenby, Sand Hill Watershed Administrator, discussed the impact and cost of the possible redetermination project with the Board. A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve moving forward with the preparation of findings and orders initiating redeterminations of benefits for the Polk County drainage systems within the Sandhill River Watershed District. A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve contracting with H2Over Viewers LLC to provide viewing services for Polk County Drainage Systems.

4. Redetermination of Benefits – County owned ditches within the Red Lake River and Middle River Snake River Watershed Districts

Discussion was held with Bryan Murphy, H2Over Viewers, concerning moving forward with the preparation of findings and orders initiating redeterminations of benefits for the Polk County drainage systems within the Red Lake, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers, and Wild Rice Watershed Districts. Commissioner Holy requested additional information be gathered and presented at the June 3rd Board of Commissioners meeting for consideration.

MIS

Levi Webster, MIS Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. Approval of EGF HHS, Government Center, McIntosh, and Transfer Station Network Equipment

A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the SHI quote for $62,038.60 to replace current EGF HSS, Government Center, McIntosh, and Transfer Station network equipment.

At 11:58 a.m., Commissioner Holy experienced technical issues and was disconnected from the meeting. Vice Chair, Commissioner Lee, assumed the Chair to lead the remainder of the meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

Chuck Whiting, Polk County Administrator, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. Resolution (2025-19) Amending Resolution (2024-76) Designating American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Eligible Expenses

RESOLUTION (2025-19)

Amending Resolution (2024-76) Designating American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Eligible Expenses

The following resolution (2025-19) was offered by Commissioner Reese:

WHEREAS, County Board of Commissioners' Resolution (2024-76) designated American Rescue Plan Act funds for eligible expenses; and

WHEREAS, The approved sub-recipient agreement with the City of Fertile for $144,000 to remodel the Agassiz Environmental Learning Center was not acted upon by December 31, 2024, per the agreement.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the $144,000 of American Plan Rescue Act funds previously designated to the City of Fertile for remodeling of the Agassiz Environmental Learning Center are now designated as Sheriff's Department ARPA 2024 eligible payroll expenses per ARPA Use Category for Provision of Government Services 6.1, amending the amount for this purpose in Resolution (2024-76) from $1,416,771 to $1,560,771.

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

2. Request to Fill Vacant Position – Finance Director

A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve filling the vacant Finance Director position.

With no further business, the Board adjourned to reconvene at 8:00 o'clock a.m., April 1, 2025.

Mark Holy, Chair

ATTEST:

Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator
Clerk of the Board M4C

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS

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

COMMISSIONER WARRANTS
DATED 03/21/2025
APPROVED 03/18/2025

Vendor Name	Amount
Accent Wire Holdings LLC	2,193.28
Alluma Inc	7,334.10
American Engineering Testing Inc	14,389.00
Avenu Insights & Analytics	7,603.77
Beltrami Industrial Services	67,512.59
Bergstrom Electric Inc Crk	2,310.00
Berhow/Dale	2,627.00
Brost Chevrolet Inc	2,426.33
Burggrafs Ace Hardware	3,800.51
Cardinal Health	2,012.89
Central States Wire Products Inc	5,564.53
Church & Dwight Co Inc	13,183.65
Code 4 Services Inc	9,150.55
Crookston Fuel Company	2,783.32
DC Arms	13,264.02
Diamond Mowers Inc	3,558.09
Erickson Farms	11,608.00
Erickson/Allen R	2,785.00
Erickson/Matthew Ervin	4,328.00
Gullickson/Lynne M	3,413.00
Gullickson/Mark E	2,384.00
HP INC	5,955.00
Intradyn	5,740.00
Kimball Midwest	5,010.08
Komptech Americas	206,858.80
Larson/Donald	3,082.00
Level 5 Services	4,487.26
LSQ Funding Group LC	3,974.80
Mn Valley Testing Labs	9,868.50
MnCCC Lockbox	5,875.00
Northdale Oil Inc	2,938.25
Pemberton Law PLLP	6,966.50
Peterson Sheet Metal Inc	4,100.00
PPC Industries	6,314.69
Ramsey/Shawn R	4,383.00
Regents of the Univ. of Minnesota	2,913.00
Riverview Healthcare Assoc	2,825.12
Road Machinery and Supplies Co.	8,438.52
Saber Shred Solutions, Inc	4,516.20
Stantec Consulting Services Inc	4,715.50
Swanson/John	2,701.00
Titan Machinery	10,521.90
Tyler Technologies Inc	2,572.53
Univar Usa Inc	36,740.00
Valley Electric Of Crookston LLC	3,190.25
Valstone Corporation Inc	6,800.00
Valstone Corporation Inc	8,605.00
Vanguard Appraisals Inc	20,475.00
Vestis	2,248.50
Widseth Smith Nolting & Assoc	20,006.40
154 Payments less than 2000	63,016.59
Final Total:	660,071.02

Strategic Farming: Let's talk crops! session talks spring forecast and corn crop best practices

On March 26, Dennis Todey, USDA Midwest Climate Hub Director and Jeff Coulter, UMN Extension corn agronomist, joined UMN Extension Crops Educator Angie Peltier for a discussion about current and forecasted weather conditions and considerations for a successful 2025 corn crop. This was the final weekly episode of the 2025 Strategic Farming: Let's talk crops! series of webinars.

The USDA Midwest Regional Climate Hub, located in Ames, IA, is responsible for synthesizing and communicating weather and climate data in a useful and understandable fashion so that stakeholders can better mitigate weather and climate-related risks over a 10-state region, including Minnesota.

Two of the Hub's most recently developed tools are a soil temperature climatology tool and a historical freeze date tool.

These tools provide georeferenced data regarding the first, last and average dates that soil and air temperatures reach certain thresholds in spring and fall - useful information to have for those looking to maximize their crop's yield potential while minimizing frost losses or making sure that a fall nitrogen application is safe from denitrifying or nitrifying microbes that can speed losses. To see the array of tools hub scientists have developed, visit: https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/midwest.

Dr. Todey supplied both current field conditions and spring and summer forecasts. According to Todey, "The last four months throughout much of Minnesota have been dry compared to normal, after a wet period last November." While there are equal chances that April will have above or below average precipitation, June through August models show an increased chance of dryness.

Dr. Coulter provided his top 5 considerations for setting up the 2025 corn crop for success this spring including:

1) avoiding tillage and planting into wet soils,

2) trying to achieve uniform emergence, "If we have a plant that is one leaf stage behind the neighboring plants early in the season, the plant that is behind is only going to yield about 80% of what it normally would if it weren't behind in development," according to Coulter,

3) having a soil temperature of 45 °F and rising or trending stable at the time of planting,

4) paying attention to planting date and planting as early as soils are fit to maximize yield potential, and

5) targeting a 2-inch planting depth (dry soils = 2 ½ inches) and conserving soil moisture.

Coulter and Todey also answered numerous crop production and weather/climate questions that attendees asked either live or during registration.

For those that missed this session, it is now available to view on YouTube at: z.umn.edu/StrategicFarmingRecordings.

April Weed of the Month: Callery pear

Callery pear is infamously known for its pungent scent.

By Julia Dellick, Minnesota Department of Agriculture - It is finally April, the snow is melting, and the fantastic smell of spring is in the air. However, if you are smelling something foul, it might just be Callery pear (Pyrus calleryana). Callery pear is famously known for its attractive white spring blooms and infamously known for its pungent scent, which has been associated with rotting fish and other unsavory odors.

The well-known Bradford pear is one of many Callery pear varieties.

In addition to its distinct smell, you can identify a Callery pear by its key characteristics. This small, deciduous tree has a rounded to triangular shape and features leaves up to 3 inches long with a teardrop-like form and finely toothed edges. In the fall, the leaf color changes from green to a striking orange or reddish-purple color. In the early springtime, the flowers bloom in clusters with each flower having five white delicate petals. It is hard to recognize as a pear tree as it produces small, spherical fruits about a half inch in diameter that only soften after a frost.

To remove these trees from the landscape:

The best practice would be to first remove any mature, fruit bearing trees to reduce spread by seed. Mature trees can be managed by using cut stump treatment and by using basal bark treatment or stem griddling.

Callery pear saplings may be treated with foliar herbicide applications or removed by hand, but be cautious of the thorns. With manual removal, it is also important to completely remove the roots as even small root fragments can resprout, producing more plants.

Cutting and mowing of newly developing saplings are somewhat effective at reducing regrowth, but to improve success, herbicide applications should also be applied in tandem. It is recommended to implement regular maintenance programs and scouting to manage the infestation, as the trees may reinfest areas if a nearby seed source is present.

Cluster of Callery pear fruit.

For more information on control methods, check out the Minnesota DNR's Callery pear webpage, and if you're seeking specific herbicide recommendations, contact your University of Minnesota Regional Extension Educator.

Due to the invasive nature of the Callery pear, a three-year production phase-out period was issued in 2023, after which sale of this species will be prohibited in Minnesota.

Beginning in 2026, the species will be designated as a Restricted Noxious Weed. Restricted Noxious Weeds and their propagating parts may not be imported, sold, or transported in Minnesota. The current Minnesota Noxious Weed list can be found on our website.

Funding available to assist MN meat processors

The Meat Processing Train & Retain Grant program will award one-time funding to partner organizations that will work with small- to medium-sized meat and poultry processors in hiring and training new employees through the development of incentive projects like tuition reimbursements, sign-on and retention bonuses, and childcare stipends. Eligible partner organizations include foundations engaged in economic development, community development financial institutions, federally recognized economic development districts, and community development corporations.

The MDA anticipates awarding up to $350,000 in Train & Retain Grants using a competitive review process. The maximum award amount is $250,000, and the minimum award amount is $10,000. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2026.

This grant program prioritizes organizations working in partnership with Minnesota State Universities, whose efforts would target or serve meat or poultry processing operations that are in distressed communities, based on the Economic Innovation Group's Distressed Communities Index (DCI).

Grant applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. Central Time on Monday, April 28, 2025. For further information and to submit your online application, visit the Meat Processing Train & Retain Grant web page at www.mda.state.mn.us/meat-processing-train-retain-grant

Nothing on a phone is worth a life: Commit now to driving distracted-free

Extra distracted driving enforcement is on Minnesota roads April 1st - 30th.

Got a social media post that's tempting to check? Eager to see the latest trending video? Or feeling pressured to hold your phone and read that text from work? Whatever it is, drivers should be off the road and safely stopped before reaching for their phones.

Distracted driving can quickly turn deadly, which is why law enforcement and traffic safety partners are teaming up with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) this April for extra enforcement and awareness.

Hands-free cell phone use is the law

The hands-free cell phone use law means drivers can't hold their phone in their hand, period. Accessing or posting on social media, streaming videos, checking that box score or searching online for information on a device while driving is against the law in Minnesota, even in hands-free mode.

Multitasking behind the wheel is a deadly risk, said OTS Director Mike Hanson.

"Trust me, if you're involved in a fatal crash, you won't be thinking about that text you almost missed," said Hanson. "Drivers, put the phones down while you're on the road — your focus will save lives."

In 2024, distracted driving was a factor in at least 29 fatal crashes in Minnesota and an estimated 137 serious injuries. To help keep people safe, officers, deputies and troopers will be participating in the distracted driving extra enforcement and awareness campaign that runs April 1-30. The campaign urges drivers to put distractions away and focus on driving safely. OTS coordinates the campaign with funding provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The campaign includes overtime enforcement and advertising in support of the Toward Zero Deaths traffic safety program.

Distracted driving is dangerous driving

Between 2019 and 2024, there were 115,643 citations involving distracted driving in Minnesota.

Distracted driving consequences

▪ Hands-free cell phone law: The law allows a driver to use their cell phone to make calls, text, listen to music or podcasts and get directions, but only by voice commands or single-touch activation without holding the phone. Remember, hands-free is not necessarily distraction-free.

▪ Drivers using a phone without it being hands-free device can face fines or worse.

▪ $100 or more including court fees for a first offense.

▪ $300 or more including court fees for a second and/or subsequent offense.

▪ Motorists who injure or kill someone while violating the hands-free law can face a felony charge of criminal vehicular operation or homicide.

Drive smart and join Minnesotans driving distraction-free

▪ Cell phones: Park the phone by putting it down, activating the "Do Not Disturb" feature, silencing notifications, turning it off, placing it out of reach or going hands-free.

▪ Music and other controls: Pre-program radio stations and arrange music in an easy-to-access spot. Adjust mirrors and ventilation before traveling.

▪ Navigation: Map out the destination and enter the GPS route in advance.

▪ Eating and drinking: Avoid messy foods and secure drinks.

▪ Children: Teach children the importance of good behavior in a vehicle and model proper driving behavior.

▪ Passengers: Speak up to stop drivers from distracted driving behavior and offer to help with anything that takes the driver's attention off the road.

Hands-free cell phone driving resources

Visit the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's HandsFreeMN.org website for more information and frequently asked questions.

The Minnesota Safety Council provides materials for employers to help prevent distracted driving choices.

WEM early childhood/preschool screening

Preschool/early childhood screening is a free and simple check of how your child is growing, developing, and learning. Win-E-Mac school readiness and Head Start will offer screening on Monday, April 7, 2025.

A trained professional will check: Vision and hearing; Height and weight; Immunizations; Large and small muscles; Thinking, language and communication skills; Social and emotional development.

Preschool/early childhood screening is open to all children, ages three years old and up, who have not been screened previously.

Children must be screened before entering preschool and kindergarten. The screening takes place on Monday, April 7 at the Polk County Public Health office in at Bjella Building on Main Street in McIntosh.

Contact Heather Earls at Win-E-Mac to set up an appointment for your child to be screened. e-mail: hearls@wem-schools.org.

WEM Kindergarten

Looking ahead to next fall, if your child turns 5 years old by September 1, 2025, they are eligible to enroll in kindergarten. Please contact the district office at 218 - 687 - 2236 to enroll your child.

Please do so by May 1, 2025 so your child can be included with our kindergarten and preschool transition activities. If your child attends pre-school at Win-E-Mac, they are already enrolled.

Gala for Girls

The Gala for Girls is set for Friday, April 25th from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Crookston Inn.

Girls in grades K-6, this is your night! Bring your dad, grandpa, uncle, or adult male role model and register now for this unforgettable evening. The event includes a professional picture, social and sit-down dinner, special gift, and an evening of dancing.

Registration will be open until filled and will close on Friday, April 18th at noon. Pre-registration is required, and tickets typically sell out. The cost to attend is $45 per couple ($15 for each additional girl).

Registration forms available on the Polk County Public Health website (https://mn-polkcounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/3186/Gala-Registration-2025)

or at Polk County Public Health, 816 Marin Ave, Crookston, MN (218-281-3385).

100 Years Ago This Month: Historical events from April 1925

The month of April has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in April 1925.

· **King Yeta III of Barotseland** and the Lozi people in what is now Zambia abolishes the corvée on April 1 in the British colony of Northern Rhodesia. The corvée is a system of forced labor that is considered the last vestige of slavery in the colony.

· **On April 2, Harry Pierpont** is arrested in Detroit for a string of bank robberies across Indiana and Michigan. Pierpont escapes from prison eight years later and ultimately joins John Dillinger in committing numerous additional bank robberies.

· **Henry Ford begins running** a private air freight service between Detroit and Chicago on April 2.

· **On April 4, Field Marshal Paul von Hindenburg** agrees to run in the second round of the German presidential election in place of Karl Jarres, who had won the first round. Jarres withdrew his name prior to the second round, paving the way for Hindenburg's candidacy and ultimate victory.

· **Several men working for criminal** Al Capone severely assault investigative reporter Robert St. John on April 6. St. John had previously authored several pieces exposing Capone's criminal empire in Cicero, Illinois.

· **Adolf Hitler formally renounces** his Austrian citizenship on April 7. Hitler would remain stateless and ineligible for public office until being granted German citizenship in early 1932.

· **In conjunction with the British Colonial Office,** the Australian government announces a plan on April 8 to encourage nearly half a million British citizens to relocate to Australia. The government offers low-interest loans and skills training to entice people to move.

· **A demonstration against Lord Balfour** in Damascus ends with two people dead and 11 wounded on April 9. The protests were a response to Balfour's promotion of Jewish interests in Palestine. Balfour would depart Damascus in haste a day after the demonstration.

· **F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel** The Great Gatsby is published on April 10.

· **Police in Denver, Colorado,** carry out a raid on Good Friday on April 10. More than 200 people, including bootleggers and gamblers, are arrested. The raid was ordered by Denver Mayor Benjamin F. Stapleton, a member of the Ku Klux Klan. The KKK had benefitted from many of the institutions targeted during the raid, which prompted the organization to strip Stapleton of his membership months later.

· **The James Simpson-Roosevelt** Asiatic Expedition departs New York City on April 11. The expedition aimed to collect wildlife species from mountainous regions in Asia, and would ultimately return with thousands of specimens.

· **Women are granted** the right to vote in the Dominion of Newfoundland on April 13.

· **Anarchists open fire on the vehicle** of Tsar Boris III of Bulgaria on April 14. Though King Boris is grazed by a bullet and two of his companions are killed, the assassination attempt fails.

· **The Caterpillar Tractor Company** is founded upon the merger of Holt Manufacturing Company and the C.L. Best Tractor Company on April 15.

· **After consuming an excessive amount of hot dogs** and soda, Babe Ruth undergoes surgery on April 17. Ruth had collapsed on a team train 10 days earlier and is treated for what doctors characterized as an intestinal abscess.

· **The Communist Party** of Korea is founded in Japanese-ruled Korea on April 17.

· The use of a sign shaped like a shield is standardized as the way to identify federally funded highways in the United States on April 20.

· **The entire crew of the Japanese cargo ship S.S. Raifuku Maru** perishes when the ship sinks in a storm on April 21. The ship was transporting wheat from the U.S. to Germany but rescue efforts failed due to stormy conditions.

· **Franz Kafka's novel, Der Prozess** (later translated in English as The Trial), is published posthumously on April 26. Kafka, a relative unknown at the time of the book's publication, died of tuberculosis roughly nine months earlier.

· **France begins air raids on Morocco** as part of the Rif War on April 27. The raids would continue intermittently for the next nine years.

Fischbach announces Congressional Art Competition

Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach (MN-07) announces her office's participation in the annual Congressional Art Competition and encourages high school students from Minnesota's Seventh District to participate in it.

"The Congressional Art Competition is an opportunity for high school students across the country to showcase their art. We are excited to once again participate in this competition that highlights the skills and abilities of the young artists in our district," said Congresswoman Fischbach.

The competition is open to all public, private, charter, and home school students in grades nine through twelve. Winning submissions from each congressional district will be displayed for one year in the tunnel from the U.S. Capitol to the Cannon House Office Building, where they will be viewed by thousands of visitors, tourists, and distinguished Members of Congress. The winners will also be highlighted on Congresswoman Fischbach's social media.

Additional guidelines and submission instructions are available at https://fischbach.house.gov/art-competition. Artwork must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. CT on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

WEM Science Camp

Love science? The first annual Science Camp is coming to Win-E-Mac School this summer for kids going into 3rd grade through kids going into 7th grade.

Any child from surrounding schools is welcome to sign up as well. There are only 20 spots, so act quickly.

Mr. Hubred will host the fist annual camp where stuents can learn about liquid nitrogen, dry ice, rockets, science magic and much more.

The camp will take place from July 21st through July 24th from 8:30 am to Noon each day in Win-E-Mac school room 47.

The cost of the class is $80, which includes all supplies, a snack, and a t-shirt.

To register email Mr. Hubred at bhubred@win-e-mac.k12.mn.us or https://shorturl.at/pvzus or at the link on the school website at wemschools.org.

Harvesting morel mushrooms

The morel mushroom (also called yellow morels or sponge mushrooms) is known worldwide but is most prevalent in the northern hemisphere.

It is probably the most recognizable and sought-after edible mushroom.

▪ Morels usually emerge annually in the spring when there has been adequate rainfall.

▪ In southern Minnesota, they can be found in late April through May, depending on the rainfall and temperature.

▪ Northern Minnesota may see morels into June.

Note: There is a "false" morel that is poisonous.

Hunting for morels

▪ Morels are most commonly found in woodlands or woody edges.

▪ Morels grow under or around decaying elms, ash, poplar and apple trees.

▪ Other preferred sites include south-facing slopes, burned (forest fire) or logged woodlands and disturbed areas.

▪ When harvesting wild mushrooms, it is recommended that you pinch or cut the stem just above the soil to leave the base of the mushroom in the soil.

▪ Use an onion bag to collect the mushrooms.

▪ Prepare for a walk in the woods by wearing proper clothes and boots.

Beware of poisonous mushrooms

Warning: Many wild mushrooms are poisonous and can be fatal. Correctly identify the mushroom you pick and plan to eat. An old mushroom hunter's axiom states, "When in doubt, throw it out." This is a good rule to follow.

If you believe you have ingested a poisonous mushroom, immediately contact Poison Control (1-800-222-1222) and save an uncooked sample of the mushrooms you consumed for the purpose of identification. This can be critical for determining the proper course of treatment.

Holy Week...

Continued from page 1 .....

tunity to serve others, whether through charitable efforts at a soup kitchen, visiting the elderly in a nursing home or through participation in another charitable endeavor. Certain religious communities conduct "washing of the feet" events when parishioners can cleanse others' feet as Jesus cleaned the feet of his disciples. This demonstrates humility, love and service, and also can strengthen faith.

Holy Week is a prime time for individuals to learn about their faith and embrace it more fully.

On Monday, March 31st the Win-E-Mac Patriot girls basketball program held their Ice Cream Social and Awards Banquet. Recognitions were given to team members for academics, team awards, defensive awards and captains. All players were recognized for their teamwork.