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The McIntosh Times
563-3585

Win-E-Mac’s McKeever playing hard for the Coyotes



Madison McKeever, who is a freshman player for the NCAA Division 1 Coyotes, plays tough and averages about 27 minutes a game.

By Mick Garry,
Argus Leader
Photo credit:
Bernice McKeever

Dawn Plitzuweit had just preached to her players the importance of taking a charge at one of the team’s first practices when Madison McKeever, a 5-foot-8 freshman who would be the team’s tailback if they were playing football instead of basketball, knocked the new coach to the floor.

The South Dakota coach has a habit of getting involved in team drills when she was wants to make a point, though

in this instance there were two points being made.

Paraphrasing, the following was established:

Coach: I want you all to know this is the kind of defense I expect.

McKeever: Fine, but the people who take charges on me are gonna earn ‘em.

“She ran me right over,” Plitzuweit said this week. “It was in a warm up – I said, ‘We aren’t even using a basketball, Maddie.’ Then she laughed. She’d just rolled me over and laughed. I thought, ‘All right, I like this kid.’”

That was at one of the team’s first practices and nothing has changed since then in regard to the coach’s assessment of a first-year player that Plitzuweit, who replaced Amy Williams at USD in April, had not recruited.

“I thought, ‘Oh, God, here we go. This is not how you want to start out as a freshman,’” McKeever said, recounting the bulldozing incident. “But she took it like a champ, so it was no big deal.”

McKeever’s early contributions to the team have been a big deal, however. With the backcourt’s top returnees Caitlin Duffy and Jasmine Trimboli out with injuries, it was inevitable that McKeever, McKeever...

Continued on page 2 ...



Grandma, Sue Lee, and Dad, Philip Lee, help Sirius and Macey with crafts during the Community Club Sponsored Santa Claus Day in McIntosh on December 10th.



The Win-E-Mac first graders sang songs for friends and family during the Elementary Holiday Program on December 8th.



Mya Strom writes her letter to Santa at Santa Claus Day in McIntosh. Santa was sure to take the letters and read them all before Christmas Eve.



The Gunufson family had some fun making masks during Santa Claus Day in McIntosh on December 10th.



The Dollar General in Erskine, MN made an incredible donation to the Win-E-Mac Giving Tree. The Giving Tree provides gifts to children and families in our area that are low income or are in need this holiday season. Pictured are Family Service Specialist and coordinator of the Win-E-Mac Giving Tree, Amy Bartz (R), and Tara Burthwick (L) manager and coordinator of the toy drive at Dollar General in Erskine, MN. Thank you to everyone that has donated to the toy drive and the Giving Tree!

Community Calendar

Wed. Dec. 21: McIntosh Library 12pm to 5pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Computer Class at McIntosh Library 1pm to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran’s 11:30am to 1:30pm

Thurs. Dec. 22: McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran’s 11:30am to 1:30pm

Fri. Dec 23: McIntosh Library 12pm to 5pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran’s 11:30am to 1:30pm

Sunday Dec. 25: Merry Christmas!

Mon. Dec. 26: McIntosh Library 10am to 3pm; Children’s Story Time at McIntosh Library 10:30am; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran’s 11:30am to 1:30pm

Tues. Dec. 27: McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran’s 11:30am to 1:30pm

Wed. Dec. 28: McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Computer Class at McIntosh Library 1pm to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran’s 11:30am to 1:30pm

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

Fri. Dec. 30: Christmas in McIntosh; McIntosh Library 12pm to 5pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran’s 11:30am to 1:30pm

Mon. Jan. 2: McIntosh Library 10am to 3pm; Children’s Story Time at McIntosh Library 10:30am; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran’s 11:30am to 1:30pm

Tues. Jan. 3: McIntosh Library 5pm to 8pm; McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center 10am to 2pm; Winger Senior Meals @ Moran’s 11:30am to 1:30pm

10 Christmas Traditions

By: Emily L. Ferden

It’s finally here! This week is Christmas, and we have only been waiting 365 days for this day. My favorite thing about Christmas is the traditions that come with Christmas. One tradition I can think of that my family has is that we always spend the day together as a family. Here are 10 Christmas Traditions from all over the world:

1.Ethiopia

Here, some of the less usual Christmas traditions take place. In Ethiopia, to wish others Merry Christmas, you would say, “Melkin Yelidet Beaal”. Christmas is celebrated on January 7th, which is known as Ganna. In Ethiopia, solid volcanic rock was used to carve the ancient churches that the celebrations take place in. People also carry out celebrations in modern churches that have been purposely designed and built in three concentric circles. People are presented with candles as they listen to the choir outside the circle, while the enter the

church. Once they are inside the church, the males sit separate from the females. When all of the candles have been lit, people then proceed to walk around the church three times and then they stand for up to a further three hours, while the mass takes place. Presents do not play an important part of Christmas in Ethiopia. A child in Ethiopia is likely to receive gifts such as clothing on Christmas.

2. Bulgaria

“Vesela Koleda”, which is how you would be wishing everyone a Merry Christmas in Bulgaria. Most of the customs of Christmas tend to be paramount on Christmas Day, however, in Bulgaria, Christmas Eve is just as important as Christmas Day. Christmas Eve is when a dinner consisting of at least twelve dishes is made for the whole family. All of the courses are prepared without meat and include different types of nuts, beans,

traditions... Continued on page 3 ...



Santa's elves Brook and Will Tofstad delivered treats to McIntosh Senior Living after Santa Claus Day at the McIntosh Community Center. Here they are pictured with Joyce Tessman.

McKeever...

Continued from page 1

who scored 3,298 career points at Win-E-Mac High School in Minnesota, was going to get an opportunity to play whether she was ready for it or not.

Fellow freshman Ciara Duffy, a starter, is a candidate for the Summit League's new-comer of the year but right behind her is McKeever, proving her readiness for the 8-2 Coyotes.

"I'd really like it if the seniors could play," McKeever said. "But Coach has told us she really needs the freshmen to step up. Games could come down to how we play. For me, I just make sure I work my hardest and do what I can and help motivate the team."

She is averaging 27 minutes a game, serving as the top sub for starting guards Allison Arens and Jaycee Bradley. In three of her last four games she's reached double-figures in points after not reaching that mark in her first six games, so

she's quickly covering the basic challenges involved in the transition from high school star to college freshman.

The quickness part stems from her personality. Be it a short-range goal – let's get the ball back – or something more extended like adjusting from smalltown northern Minnesota high school basketball to NCAA Division I, McKeever is not one for hemming and hawing.

"She's always played hard, she's always played aggressive," said Piltzuweit, who shortly after being hired made a visit to McKeever's home in Erskine, Minn. "Now she's learning to take advantage of different scoring opportunities or different defensive rotations. She's continuing to get better. I thought in the last game she did a good job of handling the ball, handling pressure and making good decisions."

A starter since eighth grade

at Win-E-Mac, where her father Kevin is the principal and a former high school coach himself, McKeever scored lots of points off turnovers and in transition against high school teams that were often incapable of dealing with the level of defensive pressure she and her teammates were bringing to the court.

It's a great way to win high school games, especially against teams that do not have a lot of skilled players, but it's much more difficult to pull it off at the college level. McKeever, who was part of a state championship team as a sophomore and an all-state player as a junior and senior, anticipated a shift in emphasis was coming.

"It was a lot of just pressuring right away and going for layups," she said. "Over the years I've tried to develop my outside game a lot more. It's what I had to improve on – I know that. Even my dad said it – we shoot a lot of layups."

Did you know?

Christmas songs provide the soundtrack for holiday magic. Such songs evoke strong feelings in people, and various songs have become staples at holiday celebrations. Some interesting facts and history surround many popular Christmas songs. "White Christmas," for example, is the best-selling Christmas song of all time. However, "Silent Night" is the most recorded Christmas song in history, says TIME. "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" is considered a jolly song, but songwriter James Gillespie was unemployed and had just lost his brother prior to writing the song. Still, he was able to look past his grief to pen the classic. Many are unaware that "Jingle Bells" originally was supposed to be a Thanksgiving song. While many beloved Christmas songs have been around for decades, one artist managed to tap into the success of classic Christmas music. Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" is a popular modern-day Christmas song



Neil's Quality Meats and More has a winner for the 2nd Drawing and it is Kim Tjolsen. Congratulations!

Gosen Luther League & Sunday School

The Gosen Luther League in conjunction with the Sunday School will present a Christmas program on Friday evening, December 30th, at 7 o'clock. Note the change of day. A skit entitled "The Messenger" will be presented by the Sunday School and adult Bible Study.

Music will be provided by Jennie Shaver, Jeremy and soon-to-be Anna Johnson, and Pastor Gary and Lois Johnson.

There may be other musical numbers as well as audience hymn sing. Refreshments including Christmas goodies will be served following the program. A candy bowl will also be available. Join us as we seek to honor the newborn King Jesus. Gosen Church is located 4 miles south of the junctions of Highways 2 & 59 or 4 miles north of Winger; then 1/2 mile east on County Road 206. For information call 268-4242 or 687-3461.



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

Wed. Dec. 21: 11:30am Mass & adoration at St. Mary's, Fosston

Fri. Dec. 23: 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston

Sat. Dec. 24: 5:00pm Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 8:00pm Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley; NOTE: There will be no midnight mass

Sun. Dec. 25: 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

Sun. Jan. 1: 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

If you have any questions please call 435-6484.

CALVARY-IMMANUEL LUTHERAN PARISH

Winger/Bejou

Supply Pastor

Gordon Syverson

Sun. Dec. 25: 8:30am Worship at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship at Calvary

Sun. Jan. 1: 8:30am Worship at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship at Calvary

OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

McIntosh

Supply Pastor

Gordon Syverson

Sun. Dec. 25: 11:15am Worship Service

Sun. Jan. 1: 11:15am Worship Service

GOSEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Independent

Gary Johnson, Pastor

www.gosen-church.com

Face Book: Gosen Church

Wed. Dec. 21: 1:30pm Bible Study at The Country Place

Sat. Dec. 24: No Prayer Meeting

Sun. Dec. 25: 9:30am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00am Worship Service;

Tues. Dec. 27: 10:00am Sunday Worship service telecast on Garden Valley Cable TV - Channel 2

Wed. Dec. 28: 1:30pm Bible Study at The Country Place

Fri. Dec. 30: 7:00pm Sunday School/Luther League Program (See article elsewhere in the paper)

For information on free rides to any of the above activities call 218-268-4242 or 218-687-3461 Gosen Church is located 4 miles south of the junctions of Hwy. 2 & 59 or 4 miles north of Winger; then 1/2 mile east on County Road 206.

MCINTOSH AFLC

McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:

Pastor Karl Anderson

Wed. Dec. 21 7:30pm Bible Study

Thurs. Dec. 22: 7:00am Men's Breakfast

Sun. Dec. 25: 9:45am Sunday School

Wed. Dec. 28: 7:30pm Bible Study

Thurs. Dec. 29: 7:00am Men's Breakfast

Sun. Jan. 1: 9:45am Sunday School; 11:00am Sunday Worship Service

Trinity:

Sun. Dec. 25: 9:30am Worship Service; 10:45am Sunday School

Sun. Jan. 1: 9:30am Worship Service; 10:45am Sunday School

VERNES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC)

McIntosh

Pastor Jill Torgerson

Sun. Dec. 25: 9am Worship

Sun. Jan. 1: 9am Worship

DOVRE

FREE LUTHERAN

Pastor Don Edlund

Wed. Dec. 21: No Bible Study; 6:00pm Confirmation

Sat. Dec. 24: 4:00pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Sun. Dec. 25: 10:00am Worship Service

Wed. Dec. 28: 7:15pm Bible Study; Old Testament Tabernacles; No Confirmation

Sun. Jan. 1: 10:00am Worship Service

Wed. Jan. 4: 7:15pm Bible Study; Old Testament Tabernacles

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

McIntosh

Rev. John Anderson, Pastor

Sat. Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service 4:30pm @ Poplar Lake Church

Sun. Dec. 25: 8:45am Divine Service Christmas Day

Holy Communion 1st and 3rd Sundays

Christmas Greetings

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

-LUKE 2:16

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

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



First National Bank of McIntosh will be closed on Monday, December 26th in observance of the Christmas Holiday.



260 Cleveland Ave. SW

PO Box 129

McIntosh, MN 56556

www.fnbmcintosh.com

Phone

(218)

563-2865

M39C



Carol Broadwell of Fosston and Rosebud Township lived with her husband Victor on the Broadwell family farm in Gregory Township. Victor's father Ilem Broadwell and his family moved to the farmstead in 1950, when Victor was 3 years old. After their marriage, Victor and Carol lived on the farm site for 35 years. Today her son Jeff and his family live on and work the land.

Carol has provided a

holiday recipe that was a seasonal Broadwell family treat. "This is a dessert my mother-in-law would make for Christmas. I had never had it until I met my in-laws."

The family history of the dish has been lost; Carol's mother-in-law passed away only six months after the couple was married, but the recipe lives on in the family.

English Plum Pudding

1 cup raisins
1 cup currants (optional)
1 cup ground suet
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/2 tsp nutmeg
3 1/2 cups flour
1/2 cup molasses
1 cup sour milk
1 cup sugar
1 tsp soda
1 egg-slightly beaten

1 orange rind
Stir together suet, sugar, molasses, sour mild -add rest of ingredients.
Steam for 3 hours-a bundt pan works well or angel food pan.

Serve with sauce-Mix in skillet on top of stove:

2 TBSP butter
2 TBSP flour
2 cups water
2 TBSP vinegar
1/2 cp sugar
1tsp vanilla
Serve warm

"I have made this a day or two ahead of serving. Wrap in a clean cloth soaked in brandy. Store in cool place. Warm by steaming prior to serving. Make sauce to serve warm."

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McINTOSH Times

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Winger News

Linda Pulskamp

Hello again from Winger and the Union Lake areas where we not only got the snow but it was followed by some brutally cold temperatures, and wind along with it. It's very dangerous conditions so hope everyone takes care when out and about and has a winter survival kit with them when traveling.

Hope many of you got out on Monday night to see the Christmas train as it traveled through the area. It is most definitely a breath taking sight to see it travel through the dark of night with the lights so beautiful on it. It's hard to imagine until one actually sees it.

With the cold temps, ice is definitely in the making and it won't be long before the ice fishermen (and women) will be able to get out and enjoy the sport.

Wednesday the 7th Chad Carlson brought supper to Grandpa Milton Carlson and they had a good visit while they ate, later Chris, Sheila, and Jade Benesh were visitors as were Paul and Donna Carlson who brought supper to Milton's home in honor of Sheila's birthday.

Thursday evening Erin Chrisitanson picked up Grandma Carol Stordahl and they attended the Win-E-Mac Christmas program for grades 1 to 3 and grades 4 to 6.

Last Saturday afternoon visitors at the Reha Sanstead home in Erskine were Marv Engesether of Plummer, Dean and Mary Salvesson of Erskine and Butch and Linda Pulskamp.

Last Thursday Chris Benesh stopped in at Milton Carlson's and plowed out his yard

for him and was treated to dinner that Milton had made. That evening Donna Carlson brought supper to Milton.

Last Saturday Mark and Betty Syverson visited with Helmer and Verlys Homme at the Pioneer Home, they spent the afternoon visiting and playing rook.

Monday December the 5th Sue Christianson and Carol Stordahl drove to the Bemidji Hairdressing Academy where Melissa Olson, a student there, gave Grandma Carol a perm, a Christmas gift to Grandma. Everything went very well and later Carol and Sue met Deb Matson and Cindy Horvath for dinner at Perkins.

Lonnie Gieseke was a visitor on Friday the 9th with Milton Carlson at the Carlson home, while there Lonnie cleaned off the deck for Milton.

Visitors at the Dan and Angie Brtek home last Sunday afternoon were Becky Johnson, Michelle Johnson, Brenden Casavan, Justus Brtek of Bagley and Butch and Linda Pulskamp. They all helped little Morgen celebrate her 1st birthday.

Last Saturday Monte, Kristen, Emma, Tory, and Mia brought pizza as a treat and were visitors with Milton Carlson at Milton's home.

Last Sunday afternoon Cindy Horvath and Carol Stordahl attended the Christmas program at Mt. Carmel Church in McIntosh. A very large group of kids, around 50 were involved. A fabulous lunch was served after the program.

Sunday the 11th Milton Carlson along with Judy and Lonnie Gieseke and Roy, Lisa and Ryan Schaumburg were all guests of Mike, Keri, Terry

and Oliviayah Keller at the Keller home near Bejou wher they all celebrated an early Christmas.

In closing I want to wish you all a very Merry and Blessed Christmas. If you are traveling, have a good trip and drive safely.

From Bun Manor:

Wednesday evening around forty Lion members from Winger and their spouses attended their annual Governors visitation. This years highlight was Orrie Flermoen receiving the Highest Lions award that being The Melvin Jones award. Congratulations goes out to Orrie on receiving this prestigious award.

Uncle Tim was blessed this weekend with the arrival of his niece Megan, her husband Adam and their nine month old Mason Timothy Reed to the manor.

They met Tennis and Lori Balstad at Moran's for supper and Tim treated because it is Christmas time. They spent Sat. night at the Balstad farm and on Sunday they attended the Balstad triplets Christmas church program in Fosston. They came back to visit Tim after church and left for their home in Cloquet latter in the afternoon.

This is all the news Bun could muster up this week because it has been so cold nobody has been doing any chasing around.

On a personal note: Merry Christmas and God Bless all ou Winger Enterprise readers.

traditions...

Continued from page 1...

cakes, dried plums, and the traditional dish of Banitza. The family sits on straw while they eat their feast, and once they've finished eating, they all leave the table at the same time.

3. Finland

"Hyvaa Joulua" from Fin-

land! People prepare for Christmas by thoroughly cleaning their houses and spending lots of time in the kitchen making lots of different types of treats. Fir trees are one of the many traditions of Christmas in Finland, and play an important role in the celebrations. These trees are decorated on Christmas Eve with an array of fruits, paper flags, candles, and tinsel. Once the house is prepared, a trip to the famous steam baths is a must, in preparation for the Christmas dinner afterwards. People often place nuts and seeds for the birds in the garden and the majority of people in rural communities will refrain from eating their Christmas meal until the birds have eaten. Dinner is usually served between 5 and 7pm and presents are given out either before or after a meal. One of the most popular festive customs we hear about is the hanging of stockings. However, in Finland this is not necessary. In Finland, Santa Claus comes to the house, with as many as half a dozen elves, to give the children their presents. Christmas Day begins at 6am with church services and the remainder of the day consisting of family visits and reunions.

4. Japan

If you are celebrating Christmas in Japan, you will be wishing everyone a Merry Christmas by saying, "Shinnen Omedeto" or "Kurumasu Omedeto". Even though only 1% of Japanese people celebrate Christmas for religious purposes, they still follow many recognizable traditions of Christmas. The majority of people decorate their homes and participate in the exchanging of presents. A Buddhist monk plays the role of Santa Claus, who leaves presents at the houses of the children.

5. Italy

"Buon Natale" from Italy! In Italy, the festive season takes place over three weeks and starts eight days before Christmas. This period is called Novena, and in this time, children dress up as shepherds while they recite Christmas poems, sing, and play musical instru-

ments. The children go from house to house entertaining people, and in turn, are given money to use to buy gifts. However, unlike other Christmas traditions around the world, children wait until January 6th to open their presents. According to tradition, their presents are delivered by a kind ugly witch called Befana.

6. Philippines

"Maligayang Pasko" from the Philippines! Christmas celebrations around the world start at all different times, but in the Philippines, they start with a Mass nine days before Christmas. The Mass concentrates on the story of the birth of Christ. The Panunuluyan pageant is held every year on Christmas Eve. This tradition allows a chosen couple to re-enact the Biblical story of Mary and Joseph in their search for shelter. Everyone is encouraged to attend Mass on Christmas Day, which is why it is held every hour. The service finishes with the Pastor sliding down a star on a piece of wire, attached from the top area of the church onto the Nativity scene that has been created.

7. Russia

"Pozdrevlyayu s prazdnikom Rozhdestva is Novim Godom" from Russia! Nowadays, Russia tends to celebrate the Festival of Winter, however, you can still find some traditional customs of Christmas in some ar-

eas of the country. Traditional Russian festivities include fasting that can be for as many as 39 days, until Christmas Eve, which is held on January 6th. This is when people will see the first evening star appear in the sky. A twelve-course meal then commences, to pay honor to the twelve apostles. On Christmas Day, people gather in church to sing hymns and carols. In Russia, they have a traditional figure named Ded Moroz, or Father Frost, who gives the presents to the children along with his granddaughter, Snegurochka.

8. Sweden

Finally, "God Jul" from Sweden! The Saint Lucia Ceremony commences the Christmas celebrations in Sweden. On the morning of December 13th, before dawn, the youngest daughter of the family wears a white robe accompanied by a red sash. On her head she wears a crown made out of evergreens, which has lighted candles on it. She then wakes her parents and offers them Lucia buns and coffee. Although the custom dates back to the 4th century, it is quite a recent tradition in Sweden and is significant as it represents the return of the star. Christmas trees are decorated 2 days before Christmas and on Christmas morning, the churches are lit up entirely by candles.

Regional Ag News

Ray Bisek,
Extension Educator

Minnesota Buffer Law Comment Period through January 9th, 2017

Below is a summary from the Minnesota Soybean Growers web site of the official Public Notice released recently from BWSR for a comment period on portions of the "Minnesota Buffer Law". The Buffer law, signed into law in 2015 and amended in 2016, is not without objection or praise by citizens of the State of Minnesota. For agricultural producers and land owners directly affected by this legislation, and others not directly affected, there has been concern as to how implementation and enforcement might be carried out. As citizens in a democratic society, you have the right to comment on public policy as it is developed. Consider reading the notice, review the information as it pertains to the law (available on the Board of Water and Soil Resources web site), and consider making comment.

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is charged with overseeing program implementation of the buffer law. The agency is currently seeking public comment on key components of its buffer program.

The Requests for Comment and supporting documents are available on the BWSR Buffer Program website at <http://bwsr.state.mn.us/buffers>

BWSR is looking for feedback on the following policies and model rules:

- Initial Election of Jurisdiction Policy
- Enforcement Procedures and Administrative Penalty Order Plan
- Model county ordinance as an option for counties electing to exercise jurisdiction.
- Model watershed district rule as an option for districts electing to exercise jurisdiction.

Comments from stakeholders are a key part of the process, and will be considered during policy development. Anticipated action on these policies is expected at the January 2017 BWSR Board meeting. Information and comments on the policies and model rules will be accepted until 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 9, 2017.

Comments may be submitted via email to buffers.bwsr@state.mn.us or via U.S. mail to David Weirens, Asst. Director for Programs and Policy,

BWSR, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

When Should My Christmas Cactus Bloom?

A few weeks ago while shopping for gifts I noticed in one of the stores a variety of bloom colors of Christmas cacti. Like a child in the candy store I wanted to add to my collection! For many growing this cactus, it is handed down through generations. I know of at least one family who has successfully managed 3 generations of growth of the same plant. In the spirit of the holiday season I thought I would present information for those trying to be green thumbs before they focus their attention on the pages of seed catalogs arriving on January 2nd. Below is an article on Christmas Cacti written a few years ago by Beth Berlin, University of Minnesota Extension Educator in Stearns and Benton Counties.

Tis the season for the holiday plants to start blooming. Or is it? Many people may wonder why their Christmas cactus is blooming at Thanksgiving or even earlier. There are actually several popular holiday cacti; the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and less familiar Easter cactus. Despite the name cactus, these plants are not from the desert; instead the Thanksgiving and Christmas cacti are both in the Schlumbergera family, and native to the tropical forests of Brazil.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas cacti received their name because of the typical bloom period is near to the holiday; however that is not always true. Bloom periods are triggered by the amount of daylight and the temperature. Therefore your Thanksgiving cacti might be in bloom at Halloween and your Christmas in bloom closer to Thanksgiving. A more definitive way to tell the difference between a Thanksgiving cactus and a Christmas cactus is by looking at the segments of the leaves. The Thanksgiving cactus' leaf segments have a pointed, jagged edge, while the Christmas cactus' leaf segments are smooth and rounded. Another way is to look closely at the flower parts of the plant. The anther, pollen bearing part of the flower, is yellow on the Thanksgiving cactus and purplish-brown on the Christmas cactus. Very often the Thanksgiving cactus is actually sold under the name Christmas

cactus, which only adds to the confusion.

To initiate flowering, either plant needs less than 12 hours of light per day and temperatures of less than 68°F. Flower buds will set regardless of the daylight hours if temperatures are less than 55°F. If the conditions in your home do not meet these requirements extra efforts need to be done by the plant owner to trigger the cactus to bloom. Simply cover the cactus or put it in a dark closet for at least 12 hours a day. In some warm homes, if temperatures never drop below 70°F, the plant may never bloom regardless of the amount of light.

Be aware that if budded plants are brought into a warm room with low humidity, they may drop their buds. Also plants that are overwatered may even drop leaf segments. The perfect place for the cactus is in a bright, indirect lit room with suitable temperatures away from drafts. Water the plant when the growing medium is dry to the touch. Do not overwater and let the soil to be waterlogged, especially in the winter. The soil medium should be kept evenly moist in the fall when flower buds are set to prevent them from withering. Never let water stand in the saucer below the pot. Fertilize the plant with a general purpose fertilizer monthly during the growing season, fertilize with half strength from late winter through summer, and finally stop fertilizing in late summer for greater flower bud production.

After the cactus is done blooming, they benefit from a "resting" period. Allow the soil to dry out between watering, but do not allow the leaves to shrivel. Thanksgiving and Christmas cactus bloom best when slightly pot-bound. The best time to repot is in spring when new growth begins. The best potting medium is well-drained with good aerations, such as a mix of two-thirds potting soil with one-third perlite or course sand. Do not use a cactus soil mix.

Take a close look at your holiday cactus, is it a true Christmas cactus? Regardless, with the proper care this plant will bloom for six to eight weeks each year for many, many years. For more information on all houseplants visit www.extension.umn.edu/garden/yard-garden/houseplants



Grandma Mary Gieseke with her grandson, Coby Cook at Breakfast with Santa.



Carsten Zahl was greeting the guests during the Winger Lions Breakfast with Santa on December 10th.



What a cook! Here Ole is proving that he can make a good breakfast for anyone who is hungry for pancakes.



When is Santa getting here? Wait, I should have an app for that!

New Years Eve Supper at

Ness Cafe

Saturday., Dec. 31

Serving will start at 5:00 pm

YOUR CHOICE OF:

- Prime Rib
- Walleye
- Butterfly Shrimp

Or try our buffet with chicken/ribs, potatoes, vegetable, pasta and more!

Served with fresh salad bar and dessert.

Ness Cafe IS OPEN New Years Day 8 am-1 pm

Please call for reservations

218-687-2101

Where Breakfast is served All Day...Every Day

103 Vance Ave. S., Erskine, MN 218-687-2101

Merry Christmas TO ALL...

...and to all a great year!

These local businesses appreciate your friendship and support at the holiday season and year round!

Wishing you the
Happiest of Holidays
and all the Best in the
New Year!

City of McIntosh

With all good wishes
to you and your family
for health and happiness
throughout the coming
year!

**Ron's Barber
Shop**

Wishing you
all the
Special Blessings of this
Glorious Season!

**First National
Bank & Agency**

Celebrate the
Wonder and the Joy
of the Holiday Season!

Lucken Corp

Wishing our
Friends and Family
a Joyous Holiday filled with
Peace, Love, and
Prosperity.
Best Wishes for a Healthy
New Year!

McIntosh Cenex

The gift of love,
the gift of peace
The gift of happiness...
May all these be yours at
Christmas!

**Dan's Standard
Service**

Wishing you a
Very Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!

**McIntosh Country
Store &
Hardware Hank**

May the Magic and
Wonder of the Season
Fill your Heart and Home.
Happy Holidays!

Fosston Tri-Coop
McIntosh

With every wish for
a very Merry Christmas
and the
Happiest of New Years!

**Minkota
Technologies**
Winger

May the Spirit of
Christmas be with you
throughout the New
Year!

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

Wishing you all the
Hope, Wonder and Joy
that the Season can bring!

**King Town
Farmers Mutual
Insurance**

Warmest thoughts and
Best Wishes
for a Wonderful Holiday
and a very
Happy New Year!

McIntosh Times

Wishing you Joy and
Peace at Christmas
and throughout the
New Year!

Rick's Repair

Wishing you every
happiness this
Holiday Season
and throughout the
coming!

FarmChek Services

May Your Holidays Be
Merry
and the New Year filled
with friends,
family and good times!

C B Auto Repair

Warmest greetings of the
Season and best wishes
for Happiness in the
New Year with Christmas
Blessings!

**McIntosh
Senior Living**

Warmest Greetings
of the Season
and Best Wishes
for Happiness in the
New Year!

**Jered's
Grocery**

May you find peace,
love, and the
true spirit of the
Holiday Season!

**Neil's Quality
Meats & More**

May all the joys of
Christmas fill your heart
throughout the
New Year!

**Poplar Meadows
Senior Living**

Merry
Christmas
and
Happy New Year