

The County Line

By Warren Strandell
Polk County Commissioner, Dist. 2

A 5 percent increase.

That is the number that was chosen by the Polk County Board when, as a part of the “preliminary” budgeting process, it set the maximum levy increase that will be needed to fund operations in 2016.

The county’s levy increase can’t now be any more than 5 percent. But while it can’t be more, with some reductions in planned spending, it could end up being less.

So, the first thing that people might think about with this 5% number is that their property taxes will go up by that amount. That’s not necessarily so. The property tax bill is determined by a compilation of the budget needs of counties, cities, schools, townships, watershed districts and other units of local government.

Each unit is required by law to determine a preliminary budget and the levy needed to fund it. This is done in September. The final budgets and the levies needed to pay for them are set in December.

Other factors

Other factors in property tax bills are such things as the debt service for the repayment of bond issues, levy referendums to support schools, special assessments to pay for streets, water and sewer systems, and any assessments for ditch improvements and cleanings, etc.

In comparison to neighboring counties, Polk County’s 2016 preliminary budget increase was right in the mix at 5 percent. Norman and Red Lake counties set their preliminary increases at 6%. Pennington and Marshall set their preliminary budget increases at 5% and Kittson County has set a 4.5% increase amount.

While area counties generally came in at the 5% to 6% numbers, some area cities seem to be having more trouble in finding ways to pay for their operations in 2016. Finances have been tight for both counties and cities, at least partly because they have been subjected to decreases in the County Program Aid and Local Government Aid that is provided by the State of Minnesota.

Tax base grows

A factor in determining the next property tax bill, too, is what has occurred with the tax base.

There is good news on that front. The valuation of real estate in the county now totals \$5.6 billion. That’s an increase of \$365 million from a year earlier. This increase includes almost \$25 million in new construction that will be subject to taxation for the first time. Increases in valuation create

a source for new revenue that will help with the tax bill.

The budgeting process, which annually begins in mid-summer, is a trying time for local government bodies. It is when elected representatives must determine what will be included in the next year’s budget. In that process they consider a number of things, like what will be required just to provide basic services, what would be good but isn’t totally necessary, what is needed to maintain infrastructure, and what should be done to prepare for the years ahead.

The major consideration is, of course, how to pay for it.

Needs and wants

The process comes down to discussions about needs and wants... what is absolutely required for operations, what makes sense in the long run, and what can be justified to the taxpayers. To include only what is needed for the current year is a recipe for disaster. There needs to be planning for the things that will become an issue down the road. A lot of different considerations need to be discussed.

So, what is that next bill going to be?

With so many agencies in the mix, that’s a really hard thing to predict. When the bill does arrive, property owners should look at more than the bottom line. After all, it is what goes into the total amount that will have to be justified and/or defended by the different agencies involved.

This is not a promise, but with some more fine-tuning — as is currently being done by administration and the board—the county’s levy increase could well be less than 5%. And with the positive effect that the increase in the value of real estate in the county has for many, the tax bill just might not look so bad.

Thoughts for the day:

Experience is something you don’t get until you need it. — 20 Points of Wisdom

“The budget should be balanced, the treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed lest Rome become bankrupt. People must again learn to work instead of living on public assistance.” — Cicero, 55 BC

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

NRCS announces early EQIP signup for 2016

Apply by November 20, 2015

Agricultural producers looking to solve natural resource problems on their farms will want to plan ahead and sign-up early for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding. Cathee Pullman, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist in Minnesota, announced that farmers interested in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) need to apply by November 20, 2015, for funding in 2016.

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to

agricultural producers. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

“EQIP is just one tool for landowners who want to apply conservation practices on the ground,” said Jenny Burrack. “By working with the local NRCS offices, you can apply for NRCS programs which work best for your land.”

Applications for EQIP are

accepted on a continuous basis, however, NRCS establishes application acceptance or submission deadline dates for evaluation and ranking of eligible applications. Contracts will be awarded to producers’ with the highest rankings until funds are exhausted.

To learn more about EQIP, contact your local NRCS field office or visit the MN NRCS website.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD)or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay).

Trick-or-treat safely

As thousands of children prepare to embark on their trick-or-treating jaunts in neighborhoods near and far, it is best to once again revisit safety tips that can help ensure this Halloween is enjoyable and injury-free.

• **Visibility:** Visibility is key when donning a Halloween costume. Children should be dressed in highly visible costumes so drivers can easily see them. Parents and chaperones also should be dressed in bright colors. Reflective tape and flashlights also make pedestrians more visible to oncoming cars.

• **Routes:** Children and adults should plan their trick-or-treating routes ahead of time. This way they kids can be found quickly if they are separated from their groups, and parents can choose safe neighborhoods. Choose neighborhoods and paths that have the least amount of automobile traffic.

• **Walk, don’t run.** Trick-or-treaters should stick to sidewalks and only cross the street at intersection crosswalks. Make sure kids know to avoid darting out between cars or cutting across lawns and driveways. When darkness sets in, fast-moving children can be difficult to see.

• **Visit only lit houses.** Residents who don’t want to answer the door will typically leave their homes’ exterior lights off. Only visit homes that are decorated, bright and welcoming to trick-or-treaters.

• **Go in groups.** Children should go out in groups and always be accompanied by an adult chaperone.

• **Costume safety:** Everyone should wear well-fitted costumes that do not drag on the floor or impede mobility. Choose face paint over masks so that vision is not obscured.

• **Beware of fire hazards.** Keep clear of jack-o-lanterns that are lit by real flames. Homeowners can opt for LED lights or other, safer methods of illumination rather than candles and open flames.

Halloween is an exciting day for youngsters, and following a few safety can make the day both fun and safe

Safe costumes can prevent Halloween mishaps

Millions of people celebrate Halloween every year. Borrowed or adapted from a few different festivals that once took place in Europe, Halloween has origins in the Roman Feralia festival, the Celtic summer’s end festival Samhain, and the Catholic All Saints Day.

Trick-or-treating is a significant part of the Halloween festivities, but for many people, the real delight is choosing a costume. The right costume is not only one that suits the spirit of Halloween, but also one that’s safe. The Prevention First Organization says that collisions with cars, eye injuries from sharp objects and burns from flammable costumes account for the most youth emergency room visits on Halloween.

Just how does one create a safe costume? Consider these pointers when preparing for



the arrival of October 31.

• Rely on flashlights and reflective tape to make trick-or-treaters more visible during evening walks. The reflective tape can be incorporated right into the costume design.

• Choose hats and face paints in lieu of masks. Masks can block a child’s vision and impede a youngster’s ability to check for traffic.

• Ensure that costumes do not drag on the floor, as costumes that are too long can pose a tripping hazard.

• Have children wear comfortable, flat shoes to reduce the risk of tripping or falls.

• Make sure children walk on sidewalks and well-lit paths. They also should avoid darting out into the street to run to another home.

• Choose soft, flexible costume props whenever possible. Make sure the props, such as swords, are not sharp or too long.

• Make sure costumes and accessories are made with flame-resistant materials.

• Use glow sticks or battery-powered LED lights instead of lit candles for costumes and decorations.

• Trick-or-treat in groups with other parent chaperones so the adults can be extra diligent in their efforts to keep children safe

Some Statistics about us Americans. Did you know that...

+ 22% of us skip lunch daily.
+ 9% of us skip breakfast daily.

+ 66% of us eat cereal regularly.

+ 22% of all restaurant meals include French fries.

+ 14% of us eat the watermelon seeds.

+ Only 13% brush our teeth from side to side.

+ 45% use mouthwash every day.

+ 22% leave the glob of toothpaste in the sink.

+ The typical shower is 101 degrees F.

+ Nearly 1/3 of US women color their hair.

+ 9% of women and 8% of men have had cosmetic surgery.

+ 53% of women will not leave the house without makeup on.

+ 58% of women paint their nails regularly.

+ 62% of us pop our zits.

+ 33% of women lie about their weight.

Open Gym at WEM

Open gym will begin November 1st and be open every Sunday night through Sunday, March 13th. There will be no open gym on Sunday, December 27th or February 7th due to the Super Bowl. The gym is available for basketball, volleyball, jumping rope, hula hoops, etc. Parents are encouraged to come and play with their children.

The Win-E-Mac School is also available Sunday evenings for anyone interested in walking for exercise. You can walk in the gym or use the hallways.

Adult Volleyball League

Starting on Wednesday, November 4, 2015, there will be an adult volleyball league at the Win-E-Mac gym. If you have any questions call or text Danette Schommer at 218-431-0394.

MAC TO FLUSH WATERLINES

The City of McIntosh will be flushing waterlines and hydrants each Thursday throughout the summer.

Residents are encouraged to watch for rusty or dirty water on these days. Fill washing machines to check water before adding clothes.

The McIntosh Times Office Hours

Wednesday 9:00 am to Noon

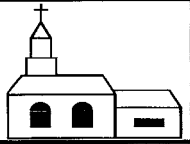
Friday 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Call or fax: (218) 563-3585

Ad deadline is Noon on Friday prior to publication



Church News



ST. MARY’S CHURCH

Fosston
Fr. John Suvakeen,
Pastor

Fri. Oct. 30: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary’s Fosston
Sun. Nov. 1: 8:00am Confession; 8:15am Rosary; 8:30am Holy Mass at St. Mary’s, Fosston; 10:30am Holy Mass at St. Joseph’s, Bagley

Sun. Nov. 8: 8:00am Confession; 8:15am Rosary; 8:30am Holy Mass at St. Mary’s, Fosston; 10:30am Holy Mass at St. Joseph’s, Bagley

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

CALVARY-IMMANUEL LUTHERAN PARISH

Winger/Bejou
Supply Pastor
Gordon Syverson

Wed. Oct. 28: Calvary WEL-CA Fall Sale

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

Sun. Nov. 8: 8:30am Worship Service at Immanuel; 9:45am Worship Service at Calvary

OURS SAVIOR’S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

McIntosh
Supply Pastor
Gordon Syverson

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

Sun. Nov. 8: 11:15am Worship Service

GOSEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

Wed. Oct. 28: 1:30pm Bible Study at The Country Place; Fri. Oct. 20: 10:00am Telecast of the Luther League program on Garden Valley Cable TV - Channel 12

Sat. Oct. 31: 8:00pm Prayer Meeting

Sun. Nov. 1: 9:30am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 10:45am Worship Service; 7:00pm Luther League (See article elsewhere in paper)

Tues. Nov. 3: 10:00am Sunday Worship service telecast on Garden Valley Cable TV - Channel 2

Wed. Nov. 4: 1:30pm Bible Study at The Country Place;

For information on free rides to any of the above activities call 218-268-4242 or 218-687-3461 Gosen Church is located 4 miles south of the junctions of HWY 2 & 59 or 4 miles north of Winger; then ½ mile east on County Road 206.

VERNES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC)

McIntosh
Pastor Paul Magelson
Sun. Nov. 1: 8am Worship
Sun. Nov. 8: 8am Worship

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

McIntosh
Rev. Mark Peske, Pastor
Sun. Nov. 1: 9:30 am Worship Service; 11:00am Sunday School & Confirmation

Sun. Nov. 8: 9:30 am Worship Service; 11:00am Sunday School & Confirmation

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

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

McINTOSH Times

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DOVRE

FREE LUTHERAN
Pastor Don Edlund

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

Wed. Nov. 4: 7:00pm Bible Study on Revelation

Sun. Nov. 8: 9:30am Worship Service; 10:45am Sunday School

Wed. Nov. 11: 7:00pm Bible Study on Revelation

MCINTOSH AFLC

McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:

Pastor Karl Anderson
Trinity:
Wed. Oct. 28: 7:30pm Bible Study

Sun. Nov. 1: 11:00am Worship Service

Wed. Nov. 4: 7:30pm Bible Study

Sun. Nov. 8: 11:00am Worship Service

Mt. Carmel:
Thurs. Oct. 29: 7:00am Men's Breakfast

Sun. Nov. 1: 9:30am Worship Service; 10:45am Sunday School; 12:30pm Confirmation

Sun. Nov. 8: 9:30am Worship Service; 10:45am Sunday School; 12:30pm Confirmation



Spiritually Speaking

Helping others to help themselves

The nineteenth century British philosopher John Stuart Mill argued persuasively for a variety of social reforms, and especially for state-supported public education, on the grounds that it "is help towards doing without help." That is, education makes people more likely to be able to take care of themselves and live healthy, independent lives. It may be easier to just give people food or money to meet their immediate needs, but in the long run this may only foster a state of dependency, whereas if we take the time to each the person how to fend for himself, he might fare better in the long run. Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day but teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. There are lots of ways in which we can help others to help themselves, whether it is teaching them a skill or trade, or teaching them how to drive or read. Reading opens doors to a whole world of help, because once you teach someone how to read, it gives them access to the entire fund of human knowledge. We should consider how we might help the people in our community, or even in our own families, to be more independent.

-Christopher Simon

Remember This: For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.

-2 Thessalonians 3:10

B-B Cafe Menu

Wed. Oct. 28 Roast Beef Dinner, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Roll, and Dessert
Thurs. Oct. 29: Chicken Cordon Bleu, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll, and Dessert

Fri. Oct. 30: Cheeseburger, Bowl of Chili and Dessert

Community Birthday and Anniversary Calendar

Wed. Oct. 28: Leah Mahlen, Colten Mandt, Shelby Mandt

Thurs. Oct. 29: Agnes Rolf, Bob Bursheim, Brenda Ugalde

Fri. Oct. 30: Cassie (Mellgren) Subbert, David Stordahl, Randy Christianson

Sun. Nov. 1: Kain Schow, Jim Votava

Mon. Nov. 2: Bernie Marshall, Robert Christianson, *Ronald & Elaine Roed

Tues. Nov. 3: Sharon Hegland, Bob Quinlan, Ethan Ekeberg

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THE WINGER ENTERPRISE

3

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

Winger News

by Linda Pulskamp

Hello again from Winger and the Union Lake areas after another beautiful last week end and a very pleasant week that followed, had balmy temps but was windy but that seems to be the pattern, lots of wind lately, but by Friday morning and all of Friday could see a change with rain in the forecast and that is all good as it is very dry.

Once again we are about to turn the calendar to another month and all to soon we will be moving into another year. Time marches on way to fast.

Was over to Fertile last week end to the Craft Show, was fun to see so many crafters with so much to offer and so much talent it took to bring their goods to the show. Many of the crafters had traveled a good distance besides. There seemed to be a good attendance and once again was good to visit with people that one doesn't see very often.

Remember to leave your lights on for the trick or treaters on Saturday evening as they are out enjoying Halloween, and also be careful of them when driving.

A belated Happy Birthday to Verlys Homme as she celebrated another birthday last Tuesday. To observe the day she and Helmer enjoyed dining out for supper at Moran's.

Judy Gieseke was a visitor on Wednesday the 14th at the Fern and Milton Carlson home, bringing with her tomatoes and carrots from her garden.

Saturday, October the 17th Carol and Becky Stordahl, Deb Matson and Sue Christianson attended the 70th wedding anniversary celebration at the Waubun Community Center for Milo and Lucille Winter. Back in the 60's and 70's the Stordahl's lived south of the Winter's farm west of Waubun. It was very interesting to see most of the family again - all grown up.

Tuesday evening Lynn and Sara Lucken and Lucy Brtek paid their respects by attending the burial for Grandpa Eli Troyer.

Thursday Linda Pulskamp drove to Wahpeton and picked up Granddaughters Sidnie and Skylie Pulskamp and brought them to the Pulskamp home in Winger for the week end as the girls have their turn at "NEA", like our schools in Minnesota did last week end.

Gary and Maxine Walters and Sheldon and Rita Trandem joined Helmer and Verlys

Homme for supper at Moran's last Friday in observance of Verly's birthday.

Dick and Wanda Donavon of St. Francis arrived last Friday the 16th at the Fern and Milton Carlson home to spend the week end.

Last Monday Lucy Brtek spent the day in Lengby with her good friend Kim Thompson. The two ladies had a wonderful visit, and did a little sight seeing around the Lengby area.

Paul and Donna Carlson, Monte, Kristen, Mia, Hadley, Tory and Emma Erickson visited with house guests Dick and Wanda Donavon and also with Fern and Milton Carlson at the Carlson home last Saturday.

Betty Myhrum was a visitor on Thursday afternoon with Lucy Brtek at Lucy's home.

Fern and Milton Carlson, Dick and Wanda Donavon, and Paul and Donna Carlson were all dinner guests last Sunday at the Judy and Lonnie Gieseke home.

Visiting with Helmer and Verlys Homme at the Pioneer Home in Erskine last Monday were Sheldon and Rita Trandem.

Martha Henney had a very enjoyable visit by telephone with her brother Orton Stardig from his winter home in Texas. Orton stated that the weather was nice and warm but was beginning to cool off.

Dick and Wanda Donavon left for their home in St. Francis on Sunday afternoon after spending the week end at the Fern and Milton Carlson home.

Friday evening Tyler, Alex, Justis and Toni Brtek visited with and were treated to a waffle, cool whip and strawberry supper at Grandma Lucy Brtek's home.

Tuesday Judy Gieseke came to the Fern and Milton Carlson home for a visit bringing fresh pumpkin pie that was enjoyed along with a hot cup of coffee.

Last but not least, and once again the FALL AUCTION SALE at Calvary Church on Wednesday the 28th beginning at 7:30. There will be quilts, crafts, baked goods, jams and jellies and who knows what else. After the sale pie and coffee will be served. See you there.

Until next week stay well!

From Bun Manor:

Last weekend Matthew Massmann traveled to Bemidji to visit Brandon Bjerknes and his wife Angela and their children Brady and Brylee, the newest addition to their family. Matthew and Brandon

were able to watch the UND vs. Bemidji State Hockey game which ended in a disappointing tie and cost Matthew lunch. It was a real nice get together and fun to catch up again.

A pretty quite week in the life of Bun. He forgot to mention the other week that he saw Nadene Johnson at Ness Café. She was a teacher in McIntosh back in the 70's when Bun was in high school. She was a good teacher and it was fun to see her again.

Saturday afternoon Bun, Vern, and Michele Anderson headed to Moorhead to attend the 50th wedding anniversary at Trinity Lutheran Church for Judy and Lloyd Schulz. There was a nice turnout of family and friends. Lloyd commented on all the people that showed up from Casselton that he hadn't seen in a long time. Notables that showed up were former Winger area residents, Kyle Espeseth, Nancy and Russ Hagen and cousins Susan and Gail Anderson. Pammy, we all missed you! The standard lunch of ham buns, Salads and cake were served.

Bun got to see an ultra sound picture of Megan's bun in the oven. This will be as close as it gets to having the kid named after Bun.

Don't forget to attend the the Calvary women's bazaar tonight in Winger starting at 7:30 P.M. Andy is the guest auctioneer again this year.

If anyone has news please help Linda or Bun out. People out of the area like to keep up on the action back home.

Farm Service Agency Payment Update

By Mike Philipp, CED, East Polk/Red Lake Counties

ARC-PLC Payment Update- FSA offices have received many questions from producers regarding whether or not there will be any farm program payments this fall. Farmers need this information as they begin their year-end financial planning. It used to be a simple question to answer, but as many of you know things have changed and there's not an answer that fits everybody anymore. If you're involved with the new farm program at FSA please take a few minutes to read through this brief summary of what has happened and why the answer is now more complicated.

Since last spring most producers have gone through a three-step signup process which first involved updating yields and base acres, then choosing between Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) options,

and finally the actual enrollment for 2014 and 2015 which recently ended. Also thrown into the mix was acreage reporting, so many have visited their FSA office three or four times at minimum during the past 10 months.

The 2014 Farm Bill changed the old farm program structure so now payments will only be made when farm revenue is below certain levels due to low market prices or low yields. This means that instead of fixed, predetermined payments being made during the production year we have to wait for the marketing year for each crop to end, which is the following May 31 for small grains and August 31 for corn and soybeans. During this waiting period average yields for each crop in each county are also determined because they are part of the payment formula under the ARC-County option. Unlike the national market-year average prices which are the same for everyone, average yields for the specific year are county specific and make all the difference as to which counties may generate a payment under ARC-County and which do not. So for right now, in regards to possible 2014 payments USDA has the final prices and is just finishing up on the yields.

Under the PLC program, for 2014, we know that there will not be any 2014 payments issued this fall because the final prices were above the Reference Prices (similar to the old target prices), except for canola. This scenario may however change for 2015 because average market prices are running lower than they did during the 2014 marketing year and over time PLC could still prove to be a good option.

For the ARC-County option which was by far the most popular option nationwide, again we have the final 2014 market

FSA...

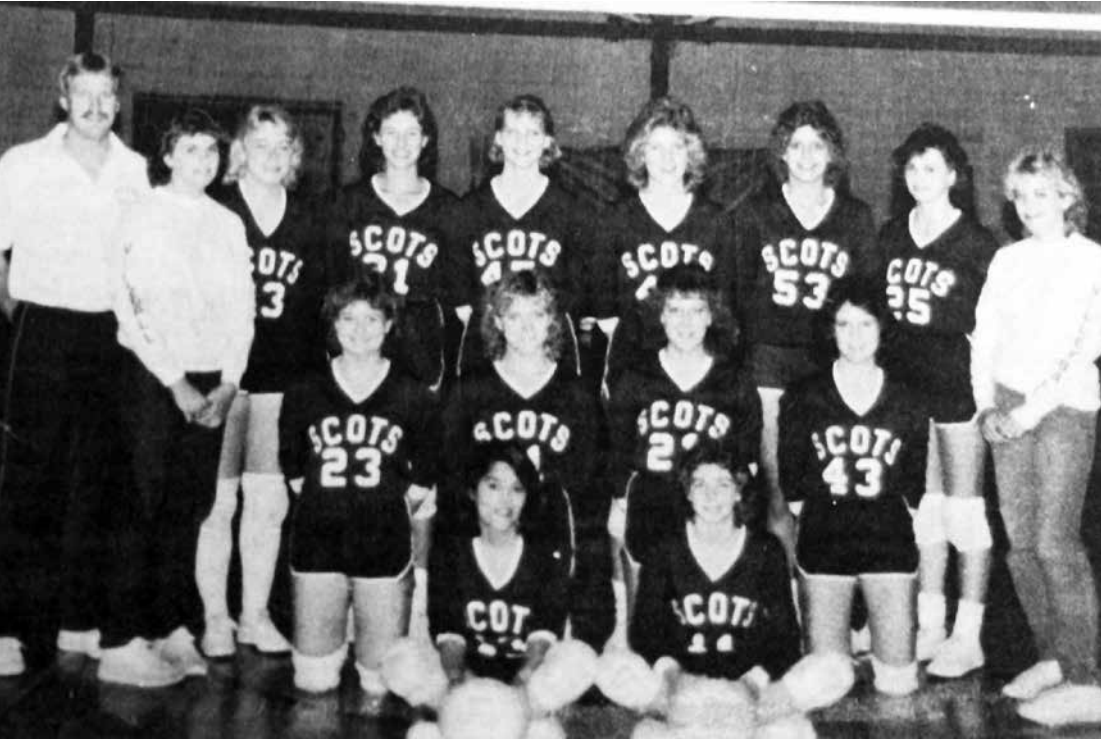
Continued on page 4...



10 years ago...2005: (L-R) Josie Dillon, and Nicole and Jordyn Thompson spent the warm sunny afternoon raking the lawn at the Mark and Karen Thompson home. Young Matt worked hard also and needed a rest period sitting in the leaf pile.



20 years ago...1995: David Salvhus had beginner's luck recently when he bagged this 900 pound moose with a 51 1/2" rack when he was hunting north of Erskine. Congratulations David!



30 years ago...1985: The McIntosh-Winger Lady Scots - District 30 Champs.

Recipe Corner

Halloween treats that are equal parts spooky and delicious

Halloween parties are commonplace. Full of frightful decorations and spooky lighting, a good Halloween party also features food that plays up the theme of the evening. Therefore, Halloween party hosts will need to get creative with the type of foods they serve to ensure a "spook-tacular" time.

With a little ingenuity, otherwise mundane foods can be transformed into something worthy of a second look. Here are some creative ways to turn ordinary food items into Halloween-inspired fare for your next get-together.

Ghosts in the Pumpkin Patch

Using bananas and clementines or small oranges, you can create the appearance of ghosts haunting a field of pumpkins. Peel both the oranges and the bananas and place small chocolate chips into the rounded "head" of the banana to create a ghost face. Use a piece of green gummy candy or something that will hold its shape to create "stems" for the orange pumpkins. Place the ghosts and pumpkins on a platter or in a bowl for a

healthy and festive snack.

Witches' Brew

Create a punch recipe that bubbles and looks like a witch's evil concoction. Put two quarts of lime sherbet for a green punch (or orange sherbet if you prefer an orange punch) in a punch bowl. Add a two-liter bottle of ginger ale and one can of pineapple juice. Feel free to float "eyeball" peeled grapes or gummy worms in the brew for a more authentic effect. If available, add a piece of dry ice to the punch so it bubbles and fizzes.

Sugar Spiderwebs

Spiders and their sticky webs go hand-in-hand with Halloween. Create spiderwebs that can be used to adorn cookies and cupcakes and give them an extra scary flair.

Use a template of a spiderweb and place this template under a piece of waxed paper to serve as your guide. Use store-bought or homemade royal icing to pipe out the shape of the spiderweb on top of the waxed paper. Allow to dry until completely hardened, then peel off the paper. Repeat the process for as many spiderwebs as you need. You can use these spiderwebs as garnish for a variety of baked goods, or they can be eaten on their own.

Ghoulish Graveyard

What would Halloween be without a haunted graveyard? With a few tasty ingredients, you can recreate this classic look in a rich dessert.

Crush graham crackers and mix with melted butter and sugar to create a cookie crust. Press into the bottom of a baking pan.

Prepare some chocolate pudding to pour on top of the crust and allow it to grow firm. Then sprinkle crushed chocolate cookies on top to create the appearance of soil. Push some rounded-edge, oblong cream-filled cookies into the pudding to serve as tombstones. Decorate with candy worms, gummy skeletons and any other candy items that can add to the look. Black licorice sticks poked with black licorice strings can look like dead trees.

Scary Grin

Turn a whole watermelon into a jack-o'-lantern and fill with fruit salad. This makes for a refreshing treat and provides an alternative to candy.

Cut the watermelon as you would a pumpkin and hollow out the insides to use for the salad. Add sliced berries, grapes, apples, pears, and any other fruits you desire.



Regional Ag News

**Jim Stordahl,
Extension Educator**

Beef Pastures Benefit from Legumes

As the grazing season ends, it's a good time to evaluate your pastures and make plans for next year.

Last winter was hard on perennial forage crops and coupled with this year's rather dry finish, your pastures may need a tune-up. Now is a good time to consider your options for the next grazing season.

Forage legume species such as red or white clover, birdsfoot trefoil, and alfalfa are important plant contributors to productivity and quality of beef pastures.

Most notable among the many characteristics of forage legumes is their ability to fix nitrogen in a symbiotic partnership with the rhizobia bacteria that colonize root nodules of host legume plants. This partnership reduces the need for adding nitrogen fertilizer to pastures when legumes comprise at least 30 – 40% of the stand, reducing or eliminating need for nitrogen fertilizer applications.

Legumes provide many other benefits to pasture systems. Pastures that include legumes are more adaptable and productive in response to variable soil conditions, weather, insects/disease pests, weeds and other environmental stressors. For example, alfalfa, with its deep taproot, in combination with cool-season grasses, can provide increased pasture resiliency during dry summer periods.

Legumes help maintain more consistent forage quality and production for grazing animal diets over the season, and dilute the negative impacts of

anti-quality and/or palatability factors of companion grasses. The net effect is that legumes can contribute significantly to improved beef production from pastures.

Legumes also provide other environmental benefits, serving as a pollen and nectar source for honeybees, and providing food and habitat benefits for other wildlife.

Legumes have long been known for their contributions to improve soil quality and reduce erosion as part of a productive perennial cropland or pasture system on the landscape.

Improving legume content of pastures need not be difficult. With a goal of 30 – 40% legume content, first determine which legume species are desirable for your location by consultation with local Extension or natural resources conservation staff.

Consider that you may want different legume and grass species in mixtures across the farm, depending on soil variations and other production criteria.

Next, soil fertility needs should be assessed for pastures based on current soil tests and tailored for optimal forage legume production.

For most pastures, legumes will express good growth when soil pH is at least 6.0 (or above). Amending soil pH with lime or wood ash aids in addressing the higher calcium and magnesium requirements of legumes. Phosphorus levels should be at 15 ppm or higher (measured as Bray P1), and potassium levels should be maintained at 120 ppm (or above) for most legume-based pastures. Addition

of other soil nutrients such as sulfur and boron may also be needed in some areas to support good legume stands. Consult with your local Extension office for additional information on soil testing guidelines for pastures.

There are several methods for introducing legumes into pastures.

Ideally, legumes are included in the seeding mix of newly established pastures, but frost seeding (broadcasting seed on frozen ground during late winter freeze/thaw events) and direct seeding with a no-till drill are also common methods of introducing legumes into established grass stands.

Information on seeding rates, recommended varieties, availability of no-till drills, agronomic and pasture management information for pastures is available at your local Extension office.

Also, if you have applied any herbicides to your pasture in the past few years, be sure to check the replant restrictions.

Results from pasture improvement and introduction of legumes will be most successfully realized under a managed grazing system.

For beef producers, research suggests that a grazing system that includes multiple paddocks can provide management flexibility to optimize utilization of improved legume pastures and increase profits.

For more information, contact me at 800-450-2465 or stordahl@umn.edu.

Source: Dr. Rhonda Gildersleeve, UW Extension Grazing Specialist.

Random Things and Stuff



History Moment
By: Emily L. Ferden
If you could have personally witnessed one event in history, what would you want to have seen? I would choose seeing the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist.

“Whether you are a Christian or not, you cannot honestly say that the life of Jesus of Nazareth did not dramatically impact history. If you follow the dating system that we use today, you acknowledge his impact. This article is published in 2010 A.D. because approximately 2010 years ago, Jesus lived in Israel. At the time of his life, it might not have seen so dramatic to the world at large. He never traveled more than a few days’ journey from his hometown. It was only after he left earth that his teachings spread beyond his homeland and began to cause trouble for the ruling power of the time: Rome. When Roman rulers began to persecute the followers of Jesus, Christians, his life re-

FSA... Continued from page 3...

year prices but we also need the 2014 average yields, by county for each crop, to complete the calculation to determine if there will be any payments for a crop in each separate county. The yields are the final piece of the puzzle that we are waiting for and they will be different from one county to the next. As of the third week in October we understand that the county yields for each crop are just being finalized and we should know very soon which crops in which counties may receive a 2014 ARC-County payment. The payments are actually generated in Kansas City but are electronically verified at your local FSA office.

One last thing to keep in mind is that there may and will be differences in payments between farms and between counties, due to the different options that were offered (ARC or PLC) and the different yields across county lines. Farmers with questions should contact their local FSA office for more information.

ally began to ripple out around the globe. Over time, Christianity was accepted by the Roman rulers, which allowed it to spread even further. Today, Christianity is one of the largest religions of the world. Jesus set off an atomic religious bomb that is still felt today.” (hubpages.com)

I would choose this moment because it would just be so humbling and no words could describe how you would feel knowing you are watching Jesus be baptized.

Take a moment to think about all the moments that have happened in history. Which one, out of the billions, would you choose?

WEM School Announcements

FYI -
Mid-Term report cards are now available on line on Synergy

The following college representatives will be coming to WEM. Sign up on bulletin board in Mrs. Jore's room to visit with representative and be excused from class. Wednesday October 28th, Concordia College Rep 12:15 p.m.; November 4 – SCSU – 12:20 p.m. – November 17th – UND – 12:15 p.m.; December 8 – Bemidji State University – 12:15 p.m.

Veteran's Day Program
Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. In the new Win-E-Mac School Arts and Events Center

The Win-E-Mac School in conjunction with area Veteran's organizations will be holding a Veteran's Day program at the Win-E-Mac Arts and Events Center on Wednesday, November 11 at 9:00 a.m. We are inviting all veterans and community members to attend this very special program. Veteran's Day gives all of us a chance to honor and thank those who have served and sacrificed in order to preserve our freedom.



13 Halloween movies for scaredy cats

If you don't like the thrill of being scared or startled, but still love the spirit of the season, here are some movie choices that won't keep you awake at night.

1.Hocus Pocus (1993): Hocus Pocus is most definitely a movie for kids, but the nostalgia factor for those who grew up watching it makes it a Halloween necessity. For other adults, the delight of watching Bette Midler, Kathy Najimi, and Sarah Jessica Parker play the Sanderson sisters makes for good October entertainment.

2.The Addams Family (1991): The perfectly cast movie adaptation of the classic TV show makes for great family-friendly viewing around Halloween, especially since there are enough jokes in here to keep the grown-ups entertained. You could watch Addams Family Values, too, but that's best saved for Thanksgiving.

3.Beetlejuice (1988): Scary only in the most cartoonish, Tim Burton-ish sort of way, Beetlejuice sets the perfect tone for Halloween without specifically being a Halloween movie. Also, Michael Keaton is a national treasure.

4.Shaun of the Dead (2004): If you're feeling a little more bold, you can check out the first movie in the Cornetto Trilogy, Shaun of the Dead. Simon Pegg and Nick Frost star as lovable losers who face the zombie apocalypse with their friends and family, armed with nothing but their wits, a cricket bat, and maybe a pint if they're lucky. Sure, there are zombies, but the comedy cuts down on the scariness.

5.Casper (1995): This 1995 movie hasn't aged particularly well, but Bill Pullman and Christina Ricci are just charming enough to make it worth a watch if you've exhausted some of your other Halloween viewing options.

6.Coraline (2009): Based on the book by Neil Gaiman, Coraline is a beautifully animated stop-motion movie about a girl who finds an enticing but dangerous parallel world in the house her family just moved into. Don't let the whimsy fool you: This one gets a little spooky at points.

7.ParaNorman (2012): ParaNorman comes from the same studio that made Coraline, and the animation is just as gorgeous this time around. There are tense moments in ParaNorman, but ultimately the monsters are less scary and more sympathetic.

8.Fun Size (2012): If you're looking for something that ditches the magic and macabre for more real-life situations, Fun Size is your jam. The movie is more of a teen comedy that just so happens to take place on Halloween than a traditional Halloween movie, which makes it a nice departure from the norm.

9.Ghostbusters (1984): It's Ghostbusters. What more do you need to know?

10.It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown (1966): There's a Charlie Brown special for pretty much every holiday, and Halloween is no exception. If you want something with absolutely zero scares, you won't be disappointed with It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown. Or, at least you'll be less disappointed than Linus is every year.

11.The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993): The greatest quandary in life is this: Do I watch The Nightmare Before Christmas at Halloween or at Christmas? The easy answer is to just do both.

12.The Corpse Bride (2005): More love story than ghost story and more sweet than scary, The Corpse Bride is another Tim Burton offering that works perfectly for the Halloween season. The movie's charm is only strengthened by the voice work of Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter.

13.Practical Magic (1998): Rom-coms at Halloween? Sure, why not? Nothing wrong with a few spells and murder, but, not a lot else that would be considered scary.

Superintendents Notes

By Randy Bruer

Exercise your privilege to VOTE

On Tuesday, November 3rd, between the hours of 4:00 and 8:00 pm at the school, you will have the opportunity to vote, to renew an existing levy referendum which will expire in 2016. In 2006 the public voted and approved an \$800 per pupil referendum which you are paying today. The District cannot operate without this levy or we will be forced to reduce student programs. In the last two years the legislature has added an equalization factor to help all districts in Minnesota, along with other changes, by paying for part of the referendums. Win-E-Mac will ask you to renew \$678.80 of the referendum. The Revenue Equalization amount from state is \$137,738 and the levy amount is \$157,186 for a total of \$294,924.

We will also ask a second question to add \$81.20 to the referendum for a total of \$760.00. The first question of levy renewal must pass to receive Question 2. We are asking you to vote, to maximize the amount of State Equalization Revenue available to the district in the form of state aid. Presently, an indirect tax you pay to the state goes to other districts for their referendum. Win-E-Mac does not receive the maximum amount of equalization money from the state because the levy amount is less than \$760.00. The referendum is taxed on residential homesteads of house, garage and one acre, apartments, commercial-industrial properties within the district. It is not taxed on Ag properties or Seasonal/Recreational properties. If you ever have any questions, please call the District Office and speak to the Superintendent.



Inclement Weather

Snowy weather will soon be upon us and we will be faced with decisions to close school because of unsafe weather conditions. The district will use a School Message system to notify parents and students when unsafe weather conditions are upon us. We will send out a notification to your home phone, cell phone, email or other means of programmed communication if such weather exists. If we have nasty weather, please listen to the TV and radio stations for emergency weather announcements. We make numerous contacts and visits throughout our district and region to make a concise decision of whether to close school or not. Our first priority is the safety of students.

Sports

The Win-E-Mac football team has finished their season with a 3-6 record and the volleyball team is entering the tournament play with an energized motivation to get to the State Tournament. Let's get out and support their efforts as we move forward into section playoffs. Catch the Patriot Spirit and come out and enjoy the activities and functions of the Win-E-Mac School!



The Win-E-Mac Patriot Volleyball team show the ECCE kids how to have school and team spirit on Monday, October 19th.

WEM ECCE

Friday Playdates 10-11:30am
WEM Pre-K Room Ages 0-5yrs
10/30 Bat, Pumpkins and Halloween Fun!
11/6 Animals Hibernates!
11/13 I am Thankful!

11/20 Turkey Turkey! Special Events!
Tues 11/10 Bring your dad to school night! Bring out dad, grandpa, brother, uncle or special friend to our classroom for a special snack and games! 6-7pm
Tues 11/24 Special Event at the McIntosh Library! Puzzle Night! 6-7pm Ages 0-12yrs invited!
WEM Early Childhood Family Education classes are

for children 0-5yrs old unless noted. Pre-registration is not required. Events are FREE. Contact Shannon Svalen, ECCE Coordinator at ssvalen@win-e-mac.k12.mn.us, 218-687-2236 or Like us on Facebook: WEM Early Childhood Family Education.

Ad deadline: Noon Friday



Alayna Espeseth and family would like to send a sincere thank you out to the WEM Volleyball Parents. The "Team Alayna" benefit was totally awesome.

It was so fun to see and visit with the people from the surrounding communities. When ever we see the "Team Alayna" shirts being worn in the community, it just stops us and we KNOW how wonderful everyone of you are. The caring questions and interest in Alayna's health makes everything a little easier to handle. She has a wonderful support group with her team, her friends and teachers, and each of you!! You are ALL appreciated more than you'll ever know.



The Win-E-Mac Volleyball ladies hosted Volleyball Buddies night with the ECCE kids coming to stretch, practice and play volleyball at the school gym on Monday, October 19th.