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McIntosh, Minnesota



Sliding down a snowhill and having some fun with her friends in the snow Monday morning in the mild weather is Hazel Burthwick at The Clubhouse Childcare Center in McIntosh.

## Candlelight Ski / Owl Prowl at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge

The evening of Saturday, February 27th the Friends of Rydell and Glacial Ridge Refuges Association will be hosting a Candlelight Ski and Owl Prowl event at Rydell National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) near Erskine, MN.

The timing of this event coincides with a nearly full moon, and hopefully good snow conditions, clear skies, and moderate temperatures. The event will run from 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm. Although all five of Rydell NWR's trails will be open for cross country skiing or snowshoeing, Church Lake, Rice Lake, and Round Lake trails will be groomed and lighted for this event.

Even though luminaries will be distributed along these three trails, we recommend that visitors bring along a headlamp, if they have one, just in case it's cloudy and there is minimal moonlight.

As visitors traverse the trails, two owl calling stations will be set up where the calls of several owl species (e.g., saw whet, barred, great horned) will be projected into the woods to try and generate a response. Who-who-who knows what you might hear!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be several changes to the event from past years.



Unfortunately, the Refuge Visitor Center will not be open to the public, so the only warm-up opportunity, if needed, will be your vehicle.

The outdoor restroom will be available. Feel free to bring your own snacks, coffee, or hot chocolate as we will not be able to provide any food or beverages this year.

Also, no ski equipment or snowshoes will be provided for check-out at the Refuge this year.

If you don't have your own skis, you can rent them from the University of Minnesota-Crookston (218-281-8520 or 218-281-8586) or Crookston Parks and Recreation (no cost,

218-281-1232).

In addition to dressing appropriately for the forecasted weather, please bring a mask. Currently, masks are required of all visitors to national wildlife refuges, when social distancing is not possible. There may be some instances during this event, such as at the owl calling stations, where you will need to wear a mask.

If you have questions, contact Gregg Knutsen at 218-686-4329 or gregg\_knutsen@fws.gov. If temperatures are below zero or wind chills are in the double-digits below zero, the event will be cancelled and potentially rescheduled at a later date.

## Newly released MN COVID-19 Vaccine Connector

The Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector ([mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/](https://mn.gov/covid19/vaccine/connector/)) is a tool that helps Minnesotans find out when, where, and how to get a COVID-19 vaccine. After you fill out a simple form, the Vaccine Connector will: alert you when you are eligible to receive a vaccine; connect you to resources to schedule a vaccine appointment; and notify you if there are vaccine opportunities in your area.

### Who should sign up for the Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector?

This tool is for all Minnesotans who have not yet been vaccinated.

Whether you are eligible for a vaccine now or later – the Vaccine Connector will notify you when you it's your turn for a shot.

You don't need to sign up if:

- You have already received your COVID-19 vaccine.
- You previously registered for our COVID-19 Vaccine Pilot Program or the COVID-19 Community Vaccination Program. You're already on the Vaccine Connector list, and there is no need to re-submit your information.
- You completed the Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Child Care survey. You're already on the Vaccine Connector list, and there is no need to re-submit your information.
- You completed the Health Care Connection Form, you do not need to re-submit your information. The Minnesota Department of Health will work with health systems and local public health agencies to notify you about when and where you can get vaccinated.

### Who can get vaccinated now?

In Minnesota, you are eligible now to get vaccinated if you are a:

- Minnesotan age 65 or older
- Health care worker
- Long-term care resident or staff member
- Pre-kindergarten through Adult Basic and Community Education school staff member, or contracted school staff member
- Child care staff member at a licensed and certified child care center or program

Demand for vaccine far exceeds supply, and we encourage Minnesotans to remain patient as more vaccine arrives in the weeks and months ahead.



Minnesota is continuing to distribute vaccines using a phased approach to immunize for impact by focusing on populations with heightened risk of getting COVID-19, as well as those at significant risk of severe illness and complications if they become infected.

### What happens after I sign up?

The Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector will get you information about when, where, and how you can get the vaccine.

It's important to note that if you are eligible to get vaccinated right now, you do not have to wait for information from the Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector before you get your shot.

If your health care provider or employer contacts you about making an appointment, or if you have another opportunity to get vaccinated, you can and should do that.

### If you are currently eligible:

Minnesotans who are currently eligible can expect to receive information from the Vaccine Connector soon. How you get your vaccine will vary by group:

Adults 65+ will immediately be entered into the random selection process for the state's Community Vaccination Program sites operating in Minneapolis, Duluth, and Rochester.

If you are selected to receive your vaccine at one of these sites, you will be notified by text, email, or landline by the company that runs those sites, Vault Health. The state is also continuing to partner with hundreds of local medical providers and pharmacies to provide shots to Minnesotans aged 65 and older.

Adults 65 and older can use the Vaccine Locator map

to find nearby vaccine distribution sites and make an appointment to receive a vaccine through the providers listed there.

If you are over age 65, you can also contact your regular provider directly.

Educators, school staff, and child care workers will continue to hear from your local public health agency, employer, state-sponsored community vaccination site, or state vaccination partner about when and where you can get vaccinated.

Health care workers will be notified by their local public health agency, employer, state-sponsored community vaccination site, or vaccination partner about when and where they can get vaccinated.

Long-term care residents will hear from your facility about when and where you can get vaccinated.

### If you are not currently eligible:

The Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector will send you updates about your COVID-19 vaccine eligibility as vaccine supply increases in the weeks and months ahead.



### WEM School

The Win-E-Mac School will be dismissed early and closed the following days:

**Thursday, February 25** Parent Teacher Conferences. Students dismissed at 12:30 p.m.

**Friday, February 26** ~ No School for Students. Staff development for teachers.



The mild weather across NW Minnesota brought out the kids from The Clubhouse Childcare Center in McIntosh for the first time in weeks. They were able to run and play and even built a snowman together.

## Staying safe when the winter weather is dangerously cold

Written by Connie Troska

We sneaked by January before Old Man Winter said, "Hey, wait a minute, I forgot to make Minnesota the coldest place on earth!" And here we are, the first week in February, and there are cold weather warnings across the state. And rightly so, the effects of the cold weather on older adults can be dangerous.

The effects of the aging process leave older adults at a greater risk of experiencing a cold emergency. As we age, the body's ability to regulate temperature decreases. Certain diseases and medications can contribute to this inability to regulate efficiently. Talk to your doctor to see if you are more susceptible to decrease temperature regulation.

Hypothermia, an abnormally low core body temperature (under 95 degrees), is of special concern for older adults. Reduced muscle mass, slower metabolic rate, decreased blood flow, and reduced shivering response can all contribute to an older adult becoming hypothermic. For some, living on a fixed income might result in not keeping their home adequately heated. Also, it is important to understand that hypothermia can turn into a dangerous problem before a person knows that it is happening. And it can occur inside a home that is too cold, as well as outside in the elements.

But there are things you can do to keep yourself safe.

### Inside your home:

- **Dress warm:** Dressing in layers allows you to be in control of how cold you get. Put on a sweater, cover up with a blanket, put on a cute hat (or a handsome fedora), even if you are just inside your home. When going to bed, throw on an extra blanket or put on some thermal underwear under your pajamas.

- **Check the thermostat:** Keeping the temperature in your home too low can be dangerous. Try to keep the temperature at 68 to 70 degrees. Close the curtains on all the windows and shut the doors to the rooms you are not using to save on energy bills.

- **Eat:** Yes, eat. Eat enough food to keep your weight up.



Body fat helps keep you warm.

- **Communicate:** Ask a family member or a friend to check on you daily to make sure you are doing okay. If you have concerns about being home alone during extremely cold days, stay with someone for a few days. The company will help each of you forget about how cold it is outside.

If you need to venture out, keep these things in mind:

- **Cover your head:** We lose a significant amount of body heat through our head and neck. So, cover them up to conserve your body heat.

- **Dress in layers:** If at any time any of those layers get damp, change them as soon as you can get indoors. Damp clothing pulls body heat away from you and will make you get chilled faster.

- **Keep your time outside at a minimum:** Windchill does not have any effect on inanimate objects. But it certainly does on the human body! Pay attention to the wind-chill warnings. It only takes a couple of minutes for our body to start to feel the effects of the bitter cold.

So, what does a cold emergency look like? Well, there are clues to look for. What is the temperature inside the home? A cold house can cause hypothermia gradually, so it is likely that a person living in the house will not realize the changes associated with a cold emergency.

There are early signs of hypothermia, and there are late signs. The sooner it is recognized, the better the outcome.

**Early signs:**

- Being sleepy

- Behavior changes such as anger or confusion, or both.
- Shivering (as hypothermia progresses, shivering will stop)

- Slurred speech or talking slower than normal
- Pale skin
- Cold hands and feet

### Later signs include:

- The "umbles." When a person stumbles, mumbles, fumbles, and grumbles. Whether it is only a couple of the "umbles," a person should be seen by emergency services. Call 9-1-1 and request an ambulance.

- Slow, shallow breathing
- Losing consciousness

Call 9-1-1 immediately if you or someone else is experiencing any of the symptoms listed. While waiting for EMS to arrive:

- Move the person to a warmer place.
- Cover them with a blanket, including the top of their head, but not their face.
- Do not rub the person's legs or arms to try and warm them up. This practice can cause more damage.

- Do not put them in a warm bath. The drastic change in temperature can cause problems with their heart.

While we need to be vigilant about safety in cold weather, remember, the day is not too far off where we can open the curtains and let the sunshine in, and we can venture out to take a deep breath of spring. And that's not too far off in the distance.

## Polk County Sheriff's Report

On February 18, 2021 the Polk County Sheriff's Office was contacted by the Clay County Sheriff's Office in regards to an ongoing investigation involving two stolen Ski-Doo snowmobiles and a trailer taken from the Glyndon area.

One snowmobile was recovered in Mahnom County. After further investigation, the stolen trailer was located outside of a residence in the city of McIntosh. A search warrant was executed at the residence where Deputies recovered the second stolen snowmobile in addition to the trailer.

Matthew Travis Beerman age 32 and Timothea Marie Donarski age 30, both of McIntosh were arrested for possession of stolen property and controlled substance crimes.

Wayne Demmett Turner age 27 of Oklee was also arrested for outstanding warrants.

The Polk County Sheriff's Office, Clay County Sheriff's Office and Mahnom County Sheriff's Office worked collaboratively on this investigation.

No further information will be released at this time.

## Grace Community Food Shelf open an extra day in February

Our regular Food Shelf day on the 19th was cut very short by a burst hot water heating pipe in the food room.

We were able to take care of only three people before we had to work on mopping up and clearing the water from the room.

To make up for this unfortunate happening the Food Shelf will be open for a special service day on Thursday, February 25th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

We apologize if you got to

the Food Shelf last Thursday and found it closed. Please stop by this Thursday, February 25th, and we will be ready to lend a hand to help our friends and neighbors in need of nutrition assistance.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people that have sent in donations to help us purchase the needed food to get through these tough times.

Earlier in the year the Food Shelf was operating on state and county grants. That

funding has now been used up and we are operating on funds raised locally. Historically we have had assistance from multiple food drives by the Win-E-Mac students but Covid restrictions has made this avenue of support impossible.

We are counting on your support to make it possible to meet the nutrition assistance needs of our communities. Contributions can be mailed to: Grace Community Food Shelf, PO Box 204, Erskine, MN 56535.

## How to prepare for tax season

Each year in the United States, April 15 marks the official deadline for taxpayers to file their tax returns. Taxpayers in the United States must file their returns by this day or face penalties. Though the filing deadline may be in mid-April, it's wise for taxpayers to begin preparing to submit their returns much earlier than that. For those who have not done so in the first two months of the year, March is a great time to begin preparations to ensure returns are accurate and filed on time.

The Internal Revenue Service offers the following advice to taxpayers who want to get a head start on their returns so they make sure they file on time in 2021.

- **Gather and organize your records.** Many people rely on a professional to work on their returns, and April is such professionals' busiest time of year. As a result, it's imperative that taxpayers have all their necessary documents ready prior to their appointments. Any delays could force appointments to be rescheduled, and there's no guarantee tax professionals will have any

### — NOTICE —

Sletten Township will hold its annual election on March 9, from 5:00pm - 8:00pm, at the Township Hall.

The annual meeting will follow the election. In case of bad weather the election and meeting will take place on March 16. M49-50C

### NOTICE

**Election and Annual Meeting Lessor Township**

The annual election and meeting of Lessor Township, County of Polk, State of Minnesota, will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at Trinity Lutheran Church, rural McIntosh.

Voting will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to elect

**One (1) Supervisor for a term of three (3) years and One (1) Clerk for a term of two (2) years.**

The annual meeting will start at 8:00 pm.

Social distancing guidelines will be followed.

The storm date shall be one week later.

Albert Plante, Clerk  
Lessor Township M48-49C

### NOTICE

**King Township Annual Election & Meeting**

The annual election and meeting of the King Township, County of Polk, State of Minnesota, will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at the McIntosh Community Center.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 3:00 p.m. and the Polls will open at 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Election will be for

(1) Supervisor and (1) Clerk position. Social Distancing rules, along with face masks will be required. Lucas Thom, Clerk  
King Township M48-49C

### NOTICE

**Election and Annual Meeting Hill River Township**

The annual election and meeting of the Township of Hill River, County of Polk, State of Minnesota, will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at the Hill River Town Hall.

The Polls will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to elect one (1) Supervisor for a term of three (3) years.

Please plan to wear a mask. It is still the law and we will enforce it. Also the spacing in the town hall. Due to the pandemic, there will be no snacks or beverages.

The annual meeting will start as soon as possible after the polls close to conduct all and any business that comes up at the meeting.

If necessary, the storm date shall be one week later. Notice will then be given over the Fosston Radio Station.

Raymond O. Sundrud, Clerk/Treasurer  
Hill River Township M48-49C

## Community Birthday and Anniversary Calendar

**Wed. Feb. 24:** Anna Mandt, Kirsten Faldet, Krosby Jore, Tom Lang

**Thurs. Feb. 25:** Mariaiah Ogaard

**Fri. Feb. 26:** Ashton Anderson

**Sat Feb. 27:** \*Jason & Leah Smeby

**Sun. Feb. 28:** Bud Kiecker, Eli Kringlen, Thomas Reitmeier, Todd Goodwin, Hudson Christian, Austin Simonson

**Feb. 29:** Amanda Swanson

**Mon. March 1:** Isaac Salvhus

**Tues. March 2:** Nicki Carlson, Bryer Strom, Josh Roed, \*Alex & Brenda Ugalde

Currently there is no in house worship until further notice. It can be viewed on Sunday mornings on Garden Valley channel 30 and 9:00 and 11:15 am or on our YouTube channel "One in Spirit" on Sunday mornings starting at 7:30 am.

**MCINTOSH AFLC**  
**McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:**  
**Pastor Karl Anderson**

Mt Carmel and Trinity Free Lutheran Churches in McIntosh have resumed holding Sunday Services.

9:30 Trinity  
11:00 Mt Carmel  
Social distancing practices will be encouraged.

Video Services will continue on GVTV Channel 30 at 10am Sunday, 7pm Sunday and 6pm Wednesday.

They will also be posted on the McIntosh AFLC Parish YouTube channel

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

Sun., Feb. 28: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (also on Facebook: gosenchurch and gosenchurch.com)

Tues, March 2: 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship service telecast on GVTV--30

Wed, March 3: 6:30 p.m. Bible Study at Sharon Ramberg's home.

**CALVARY-IMMANUEL LUTHERAN PARISH**  
**Winger/Bejou**  
**Supply Pastor**  
**Gordon Syverson**

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

City of McIntosh  
McIntosh, Minnesota  
Summary to amend ORDINANCE NO. 91  
**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE LICENSING AND CONTROL OF DOGS, CATS AND OTHER ANIMALS IN THE CITY, INCLUDING ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND PROVING PENALTY FOR VIOLATION**

The City intends, to amend Ordinance 91. This ordinance regulates animals, including licensing and permitting of dogs and cats. Animal control responsibilities will be extended to include any "designated enforcing officer" appointed by the council by resolution throughout the ordinance.

The ordinance amendment will allow an exception of the maximum of dogs from 2 to 3 if they have been licensed, by the City of McIntosh, in the past, and this will not be carried over to another animal. If the animals have never been licensed, the maximum will remain 2.

A printed copy of the ordinance is available for inspection by any person during regular office hours in the office of the City Clerk at 115 Broadway Ave. NW, McIntosh, MN 56556.

Passed and adopted by the McIntosh City Council this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021. This Ordinance shall become effective March 1, 2021, after its publication in the McIntosh Times on February 24, 2021.

*Tony J. Sten*  
Mayor

*Melissa A. Smith*  
Clerk/Treasurer

M49C

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**VIDEO SHOOT SATURDAY,**  
February 27<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7PM,  
Enjoy "Little Bobby and the Funk"  
We encourage the community to be part of this event

- New expanded menu •
- Live music on both Friday and Saturday •

Try Bobby's new Rock N Roll pizza

M49C

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**"Serving the Win-E-Mac area"**

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Additional 2021 USDA Specialty  
Crop Block Grant funding available

*Federal COVID-19 relief adds funds to existing program, increases maximum grant award.*

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has extended the application deadline for the USDA's Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) as a result of the addition of federal COVID-19 relief funds to the program.

The MDA expects to award a total of roughly \$2.9 million in funding for the grant program, including about \$1.65 million in one-time funding for COVID-19 relief.

As a result, the application deadline has been extended to March 16, 2021, and the maximum amount applicants may request has been increased to \$150,000 from \$100,000. The minimum amount remains \$20,000.

The grant program aims to boost the competitiveness of specialty crops grown in Minnesota through marketing and promotion, research and development, expanding availability and access, and addressing challenges confronting producers.

The eligibility criteria are

expected to remain the same for both sources of funding. However, priority for COVID-19 relief funding is expected to be granted to projects designed to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic on specialty crop producers, industries, and the food supply chain.

A revised RFP is available on the 2021 SCBG applications page.

Questions may be directed by email to MDA.AGRI-Grants@state.mn.us or by calling the MDA Grants Line at 651-201-6500.

Industries hiring during the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the world.

Data from Worldometer, which analyzes, validates and aggregates COVID-19 figures from around the globe, indicates that, by early February 2021, the virus had claimed more than 2.3 million lives and infected nearly 108 million people since it first began to spread in late 2019.

The human toll of the virus has been devastating, and many people also have felt the economic impact of the pandemic.

It's difficult to determine a global unemployment rate, but sources including the International Monetary Fund and the World Economic Outlook Database have estimated that the unemployment rate in the United States by October 2020 was more than 5 percent higher than it was at the end of 2019. In Canada, the unemployment rate had reached 9.7 percent by October, which marked a roughly 4 percent increase compared to the end of 2019.

Though many people who

lost their jobs during the pandemic remain out of work, certain industries have grown during the pandemic.

• **Health care:** The health care industry has been stretched thin during the pandemic, and that's led to increased opportunities. In addition, industry forecasters have long pointed to a potential nursing shortage in the years to come.

For example, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that as many as two million nurses are expected to retire by 2022.

Those figures should lead to even more opportunities in a profession that is already facing a shortage of qualified candidates.

• **Technology:** Many businesses transitioned to remote work during the pandemic, and that's created opportunities for skilled technology professionals capable of facilitating such transitions.

Recruiting industry professionals note that such positions may be offered on a contract-only basis, particularly by companies that ultimately want to

return to in-office work after the pandemic has ended. However, some companies have extended their work-from-home policies into fall 2021, and some, including Google, have announced plans to support remote work indefinitely. So demand for skilled technology workers capable of helping companies run remotely could very well continue even after the economy has recovered from the pandemic.

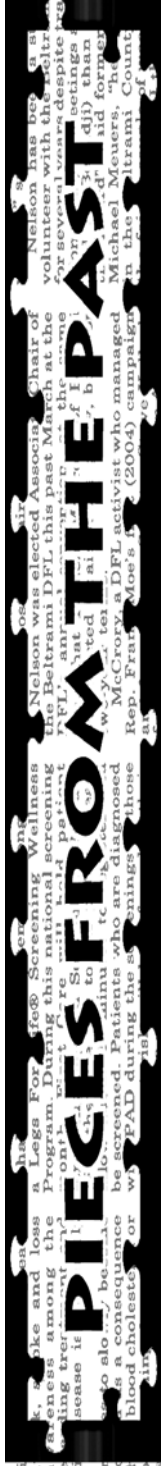
• **E-commerce:** The e-commerce industry did not need the pandemic to give it a boost. But e-commerce has certainly been relied on more heavily in the wake of social distancing restrictions and overall consumer hesitancy about in-person shopping.

Professionals with experience in web development and e-commerce may find their skills are in need, while online retailers like Amazon may be in need of workers to help with fulfillment and logistics.

Though the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating, various industries have a need for qualified professionals.



50 years ago...1971: The Mac-Winger musicians pictured here are bound for the state region music festival to be held at Crookston. The seven won their place in the regionals by placing in the star group in district competition last Thursday at Fertile. They are (l-r) Cindy Tranby, Bev Tangen, vocalists; Angela Schleicher, clarinet; Janice Ostenson, Darlene Eraker, Flutists; and Randi Schleicher, alto saxophone. Rae Ann Bartz, who was absent when the picture was taken, placed in both the vocal (alto) and tenor saxophone divisions.



40 years ago...1981: Brenda Johnson, front, Vicki DeFrang and Kevin Kundert painting in the senior high art class.



30 years ago...1991: The Lutheran Social Service McIntosh Meal Site has moved from the McIntosh Municipal Building to the Centennial Community Center where they will serve noon meals each weekday. Mildred Dietrich (sitting), site manager, welcomes meal participants as they register for the first meal served from the new facilities. Volunteers were (L-R) Eunice Hartel, Esther Swanson, Marion Moore, Helga Tranby and Ragna Berg.



20 years ago...2001: The Varsity Cheerleaders for the Patriot boys' basketball team had an exciting season leading cheers and providing spirit for the fans. Members of the cheering squad include: (back, l-r) Kayla Schimanski, Amanda Clementson and Jordan Bjerke; (row 2) Candace Doyle and Chloe Schipper; (front) Jamie Foss and Rachel Nornes.



10 years ago...2011: These lovely ladies, also known as "The Bold and the Beautiful", meet every Thursday for breakfast and to do a little catching up. In the above picture (l-r) Verniz Jore, Darlene Strom, Ruth Carlson, Irene Sannes, Dolly Lee, Delayne Oppgaard, Ruth Bartz, Geri Hulst and Norma Ness.

## Learn the differences between two classic recipes

The terms shepherd's pie and cottage pie are sometimes used interchangeably to describe layered dishes featuring a meat-and-vegetable base topped with potatoes. Shepherd's pie and cottage pie are widely enjoyed across Great Britain and Ireland. While very similar, they are not the same.

Cottage pie is the elder of the two recipes, believed to date back to 1791 in England. Shepherd's pie came about nearly a century later and can be traced to Ireland, indicates British Grub Hub.

Both creations are now enjoyed around the world, as these pies are savory comfort foods. There is a distinct difference between the two recipes, and that comes down to the meat. Cottage pie uses minced beef while shepherd's pie uses minced lamb or mutton.

Another distinction between the two is that it was believed earlier incarnations of cottage pie did not use mashed potatoes on the top, while shepherd's pie has always included mashed potatoes. Sliced potatoes were originally layered on a cottage pie to make the dish look like the shingled roof of a cottage.

Despite the names, both pies are not even pies at all. They do not contain any form of pastry dough like a pot pie

would offer. Should either of the recipes be finished with a dusting of breadcrumbs on the potatoes, shepherd's pie or cottage pie have then been transformed into Cumberland pie - another variation.

The filling of these recipes is bulked up by various vegetables one may have on hand to make them more hearty. Peas and carrots are commonly included.

Shepherd's pie and cottage pie are the stars of Irish and British country cooking. Enjoy this recipe for "Cottage Pie," courtesy of Martha Stewart. To turn it into a "Shepherd's Pie," simply replace the ground beef with ground lamb.

**Cottage Pie**  
*Serves 6*  
3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted  
1 large yellow onion, diced medium  
2 large carrots, cut into 3/4-inch pieces  
Coarse salt and ground pepper  
2 tablespoons tomato paste  
1 pound ground beef (or lamb)  
2 teaspoons fresh thyme leaves  
1 cup dark (porter) beer  
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
3/4 cup frozen peas

1 large russet potato (3/4 pound), very thinly sliced  
Preheat oven to 400 F. In a large skillet, heat 1 tablespoon butter over medium-high. Add onion and carrots and cook, stirring often, until onion is soft, 5 minutes.  
Season with salt and pepper and stir in tomato paste. Add meat and cook, breaking up with a wooden spoon, until almost cooked through, 3 minutes.  
Add thyme and beer and bring to a boil. Cook, stirring frequently, until slightly reduced, 2 minutes.

**Taxes.... Continued from page 2**  
who are required to have a U.S. taxpayer identification number but who do not have, and are not eligible to obtain, a Social Security number. The IRS notes that all ITINs not used on a federal tax return at least once in the last three years expired on December 31, 2020. In addition, all ITINs issued prior to 2013 with middle digits of 88 expired at the end of 2020. ITINs with middle digits 90, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98 or 99 that were assigned before 2013 and have not already been renewed also expired at the end of 2020. Visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to learn more about ITINs.  
Contact your tax profes-

Sprinkle flour over mixture and stir to combine. Add 1 cup water and cook until mixture thickens, about 2 minutes. Stir in peas and season with salt and pepper.  
Transfer mixture to a 2-quart baking dish. Top with potatoes, overlapping slices. Season potatoes with salt and pepper and drizzle with 2 tablespoons butter.  
Bake until potatoes are browned around edges and tender when pierced with a knife, 40 to 45 minutes. Let cool 10 minutes before serving.

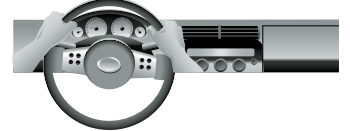


**Thursday, February 25**  
Parent Teacher Conferences. Students dismissed at 12:30 p.m.

**Friday, February 26 ~ No School for Students.** Staff development for teachers.

**Open gym** will be on Sunday's. Masks are required at all times. Elementary Students are welcome to attend from 3:00-4:30 p.m. High School students can attend from 4:30-6:00 p.m. High school students should not come before 4:30 p.m.

**Yearbook** staff is still taking pre-orders for this year's book titled "One Way... or Another" to be distributed upon completion in May of 2021. Cost is \$40.00. Yearbooks can be purchased in the office or from Mrs. Winter (room 51) before or after school or during students' noon hours



**WEM Community Ed will offer Drivers Education Classroom** instruction beginning March 15th, 2021 from

2:45-5:45 p.m. The classes will be held at the WEM School in room 37- Mr. Hanson's room. Instruction will be held on the following dates March 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and 29 with March 30th being the makeup day.

Students who enroll in Drivers Education need to be 15 years old by June 1. This class needs to be completed and the written driving exam passed prior to the Behind the Wheel instruction.

A parental course (optional) for the primary driving supervisor will be offered Thursday, March 11th. The course is 90 minutes and covers GDL information, safety risks for teen drivers, potential adult influence on driving behavior, and additional resources. Driving time is reduced from 50 hours to 40 hours if the primary driving supervisor takes the calls. If the parent has previously taken the class, no need to take again.

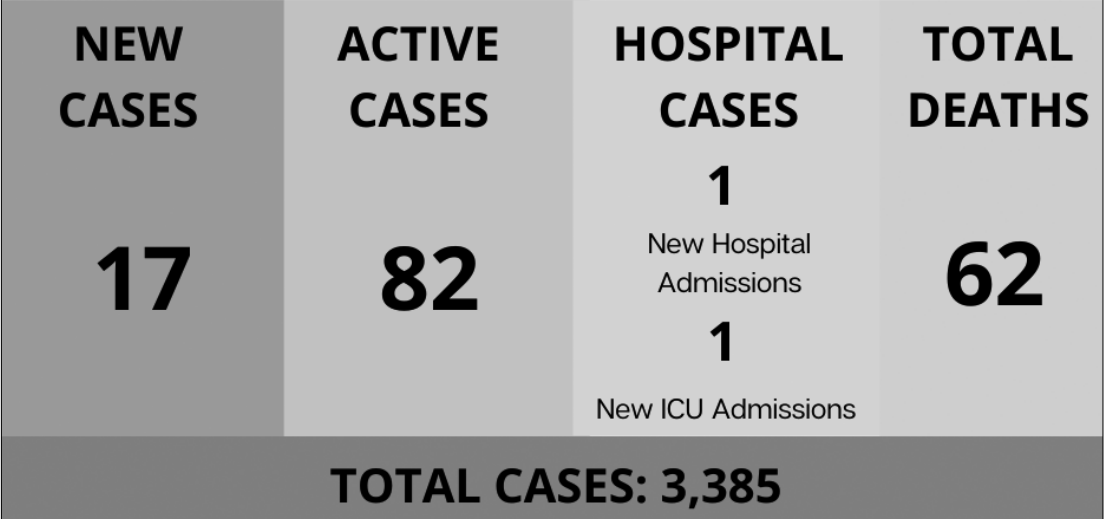
Notify Mr. Hanson that you have done it already with another child to get your certificate.

Form and payment are due on March 9th, 2021. Forms can be picked up in the office. Students who exhibit immaturity in the classroom will be assumed to be too immature to drive a vehicle and will be dismissed from the class without refund. Students can then sign up for the next class and repay.

## COVID-19 Weekly Update



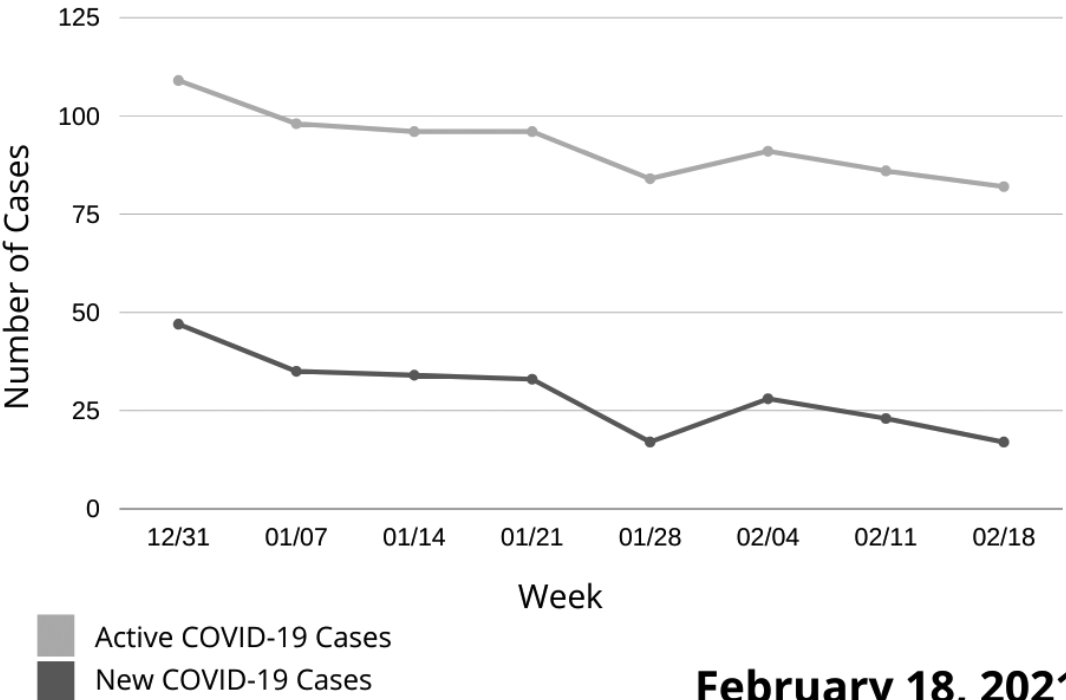
Polk County Public Health



\*New Case Data from February 11- February 17

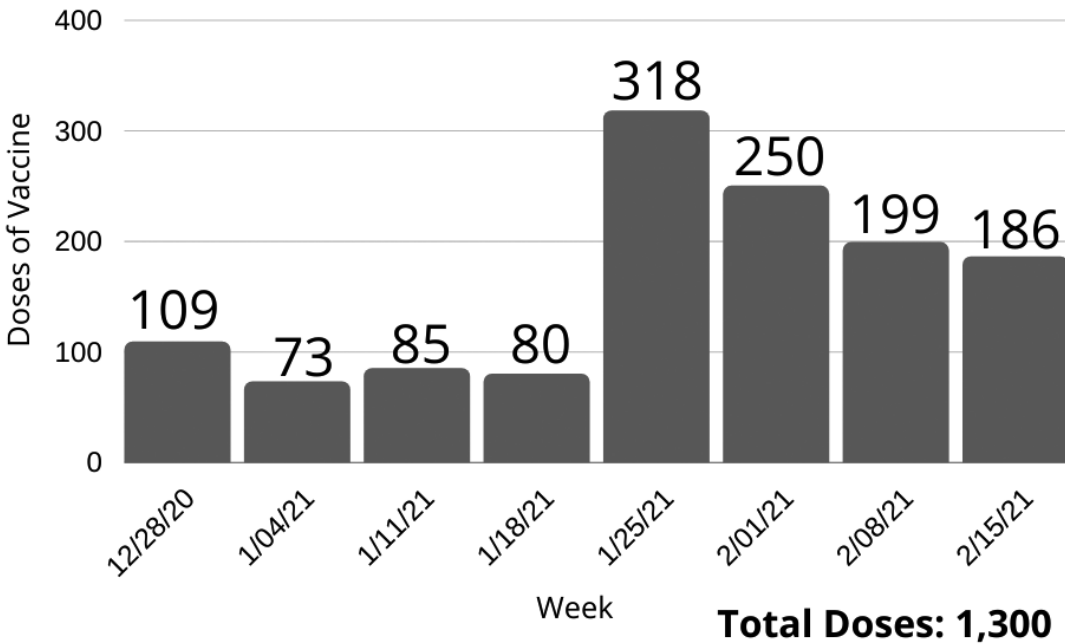
February 18, 2021

## Polk County COVID-19 Cases Per Week



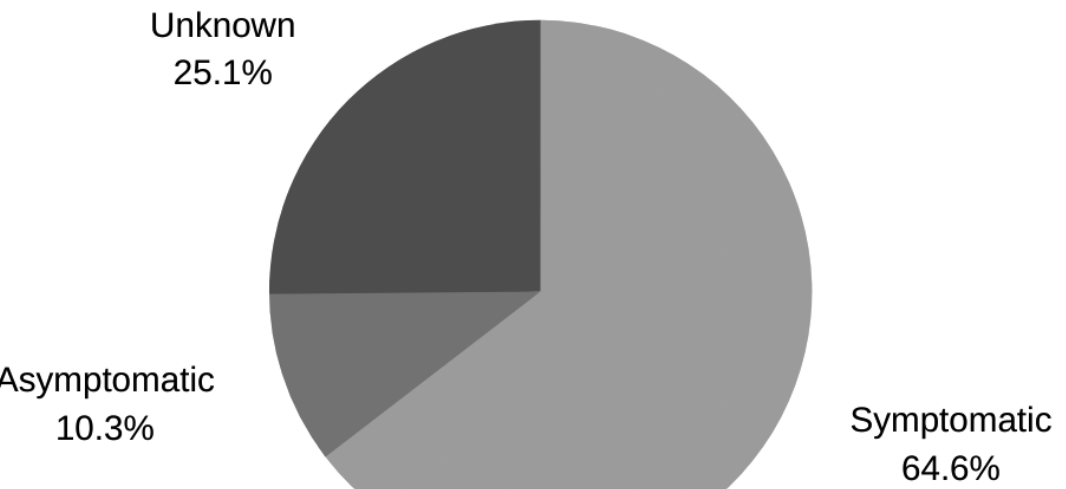
February 18, 2021

## COVID-19 Vaccine given by Polk County Public Health



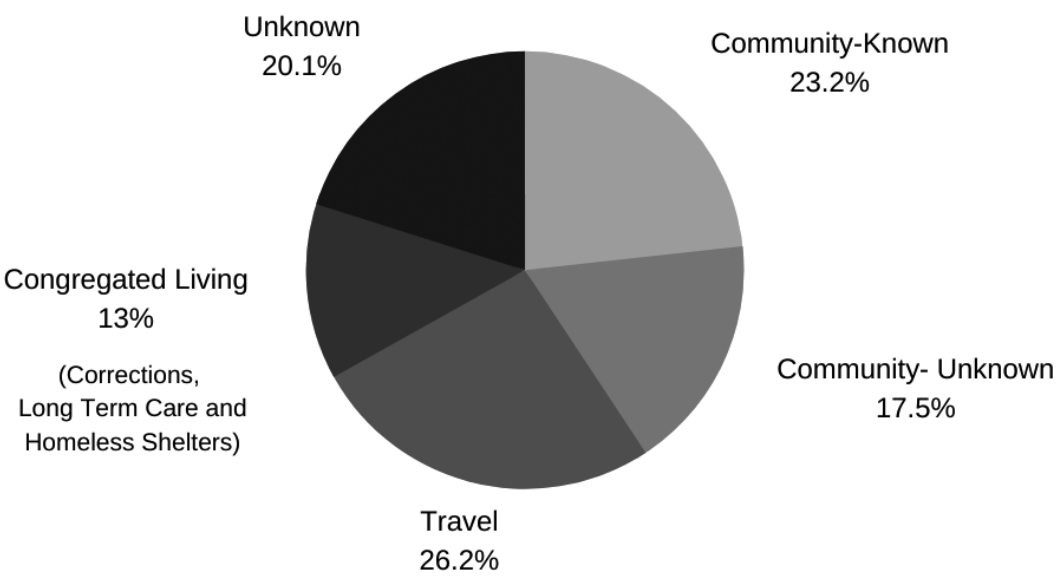
Total Doses: 1,300

## Polk County COVID-19 Symptomatic vs Asymptomatic



3,385 Total Cases

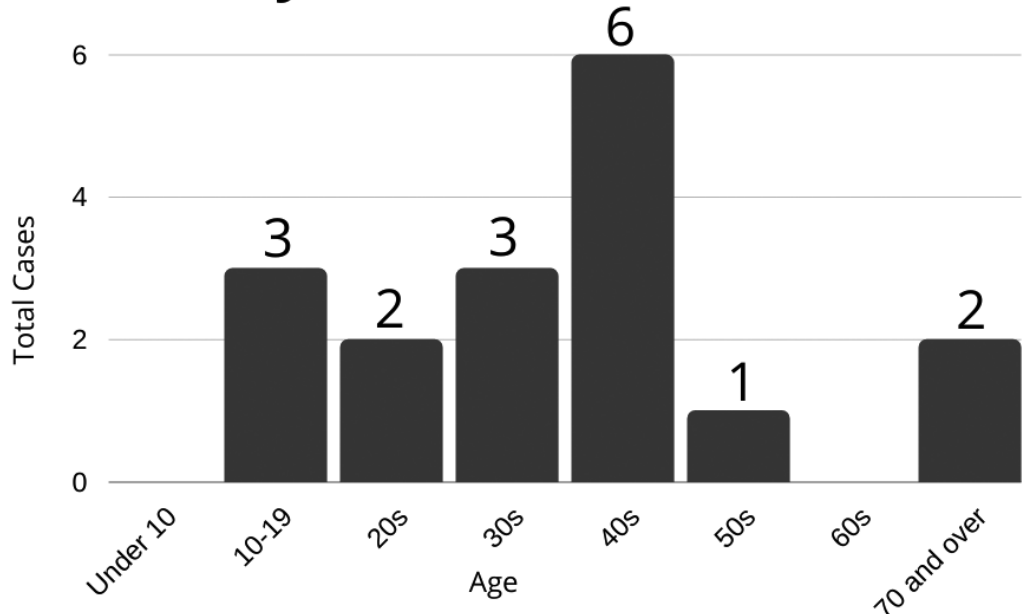
## Polk County Likely Exposure



\*Travel related exposures include people who have been to ND

Total Cases 3,385

## Age Range of COVID-19 Cases in Polk County



\*Cases from February 11 - February 17

Total Cases 3,385