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Destiny Molstad with her parents, Shawn and Angel Hedlund at Parent's Night held at Win-E-Mac School on Thursday, March 11th.



Win-E-Mac Patriot Ella Strom with her parents, Jessica and Toby during Girls Basketball Parent's Night.



Kiersten Anderson with her parents Leah and Ambrose at Win-E-Mac Girls Basketball Parent's Night.

The importance of local government

By: Ray Sundrud

At the Hill River Township annual meeting this year, one of the residents in attendance suggested that an article should be submitted to the local papers (on the front page) explaining the responsibilities of local town boards and the importance of local government. His suggestion was discussed at our regular meeting the following week and all four board members agreed with him. So, here goes!

Each township and the town board are primarily responsible for the roads in the township. Our township, Hill River, is responsible for 48 miles of roads, all gravel. In a normal year, we inspect each mile and then gravel where necessary. This is our largest expense next to the operation of our patrol road grader/snow plow. We have been fortunate to continue to have our own patrol (due mainly to dedicated operators) which results in timely maintenance, especially after a snow storm.

The township is also responsible to mow the roadsides, spray for brush and clean or replace culverts when necessary. We do not have a very big budget and our volume is small, so we are forced to hire outside contractors to mow our roads 2 or 3 times a year, spray for brush alongside roadsides (normally once a year) and replace or clean culverts when needed. We use local contractors. Each year, our supervisors inspect all the roads and decide what needs to be done. The town board contacts each contractor, obtains bids and takes care of the paperwork.

Every few years, problems like flooding, fires or tornadoes happen. Our expense and time spent goes up a bunch. If any other government agency, such as FEMA, is involved, it does

pay, but the "red tape" is unbelievable.

The township also provides limited fire protection for the residents in our township by contributing to the Fosston and McIntosh fire departments. Someone from the town board attends their annual meetings where they allow us to agree or disagree with their yearly fees.

Since the township board is responsible for our roads, we must assume some liability in case someone has damage or is injured due to our negligence. Part of the residents' property tax pays for liability, comprehensive, PERA and unemployment insurance. Again, more paperwork to take care of.

One of the most important functions of the town board is to provide a place to vote. When you enter the "voting booth", you are able to vote for whomever you want and no one knows who you voted for. There has been a lot of pressure in recent years to go to "letter ballot" to save money. We do not feel that is the intent of the way to vote. If the results were checked, we believe 99% of the results would show both spouses would vote the same way, since normally one is dominant. There is no chance of this when you vote in person. Also, when you vote in person (every other year), it is a time to meet your neighbors and, perhaps, discuss the latest issues of the township.

One of our other responsibilities is "special projects". At every annual meeting or at any time, a resident may make us aware of a project. 99% of the time, the suggested project is then completed. However, we have to make sure that whatever we do for that citizen, we also offer to do the same thing for all other residents of the township, if possible. About 10% of our budget is spent on

special projects each year.

As with any other government entity, working together is so important. For years, our board has worked together very well. We listen to each other. If the reason you are on the board is to reduce the property tax levy, you are doing what "big government" wants. In recent years, the slogan "bigger is better" has become popular. That is not necessarily so. Due to the number of people in highly populated cities, they are able to pass laws that help them, but make it difficult in the small communities. It is all about power and money (and the ability to get votes). As a result, all of the townships in Minnesota formed the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) where we work together as one voice. MAT also provides training for new board members and updates for existing board members twice a year. In addition, we have a local group that meets twice a year in Crookston. At those meetings, local issues are discussed with input from the county commissioners.

If county, state or federal agencies gain control of the maintenance of our local roads, we feel they will not watch the roads like your neighbors and friends do. To prevent this from happening, we encourage more participation at our annual meetings or contact the board as concerns arise.

Now, why do people agree to be on the board? If you want to consider how much you are paid, you can do better being a greeter at Walmart. Everyone on our board (and probably every other board) do it to give back to our community. They are happy to be part of the community.

Ray Sundrud
Clerk/Treasurer
Hill River Township

The significance of Holy Week

Easter is a significant holiday for Christians across the globe.

Though Easter Sunday is when faithful Christians gather to celebrate their faith, the week preceding Easter Sunday is full of significant events as well.

Known as Holy Week, the week preceding Easter begins with Palm Sunday and ends with Holy Saturday, the day preceding Easter Sunday.

Holy Week commemorates different events that unfolded over the final days of Jesus Christ's life.

Palm Sunday: According to Catholic Online, Palm Sunday celebrates the entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. On the day of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, residents laid palms before him, which is why palms are distributed to the Christian faithful each year during Palm Sunday Mass.

Palms are blessed at Mass, and many Christians turn their palms into crosses upon arriving home.

The palms are eventually returned to the church, where they are burned, and the ashes



of the palms are then used during the following year's Ash Wednesday services.

Holy Thursday: Holy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper, when Jesus celebrated the Passover feast with his disciples.

In the story of Jesus Christ, the night of the Last Supper was the same night that Jesus was betrayed by his disciple, Judas.

Good Friday: Good Friday commemorates the trial, punishment and crucifixion of Christ.

Though the official presiding over the trial of Jesus, Pontius Pilate, found no evidence of Jesus's guilt in relation to the charges filed against

him, he ultimately agreed to Christ's crucifixion anyway in an effort to appease the crowd and avoid a riot.

As a result, Christ was stripped, flogged and crowned with thorns before being made to carry his cross through the streets to the place where he was ultimately crucified.

On Good Friday, the tabernacle inside Catholic churches is left empty to symbolize that Christ is departed.

Holy Saturday: The final day of Holy Week,

Holy Saturday is a day to remember that Christ descended into hell, where he preached the gospel and opened the way to heaven for all those who were worthy.

Behind the jokes of April Fools' Day

Pranks, practical jokes and various goofs abound at the start of April, when celebrants around the world mark April Fools' Day - a tradition that dates back several centuries.

Even though April Fools' Day, also known as All Fools' Day, has been celebrated for centuries, no one is completely sure of its exact origins.

According to History.com, many historians speculate that April Fool's Day traces its origins to the transition from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian one in 1582. At this point, the start of the new year had been moved to January 1 from the last week of March. Those who were slow to get the news still celebrated the new year from late March into April and became the object of pranks as a result.

One of the more notable pranks included having a paper fish placed on the backs of unsuspecting individuals and being referred to as poisson d'avril (April fish). This symbolized a young, easily fooled, or hooked fish.

During the 1700s, April Fools' Day spread northward throughout areas of Britain.

In Scotland, the tradition became a two-day event. One feature was sending people on phony errands called "hunting the gowk." Gowk refers to the cuckoo bird, which often has been used as a symbol for fools. Tallie Day followed, which included pranks like pinning fake tails or "kick me" signs on unsuspecting people.

The earliest mass April Fools' Day hoax on record occurred in 1698, according to Alex Boese, curator of the Museum of Hoaxes.

"People in London were told to go see the annual ceremony of the washing of the lions at the Tower of London," said Boese. "They showed up at the Tower of London, but there was no annual lion-washing ceremony."

Mass media later became a prime vehicle for some April tomfoolery. In 1957, the BBC told viewers there was a great spaghetti crop in Switzerland that year due to the disappearance of the spaghetti weevil, and people of Britain, who were largely unfamiliar with spaghetti at the time, believed it. Faux advertisements, broadcasts and interviews

eventually crop up as well. National Public Radio did a piece on how Richard Nixon was going to run for president in the 1992 race and used the voice of a man who sounded like Nixon. People were outraged, and thousands believed it.

Many companies have gotten in on the foolishness in recent years. The popular dating app Tinder once announced they put an end to men lying about their height on the app with a "height verification feature." And Lego purportedly introduced a "Find My Brick" app to make building more efficient. Even National Geographic got in on the fun when, in 2016, the media company announced via Twitter that it would no longer be publishing photos of naked animals, stating "the media group will no longer degrade animals by showing photos of them without clothes." Those who clicked through were greeted with "April Fools" and photos of adorably dressed puppies and kittens.

April Fools' Day is an opportunity to have some lighthearted fun, even if that fun comes at the expense of others.

2020 Permit to Carry Annual Report

Data provided to BCA by Minnesota Law Enforcement Agencies

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) today released the 2020 Permit to Carry Report, an annual report summarizing data submitted by Minnesota law enforcement agencies regarding applications made for handgun carry permits as well as data about permit holders.

Minnesota sheriffs issued more firearms permits in 2020 than in any other year since the state's Personal Protection Act was enacted. Minnesota sheriffs reported to the BCA that 101,897 permits were applied for and that they issued 96,554 permits in 2020.

Year	Permits Issued
2020	96,554
2019	51,404
2018	66,053
2017	55,069
2016	71,156
2015	44,696

The top five counties for five-year permits issued by sheriffs in 2020 are:

County	Permits Issued
Hennepin	11,346
Dakota	7,754
Anoka	7,326
Ramsey	5,990
Washington	5,679

Sheriffs reported there were 103 permits suspended, 36 revoked, 968 voided and 1,191 denied in 2020.

Crimes committed by permit holders

Minnesota sheriffs reported that individuals with permits committed 3,110 crimes in 2020. This is the highest number since the state's Personal Protection Act was enacted.

Less than 2 percent were crimes where firearms were used in furtherance of a crime.

More than 51 percent were DWI's or other traffic offenses.

30 percent were from this "Other" category which includes less serious offenses such as city ordinance viola-

tions and DNR hunting, fishing and recreational vehicle violations.

As of today, the total number of valid permits in Minnesota is 358,897.

About the

Minnesota Permit to Carry Minnesota's Personal Protection Act was first enacted in 2003.

Permits were first eligible for renewal in 2008. Individuals wishing to obtain a Minnesota Permit to Carry must apply for the permit at their local sheriff's office and provide proof of approved firearms training. Sheriffs then must follow a statutorily-defined

Let kites soar: A Lenten tradition

The Christian season of Lent and the Easter holiday are laden with time-honored traditions that are both secular and religious.

Many such traditions are universal, but people still find ways to celebrate their Christian faith in their own unique ways.

Each Good Friday, residents of Bermuda take to the beach to fly kites. The tradition began from a legend that says a local teacher was attempting to explain to Sunday school students about Jesus' ascension to heaven.

The students were not grasping the concept, so the teacher purportedly launched a kite in the shape of a cross into the air to explain the matter. The students followed the teacher to a hilltop, set the kite flying, and then the teacher cut the string and the students watched it sail.

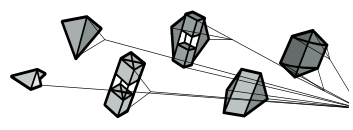
In Bermuda, kite-flying remains a much-anticipated Good Friday tradition.

Good Friday can be a solemn

process, checking FBI, BCA and DHS records as well as their own data for any disqualifying information. Individuals denied a permit have the right to appeal the denial.

Minnesota sheriffs are then required under Minnesota law (Minn. Stat. §624.714, subd. 20 (b)) to report their data on gun permit applications, issuances and denials to the BCA. As directed by same statute, the BCA compiles the public information provided by Minnesota sheriffs into its annual report.

The full report is available for viewing on the BCA Website.



day, but it also is a day of joy in which the faithful give thanks for Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for his people.

Launching beautiful kites into the air toward heaven can transform the sky into an awe-inspiring mosaic of shapes and colors. Traditional Bermudian kites are crafted from colorful tissue paper and white pine wood, with rattan or bamboo used as the headstick bender. Great care and artistry is put into the crafting of these kites. Those who are short on time purchase pre-made kites for convenience.

The kite-flying extravaganza in Bermuda is followed by a meal of codfish cakes and hot cross buns.

Families looking for a special way to honor Christ during Lent may want to incorporate this vivid tradition of kite-flying into their celebrations.



The winner of the St Patrick's Day Drawing at Neil's Quality Meats & More is Debi Haaven of McIntosh, Congratulations.

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McIntosh Friends of Veteran's News

The Committee for the Memorial Day service sponsored by McIntosh Friends of Veterans are still looking for Veterans pictures. We have received many photos and information from various people but are still in need of several more.

The following names are ones that we need: Edward L. Hansen, Alfred and Herman Hanson, Clarence, Jerome, Lloyd, and Louis Haugen, Harkness Hazelwood, Jaynes and Vernon Hedman, Einar Hoffard, Robert Holm, Nelson Holten, Jr. and Sr., Oleander Johnson, John King, Hughes Knight, Arthur, Engvald, Orville Knutson, Sr. and Reuben Knutson, Raymond Koenig, Arnold and Marvin Larson, Sheldon Lee, Melvin Lillesve, Robert Malone, Carl Mattison, Edwin Neibauer, Clarence Nelson, Albert Neset, and Halvor and Martin Neseth.

Letters have been written to everyone that we know are related to all of the names that



Did you know?

To the casual observer, Passover and Easter may not seem to have much in common. While the two holidays are celebrated by people of different faiths, they share certain similarities. Both Passover and Easter celebrate fundamental tenets of their respective faiths.

For Christians, Easter commemorates the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, a moment that has shaped the lives of faithful Christians ever since.

During Passover, Jews honor a moment in history that helped free slaves from captivity and shape them into the people of Israel.

In addition, historians believe that the Passion of Christ, which is the short final period of Jesus' life, occurred during the observance of Pesach, or Passover.

During this time, Jesus went to Jerusalem in response to a mandate to appear at the Temple.

It also is believed that the Last Supper described in all four Gospels was likely a Passover seder. Liberation and rebirth also are at the heart of both holidays.

we will need and we are sure for some people it is hard to find a Veterans picture. Please pass this information to people you know that could help our Committee. Pictures can be given to Darlene at the First National Bank in McIntosh or to Garnet Aanenson.

The 2020 Memorial Day Presentation is still available on U-Tube under McIntosh Friends of Veterans if you choose to look at the program.

Garnet Aanenson
President,
McIntosh Friends of Veterans
218-563-2753
PO Box 247,
McIntosh, MN 56556



Thurs. March 25: Anya Modac
Fri. March 26: Steve Haaven, Kris Johnson, Dayton Espeseth, *Chris & Tiffany Wirth
Sat. March 27: Eileen Hegg, Bruce Haaven, Don Boehrnsen, Patrick Roed, *Toby & Jessica Strom, *Larry & Melissa Finseth
Sun March 28: Steve DeFrang, *Wayne & Vicki Strom
Mon. March 29: Chad Haas, Dean Roy, Norma Ness, Keith Kleven
Tues. March 30: Mark Thompson



E. Polk Quilts of Valor

East Polk Quilts of Valor will have their annual meeting on Tuesday, April 13th, at 6:30 pm at the McIntosh Community Center. If you are a member, please join us. If you are not a member yet, and would like to find out how, please plan to attend. See you there. This is a meeting, NOT a sewing day. Thank you!

LSS Meals Menu 687-2262

Tues, March 30th - Baked Chicken - Au gratin Potatoes - Peas - Wheat Rolls - Rice Krispie Bars - Milk

Wed, March 31st - Roast Beef - Mashed Potatoes & Gravy - Broccoli Mix - Wheat Bread - Chocolate Cake - Milk



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

Sun. March 28: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

Sun. April 4: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
McIntosh
Supply Pastor
Gordon Syverson

Service 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. Lenten Services are now available to watch on Garden Valley channel 30 at 4:00 and 9:00 pm every Wednesday through Easter. In-house worship services every other week with Calvary in Winger starting March 7th. Our Savior's will host the 1st and 3rd Sunday's and Calvary will host the 2nd and 4th Sunday's at 10:30 am. All Covid guidelines will be followed.

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

Fri. March 26: 10:00am Telecast of the Luther League concert on GVTV--30

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

Wed, March 31: 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.

COVID-19 Bi-Monthly Update

March 18, 2021

*New Case Data from March 11- March 17

20
NEW
CASES



88
ACTIVE
CASES



65
TOTAL
DEATHS



3,478
TOTAL
Cases



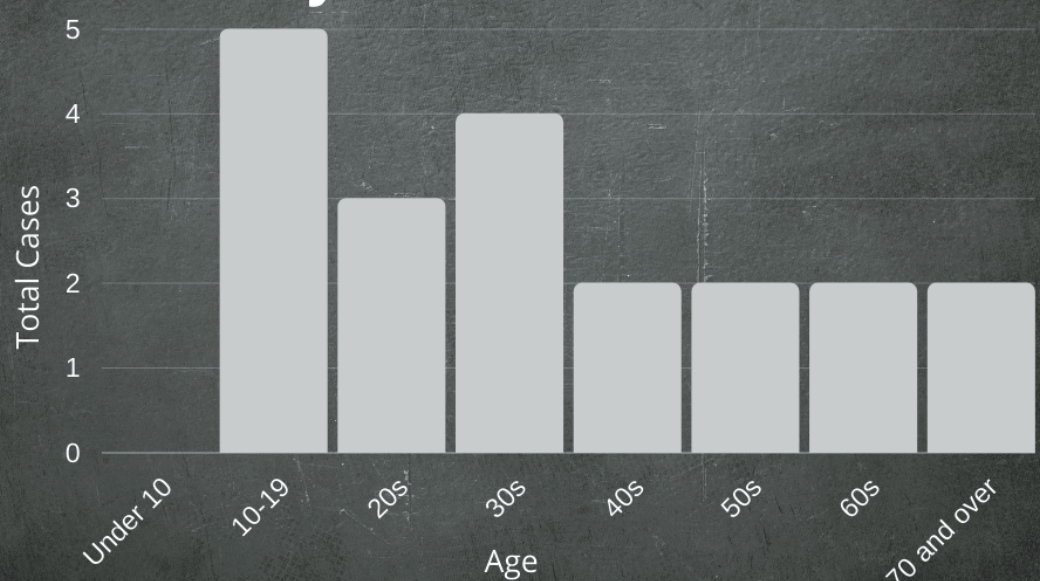
TOGETHER WE CAN get through this.



Age Range of COVID-19 Cases in Polk County

Total Cases 3,478

*Cases from March 11- March 17



TOGETHER WE CAN get through this.



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McINTOSH Times

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How to address moss in the lawn

Lawn care can be a labor of love. Maintaining a pristine lawn is no small task, but it's one that many homeowners proudly take on, knowing that all the hard work and time spent outside on sunny summer afternoons is well worth the sweat equity.

After putting in so much effort to create a lush, green lawn, it's understandable if homeowners react with disbelief when something threatens the health of their turf. Moss is one such threat.

Recognizing the threat moss poses is the first step to corraling it before it overtakes a lawn.

Explaining moss

Moss can be especially menacing because its green appearance allows it to blend in with grass rather easily. As moss spreads, it becomes more noticeable. According to the turf care experts at Scotts®, moss is a plant with shallow roots that spreads by spores and root-like structures called rhizoids.

Moss is opportunistic, and it will grow where turfgrass is thin and weak. However, moss does not kill the grass. Rather, the conditions that promote the growth of moss can kill the



grass. Such conditions may include compacted soil or excessive thatch, acidic or infertile soil, excessive shade, and insufficient or excessive watering.

How can moss be controlled?

Penn State Extension notes that the first step to controlling moss is to test the soil. Soil test kits are inexpensive and available at most home renovation stores. Test results will reveal if the soil is lacking nutrients or if lime needs to be applied and when to apply it. Such a report also will indicate when to fertilize the lawn, which can help restore the turfgrass so it's more capable of competing with the moss.

If the underlying cause of moss is shade and/or moisture in the yard, homeowners can

speak with landscaping professionals to discuss their options. Replacing existing turf with one that is well-suited to shade and/or moisture may prevent mold from overtaking the lawn in the future. Penn State Extension notes that some turfgrasses may be best-adapted to shaded, well-drained soils, while others may be more likely to thrive in shaded, moist soils. A local landscaping professional can help homeowners find a turf that will not only thrive in the conditions in their yards, but also in their local climates.

Moss can quickly take advantage of conditions that make it difficult for turfgrass to grow. Homeowners who recognize that moss is overtaking their lawn can address it in various ways.

Exterior lighting can add ambiance to a property

The value of the right lighting in a home is undeniable. Lighting can instantly transform a room and create the ambiance homeowners are looking to establish. Though it might be mostly seen as a way to create mood inside a home, lighting also can do much for lawns and gardens.

Backyards have come a long way over the last several decades. Once reserved as play areas for children and stomping grounds for the family dog, backyards have become oases for homeowners and their families.

Outdoor living areas are wildly popular, and no such area is complete without exterior lighting. In fact, a recent report from the National Association of Home Builders found that 85 percent of home buyers want exterior lighting, making it the second most desired outdoor feature (patios topped that list).

Exterior lighting can have a dramatic effect on landscaping, and estimates from the online financial resource Kiplinger.com suggest such lighting is inexpensive, with installation averaging roughly \$67 per fixture.

When installing exterior lighting around their landscapes, homeowners can keep various tips in mind to create



a relaxing, awe-inspiring mood on their properties at night.

• **Consider uplights.** Uplights are installed in the ground and direct light up at a tree, focusing on its trunk or canopy.

This creates a dramatic effect that makes it possible to enjoy majestic trees at night just like you might when spending time in the yard during the day.

• **Focus on trees.** Many homeowners already have exterior lighting lining their walkways and patios, but focusing on trees can create an entirely different look.

Though it's possible to install exterior tree lighting on your own, landscaping professionals with lighting experience know which fixtures will pair most effectively with the trees around your property and how to arrange them for maximum effect.

• **Opt for warm light.** Warm white light creates an inviting feel around the property. The exterior lighting experts at Utah Lights acknowledge that choice of lighting is up to homeowners but also note that, in situations with lower levels of ambient light, such as in exterior lights around a property, people typically prefer warmer light.

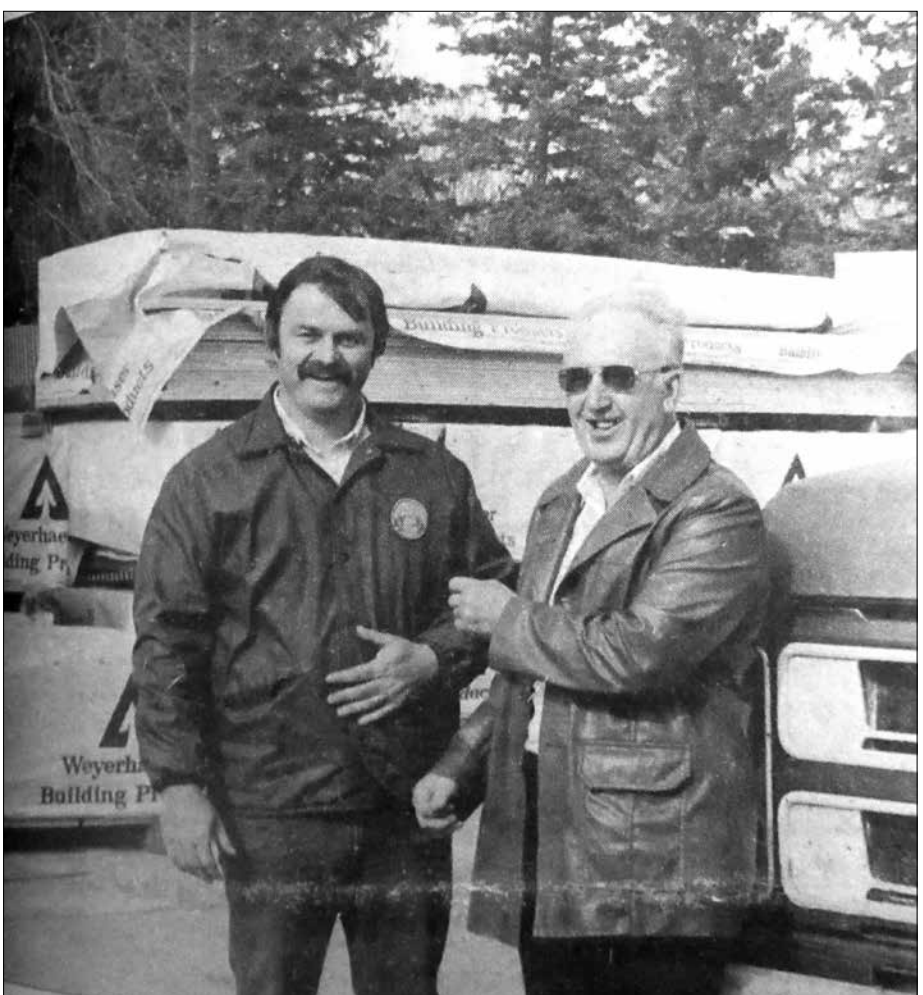
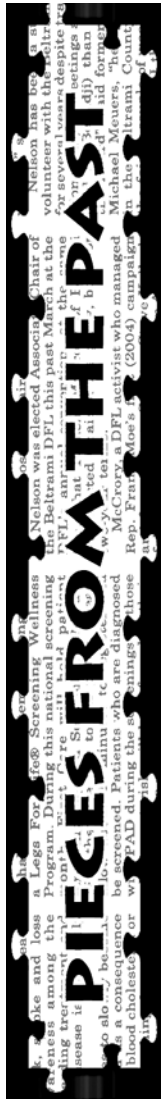
That's because warm light tends to be easier on the eyes and directs attention to the features of the landscape, which is many homeowners' goal when installing exterior lighting in their yards.

• **Utilize a timer.** Modern exterior lighting timers make it easier than ever to control the lights outside a home. Many such timers even adjust for the changing seasons and the shifting hours of daylight. That means homeowners shouldn't have to tinker with the timer once it's set.

Exterior lighting can add significant appeal to a property without breaking the bank.



50 years ago...1971: The McIntosh Shipping Association held its annual meeting in the Municipal Building last Thursday. At the meeting the operation of the association was reviewed which showed the company had shipped 1265 head of cattle, 164 calves, 674 hogs and 705 sheep. Pictured are Irvin Mandt, Blaine Hanson, Larry Oak, president, Phillip Ostenna, Art Swanson, Trucker, Carl Spong, fieldman for the Central Livestock Association, who spoke at the meeting and association secretary-treasurer Ronald Aaseng. Other members of the board, not shown, are Otto Haugen and Maynard Ferden.



40 years ago...1981: Bob Benson and Ken "Butch" Sabourin stepped out into the yard area Monday to symbolize the transfer of ownership of the Mac Mills lumber business.



20 years ago...2001: The Junior Varsity cheerleaders organized the fan support for the B-team boys basketball team and kept competitive spirits high during the winter sports season. (Front, l-r) Melissa DeFrang and Kathy Nephew; (Middle) Jody Trandem, Kelsi Ostenson and Melissa Hamre; (back) Heather Faldet, Adviser Paula Carlson and Ashley Haugen.

Right: 10 years ago...2011: An active Friday night at the WEM School as the Senior class hosted a taco supper for the community. Enthusiastic students ready for first shift of service include, from the back: Alexander Lisoff, Megan Hertwig, Molly Olson Rachel Benbo, Jenna Schommer, Kyndyl Ross, MarJenna McWilliams; Front: Riley Nornes, Tyler Oppegaard, Kyle Peterson, Tony Prudhomme, Nia Johnson, Greg Sereikov, Alicia Morrison, Kim Boisse, Matthew Simonson, and Trevor Klinke.



30 years ago...1991: Students who will participate in the Honor Choir for District 30 in Mahanomen are (back) Robby Roed, Nicole Berg, Heather Baldwin, Ryan Tangen; (front) Shane Voxland, Shannon Haugen, Solveig Borud, Tina Haaven, and Jim Langemo.





Kianna Tadman with her parent's Jim and Stacy at Win-E-Mac Girls Basketball Parent's Night.



Kyra Stuhau and her parent's Lisa and Brian at Win-E-Mac Parent's Night for Girls Basketball.



Lauren Kaupang with her parents, Terri and Vance at Win-E-Mac Girls Basketball Parent's Night.



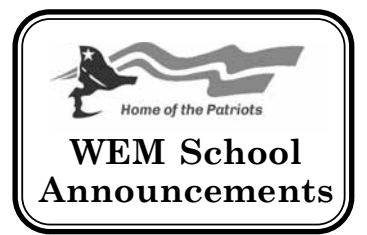
Ruby Breckel and her parents Jason and Holly at Girls Basketball Parent's Night held at Win-E-Mac School.



Dani Winter with her mom Vondria during Girls Basketball Parents Night at Win-E-Mac School.



Ava Howard and her mom, Katherine at Win-E-Mac Schools Parent's Night for Girls basketball.



Patchwork for Kindness Quilt is being constructed by 9th graders in Family and Consumer Science class. If you wish to donate \$1 and register for winning the class quilt we'd appreciate your support. The funds raised beyond quilt costs will be given locally to an individual in need in an 'Act of Kindness'. Tickets in the teacher lounge, FCS room or from a 9th grade student.

The Win-E-Mac Junior Class has been given the go ahead to host Prom 2021 once again. (Due to COVID, Prom 2020 was cancelled)

The kids are very excited to have some normalcy back in these unprecedented times. Prom is going to look slightly different this year, but we are hoping to make it a fun and safe night once again for our youth!

The Junior Class parents will be hosting a fun night of food, games, and prizes for the prom attendees and we are looking for contributions to make this a memorable event for our kids.

If you are interested in donating (cash or prizes) to the Win-E-Mac After Prom Party, please send your donation to: Win-E-Mac School, Attention: Alyssa Hickman, 23130 345th ST SE, Erskine, MN 56535

Win-E-Mac School is currently signing kids up for Pre-school Screening. We will be having our screening in the McIntosh Bjella Building on Monday, March 22nd by appointment only. Preschool screening is open to all children who are three years old and up who have not been screened. Children must be screened before entering Kindergarten. Families interested can contact Win-E-Mac School office at 218-563-2900 or Heather at 218-689-0605 email: hearls@win-e-mac.k12.mn.us

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

Make your own chocolate Easter bunnies

The Easter bunny is a tradition that has been passed down for centuries. Symbolizing fertility and wealth, the Easter bunny became a holiday standard in Germany during the 16th century.

The custom of chocolate eggs came along centuries after the Easter bunny, originating in the 19th century in France and Germany.

As Easter celebrations evolved, chocolate eggs were not the only delicacy; chocolate Easter bunnies also were shared and enjoyed.

While there are scores of mass-produced chocolate bunnies available for purchase, and many local chocolatiers also make Easter bunnies and other sweet treats, families may want to try making their own chocolate Easter bunnies this year.

This can be a family-friendly activity that favors togetherness with the promise of a sweet reward.

1. The first step to creating chocolate Easter bunnies is to select the type of chocolate you prefer. Bunnies can be made from white chocolate, milk chocolate, dark chocolate, or even a combination for a marbled effect. Chocolate melts, chips or chocolate couverture are widely available at specialty chocolate and food shops or craft supply stores, according to DoItYourself.com.

This simplifies the bunny-making process. Some retailers also may sell bunny-making kits that pair the chocolate melts with the mold in one box for ultimate convenience.

2. Craft stores also have aisles devoted to culinary crafts. Browse to find an Easter bunny mold. Some may sell solid chocolate bunnies or hollow varieties. Choose molds in the desired size, as bunny molds may be large or small.

3. Follow directions to melt chocolate successfully. Some chocolates can be slowly melted in the microwave. A double-boiler method, in which the chocolate is melted in a bowl placed above a pan with boiling water, can help the chocolate



melt consistently and prevent it from burning.

4. Pour the chocolate into the mold and gently tap the mold so that it displaces air bubbles and helps the chocolate settle evenly into the design. Allow the chocolate to set up in the refrigerator. If your mold is hollow, you can seal the two halves of the bunny with a little melted chocolate on the seam.

Creativity can be unleashed when making homemade chocolate bunnies.

Easter trees makes festive spring decorations

Easter is coming and it's time to put up the tree. For those thinking right now that trees are for an entirely different Christian holiday, you are both right and wrong. Even though trees may be more widely associated with Christmas,

Easter trees are an increasingly popular and festive tradition that trace their roots to Germany.

The Easter tree is known as Ostereierbaum in Germany and is a centuries-old custom. Eggs are hung on outdoor tree branches and bushes or are placed on cut branches displayed inside. While the tradition is traced to Germany, German-influenced locales like Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic, and the Pennsylvania Dutch region of the United States also are popular places for Easter trees to appear.

For 50 years, one person branched out with his own Ostereierbaum tradition. Volker Kraft decorated an apple tree on his property in the town of Saalfeld, Germany, adding more eggs each year as the tree grew larger. The tradition came to an end in 2015. At

one point the tree held 10,000 eggs, all hand-crafted by Kraft and his family. However, a tree in Rostock, Germany held the Guinness World Record for tree with the most eggs - a display of 80,000.

While Easter trees are typically more modest than Kraft's tree, the displays can be as large or as small as one desires. Many Easter trees consist of a few branches placed in a vase decorated with flowers, ribbons and Easter eggs. Pussy willow branches work well, though any branches can stand in.

When decorating Easter trees, families can use plastic eggs or even real ones. Using a sharp knife or needle, make two small holes in a raw egg. Blow out the inside of the egg until the shell is hollow. Then decorate the egg and thread a ribbon through the holes so it can be hung on the tree. If desired, place sweet Easter treats, such as chocolate eggs or pastel-colored cupcakes, under the Easter tree.

Decorating an outdoor tree also is possible and very visible. It can be a great way to share Easter blessings with others in the community.