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Times

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McIntosh, Minnesota



The 3rd Annual Spears, Beer, and Decoy Show was recently held at the Lean To Tavern in Bejou, Minnesota and the Northern Spiked Darkhouse Spearing guys, Jordan (far left) and Jered (far right) Gunufson gave away some great prizes. The grand prize, an Aluma-lite Spear House sponsored by Bemidji Sports Center, Northern Spiked and the NW MN Chapter of Darkhouse Spearing Association was won by Mike Horgashimer (center), the Single Tined Belle River Spear was won by Toby Strom (2nd left), the custom Ice Saw won by Riley McCollum (2nd right) and the Buddy Heater was won by Michael Askelson (not pictured).



Terry Strom of McIntosh is the owner and developer of the Smart Teaser, and was a vendor at the recent Spears, Beers and Decoy Show held in Bejou, Minnesota.



Almost out of his custom made Tradewell Decoy's was Ryan Gast who sold many of his works of art during the 3rd Annual Spears, Beers and Decoy Show hosted by Northern Spiked Darkhouse Spearing.

Fire Department to host a fish fry after Christmas parade this Saturday in Mac

Enjoy the holiday magic this Saturday in McIntosh with an old fashioned Christmas experience, a Christmas parade and a fish fry.

The evening will start with a Christmas Parade at 5:00 pm down the main street of McIntosh. With road legal fish houses, ATVs, side by sides, bikes, trucks and cars decorated in holiday fashion. Any adult licensed driver can enter a road legal vehicle.

The parade participants will meet at 4:30 pm south of the First National Bank, with the parade starting at 5:00 pm down the Main Street of McIntosh and continuing to McIntosh Senior Living and Poplar Meadows Senior Living.

The Shoppes of McIntosh will host a magical evening celebrating the wonder of Christmas.

Enjoy a holiday lights parade, shopping, music, bonfires, hot cocoa, s'mores, food, lights and much more. Santa will be at Neil's after the parade for photo opportunities and to say hello to all.

The Shoppes will all be open including the newest addition of Louie's Mercantile.

Following the Christmas parade, the McIntosh Fire Department will host a Fish Fry at the McIntosh Fire Hall. Freshly breaded fish and fresh fries will be served by the



McIntosh Fire Squad from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. There will be seating available and a free will donation is recommended.

Join your family and friends for a magical night out this Saturday, December 3rd in downtown McIntosh.

Reminder that on Saturday, December 10th Santa will be at the Winger Community Center for Breakfast with Santa starting at 9:00 am. See next week's McIntosh Times for more information.



New research shows link between nature conservation and human wellbeing

In just a few weeks, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will convene in Montreal to adopt new targets for biodiversity conservation, restoration and management. Along with the global commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on climate change, these three frameworks will influence sustainable development for the rest of the decade.

New research from a global team of experts, including Natural Capital Project scientists at the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment, demonstrates how nature conservation contributes to human wellbeing at local and global scales. Their work also maps the ecosystems that are not only essential to the nearby local communities, but contribute to the well-being of every person on the planet.

Published in Nature Ecology & Evolution, the researchers' findings show that conserving 30 percent of the Earth's land and 24 percent of coastal waters would sustain 90 percent of nature's contribution to human wellbeing. This vital relationship between humans and nature has enormous cultural and economic value by providing food, drinking water, protection from hazards, mental and physical well-being and many other priceless benefits.

Measuring and mapping the areas that provide significant benefits to people provides the information decision-makers need to better account for impacts on local communities when choosing conservation policies and investments. And decision-makers need not decide between providing natural benefits to people or protecting animal species. In fact, this analysis shows that prioritizing these critical natural areas and the benefits to people they provide simultaneously advances development, conservation and climate mitigation goals.

Prioritizing conservation, protection and restoration efforts to the areas identified as critical natural assets could maintain a high proportion of current natural benefits to people with significant efficiency. Direct benefits of these critical natural areas are widespread — 6.1 billion people live within one hour's travel and 3.7 billion people live downstream of the critical areas. Many more people may be impacted by the material benefits that enter the global supply chain.

Historically, targets for protecting ecosystems and biodiversity have been criticized for inadequately accounting for the needs of people, particularly the needs of local and Indigenous communities. Including nature's contributions to

people is essential for making equitable and just conservation decisions.

"All people on the planet benefit from nature," says study lead author, Becky Chaplin-Kramer, Principal Research Scientist at the University of Minnesota. "What is striking is just how many benefit from a relatively modest proportion of our total global land area. If we can maintain these areas in their current state through a variety of conservation mechanisms that allow the types of use that make them so valuable, we can ensure that these benefits continue for years to come."

These valuable ecosystems can be found in every corner of the planet. Some are well-known environmental powerhouses, like the Congo Basin forests. Others may fly under-the-radar, like the Appalachians in the U.S., but each one is vital to the respective communities it serves. Importantly, every country has some critical areas that benefit local communities, often found in headwaters of large river basins or near heavily populated areas. Areas that remain globally important for climate mitigation and biodiversity, like the Amazon, cannot provide all the critical local ben-

Research... Continued on page 2 ...



Tony Roed, of Stoney's Custom Designs, made many custom and specialty knives for the Spears, Beers and Decoy Show held at the Lean To Tavern in Bejou, Minnesota where he kept busy selling all of the knives he brought with him.

The County Line

By Warren Strandell
Polk County Commissioner, Dist. 2

On the morning after the election, neighbor/friend Allen Love and I went out with his pickup to pick up my campaign signs. Besides the more than 50 smaller signs, there were four larger signs that were held up by fence posts. A Handyman jack was required to get those posts out of the very dry, hard ground.

With the load of signs, we headed right for the East Grand Forks City Shop. There, the whole load went into the dumpster. Nothing was saved for another time. Just as I had said in campaign material, the 2022 election was the last run for me.

Going through an election is a humbling experience. I've gone through a few of them in my time and need no more humbling. Like President Richard Nixon said, "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore because, gentlemen, this is my last press conference."

That Nixon quote was supposed to be a joke. If it didn't come out that way, sorry. I was never kicked around. But in an election, you are humbled.

Not everyone likes you or thinks that you should be elected/re-elected. There are times when the votes that you thought would go your way go instead to your challenger. There is the opposite, too, which amounts to some humbling for the challenger. The sign war tells you a lot, too.

About the placing of signs: It has become more difficult than it was a few years ago. You can't just go to the phone book and start calling friends and neighbors to ask for permission because there aren't many names that are still in the book. If you don't have the number for that person in your cell phone directory, you need to find some other way to ask for permission to place the sign. I'm not good at ringing doorbells to make that request. Just don't like door-to-door campaigning. Some do, not me.

My campaign involved a mass mailing effort. There was a problem with that, too, in that the areas covered by mail routes don't match those of commissioner districts. To try to cover a commissioner district, you had to send your material to areas/people who couldn't vote for you. As a re-

sult, a lot of people outside of Commissioner District 2 received my postcard. Sorry for that, too.

Should you want to make a run for an office like that of commissioner, which takes significant time, I refer you to this thought: You should either be self-employed or unemployed.

Unemployed? That means either wealthy or retired... in no need of a job. There may be some employers, but certainly not many, who will put up with having someone gone as much as the commissioner job requires. Bless those who might be willing to put up with all the absences.

If you are self-employed, your career/business/farm will suffer. But know this that serving a time in office is worth it.

In an election, not winning will be much more humbling for the incumbent than for the challenger. For the incumbent, losing means that there will be some big life changes. For the challenger, life pretty much goes on as before just minus the election effort.

In their campaigns, some challengers have been known to say that they will cut your taxes. That's just baloney. It just isn't going to happen. If, for example, they were successful in reducing some expenditures, that would have very little effect on the total of the tax bill. Probably just a few cents. And then, the projects or services that were eliminated

Warm up
with a rich, chocolate beverage

Nothing beats sipping a hot, soothing beverage after a day of choosing the perfect Christmas tree or lobbing snowballs in the backyard.

Teas, hot toddies, coffees, and mulled ciders certainly can fit the bill, but a mug of rich hot chocolate is a holiday season staple.

Hot chocolate can be whipped up quickly from pre-made packets, but many such packets are loaded with sugar. Chocolate lovers should have a reliable hot chocolate recipe to lean on when the moment is right. This recipe for "Real Hot Chocolate" from "Chocolate" (Parragon) by the editors of Love Food is sure to please.

Real Hot Chocolate

would have just been pushed down the road. They would be back in budget discussions the next year. Really, nothing would have been gained.

Some things just have to get done. Planning for the way to pay for them with the least effect on that tax bill is key. Keeping taxes from increasing beyond the rate of inflation is the most realistic goal. Inflation this year is reported to be 8% or more. The final levy increase for Polk County will be less than half of that.

The average of levy increases in the County over the past 15 years has been 2.76%. That's an accomplishment of which the Polk County Commission and administration can be very proud. There aren't many government units, if any, that can match that record.

Anyway, enough on this. The campaign signs went into the dumpster. Just be thankful that there are those who are willing to be a candidate for office... to be humbled, if you will.

Thoughts for the day:

• Time ticks on and we all tick with it. — Jessie Veeder, newspaper columnist

• It isn't necessary to see a good tackle. You can hear it. — Knute Rockne, Notre Dame

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

Serves 1 to 2

11/2 ounces semisweet chocolate, broken into pieces
11/4 cups milk
Chocolate curls to decorate
Place the chocolate in a large, heatproof pitcher. Place the milk in a heavy-bottom saucepan and bring to a boil. Pour about one-quarter of the milk onto the chocolate and leave until the chocolate has softened.

Whisk the milk and chocolate mixture until smooth. Return the remaining milk to the heat and return to a boil, then pour onto the chocolate, whisking constantly.

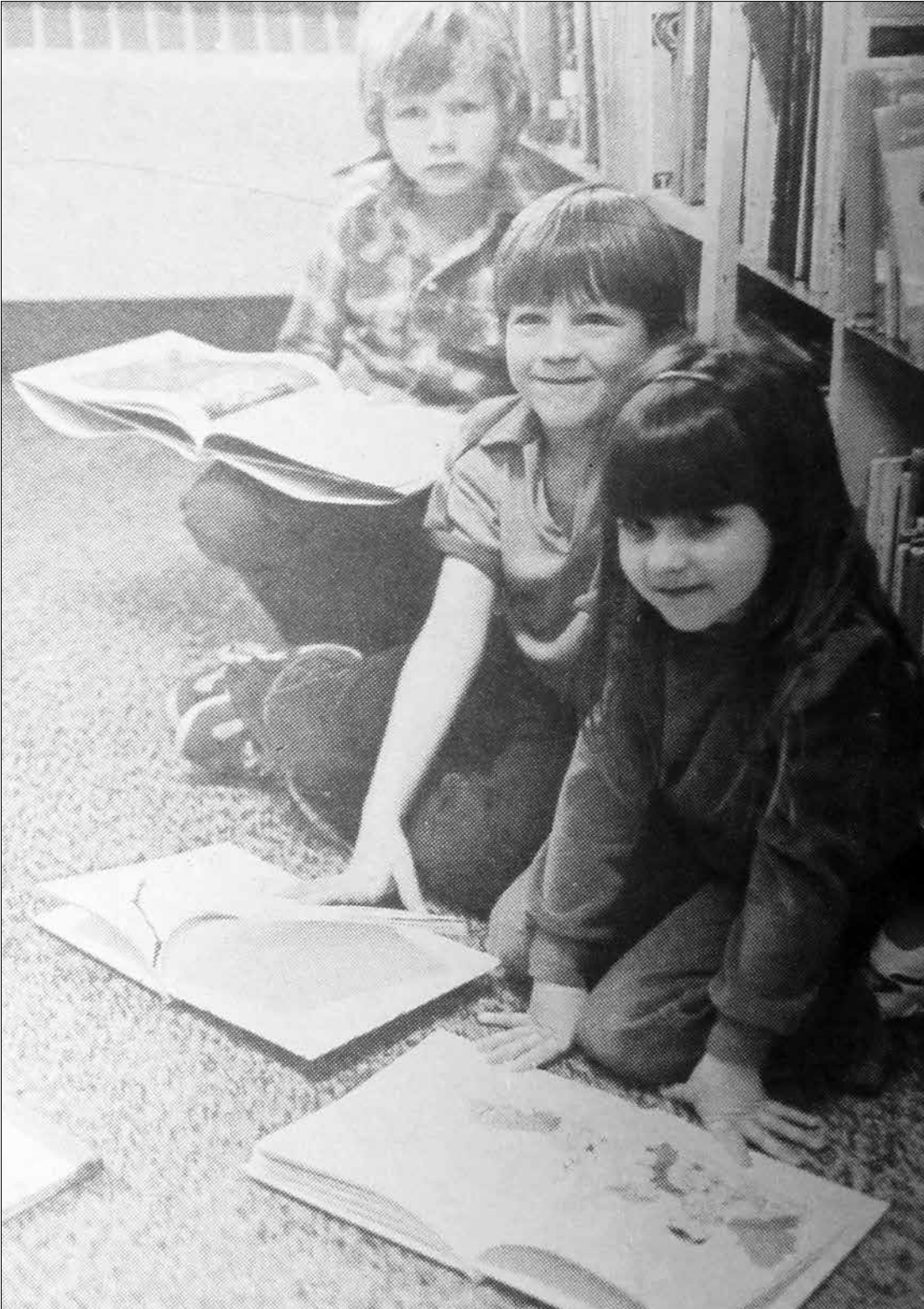
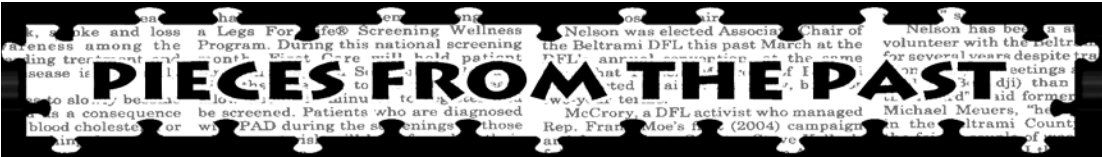
Pour into warmed mugs or cups and top with the chocolate curls. Serve immediately

Did you know?

Real estate remains an especially lucrative investment vehicle. According to the S&P 500 Index, the median return on investment in the United States property market is 8.6 percent. That's an important consideration for investors

who are considering adding income properties to their portfolios. Though the costs associated with income properties can be substantial, the potential rate of return on those properties is significant. Individuals considering an income property investment are urged to

speak with a financial advisor, who can shed light on various factors that must be examined prior to purchasing a property. For example, individuals counting on rental property income should familiarize themselves with how that income is taxed before investing.



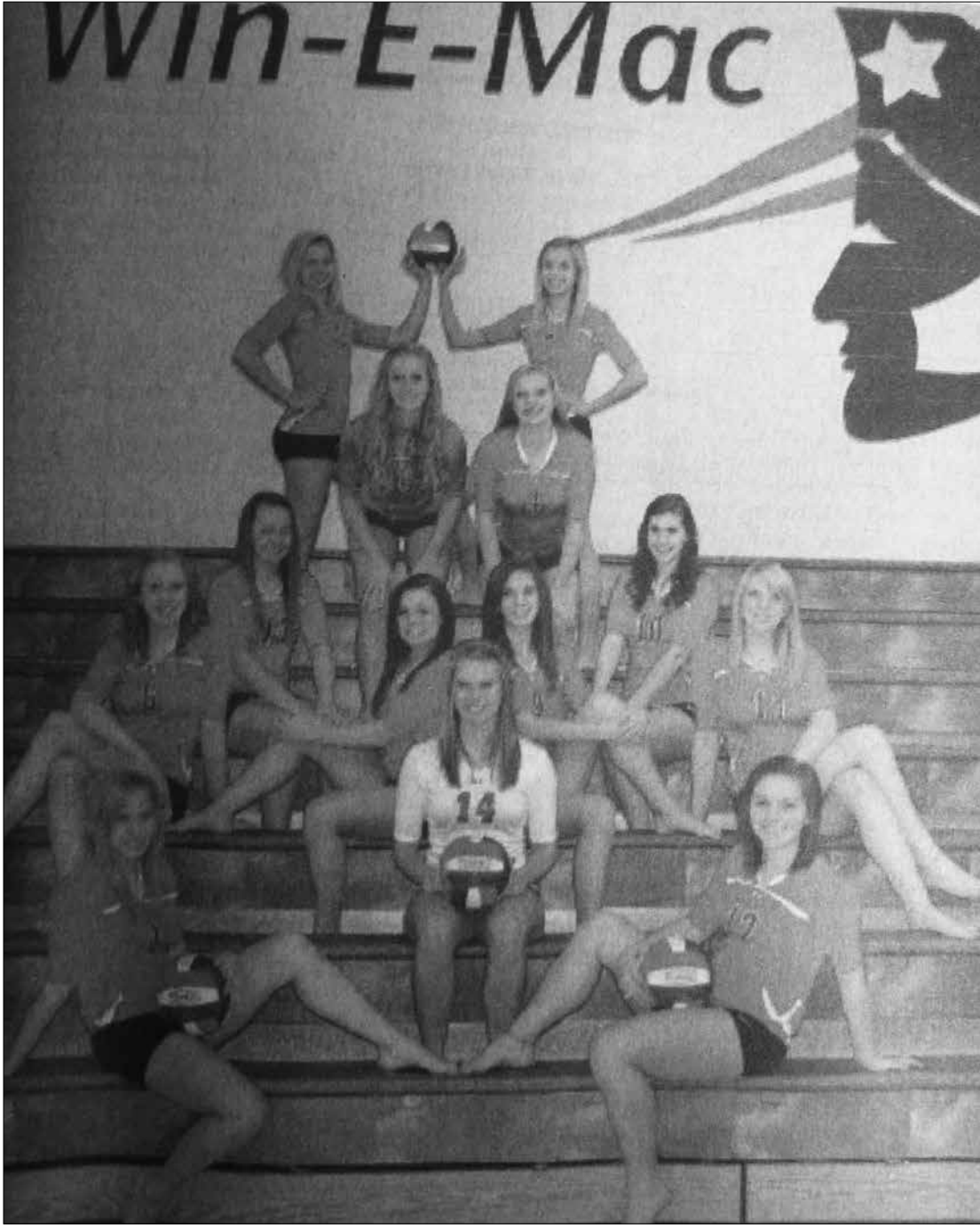
40 years ago....1982: First grade reading winners were Ken Weiss, Micah Strom and Wendy Vig.



30 years ago...1992: Twenty-Seven Win-E-Mac sixth grade students assisted the staff at McIntosh Manor Nursing Home on Sunday, November 22nd, as they served Thanksgiving dinner to their residents and guests. These students served coffee to the noon meal diners. (L-R) Nick Ostenaar, Scott Brumwell, Chris Vedbraaten, Sarah Peterson, Ross Branstner and Peter Wang.



20 years ago....2002: A group of ladies from the McIntosh VFW Auxiliary served cake and coffee following the Veteran's Day program at McIntosh Manor Nursing Home. Veterans from the McIntosh VFW Post #6891 attended the afternoon program. They included: (L-R) Roger Konlson, John Rokowski, Clifton Burslie, Bob Vanderwaal, Armond Sannes, Bud Ashling, Charles Svalen, Ervin Mandt, and Clipper Carlson.



10 years ago...2012: The Win-E-Mac Patriot Volleyball team is heading to State at the Excel Energy Center in St. Paul. Pictured (left to right) first row: Kara Sonsteli, Megan Olson, Brooke Christianson; second row: Shelby Kaster, Jessica Kasprzak, Jordyn Ose, Karina Morrison, Brittany Lee, Olivia Simonson; third row: Korbryn Ross, Kylee Mandt; Back row: Madison McKeever and Kelsey Knutson.



Nadia Nikolayson, Iris Howard and JJ Ross turn in their posters that model plant and animal cells at Freedom Christian Academy in Erskine.



Mason, Remi, Mae and Barrett attempt to pick up and carry a rucksack when learning about Veteran's Day at Freedom Christian Academy. Thanks to all the veterans out there for keeping us safe.

WEM School Announcements

Win-E-Mac School will once again be having their annual Giving Tree. We will be sharing the "ornaments" virtually this year. We will anonymously post "ornaments" for children in the Win-E-Mac School District that may have a need this holiday season for clothes, toys, or other items. Their wish list will be linked to their Star number

If you are interested in taking a Star or donating, please follow the link posted on the school website (wemschools.org)

There you will find prompts that allow you to choose a child by age and it will display their

wish list. All gifts will need to be delivered, unwrapped, to the school no later than December 15th so they can be distributed to the families.

If you need some assistance or you know of a child or family that may be in need this holiday season, please contact Cassie Subbert, Emily Stoner or Alyssa Hickman at the school, 563-2900 or 687-2236.

The Giving Tree also accepts monetary donations. The donations go toward food gift certificates for families to use over the holidays.

If you are interested or have questions about donating, please contact one of the people stated above.

Senior High Knowledge Bowl practice begins THIS Wednesday, November 30th at 7:45 AM in Mr. Hickman's room.

The Win-E-Mac High School play will take place Saturday, December 10th at 7:00 pm, and Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 pm. The play, Murder at the Renaissance Faire will take place in the Win-E-Mac Arts & Event Center.

Class pictures, sports pictures and all yearbook group pictures will be Friday, December 2nd

The Community Fitness Center is open. Memberships are currently being taken in the main office.

Please stop in to get a membership form or call the school to have a form mailed to you.

Cost of a yearly membership is only \$40.

The hours to the events center once open will be from 3:30 pm to 8:00 ma. All members will be given an access card to enter the fitness center at the hours that are convenient for you to exercise.

ECFE - Fall Fun: Every Tuesday for parents and children ages 0 - 4. The fun activities are in the pre-school room unless otherwise noted.



Freedom Christian Academy students recently took a field trip to the post office where Mae Breckel, Remi Mae Boe and Barrett Wilkens enjoy seeing the ins and outs of the post office in Erskine. Barret loves stamping things.



Across the nation schools celebrated American Education Week from November 13th to the 19th, while here in our Community, we celebrated the wonderful staff at Win-E-Mac School. Pictured here are the educators and staff that help make our community great.

Yes! We Do Banners!

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Happy Birthday Rosie!

May 8, 1917 to 2017