



The Plante family celebrates at the Win-E-Mac Halloween Party on Sunday, October 27th in the school gymnasium. The Win-E-Mac Junior High Student Council hosted a fun-filled time for kids up to 6th grade. Pictured are Autumn, Clarissa, Adalyn, Asher and Nick.

New Christmas banners for downtown Mac thanks to generous donations

McIntosh Community Club donates toward beautification project in McIntosh.

The McIntosh Community Club is proud to announce in cooperation with the City of McIntosh the purchase of new banners which will be placed on all the downtown light poles outside of the Christmas Season.

The donation would not be possible without funds donated



in memory of Adella Thompson by her late husband Harald Thompson.

Harald's intent was to find

an opportunity to provide beautification to the town. Both Harald and Adella could be found tending gardens, making repairs, or providing other labors of love to beautify the City of McIntosh for many years.

A big thank you to the Thompson family for entrusting the McIntosh Community Club with this project and to the City of McIntosh for their assistance of matching funds.



Sheriff Jim Tadman administered the oath of office during a county board meeting Tuesday, October 22, 2024. The Polk County Sheriff's Office would like to welcome our newest deputies, Alyssa Lang, Chase Olderbak and Titan Engen. They were introduced to the board of commissioners and had an opportunity to talk a little about themselves and recognize their families. A number of the Polk County Sheriff's Office team joined in to witness the swearing in and welcome the new deputies to Polk County.



Gru and crew! Having fun together at the Win-E-Mac Halloween Party were Jens Stordahl, Bridger Huschle, and Emmett Rock.

WEM School will host a Giving Tree for families in need this holiday

Win-E-Mac School will once again be having their annual Giving Tree. We will be sharing the "stars" virtually again this year.

We will anonymously post "stars" for the Win-E-Mac School District that may have a need this holiday season for clothes, winter clothing, toys, or other items.

Their wish list will be linked to their Star number. If you are interested in taking a Star or donating items, please follow the link posted on the school website (wemschools.org) or school Facebook page (Win-E-Mac ISD 2609).

There you will find prompts that allow you to choose a child by age and it will display their wish list. Not all items on the wish lists need to be purchased, but we suggest getting clothing items and at least 1 toy or fun item.

Donations of items are also accepted, we use those items to fill the wish lists for children on the Giving Tree.

All gifts will need to be dropped off at Win-E-Mac



school, unwrapped, no later than December 16th so they can be distributed to the families.

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

If you need some assistance or you know of a child or family that may be in need this holiday season, please contact Abby Steffan or Cassie Subbert, at 563-2900 or 687-2236. The Giving Tree also accepts monetary donations.

The donations go toward food gift cards for families to use over the holidays.



On Thursday, October 24th the Win-E-Mac Senior's had Manufacturing Day. Members of the senior class had the chance to visit and tour Digi-Key, Central Boilers, and Polaris for the day.



The Clubhouse Childcare Center kids were out and about along Main Street trick-or-treating on Halloween. Here, they visit Neil's Quality Meats for a candy treat!

100 Years Ago This Month: Historical events from November 1924

The month of November has been home to many historical events over the years.

Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in November 1924.

- Eamon de Valera, future President and Taoiseach of Ireland, is sentenced to a month in prison on November 1 for illegally entering Ulster, Northern Ireland.
- A freight train hits a street car after midnight in Chicago on November 2. Witnesses reported the freight train had no lights on as it reached the railroad crossing at the intersection of North Avenue and Kingsbury Street. Ten passengers on the street car are killed and 31 others are injured.
- On November 3, presidential hopefuls Calvin Coolidge, who is seeking to be elected after succeeding to the presidency upon the sudden death of President Warren G. Harding in 1923, and John W. Davis make their final appeals to voters via radio addresses. Coolidge is elected the following day.
- A mutiny occurs on the Brazilian battleship Sao Paulo on November 4. Eight Brazilian Navy officers and 260 sail-

ors are involved in the failed rebellion.

- Despite having no experience in finance, Winston Churchill is appointed British Chancellor of the Exchequer on November 6.
- Korean nationalist Syngman Rhee announces plans to gain independence for Korea from the Japanese Empire on November 8. Rhee makes the announcement in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- In a political misstep, 185 opposition members fail to show up for a new session of the Italian Parliament on November 12. The move is a protest against the Fascist Party, which uses the members' absence to enact Prime Minister Benito Mussolini's restrictive program.
- On November 14, noted explorers Roald Amundsen and Lincoln Ellsworth announce plans for a joint polar flight expedition in 1925.
- Nine members of the infamous, St. Louis-based bank robbing gang Egan's Rats are each sentenced to 25 years in federal prison on November 15. The conviction puts an end to the gang, which had employed hundreds of people over the

course of more than three decades.

- Major-General Sir Lee Stack, British Governor-General of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, is shot in Cairo by Egyptian nationalist students on November 19. Stack dies the following day, and the British government later blames his death on its Egyptian counterpart for its failure to suppress anti-British agitation.
- Two days after attending a celebrity-filled gathering aboard William Randolph Hearst's private yacht, Hollywood producer Thomas H. Ince dies at home on November 19. Rumors of a coverup regarding the cause of Ince's death persisted into the twenty-first century.
- The Gandy Bridge across Tampa Bay opens to drivers on November 20. The 2.5-mile bridge was the longest bridge in the world at the time of its opening.
- United States Navy aviator Dixie Kiefer takes off from the deck of the U.S.S. California on November 21. Kiefer becomes the first pilot to take off from a warship at night.
- On November 23, Edwin Hubble announces that An-

dromeda, previously believed to be a nebula, is actually another galaxy.

- Australian anatomist and anthropologist Raymond Dart discovers the fossilized remains of the "Taung child" on November 24. The remains were sent to Dart in a box by a shotfirer who saved them from a limestone quarry in South Africa. Carbon dating indicates the remains are around 2.8 million years old.
- The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is held in New York City on November 27.
- Shirley Chisholm is born in Brooklyn on November 30. Chisholm would grow up to become, in 1968, the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress.

Grace Community Food Shelf

East side of Grace Church
Erskine in double garage
November Open Hours:
Thurs. Nov. 14 2:00pm - 6:00pm
Thurs. Nov. 16 9:00am - Noon
Sat. Nov 21 10:00am - 2:00pm
Contact Info: foodshelf@gracechurcherskine.org or leave a message at 218-687-2250.

Community Birthday and Anniversary Calendar

Wed. Nov. 13:
Chris Grettum
Thurs. Nov. 14:
Bev Anderson, Veronica Rolf, Laura Paskvan, Lois Boehrsen, Ray Austin
Fri. Nov. 15:
Gayle Burslie
Sat. Nov. 16:
Sheena Burslie, Bret Schulz, Mossis Hendrickson
Sun. Nov. 17:
April Plante, Kraig Kundert, Olivia Simonson
Mon. Nov. 18:
Jim Wertish, *David & Veronica Rolf
Tues. Nov. 19:
Dan Schow, Hunter Smeby

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

Wed. Nov. 13: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston
Fri. Nov. 15: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston
Sun. Nov. 17: Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley
Wed. Nov. 20: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston
Fri. Nov. 22: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston
Sun. Nov. 23: 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley

OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)
McIntosh
Pastor Rene Mehlberg
Synodical Authorized Minister Katie DeMarais

Sun. Nov. 17: 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services
Sun. Nov. 24: 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services
Our Savior's 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 - The Journey. Our Saviors service will be available by 8:30 am each Sunday until further notice.

MCINTOSH FREE LUTHERAN AFLC
McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:
Pastor: Jerry Moan

Trinity: (27262 315th St. SE, McIntosh) Sunday Worship: 9:30am; 10:45am Sunday School
Mt. Carmel: (305 State St. NE, McIntosh) 9:45am Sunday School; Sunday Worship: 11:00am
Wednesdays: 6:30pm Confirmation; 7:15pm Free Lutheran Youth meets at Pastor Moan's home

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

Sun. Nov. 17: 9:30am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00am Worship Service (also on Facebook and gosenchurch.com)
Tues. Nov. 19: 10:00am. Sunday worship service telecast on GVTv--30
Wed. Nov. 20: 6:30pm Bible Study at Connie Parr's home
Gosen Church is located 4 miles south of the junctions of Highways 2 & 59 or 4 miles north of Winger; then 1/2 mile east on County Road 206. For information call 268-4242 or 687-3461.

VERNES LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMC)
McIntosh
Pastor Lee Laaveg

Sun. Nov. 17: 9:00am Worship
Sun. Nov. 24: 9:00am Worship

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
McIntosh
Pastor Bruce Blocker

Sundays: 9:00am Worship; 10:00am Fellowship Hour; 10:15am Sunday School

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Winger

Sundays: 10:30am Coffee Fellowship; 11:00am Worship

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH- NALC
Erskine
Rev. Pam Thorson

Thurs. Nov. 14: WNALC (ladies aid) 2:00pm in the church basement. Serving group #3 will furnish desserts. All women in the community are invited.

Sundays: 9:15am Sunday School; 10:30am Worship
Come early and enjoy fellowship and a good cup of coffee. It will also be available at the same time on Garden Valley Channel 30, Facebook and YouTube.

Thriving Life Church
Erskine, MN

Sunday service at 10:00 am
Call or visit us at: 22722 350th Street; 218-687-2343

Pecan pie makes a perfect dessert for Thanksgiving

A Thanksgiving dinner table can be a sight to behold. For foodies and others who love the array of comfort foods on display come the fourth Thursday in November (in the United States), Thanksgiving is a day to circle on the calendar each year.

While a mouthwatering turkey and sides like mashed potatoes and stuffing garner the bulk of the attention on Thanksgiving, the dessert table also can be a tempting place to direct one's eyes. Though no dessert is off limits on Thanksgiving, pie is a particularly popular option on Turkey Day. With that in mind, those tasked with crafting something for dessert this Thanksgiving can consider the following recipe for "Pecan Pie" courtesy of Lines+Angles.

Pecan Pie
Makes 8 servings
1 9-inch unbaked frozen deep dish pie shell, thawed
11/2 cups pecans, coarsely chopped
3 eggs, lightly beaten
1 cup light corn syrup
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 tablespoon molasses
2 tablespoons butter, melted
2 tablespoons flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
1. Preheat oven to 350 F.

2. Spread pecans along the bottom of the prepared pie shell.
3. In a large bowl, mix the remaining ingredients and pour over pecans. The pecans will rise to the surface of the pie.

Essentia Health to remain in-network for UnitedHealthcare's Medicare Advantage insurance plan

Essentia Health has reached an agreement with UnitedHealthcare (UHC) to remain an in-network provider for UHC's Medicare Advantage insurance plan in 2025.

Essentia and UHC have been working toward a resolution to ensure improved continuity of care for our patients covered by UHC's Medicare Advantage plan.

At Essentia, we believe that the plans put in place address our concerns regarding excessive prior authorizations and denials.

"We realize that the uncertainty of this situation was difficult for many of the patients we're honored to serve," said Dr. Cathy Cantor, Essentia's chief medical officer for population health. "We felt strongly that it was important to advocate for our patients, and we were able to reach an agreement for 2025 that ad-

4. Bake for 60 to 65 minutes until the filling has set. Pie is done when the center reaches 200 F. Pie center when lightly tapped should spring back. Remove pie from oven and let cool on a wire rack for at least 2 hours.

dressess many of our issues and concerns by improving timely and reliable access to the high-quality care they depend on from Essentia."

Medicare plan options that are in-network with Essentia include Medica, UCare, EssentiaCare, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota and North Dakota, HealthPartners, Security Health, UHC, traditional Medicare and Medicare supplemental plans.

Patients with questions can speak with an Essentia representative by calling (800) 985-4675 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday or 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Fridays.

Please note that this update does not impact patients covered by Humana's Medicare Advantage plan. Essentia will be out-of-network for Humana Medicare Advantage plans in 2025.

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL GUIDE

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Nature's secret gardens: moss and lichen

As November settles in and the trees shed their last leaves, a hidden world emerges in our state parks—nature's secret gardens of moss and lichen. These resilient organisms, often overlooked during the bustling summer months, now take center stage on bare rocks, tree trunks, and forest floors.

Mosses and lichens are nature's quiet healers. They play a vital role in the ecosystem, supporting moisture retention, nurturing soil health, and providing shelter for tiny creatures. Their understated beauty and persistence remind us of the power in life's quieter moments. Observing them can be a deeply mindful activity, a chance to reflect on the small, often unnoticed aspects of our surroundings that make a big impact—much like these tiny plants themselves.

This month, we encourage you to explore the quiet beauty of moss and lichen on your next visit to a state park. Take a moment to pause, look closely, and let nature's secret gardens inspire a season of reflection and appreciation for life's simpler gifts.

The forest's carpet: moss

Mosses—and their relatives, collectively known as bryophytes—are some of the oldest plants on Earth, and though they lack roots, flowers, and even a vascular system, they play an essential role in the ecosystem. These resilient plants absorb water directly through their leaves, which allows them to thrive in environments that range from dense forests to exposed rocks.

Mosses are a sanctuary for small creatures, providing shelter and sustenance for

tiny insects, spiders, and even frogs. By taking a closer look, you might catch a glimpse of the intricate world that exists within this green carpet. Each clump of moss is like a miniature forest, with layers of texture and shades of green that invite you to slow down and truly observe.

Beyond their beauty, mosses play a vital role in the environment. They act as natural sponges, retaining moisture that helps prevent soil erosion, especially in sensitive ecosystems. This water-holding capacity is invaluable in times of drought, and it helps to moderate forest humidity, supporting other plants and wildlife. Additionally, they can serve as pioneers in disturbed areas, helping to regenerate soil by breaking down minerals over time.

Identifying mosses can be a fun and mindful activity, though it requires a close look. Each of Minnesota's 500+ species of moss has its own distinct traits, and a magnifying glass can reveal their tiny leaf structures and textures. For those looking to delve deeper, the DNR offers free field guides to help you identify Minnesota's bryophytes, opening a window to this fascinating world.

Lake Bemidji State Park

For visitors walking through Lake Bemidji State Park's wetlands, moss may seem like just a soft, green backdrop. However, these delicate plants are foundational to the health and stability of wetland ecosystems. Moss absorb water directly through their leaves, making them well-suited to the wet and humid conditions found in areas like the Bog Walk Trail and boardwalk at

Lake Bemidji State Park. This ability allows mosses to grow in mats and cushions, creating soft, spongy layers that retain moisture and provide habitat for various microorganisms, insects, and other tiny creatures.

Mini but mighty: water bears

What is older than dinosaurs, has eight legs, lives in Minnesota moss, and has been to outer space?

Water bears! Tardigrades, first described in 1773 as 'little water bear' (due to their chunky bodies, short legs, and claws) have been on Earth about 600 million years—preceding the dinosaurs by about 400 million years. If you haven't guessed, water bears are one tough critter! They can go 30 years without food or water.

The image to the right was taken by our naturalist at Tettegouche State Park, Kurt Mead. "I have always been curious about water bears. Everyone says that they are all over the place, but who has actually gone out to find them?"

A little experiment was all it took—"I collected about a square inch of moss from on top of a rock, wetted it down, and by the next day, there were multiple water bears visible through my dissecting scope."

As for the water bears' journey to outer space—In 2019, thousands of tardigrades were carried on the spacecraft Beresheet. Unfortunately, the unmanned spacecraft crash landed on the moon. Later experiments showed the water bears likely turned to mush on impact.

Lichen what you see



Lichens are fascinating organisms that are neither plant nor animal. They're a unique combination of fungi and either algae or cyanobacteria, living together in a symbiotic relationship where each supports the other's survival. The fungus provides structure and absorbs water and minerals, while the algae or cyanobacteria use sunlight to produce energy through photosynthesis, creating food that both organisms can share. This partnership allows lichens to survive in some of the harshest environments on Earth, from scorching deserts to the icy reaches of the South Pole.

In Minnesota, there are upwards of 750 lichen species, many of which are the first life forms to colonize bare rock after glaciers retreat or natural events like fires clear the land. Using root-like threads and mild acids, lichens slowly break down rock, beginning the process of soil formation. This ability to 'pioneer' new ground is crucial for creating habitats that can eventually support larger plants and entire ecosystems.

Beyond their beauty, lichens are vital to Minnesota's ecosystems. They serve as food for animals such as squirrels, deer, and spruce grouse. In winter, when food is scarce, lichens provide a rich source of carbohydrates for wildlife. Birds like the ruby-throated hummingbird, boreal chickadee, and white-winged crossbill use lichens to pad their nests. The northern parula warbler even builds its nest directly in old man's beard, a type of lichen that hangs like wispy threads from trees in Minnesota's forests.

Lichens are also natural air quality indicators. They absorb pollutants like sulfur dioxide, a byproduct of burning fossil fuels.

When pollution levels are high, lichens struggle to survive, making their presence a symbol of the clean, fresh air found in Minnesota's state parks. Next time you visit, take a closer look at these quiet but powerful guardians of the wilderness.

Lichens are also resilient workers in the ecosystem, thriving in the cool, moist environment. They play an essential role by slowly breaking down rocks into soil over time, creating the foundation for other plant life to grow.

The lichens also provide valuable resources for local wildlife. Squirrels and other small animals nibble on them for energy, while birds like warblers and chickadees weave pieces into their nests. Gooseberry Falls State Park is the perfect place to slow down, take a closer look, and appreciate these vibrant, hardworking organisms.

Free park day!

This Black Friday, choose the beauty of nature over the bustle of the mall!

On Friday, November 29, we're celebrating a different kind of deal - Free Park Day in Minnesota's state parks. Visitors will enjoy free entrance to all Minnesota state parks and recreation areas—no vehicle permit needed. Opt outside with us and enjoy the crisp autumn air, stillness of our forests, wonders of our trails, and maybe even some snow?

Step away from the shopping frenzy and into the tranquility of nature. Bring your friends and family, pack a picnic, and make memories that will last a lifetime. Mark your calendars for November 29—we'll see you soon

Get ready for your driver's road test

Taking your driver's license exam can be nerve-wracking, but it doesn't need to be. Our Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) division aims to help calm your anxieties by making sure you know what to expect before, during and after your road test.

"We know many people who come to take their test are nervous. Understanding the process can go a long way toward putting them at ease," said DVS Director Pong Xiong.

The first thing you should do is study the rules of the road. Specifically, read the Class D Driver's manual, which is available in several languages. Fifty-six percent of people statewide who take the written test, fail. The more you study,

the more likely you are to pass on the first try.

After that, your second priority should be to practice driving. The more you practice, the better you'll feel when it's time to test.

When you arrive at the exam station, you'll walk inside or drive up to a window to receive a pink paper called an RX form. If it is your second attempt, the RX form will be yellow. You'll give that to your examiner, along with proof that the vehicle you're driving is insured. If you're under 18, you'll also need to hand over your signed course completion card and a driving log signed by your parent or guardian.

Remember that only you and the examiner can be in the

vehicle during the road test.

Before you leave the parking lot, the examiner will have you demonstrate features such as headlights and turn signals.

Then it's time to test your driving abilities. The type of skills tested vary by location and examiner but may include parking on a hill, parallel parking, driving on one-way roads and reading multiple types of road signs. Remember to stay calm and pay close attention to the road throughout the test.

After you're done, you'll park your vehicle at the exam station and the examiner will go over your results. If all goes well, you'll go home with a paper temporary license, and DVS will mail you your standard license.

MPUC looks at utility metrics for safety, reliability and service quality

On Thursday, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) reviewed and approved the 2023 Safety, Reliability, and Service Quality (SRSQ) Reports submitted by Minnesota Power, Otter Tail Power, and Xcel Energy. Each year, investor-owned utilities in Minnesota are required to submit these reports to ensure their operations prioritize safety, reliability, and consumer benefits.

The MPUC's annual review process holds utility providers accountable and fosters transparency for continuous improvement in their services across the state.

Each utility's report provides a comprehensive look into how well they are meeting key metrics in safety protocols, grid reliability, and service quality for Minnesota residents.

In response to issues regarding disconnections and reliability in Xcel's 2023 SRSQ report, the MPUC required the company to:

Increase the existing threshold of final contact for disconnection to require Xcel to use two methods of electronic communication, including either text message or email in addition to voicemail (where the company has received customer consent).

Reduce its down payment requirements and modify its disconnection and payment agreement practices to include consideration of individual household financial circumstances.

Prohibit from sending disconnection notices until a customer's balance reaches \$180 past due, or a past due balance is below \$300.

Wait at least 10 days after sending a disconnection notice

before disconnecting a customer.

Submit proposals to reconnect disconnected customers during extreme heat and poor air quality events.

"The Commission is committed to ensuring that utility companies uphold the highest standards of safety and reliability while delivering quality service to Minnesota's communities," said Commissioner Hwikwon Ham. "The review and approval process underscores our commitment to fostering a dependable energy infrastructure that serves customers responsibly and transparently."

These reports are part of annual regulatory dockets maintained by the MPUC, which are designed to track utility filings and recurring reports, like those on cold weather protection, jurisdictional status, and other performance metrics.

POLK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES			
OCTOBER 22, 2024 BOARD MINUTES			
Pursuant to motion of adjournment, the Polk County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:00 o'clock a.m., October 22, 2024. Members present: Commissioner Paul Reese, Commissioner Warren Strandell, Commissioner Gary Willhite, Commissioner Mark Holy, Commissioner Joan Lee, and Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator, Clerk of the Board. Others present: Samuel Melbye, Deputy Clerk of the Board.			
AGENDA A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the October 22, 2024, agenda.			
CONSENT ITEMS A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the October 22, 2024, consent items: 1. Approve the October 15, 2024, Board minutes. 2. Approve payment to Johnson Controls, Fargo, ND, in the amount of \$1,506.87 for Repairs at the Human Service Center in East Grand Forks for the Facilities Department.			
COUNTY BOARD MEMBER ISSUE FORUM 1. Commissioner Reese brought forth that he attended the following meetings: a. Township Association meeting. b. Association of Minnesota Counties District 3 meeting. c. Land of the Dancing Sky Region 1 meeting. 2. Commissioner Strandell brought forth that he attended the following meetings: a. Township Association meeting. 3. Commissioner Willhite brought forth that he attended the following meetings: a. Received notice from Finance Director Ron Denison that he will be retiring on December 16, 2024. b. Township Association meeting. 4. Commissioner Holy brought forth that he attended the following meetings: a. No meetings. 5. Commissioner Lee brought forth that she attended the following meetings: a. Township Association meeting. b. Narcan training hosted by Polk County Public Health. c. Association of Minnesota Counties District III meeting.			
SHERIFF James Tadman, Polk County Sheriff, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department: 1. Monthly Sheriff's Reports The September 2024 Monthly Sheriff Reports were discussed and presented to the Board. (Reports on			
1 ads...Polk County minutes 2024			

file in the Administrator's Office)

2. **Oath of Office for New Deputies**
Oath of Office for Deputy Chase Olderbak, Deputy Titan Engen, and Deputy Alyssa Lang.

3. **Introduction of Community Service Officer**
Agenda item #3 was not presented.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
Jon Steiner, Environmental Services Administrator, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:
1. **2025 Solid Waste Fee Assessment**
Commissioners discussed Polk County Solid Waste Fee Assessments that appear on Polk County Tax Statements as a Special Assessment. A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board and adopted upon a 4-1 vote, with Commissioner Willhite voting Nay, to approve the 2025 Residential and Non-Residential Solid Waste Fee Assessment schedule and to keep these rates for the next four years. (Update made and approved at 11/5/2024 Board meeting)

2. **2025 Solid Waste Tip Fees**
A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve increasing the tip fee for MSW from \$85/ton to \$92/ton effective 1/1/25, and all associated fees tied to that material stream accordingly.

PUBLIC HEALTH
Sarah Reese, Public Health Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to her department:
1. **Out of State Travel Request**
Out of state travel request for Jason Flores, Wellness Coordinator – Emergency Preparedness and Response, to attend the NACCHO Pathways to Recovery in the Aftermath of Disaster – Preparedness Summit from April 29 – May 2, 2025, at San Antonio, Texas. Expenses paid by MDH – Response Sustainability Grant. Out of state travel request for Amy Van Den Einde, RN, PHN, and Ariel Netland, RN, to attend the Contraceptive Technology Conference from March 28 – 30, 2025, at Hyatt Regency, San Francisco, California. Expenses paid by MDH – Sexual and Reproductive Health Services. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the out of state travel request for Jason Flores to attend the NACCHO Pathways to Recovery in the Aftermath of Disaster – Preparedness Summit from April 29 – May 2, 2025, at San Antonio, Texas; and Amy Van Den Einde and Ariel Netland to attend the Contraceptive Technology Conference from March 28 – 30, 2025, at Hyatt Regency, San

Francisco, California.

2. **Measles – Infectious Disease Update**
Discussion was held with the Board regarding an update on a measles outbreak.

3. **PCPH Communications Report Q3 2024**
Discussion was held with the Board regarding social media insights and community outreach.

SOCIAL SERVICES
Karen Warmack, Social Services Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to her department:
1. **Eligibility Worker Team Leader Replacement Request**
A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve filling an Eligibility Worker Team Leader position and to fill any internal subsequent position vacancies occurring because of this action.

ADMINISTRATION
Chuck Whiting, Polk County Administrator, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:
1. **Re-Appointment of Veterans Services Officer for a 4-Year Term**
A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the re-appointment of Kurtis Ellefson as the Veterans Services Officer effective November 2, 2024, and ending on November 1, 2028.

2. **2025 Budget Status**
Discussion was held with the Board regarding the 2025 budget status.

PEMBERTON LAW OFFICE
Kendra Olson, Pemberton Law Office Attorney, came before the Board with matters pertaining to confidential pending litigation:

1. **Closed session with Attorney Kendra Olson (Pemberton Law) pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05, subd. 3(b) to discuss pending litigation**
A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to close the public meeting at 9:47 a.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to reopen the public meeting at 10:30 a.m. No action was taken.

With no further business, the Board adjourned to reconvene at 8:00 o'clock a.m., November 5, 2024.

Gary Willhite, Chair

ATTEST:

Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator
Clerk of the Board

M35C



The Frisk family trick-or-treating along Main Street in McIntosh on Halloween night. Here, Finn, Evie, Addy, and Ava find some treats at Neil's Quality Meats.



Hazel Burthwick picks a treat from the bucket that Kalli Roy has during the Win-E-Mac Halloween party.



Kids joined in the fun at the Win-E-Mac Halloween party on Sunday, October 27th. There were no tricks, only treats for the kids to enjoy.

(top left) Morgan Bauer and Alex Hedlund enjoy finding games to play and winning candy.

(above) Greta Spry and Serenity Lundin both have a bag full of candy from the games at the party.

(top right) Dawson Gunufson and his cool dinosaur costume.

(left) Ivy Cook is looking for a prize after playing a game during the school's Halloween party.

(right) Torvi Benbo plays a game to drop a ball into the pumpkin and win a Halloween treat.



The Win-E-Mac kindergarten classes got together with their teachers, Mrs. Cook and Mrs. Landsverk, to celebrate Halloween in their costumes.