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Kids Christmas Mall will take place at Win-E-Mac School again this year

The Win-E-Mac School and the student council are looking for donations for the 2024 Christmas Mall for Kids that will take place at the school for elementary students to be able to purchase gifts, at 25 cents each and have assistance in wrapping the presents by members of the student council.

The student council is looking for donations of items like:

- home decor
- figurines
- jewelry



- small kitchen items
 - belts, socks, purses
 - toys
- They ask that you do not

donate clothes or larger items that would be difficult for students to put into backpacks to take home on their own.

You can drop off items at the back door or the school or in the Main office now until Tuesday, December 3rd.

Elementary students will have an opportunity to shop in the student store, to purchase items for their family members and to have a member of the student council assist them in wrapping the gifts to present for Christmas presents.



On Veteran's Day, Monday, November 11th, the Quilters of East Polk presented Don Fox (left side quilt) with a quilt. The High School FAC's Class also presented a quilt to Chester Smeby (right quilt). Both men were honored for serving our Country in the military. Presenting the quilts for the Quilters of East Polk were Lois Boehrnsen and Connie Strom, who along with many other members, cut, and stitch these one of a kind quilts to honor Veteran's at events throughout the year.

Fill up on some Thanksgiving facts

Thanksgiving is a time to gather with family and friends and reflect on one's blessings. In anticipation of this holiday here are some interesting facts about the Thanksgiving celebration.

American Thanksgiving is largely modeled on a 17th century harvest feast shared by the English settlers and the Wampanoag tribe.

The National Turkey Federation says around 45 million turkeys will be eaten on

Thanksgiving, which equates to about 720 million pounds of turkey being consumed (with the average turkey size being 16 pounds).

The Butterball hotline answers roughly 100,000 calls every year on its turkey question hotline.

In 1953, the Swanson company overestimated the number of frozen turkeys it would sell for the holiday season by 26 tons. Rather than waste the meat, Swanson sliced it up,

repackaged it and created the first frozen TV dinners.

Thanksgiving in America may be older than many recognize. While Thanksgiving is largely tied to the 17th century settlers, the National Parks Service says in 1565 Spanish settlers in St. Augustine (now Florida) celebrated by having a meal to which they invited the native Seloy tribe. The Spanish served pork stew, sea biscuits, red wine, and garbanzo beans. Some say the Seloy contributed

turkey, venison and maize.

Thanksgiving didn't become a civic holiday until Abraham Lincoln made it one after the Civil War tragedy. Thanksgiving was declared a national holiday on October 20, 1864.

The Pilgrims did not refer to themselves as "pilgrims." They used the word "separatists" as they were separating themselves from a larger belief system.

In addition to the United States, Canada, Grenada, Liberia, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, and the Netherlands celebrate their own versions of Thanksgiving.

Each year, the American president "pardons" a turkey from slaughter on Thanksgiving. This tradition dates back to when Abraham Lincoln's son was upset that his family's turkey that was going to be killed for Thanksgiving dinner.

According to the U.S. Calorie Control Council (CCC), an average American may consume 4,500 calories and 229 grams of fat on Thanksgiving Day.

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is an annual tradition. People line the parade route in New York City or tune in to watch the parade on television. It originated in 1924 and the famed balloons were added in 1927.

Apple pie is the pie of choice for Thanksgiving, even though pumpkin pie is prevalent this time of year.



The first ever Women in Business Christmas party was held in McIntosh on Thursday, November 14th at Minnesota Rush. The event was hosted by Thrivent & Andrea Stordahl. Pictured is: Margie Illies (Ginger Junker), Meghan Palubicki (The Red Poppy), Andrea Stordahl (Minnesota Rust), Lauria Bursheim (Neil's Quality Meats & More and The Hen House Thrift Room), Katie Gowan (Thrivent), Karen Norland (Northern Prairie Aromatherapy), Megan Rock, Jackie Huschle (American State Bank), Katherine Howard (Howard Soap Company), Jamie Dettmerman (Borealis Home) and Karli Finney (Thrivent).

From prep to plate: Food safety tips for the holidays

The holiday season can be a busy time for many people, and thinking about food safety might not be at the top of your to-do list. However, taking a moment to brush up on some key food safety strategies can help keep you and your guests healthy.

Most people are aware of how following handwashing recommendations and a thorough kitchen sanitation routine can lower the risk of spreading illness. But what actions can you take to control food temperatures and food allergens? Give the gift of safe food by using these recommendations at your holiday gatherings.

Preparing for the holiday meal Have a plan to manage food allergies

While any food can be an allergen, the nine major food allergens are milk, wheat, eggs, fish, shellfish, soy, tree nuts, peanuts, and sesame. It is estimated that 1 in 13 children and 1 in 10 adults have a food allergy.

Before finalizing your menu, ask guests about any food allergies, and remind your guests who are bringing food to share about food allergies. It is best to avoid serving foods that contain food allergens, but if this is not an option, make a plan to prevent cross-contact. Cross-contact is the spread of a food allergen to an allergy-free food.

Minimize the risk of cross-contact:

- Keep foods that contain food allergens separate from allergy-free foods.
- Place a note by foods that contain food allergens.
- Use separate serving utensils for each dish.

Turkey time
Plan for enough time to thaw a frozen turkey. The best method to thaw a frozen turkey (or other food) is in the refrigerator. Place the frozen turkey in



a shallow pan or dish to collect any drips. Allow 24 hours for every 4 to 5 pounds of turkey to thaw. Once thawed, prepare the turkey within two days.

If you choose to brine the turkey, do not save and reuse the brine. The brine will contain turkey juices that may contain bacteria. The brining time will depend on the size of the turkey and the recipe you use. Keep the turkey in the refrigerator during brining.

When cooking the turkey, use a food thermometer to check for doneness. The final internal temperature of the turkey should be 165 degrees Fahrenheit or higher for food safety. Check the temperature in multiple spots, especially in thick places like between the breast and thigh, to ensure the turkey is evenly cooked. Avoid placing the thermometer near a bone as that can give an inaccurate reading.

If you stuff your turkey, the final internal temperature of the stuffing mixture must reach at least 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

Keep hot foods hot, and cold foods cold

Keep temperature safety at top of mind when serving foods. A simple phrase to remember is: keep hot foods hot, and cold foods cold.

Appetizers or snacks

If you are serving appetizers or snacks that will be left out for an extended period, use these tips to keep foods outside of the Temperature Danger Zone:

- Hold hot foods in food warmers, such as plug-in

trays, chafing dishes, or warming mats that use induction heat to keep foods hot.

- Use chiller bowls to hold dips. Fill a large bowl with ice and nestle a smaller bowl filled with the dip in the ice. You can buy decorative sets for the holidays or use bowls you already have.

Serve small portions that you will refill or replace frequently. Serve amounts that will be eaten before the temperature of the food changes.

Always make serving utensils and plates available to prevent guests from touching the food with their bare hands or double dipping.

The main meal

Whether you serve the meal family-style or as a buffet, incorporate strategies to prevent cross-contact of allergens, and keep foods at safe temperatures.

After you and your guests have enjoyed the meal, start to pack up leftovers. Avoid letting hot or cold foods sit out at room temperature for more than two hours. After two hours, the temperature of the food may no longer be hot or cold and in the Temperature Danger Zone.

Safely handling leftovers

When packing leftover foods into food storage containers, follow these tips to ensure the food cools quickly:

- Avoid overfilling the container. Leave some room for air to flow.
- Place the filled container in the refrigerator leaving the lid cracked open. This will allow any heat or steam to escape as the food cools.
- Once the food is cooled, secure the lid.

Use refrigerated leftover foods within three to four days. You can also freeze leftovers to keep them longer.

When you're ready to eat the leftovers, reheat hot foods to a minimum internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit.

Annual tree walk & angel fundraiser for hospice

This holiday season, Essentia Health-Fosston will host its 20th annual Tree Walk for Hospice from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 1. Open to all ages, this community event will be held at Magelssen Elementary School at 700 First Street East in Fosston.

The Tree Walk raises funds to provide specialized care to the patients and families served through hospice.

"Being able to care for patients in the last chapter of their lives is a true blessing," said Shannon Netland, home care and hospice manager at Essentia Health-Fosston. "Funds raised during the holiday season helps ensure all patients who need our care can experience comfort and dignity. Hospice also provides grief support for those whose loved ones have passed."

The Fosston-Lengby Lions Club will provide a free-will donation pancake and sausage breakfast from 10:00 a.m. to noon. A remembrance program with a candle-lighting ceremony follows at 12:15 p.m.

Attendees can also bid on decorated Christmas trees through a silent auction, participate in holiday-themed crafts and enjoy a variety of refreshments, including a hot chocolate bar, coffee and hot cider.

Angel tree ornaments – a pair of angel wings – will also be available for purchase in honor or memory of a loved one. The suggested donation is \$10 per ornament. Ornaments can also be mailed and will be available while supplies last.

"The amount of support in the past years for this program has been phenomenal," added Netland. "We are very thankful to continue to provide this much-needed service to our community." If you would like to sponsor a tree in this year's Tree Walk for Hospice, purchase an ornament or have

Free Thanksgiving dinner

Do you need help providing a Thanksgiving meal for yourself or your family this year because times are tough? Are you facing the possibility of being alone on Thanksgiving? If either of these things is true, let Erin help. You are invited to a Thanksgiving dinner at the Erskine Community Center. This is a free meal provided to help those in need. I offer in person dining, take out, and deliveries, if there are volunteer drivers this year. Deliveries will take place starting at 4:45 pm. Dine-in will be from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Take out starts at 5:30 pm. Donations for this event are always welcome and appreciated. Any and all donations can be made at the American State Bank of Erskine into the Holiday Meals account. If you are interested in helping with deliveries this year or would like to sign up for the meal, please call Erin at 218-280-2992.

questions, please call (218) 435-7670 or visit the hospice office at 900 Hillgoss Boulevard SE, and speak with Netland or Jody Heide. The holidays can be difficult to navigate with the loss of a loved one. A holiday grief support group will meet from 3-4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 3 in the education room at Essentia Health-Fosston. All are welcome.

McIntosh Community Thanksgiving Service

Everyone is invited to the McIntosh Community Thanksgiving Eve service hosted by Our Savior's Lutheran Church in McIntosh on Wednesday, November 27th at 7:00 pm. There will be fellowship, coffee and treats following the service.

Plan now for the Mac Christmas Parade

To close the night out for A Very Merry McIntosh on Saturday, December 7th, there will be a holiday parade down Main Street at 7:00 pm.

We encourage local residents and business's to plan for their parade entry and make plans to participate.

More information coming soon!

NOTICE

The City of McIntosh will be holding a Truth in Taxation meeting at the Community Center located at 115 Broadway NW McIntosh, MN on December 10, 2024 at 6:30.

M37C

Community Calendar updates

The McIntosh Community Club is in the process of updating and adding names to our Community Calendar for 2025! If you are unfamiliar, the McIntosh Community Club and its sponsors publish a calendar of community members and their families' birthdays and anniversaries in addition to noting club and organization meeting times.

This calendar is one of MCC's biggest fundraisers as it provides funding for programs and sponsored events throughout the year. If you have an addition, change, or correction please email mcintoshcommunityclub@gmail.com or stop into First National Bank with your changes.

Calendars will be available for purchase in December. Please be on the lookout for that announcement. We look forward to hearing from you!

Community Birthday and Anniversary Calendar

Wed. Nov. 27:
Susannah Roed,
*Robert & Janet Landsverk

Thurs. Nov. 28:
Charlotte Catahan, Jacob Roue

Sat. Nov. 30:
Adeline Firk

Sun. Dec. 1:
Lindsie Biggerstaff, Linda Jorgenson

Mon. Dec. 2:
Judy Bemish, Jessica Panek, Tom Perkerwicz

Tues. Dec. 3:
Carole Burslie, Wesley Brekke

McINTOSH Times

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"Serving the Win-E-Mac area"

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

Wed. Nov. 27: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston
Fri. Nov. 29: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston
Sun. Dec. 1: 8:00am Confession at St. Mary's, Fosston; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley
Wed. Dec. 4: 11:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston

OURS SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) McIntosh Pastor Rene Mehlerberg Synodical Authorized Rachel Roggenbuck, SAM

Sun. Dec. 1: 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services
Sun. Dec. 8: 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 Savors 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, Dec. 1: 9:30am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00am Worship Service (also on Facebook and gosenchurch.com);

Tues, Dec. 3: 10:00am. Sunday worship service telecast on GVTV--30

Wed, Dec. 4: 6:30pm Bible Study at 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 PastorLee Laaveg

Sun. Dec. 1: 9:00am Worship
Sun. Dec. 8: 9:00am Worship

IMMANUEL LUTHE7AN CHURCH McIntosh Pastor Bruce Blocker

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

DOVRE LUTHERAN CHURCH Winger, MN

Sundays: 9:00am Adult and Children's Sunday School; 10:00am Worship Service
Wednesdays: 7:00pm Bible Study

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH Winger

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

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH- NALC Erskine Rev. Pam Thorson

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

Why do the Detroit Lions always play on Thanksgiving?

Households have their own unique Thanksgiving traditions, but one custom common in many homes come Turkey Day involves watching football. Each year on Thanksgiving, the National Football League hosts a handful of games, and it's customary in many households to gather around the television with friends and family and take in some of the action on the gridiron, excitement that always features the Detroit Lions. This unique tradition has endured for decades, but when did it start? According to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the tradition of the Lions playing on Thanksgiving can be traced to George A. Richards, who purchased the franchise in 1933 when they were the Portsmouth (Ohio) Spartans. Richards felt competing in a game on Thanks-

giving Day would attract Motor City fans who were more devoted to the Detroit Tigers, the city's baseball team. Fans who attended the Lions' first Thanksgiving Day game in 1934 were treated to a nail-biter, with the hometown Lions falling 19-16 to the Chicago Bears at the University of Detroit Stadium. The Bears had won the league championship the previous year. In a quirk unique to the game in 1934, the two teams locked horns again just three days later, with the Bears once more emerging victorious in another close contest that ended with a 10-7 score. In the modern era of the NFL, the teams that play on Thanksgiving Day do not play on the following Sunday.

First National Bank will be closed on Thursday, November 28th in Observance of Thanksgiving Day.

A Time To Give Thanks

In the autumn of 1621, after a successful harvest, Governor William Bradford of Plymouth Colony set aside a special day for prayer and celebration.

As you celebrate this Thanksgiving holiday, we hope you and your family have much to be thankful for.

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POLK COUNTY BOARD MINUTES

NOVEMBER 5, 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., November 5, 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: Ashley Loewen. Members absent: Samuel Melbye, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the November 5, 2024, agenda.

CONSENT ITEMS

A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the November 5, 2024, consent items except #1:

1. ~~Approve October 22, 2024, Board minutes:~~

a. A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve removing consent item #1.

b. Commissioner Willhite stated that at the Board meeting on October 22nd under Environmental Services, he voted Nay to the 2025 Solid Waste Fee Assessment. This correction has been made to the minutes.

c. A motion was made by Commissioner Willhite seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the updated October 22, 2024, Board minutes.

2. Approve Auditor Warrants.
3. Approve payment to Professional Development Academy, Washington DC, in the amount of \$595.00 for AI Leadership Academy Tuition for Chuck Whiting for the Administration Department.

4. Approve payment to Professional Development Academy, Washington DC, in the amount of \$595.00 for AI Leadership Academy Tuition for Levi Webster for the MIS Department.
5. Approve Resolution (2024-73) Accepting Donations on Behalf of the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

RESOLUTION (2024-73)

Accepting Donations on Behalf of the Polk County Sheriff's Office

The following resolution (2024-73) was offered by Commissioner Holy:

WHEREAS, Kathryn R. L. Rand, appointed as Personal Representative for Douglas K. Rand's Estate, would like to donate the attached list of items to the Polk County Sheriff's Office to sell and use money for safety equipment; and

WHEREAS, The Polk County Sheriff's Office wishes to have the County Board formally accept the donation on behalf of Polk County Sheriff's Office.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the County Board of Polk County, Minnesota as follows:

1. The donation from the Douglas K. Rand Estate, which is attached, is hereby accepted by the Polk County Board of Commissioners on behalf of the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Strandell seconded the foregoing resolution, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Willhite, Commissioner Holy, Commissioner Lee. NAYS: None.

COUNTY BOARD MEMBER
ISSUE FORUM

1. Discussion was held amongst the Board regarding reviewal of current Committee Appointments/Assignments.

2. Commissioner Reese brought forth that he attended the following meetings:

a. No meetings.

3. Commissioner Strandell brought forth that he attended the following meetings:

a. Tri-County Corrections Advisory Board meeting.

b. West Central Regional Water District meeting.

c. NW Regional Development Commission meeting.

4. Commissioner Willhite brought forth that he attended the following meetings:

a. Congratulated the Fertile football team.

b. NW MN Council meeting.

5. Commissioner Holy brought forth that he attended the following meetings:

a. Expressed concern regarding ditch maintenance in the county.

b. Received several phone calls from concerned property owners regarding a section in the County's Fall newsletter regarding an increase in real estate valuation.

c. Discussed distribution of the newsletter.

6. Commissioner Lee brought forth that she attended the following meetings:

a. Finance Committee meeting with Abdo Financial Solutions.

b. Department of Human Services Performance Council meeting.

c. Clearwater One Watershed One Plan meeting.

d. Development Achievement Center (DAC) meeting.

e. Zoom meeting with Senator Pappas regarding bonding request.

f. Public Health meeting.

g. AMC Board of Directors meeting.

CITY OF FOSSTON

James Offerdahl, Mayor of Fosston, came before the Board with matters pertaining to the City of

Fosston:

1. Status of City of Fosston Issues with Essentia Health

Discussion was held with the Board regarding the status of the City of Fosston's issues with Essentia Health.

2. Request for County Contribution to First Care Medical Service Foundation

Discussion was held with the Board regarding a request for county contribution to the First Care Medical Service Foundation.

TAXPAYER SERVICE CENTER

Kayla Schumacher, Land Records & Licensing Specialist, came before the Board with matters pertaining to the Taxpayer Service Center:

1. Resolution (2024-74) St. Joseph Catholic Church, Fertile, MN, Gambling Permit

RESOLUTION (2024-74)
St. Joseph Catholic Church, Fertile, MN Gambling Permit

The following resolution (2024-74) was offered by Commissioner Reese:

WHEREAS, St. Joseph Catholic Church of Fertile, Minnesota, has presented a Minnesota Lawful Gambling premises permit application to be approved by the Polk County Board of Commissioners for gambling activities to be conducted in the form of a raffle in their location in Garfield Township.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Minnesota Lawful Gambling premises permit application for a one-year period for the St. Joseph Catholic Church of Fertile, Minnesota, to conduct gambling activities in the Township of Garfield at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 10480 438th St. SW, Fertile, MN 56540.

Commissioner Strandell seconded the foregoing resolution, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Willhite, Commissioner Holy, Commissioner Lee. NAYS: None.

HIGHWAY

Richard Sanders, Polk County Engineer, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. Certificate of Performance/ Final Acceptance CP 122-00-1391 Calcium Chloride Application in Polk, Red Lake, Pennington, Clearwater, Marshall, Kittson, and Norman Counties

Knife River of Sauk Rapids, MN has completed the work required on the contract. The original contract amount was \$3,785,070.00, with the final contract amount being \$2,937,405.02. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the Certificate of Performance and the Certificate of Final Acceptance for CP 122-00-1391 and allow the County Engineer to sign the Certificate of Performance and the County Engineer and County Administrator to sign the Final Voucher.

2. Certificate of Performance/ Final Acceptance SAP 060-705-003, SAP 060-608-014 Mill and Overlay CSAH 105 Erskine, CSAH 8 McIntosh

Agassiz Asphalt, LLC of Newfolden, MN has completed the work required on the contract. The original contract amount was \$276,681.00, with the final contract amount being \$351,293.14. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the Certificate of Performance and the Certificate of Final Acceptance for SAP 060-705-003 & SAP 060-608-014 and allow the County Engineer to sign the Certificate of Performance and the County Engineer and County Administrator to sign the Final Voucher.

3. Certificate of Performance/ Final Acceptance SAP 060-615-013 Box Culvert CD 26 Work in Fisher, MN

Gladen Construction Inc. of LaPorte, MN has completed the work required on the contract. The original contract amount was \$397,535.80, with the final contract amount being \$418,176.35. A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the Certificate of Performance and the Certificate of Final Acceptance for SAP 060-615-013 and allow the County Engineer to sign the Certificate of Performance and the County Engineer and County Administrator to sign the Final Voucher.

4. Resolution (2024-75) Approving Polk County as Legal Sponsor for Application for DNR Trail Assistance Programs Effective Fiscal Year 2025-2026

RESOLUTION (2024-75)
Approving Polk County as Legal Sponsor for Application for DNR Trail Assistance Programs Effective Fiscal Year 2025-2026

The following resolution (2024-75) was offered by Commissioner Reese:

WHEREAS, Polk County desires to maintain trails for the enjoyment of the public and will act as legal sponsor for an application for the DNR Trails Assistance Program, the MN DNR Grant-in-aid Trail Permit; and

WHEREAS, Polk County may enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota for the Polk-Norman-Clay Agassiz Recreational Trail, heretofore known as the Agassiz Recreational Trail, for the portion of the trail existing in Polk County; and

WHEREAS, Polk County will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in the grant contract agreement(s), permits, and by all applicable federal and state laws and regulations; and

recognizes and assigns Polk County Administrator Charles Whiting who will act as a fiscal agent on behalf of Polk County; and

WHEREAS, Polk County approves this resolution to be effective for acting as the legal sponsor for trail administration annually for future grant applications and permits.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Polk County agrees to continue to act as legal sponsor for the above applications and agreements of the DNR Trails Assistance Program until such time that Polk County rescinds this sponsorship beginning Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Commissioner Willhite seconded the foregoing resolution, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Willhite, Commissioner Holy, Commissioner Lee. NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Sarah Reese, Public Health Director, came before the Board with matters pertaining to her department:

1. Opioid Settlement Fund – Funding Recommendation

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve \$50,000 for Care and Share of Crookston, Inc. from the Polk County Opioid Settlement Fund.

2. Opioid Settlement Fund – Amended and Restated Contract

The Regents of the University of Minnesota requested alternative language changes to their contract. No other changes have been made. A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve \$59,664 for the Regents of the University of Minnesota from the Polk County Opioid Settlement Fund.

3. Appoint Youth Advisory Board Members

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Reese and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve appointing Halle Nicholas, Jade Boyd, Ada Swenson, Annalise Wellumson, Lexi Mahlen, Addison Jeuch, Sofie Grunhoyd, and Maci Hasket as Polk County Public Health Youth Advisory Board Members.

PLANNING & ZONING

Jacob Snyder, Assistant Environmental Services Administrator, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

1. Secretary/Bookkeeper (ES) – Permission to Fill Job Vacancy

A motion was made by Commissioner Strandell seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the Secretary/Bookkeeper position vacancy for the Environmental Services department.

ADMINISTRATION

Chuck Whiting, Polk County Administrator, along with Jean McGann and Annette Storm from Abdo Financial Solutions, came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

AUDITOR WARRANTS 10/01/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
Abdo Financial Solutions LLC	10,500.00
Eaton Corporation	14,151.69
Great Northern Septic	13,200.00
Lenes Sand & Gravel Inc	44,485.55
One Stop Student Services	6,377.40
Redstone Construction	226,364.10
Trail County	81,060.68
Tri County Community Corr	1,542,559.00
8 Payments less than 2000	3,420.78
Final Total:	1,942,119.20

AUDITOR WARRANTS 10/08/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
Crookston Water Department	4,741.25
EGF Water & Light Dept	2,143.97
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	3,266.42
Gladen Construction Inc	296,849.92
GP Excavating LLC	26,250.00
Lepier Oil Company Inc	6,083.08
Liberty Business Systems Inc	5,964.82
Mn State Treasury	8,832.50
Norm County Public Health	15,975.02
Polk County Public Health	8,484.27
The Master's Touch	15,252.87
Tri County Community Corr	11,021.62
US Bank Voyager Fleet Sys	4,020.15
Vanguard Appraisals Inc	5,775.00
19 Payments less than 2000	6,964.04
Final Total:	421,624.93

AUDITOR WARRANTS 10/15/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
AMP Robotics Corporation	5,062.90
AT&T Mobility	2,836.78
Bureau of Criminal Apprehension	3,480.00
ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	47,588.27
Gladen Construction Inc	616,449.56
Kronos SaaS Inc	3,431.20
Norman County Public Health	38,460.29
Northdale Oil Inc	27,061.86
Olson & Sons Excavating	13,500.00
One Stop Student Services	6,377.40
Polk County Public Health	42,227.13
Regents Of The Univ Of Mn	41,524.95
RJ Zavoral & Sons Inc	616,547.40
Rokke, Aandal & Associates PLLC	2,873.00
TriTech Software Systems	62,359.55
Verizon Wireless	4,748.69
18 Payments less than 2000	8,058.96
Final Total:	1,542,587.94

AUDITOR WARRANTS 10/21/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
2 Payments less than 2000	30.00
Final Total:	30.00

1. Abdo Finance Assessment Report

Jean McGann and Annette Storm from Abdo Financial Solutions presented their assessment presentation of the County's finance processes and workflow to the Board (see packet for report). A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve accepting the Abdo finance assessment observations and recommendations report.

2. Abdo Finance Services Agreement

The Finance Services Agreement outlines work to be addressed by Abdo based on audit findings, their assessment, and to act as interim Finance Director. A motion was made by Commissioner Reese seconded by Commissioner Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the financial services agreement with Abdo Financial Solutions as presented.

3. American Rescue Plan Act Report and Resolution 2024-76

Discussion was held with the Board regarding the use of the remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Mr. Whiting asked Abdo Financial Solutions to review the County's use of ARPA funds and to assist in reconciling past and potential uses before eligibility to utilize these funds expire on December 31, 2024. Two draft resolutions were presented to the Board regarding possible utilization of these funds. A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve Draft Resolution A as presented.

RESOLUTION (2024-76)
Designating American Rescue Plan Act Funds for Eligible Expenses

The following resolution (2024-76) was offered by Commissioner Holy:

WHEREAS, As of August 21, 2024, \$1,416,770.98 of Polk County's American Rescue has remained undesignated; and

WHEREAS, All ARPA funds are to be either used or committed by December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Polk County continues to have ARPA eligible needs and has expended eligible ARPA expenses in 2024; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners desires to reconcile remaining needs and 2024 ARPA eligible expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Polk County Board of Commissioners commit to and designate the following as Polk County's 2024 use of \$1,416,770.98 of American Rescue Plan Act funds:

1. ARPA Use Category – Administrative Expenses 7.1	
Abdo Financial Solutions	
a. Bank services RFP	\$18,000
b. Training/month end closing services	\$26,350
c. HR payroll assessment	\$32,000
d. Cash & investment tie out/GL reconciliation, ditch reconciliation and 2024 audit preparation	\$115,000
e. Budget development and year end, W2 & W3 process	\$55,000

2. ARPA Use Category – Provision of Government Services 6.1	
Sheriff's Department ARPA 2024 eligible payroll expenses	\$1,170,421
TOTAL:	\$1,416,771

Commissioner Strandell seconded the foregoing resolution, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote: YEAS: Commissioner Reese, Commissioner Strandell, Commissioner Willhite, Commissioner Holy, Commissioner Lee. NAYS: None.

4. 2025 Budget

Discussion was held with the Board regarding the 2025 budget.

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 Willhite and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to close the public meeting at 10:58 a.m. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Holy and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to reopen the public meeting at 11:30 a.m. No action was taken.

AUDITOR WARRANTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Holy seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board that the following Auditor Warrants were approved:

AUDITOR WARRANTS 10/22/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
Altru Health System	2,653.00
Davidson Construction	34,451.43
East Polk Soil & Water	21,560.00
Fosston Municipal Utilities	43,046.55
Great Plains Natural Gas Co	3,722.42
Lake Agassiz Regional Library	74,830.00
Lenes Sand & Gravel Inc	48,051.99
Ottertail Power Co	5,518.88
Polk County	99,655.25
Ryans's Backhoe Service LLC	13,591.00
West Polk Soil & Water	21,560.00
Wild Rice Elec Co- Op Inc	2,110.54
27 Payments less than 2000	17,028.11
Final Total:	387,779.17

AUDITOR WARRANTS 10/24/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
Bremer Bank Na	1,273,446.78
Bremer Bank Na	369,820.80
School District 2176 Treas	91,090.54
School District 2311 Treas	7,975.91
School District 2609 Treas	468,759.24
School District 2906 Treas	8,906.70
School District 592 Treas	51,648.49
School District 593 Treas	959,068.52
School District 600 Treas	117,098.38
School District 601 Treas	448,940.72
School District 630 Treas	10,614.91
Final Total:	3,807,370.99

AUDITOR WARRANTS 10/28/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
Morgan Printing Inc	2,462.34
Final Total:	2,462.34

AUDITOR WARRANTS 10/29/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
BELTRAMI COUNTY SOLID WASTE	6,301.88
BELTRAMI COUNTY SOLID WASTE	4,769.87
Crookston Water Department	4,031.16
GP Excavating LLC	2,040.00
Kustom Kollision LLC	8,642.04
Ottertail Power Co	24,725.33
Polk County	60,606.00
Polk County	27,258.00
Reierson/Paul	12,466.00
SHI International Corp	4,656.00
7 Payments less than 2000	1,528.03
Final Total:	157,024.31

MANUAL WARRANTS 10/11/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
Internal Revenue Service	199,160.67
Minnesota Revenue	35,648.16
Final Total:	234,808.83

MANUAL WARRANTS 10/14/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
1 Payments less than 2000	421.11
Final Total:	421.11

MANUAL WARRANTS 10/18/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
U.S. Bank Corporate Payment Systems	929.36
Final Total:	929.36

MANUAL WARRANTS 10/18/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
U.S. Bank Corporate Payment Systems	94,357.47
Final Total:	94,357.47

MANUAL WARRANTS 10/18/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
Minnesota Revenue	4,857.00
Mn Dept Of Rev Tax Division	84,963.55
4 Payments less than 2000	2,447.24
Final Total:	92,267.79

MANUAL WARRANTS 10/18/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
1 Payments less than 2000	913.00
Final Total:	913.00

MANUAL WARRANTS 10/24/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
Mn Dept Of Rev Tax Division	909,724.84
Final Total:	909,724.84

MANUAL WARRANTS 10/25/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
Internal Revenue Service	200,664.35
Minnesota Revenue	35,110.76
Final Total:	235,775.11

MANUAL WARRANTS 10/28/2024

Vendor Name	Amount
1 Payments less than 2000	292.03
Final Total:	292.03

With no further business, the Board adjourned to reconvene at 9:30 o'clock a.m., November 19, 2024.

Gary Willhite, Chair
ATTEST:
Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator Clerk of the Board M37C

These colorful cookies are tailor made for family baking sessions

Baking during the holiday season is a tradition in many households across the globe. Family baking sessions provide a perfect holiday season bonding activity, and the payoff is both cherished family time and delicious, indulgent foods once the items are ready to eat.

Holiday hosts know they'll need to feed their guests over the course of their stay, and that includes snacks. Hosts can involve their guests in family baking sessions and whip up a batch of these delicious and colorful "Christmas Biscuits" from Lines+Angles.

Christmas Biscuits
Makes approximately 24 cookies
For the dough:
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, sifted, plus extra for dusting
1 1/3 cups confectioner's sugar, plus extra for dusting
3/4 cup almond meal
1 cup unsalted butter, cold and cubed
1 large egg yolk
1 tablespoon cold water
1/2 teaspoon fine salt
For the icing and decoration:
4 cups confectioner's sugar
3 tablespoons meringue powder
7 tablespoons warm water, combined with 1 teaspoon vanilla extract, assorted food color (e. g., red, pink and turquoise), assorted colored sugar crystals (e. g., red, pink and white)

1. For the dough: Preheat oven to 350 F. Grease and line two large baking sheets with parchment paper.
2. Combine flour, confectioner's sugar and almond meal in a large mixing bowl. Stir well to mix.
3. Add butter, egg yolk, water, and salt, and mix well with an electric mixer with spiral attachments until mixture starts to come together as a dough.
4. Turn out onto a floured surface and knead briefly until even. Wrap in plastic wrap and chill for 30 minutes.

5. After chilling, roll out dough on a lightly floured surface to approximately 0.25" thickness.

6. Use assorted star-shaped cookie cutters to cut out approximately 23 variably sized star shapes. Arrange between prepared sheets, spaced apart.

7. From remaining dough, cut out one teardrop and two semi-circles of dough, using appropriate cutters or working freehand with a paring knife. Arrange on one of the baking

sheets.

8. Bake cookies for 12 to 15 minutes, until golden and dry to the touch. Remove to cooling racks to cool.

9. **For the icing and decoration:** Thoroughly stir together confectioner's sugar and meringue powder in a large mixing bowl.

10. Gradually beat in warm water and vanilla extract mixture using an electric mixer until icing is smooth and of a flooding consistency; you may

not need all of the water.

11. Divide icing between three bowls. Color two bowls pink and red, respectively, by beating in enough pink and red coloring to achieve uniform colors. Leave the third bowl uncolored.

12. Spoon pink and red icing into separate piping bags fitted with small, round-tip nozzles.

13. To ice the cookies, pipe around their perimeters with the icings to create borders. Fill in middle of cookies with more icing; you can use

a damp, warm offset palette knife to spread out icing to an even finish.

14. Carefully transfer iced cookies to cooling racks, decorating with the sugar crystals in festive patterns.

15. Using same technique as in steps 13 and 14, ice teardrop cookie with red and white icing for Santa's hat and beard, respectively. Ice the two semi-circle cookies with white icing.

16. Before icings have set, carefully attach semi-circle cookies to teardrop cookie to fashion Santa's mustache.

Color any remaining white icing with turquoise coloring and then dab onto teardrop cookie for Santa's eyes. Pipe some pink icing below eyes for his nose.

17. Let cookies set and harden before serving.

Tip: Flooding consistency should be similar to the consistency of toothpaste. If your icing is too thick, thin it out with some warm water, mixing it into the icing in drops

Preparation time: 1 hour, 20 minutes. Cooling time: 30 minutes



A select group of Win-E-Mac Junior High School band students participated in an all day event at the Mahnomen High School on November 4th. The students practiced all day and then performed for community members during the Mahnomen High School Band and Choir Festival. Students who participated in the event were: Avery Maness, Peyton Solie, Megan McGlynn, Trista Shimpa, Emma Determan, Ana Kolden, Corbin Moran, and Charley Carlson.



A select group of Win-E-Mac Junior High School band and choir students participated in the Junior High Band and Choir Festival at the Mahnomen High School on Monday, November 4th. Musicians rehearsed all day with their honor choir or band directors, concluding with a concert at 5:30 pm. Choir members included: Livia Erofeeff, Callie Herriman, Adylaide Hickman, Malaina Jax, Kendra Cherf, Elsii Kiecker, Khloe Luckow, Adara Peterson, Andrew Austin, Julian Boianoff, Lukas Gensburger, Logan Kutsev, Stephen Kutsev, and Ella Langemo.



The Win-E-Mac Kindergarten through 3rd Grade sang the USA song during the Veterans Day program held at the Win-E-Mac School on Monday, November 11th.