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Jordan Gunufson from McIntosh won the Overall category of the Sausage Cooking Contest at Neil's Quality Meats & More.



Bryce Stordahl of McIntosh was the winner at Neil's for the Sausage Cooking Contest category of Most Creative.



Phil Lee of McIntosh was the winner of the Best Taste category during Neil's Quality Meats & More Sausage Cooking Contest.

Celebrate Christmas with Christ

Christmas is one of the most important days of the Church year, second only to Easter itself.

Celebrating the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is the culmination of the mystery of the incarnation, the feast of God becoming flesh (the Latin "in carne" means "enfleshment").

It is a uniquely Christian teaching, the Divine choosing to become one of us. Because of this belief, God is not only Transcendent, but also wholly Immanent, Emmanuel (God-with-us).

While remaining Transcendent (meaning we must rise above our present condition to reach Him), He is at the same time Immanent (meaning He is with us as we rise toward Him). Every Eucharist is like Christmas where the bread and wine are transformed into His flesh, His Body and Blood, and, in a sense, He is born anew on the altar.

The liturgical season of Christmas begins with the vigil Masses on Christmas Eve and concludes on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

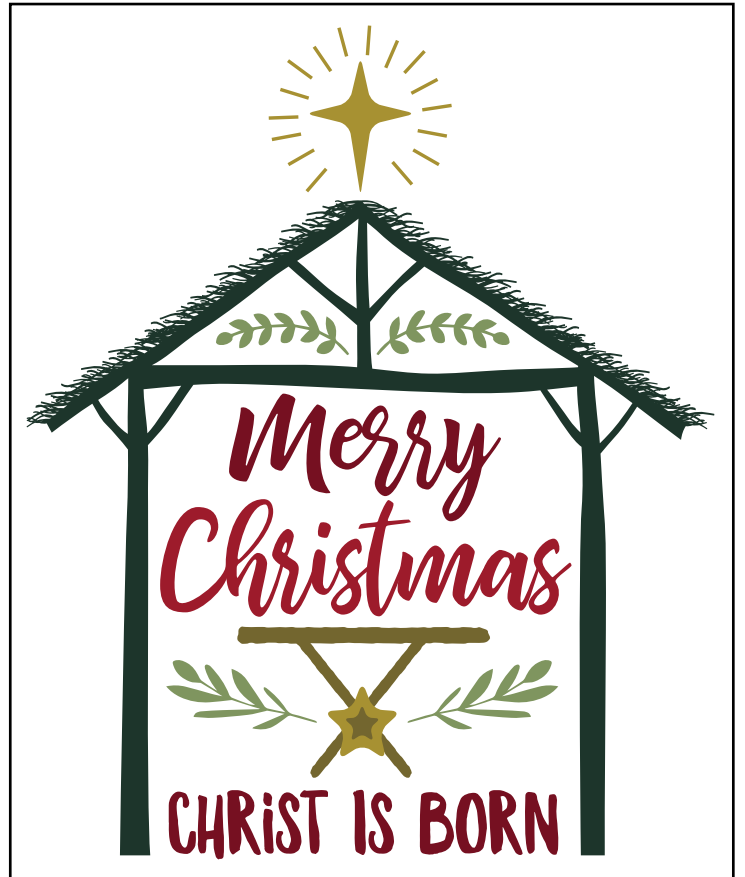
During this season, we celebrate the birth of Christ into our world and into our hearts and reflect on the gift of salvation that is born with him, including the fact that he was born to die for us.

The Christmas tree and the Nativity scene are popular symbols of the season and a tradition in many Christian homes.

It is also traditional to exchange Christmas gifts with family and friends to honor God the Father's gift of his only son to the world. Having received the gift of Christ, we naturally want to pass that gift along to our loved ones.

The Christmas Infancy Narrative

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in



the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child.

All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, re-

flecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

-Luke 2:1-20

Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High.

-Luke 1:30-32

Wishing everyone a blessed Christmas season.



WEM School News

Win-E-Mac School will have Holiday break beginning on Friday, December 22nd. School will resume on Wednesday, January 3rd.

Win-E-Mac School will dismiss students early on Thursday, December 21st at 12:30 pm for staff development.

Savory selections win over the judges during the first annual Sausage Cooking Contest event

On Saturday, December 2nd, during A Very Merry McIntosh downtown, Neil's Quality Meats & More kicked off their first annual Sausage Cooking Contest.

Many contestants stopped into the store and signed up during the week prior to the event and received one free package of a sausage of their choice to take home and cook a dish, sweet or savory, to bring into the judges on Saturday for a chance to win one of three prizes.

The winners, Jordan Gunufson, Bryce Stordahl and Phil Lee each spent Saturday morning creating a dish that did wow the judges and earn them

one of the titles of winner.

The judges spent quite a while sampling all the entries and trying to decide which dishes were the best.

Make sure you stop by, pick up some sausage and get your recipe perfected for next year's contest!

Phil Lee, who won the best taste category did so with the following recipe.

Phils Zuppa Toscana Soup
5 slices of bacon, diced
1 lb. of ground Italian sausage

1 T. olive oil
4 cloves of garlic, minced
1 medium onion, diced
6 cups chicken broth
3 russet potatoes

1/2 t. salt
1/2 t. black pepper
3 cups kale
1 cup half and half or heavy cream

In large pan fry bacon and sausage over medium heat. Add olive oil and fry onions and garlic. Add chicken broth and potatoes, cook until potatoes are tender., add seasonings, bacon/sausage mixture and kale. Cook for about 3 minutes until kale is wilted and cooked well. Take off heat and add cream.

Use your best judgement, if it needs more broth because it is too thick or needs additional seasoning, feel free to add or subtract what is needed.



The judges of the first annual Sausage Cooking Contest at Neil's Quality Meats & More had a difficult time picking winners as each dish offered something special. This year's judges were (l-r) Stephanie Anderson, Roxanne Stordahl, Jake Birkemeyer and Bobby Bursheim.



On Saturday, December 9th, the weather outside was frightful, but the Winger Lions pulled off another delightful Breakfast with Santa event at the Community Center. There was a pancake breakfast, lots of fun activities for the kids, and of course, a visit from Santa Claus.

Maximize those leftovers

If you end up preparing a big meal for your loved ones, chances are that you'll have leftover food. Don't underestimate the power of leftovers to help save you stress and money this holiday season.

Most guests will be appreciative that you are feeding them, and will not criticize you for serving them leftovers, especially if they were present for the original meal.

To use your leftovers "as is," follow these tips.

- Remove any meat from the carcass or bone, cutting it into small pieces and storing it in shallow containers in the refrigerator or freezer.

- Use all leftovers within 4 days or freeze for later use.
- Reheat leftovers to 165° F, or until hot and steaming.

Do you have a lot of extra leftovers? Get creative and turn them into a new low-cost meal!

Soup: Add 2 cups of chopped meat, 4 cups of chopped vegetables and 2 cups cooked rice or wild rice to 3 cans low-sodium chicken or vegetable broth. Simmer until veggies are done to your liking and flavors have blended. Add parsley, bay leaves or garlic for extra flavor.

Salads: Add leftover meat or roasted vegetables to any green salad. Try almonds and dried cranberries for a great taste. Add cooked meat to a pasta or wild rice salad with

chopped broccoli, peppers, onions, carrots and celery.

Sandwiches: Allow guests to create their own sandwich creations, layering leftover meat and veggies in a sandwich, with additional sandwich toppings like lettuce, spinach, tomatoes, peppers, shredded carrots, cranberry sauce, and/or apple slices. Instead of bread, try a whole wheat pita or tortilla.

Casseroles: Layer leftovers in a casserole dish. Do you just have leftover meat and vegetables? Combine 2 cups chopped leftover meat with 2 cups cooked rice, 1 can low-sodium broth or chopped tomatoes, and a selection of chopped

vegetables in a 2-quart casserole. Cover and bake the casseroles at 325 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes, or until vegetables are tender.

Skillet meals: Add 1 or 2 cups of chopped leftover meat to sautéed onion, mushrooms and broccoli. Add cooked rice or pasta. Sprinkle with shredded parmesan cheese before serving.

Breakfast dishes: Add leftover meat and/or vegetables to scrambled eggs, quiche, or omelets. For a fun twist on a classic, serve this for dinner and ask guests to come in their pajamas for "breakfast for dinner!"

Need to escape?

The Win-E-Mac Senior class has a new, great fundraiser this holiday season.

Want to have some fun with family or friends? Sign up for the Win-E-Mac escape room. Participants follow a series of puzzles and clues to accomplish a goal in a limited time.

There are two different rooms:

Game Night: 60 minutes to enjoy solving clues involving typical family board games to find out "Who stole what and where". For 1 - 4 people \$20 per person ; 5 - 8 people \$15 each person; and household family

\$50 cap.

Art Studio: 45 minutes to break codes and solve clues with an art flair to unlock the box. For 1 - 4 people \$15 per person; 5 - 8 people \$10 per person; and household family \$50 cap.

You can sign up for times during December and January on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm and Sundays from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Please sign up at least 12 hours before you want to participate. Sign up at <http://jessicastrommn.weebly.com/escape-rooms.html>.

Free Christmas dinner offered again this year

Do you need help providing a Christmas meal for yourself and/or your family this year? Will you be alone for the holidays? If you are in need I invite you to our Christmas dinner on December 25th! This year anyone in need of a hot meal can come in and eat with others, or order delivery or takeout (deliveries are always contingent on volunteer drivers). Please try to get on the dinner lists by December 18th if you can. I believe everyone should have a hot Christmas dinner so if you miss the deadline that's ok - no one in need will be turned away until the last cranberry has been served. Location for takeout and in person dining - Erskine Community Center. Deliveries head out around 4:30pm, Dine in runs from 5pm-7pm, Take Out starts at 5:30pm.

To get on the list call 218-687-2157 or call/text 218-280-2992.

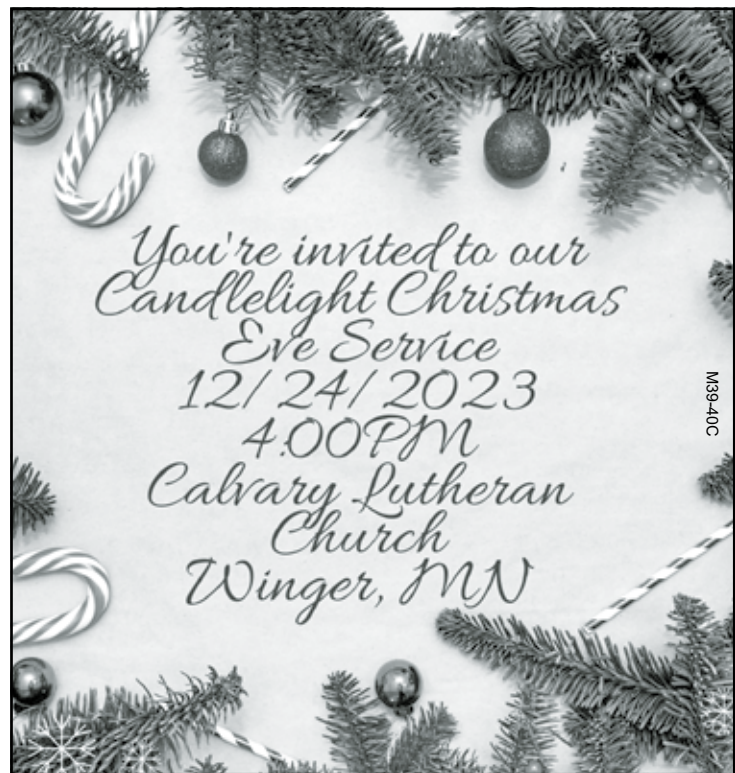
Tis the season for giving

As the holiday season is upon us and 2023 draws to a close, all of us at the McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center want to extend our heartfelt thank you for the incredible support our volunteers, members, donors, businesses and area communities have given to our organization this past year.

This commitment to the McIntosh Heritage & Arts Center has made a positive impact. As we look ahead to 2024, we hope individuals and businesses will also consider making an end-of-year tax-deductible donation to help sustain the MH&AC and help us accomplish our short term goals of digitization of materials to make them available on the internet for everyone to enjoy and long term plans for a larger and more permanent space.

For just \$20, you can become an annual member! Please consider making an in memoriam donation, as every contribution, whether it is a financial, time spent volunteering, or family pictures and/or memorabilia you have been holding on to that needs a new home, please keep our non-profit organization in mind. Your support truly makes a difference.

To donate or learn more, please visit us Tuesday - Thursday between 10am-2pm at 125 NW Broadway, or visit us online at www.McIntosh-HAC.com or contact us directly at McIntoshHAC@gmail.com. Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season and a wonderful New Year.



Little Bobby's
295 Cleveland Ave, McIntosh, MN • 218-563-3008

Tom and Jerry's will be served by Mary and Charles on Friday, December 22nd from 4 to 7 pm.

HOURS: OPEN AT 3:00 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY, CLOSED ON SUNDAY
OPEN 7 DAYS PER WEEK AT 3:00 PM

The Reason For Christmas

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him."
~ MATTHEW 2:1-2

As we celebrate the season, we wish you a Merry Christmas!

HomeTown Banking
WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

First National Bank will be closed on Monday, December 25th in Observance of Christmas Day.

260 Cleveland Ave. SW
PO Box 129
McIntosh, MN 56556
www.fnbcintosh.com

Phone (218) 563-2865

The Family of Dolly Lee would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to Carlin Funeral Home for their caring and helpful assistance. We would like to give a special thank you to Pastor Rene Mehlfberg and Jeanie Rains for your messages and prayers at the funeral service. Thank you to Diane Boucher for accompaniment through the service and all the family members that participated. Thank you to the ladies of Our Saviors Church that served the meal. A huge thank you to all relatives, friends and neighbors for your thoughts and prayers during this time. Dolly lived a full and long life and we will have many memories forever.

Townhall Meeting on 2nd Amendment Rights

Saturday, January 6, 2024 at 11:00 am

Lean To Tavern in Bejou

Come and Express your concerns

Featured Speakers:
State Senator Steve Green
State Representative Matt Bliss

Prepared and paid for by Mahnomn County RPM
2398 260th Street, Waubun, MN 56589

Mac library to announce Holiday closures

In observance of the upcoming holidays, Lake Agassiz Regional Library announces the following closures at all of its branches.

All locations will be closed Monday, December 25 in observance of Christmas Day and the Crookston Public Library will also be closed Sunday, December 24 in observance of Christmas Eve. Regular hours will resume Tuesday, December 26.

In observance of New Year's Day, the Crookston Public Library will be closed on Sunday, December 31 and all LARL locations will be closed Monday, January 1, 2024. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Lake Agassiz Regional Library is a consolidated public library system comprised of 13 branch libraries and nine LINK sites serving the residents of seven counties in northwest Minnesota. More information is available at www.larl.org.

Gosen Luther League

The Gosen Sunday School/Luther League Christmas Program will be held on Friday evening, December 29th, at 7 o'clock.

The Sunday School will present a skit entitled "The Wonder of Wonders--Views of Christmas".

A large variety of Christmas music from a variety of guests will fill up the evening's concert including Jennie Erickson, David Johnson Family, and Troy and KaraLynn Hemmer Family.

Join us for an inspirational evening in honor of our newborn King Jesus. Refreshments including Christmas goodies and a candy bowl will be furnished.

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.

Community Birthday and Anniversary Calendar

Wed. Dec. 20: Kalli Roy
Thurs. Dec. 21: Brooke Tofstad, Beth Hagen
Fri. Dec. 22: Andy Smith, Jerry Shimpa, Camille Smeby, *Robert & Sharon Hegland, *Allen & Shirley Carver
Sun. Dec. 24: Candace Haaven, Anthony Grande, Jered Agnes, Philip Lee, Cheryl Jore
Mon. Dec. 25: Nicole Vettleson, Jordyn Zahn
Tues. Dec. 26: *Bill Jr. & Valerie Fritz

McIntosh Times

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"Serving the Win-E-Mac area"

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Grace Community Food Shelf

The food shelf will be open Thursday, December 21st from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

Sun. Dec. 24: 8:00am Confession; 8:30am Mass at St. Mary's, Fosston; 10:30am Mass at St. Joseph's, Bagley
Sun. Dec. 31: 8:00am Confession; 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 Mehlfberg
Synodical Authorized Minister Katie DeMarais

Sun. Dec 24. : 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services
Sun. Dec. 31: 10:00am Coffee Hour; 10:30am Worship Services

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

MCINTOSH AFLC
McIntosh Trinity / Mount Carmel:
Interim Pastor: Nathan Dalager

Trinity: (27262 315th St. SE, McIntosh) Sunday Worship: 11:00am; Sunday School: 9:45am
Mt. Carmel: (305 State St. NE, McIntosh) Sunday Worship: 9:30am; Sunday School: 10:45am
Lutheran Parish YouTube Channel

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

Sun. Dec. 24: 9:30am Sunday School and Adult Bible Study; 11:00am Christmas Worship Service (also on Facebook and gosenchurch.com)

Tues. Dec. 26: 10:00am. Sunday worship service telecast on GVTV--30
Wed. Dec. 27: 6:30pm Bible Study at Sharon Ramberg's home

Fri. Dec. 29: 7:00pm Sunday School/Luther League Christmas Program (see article elsewhere in the paper)

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. Dec. 24: 9:00am Worship
Sun. Dec. 31: 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

Sun. Dec. 24: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 4:00pm
Sundays: 10:30am Coffee Fellowship; 11:00am Worship

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH-NALC
Erskine
Rev. Pam Thorson

Sundays: 9:00am 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.



BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL GUIDE

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487-5225 Gonvick, MN

Richards Publishing Co.

Inspiring ideas for last-minute holiday shoppers

It's unlikely that anyone aspires to be a last-minute holiday shopper.

Putting off holiday shopping until the last minute can make for a stressful home stretch to the season, and there's no guarantee store shelves won't already be picked clean or that gifts purchased online will arrive on time.

Despite how unappealing last-minute shopping can be, it's still a fact of life for millions of holiday shoppers.

As the clock winds down this holiday season, shoppers can look to these ideas for inspiration.

Gift cards: Gift cards may never earn a distinction as the most sentimental item to give a loved one during the holiday season, but they are surprisingly sought-after. In fact, a survey from the National Retail Federation found that 54

percent of participants identified gift cards as the most-wanted gift of the 2022 holiday season.

Chain retailers, small businesses and restaurants are among the many establishments that sell gift cards, so shoppers are bound to find a card to please anyone on their shopping list.

Food/beverage: The holiday season is a popular time to indulge in some great food and wash it down with a favorite wine or another adult beverage.

That makes food and beverages a great holiday gift. Shoppers can take a loved one out to a favorite restaurant, prepare a homemade treat or purchase a favorite dish from a local specialty grocery store or eatery. Pair the food with an appropriate beverage and this accessible last-minute gift idea is sure

to be a hit.

Tickets: Tickets to a movie, sporting event, live theater performance, or concert are another gift idea that likely won't be gobbled up by early bird shoppers.

People of all ages enjoy experiences, and a 2022 survey from the travel booking platform GetYourGuide found that 50 percent of survey respondents indicated they would enjoy tickets to a concert or show.

Books: Books make an ideal holiday gift for everyone from young kids to grandparents.

Traditional print books are small enough that they can likely arrive on time even if they're purchased just a few days before Christmas. E-book sellers enable gift givers to pick the perfect time to notify loved ones they have received an electronic book. Audiobooks,

which can be downloaded to a smartphone or given as a CD, make an ideal gift for loved ones who spend a lot of time behind the wheel.

Last-minute holiday shopping can be stressful. However, various sought-after items can be.

6 facts about the winter solstice

Nocturnal animals and human night owls may rejoice during the winter solstice. On the winter solstice, people can witness the Earth's longest night and shortest day of the year for their respective hemispheres.

For individuals living in the northern hemisphere, the winter solstice generally occurs between December 20th and 23rd each year. The solstice may come and go unnoticed, but it's an interesting day on the calendar.

1. Not only will the winter solstice occur on a specific date, it also occurs at a specific time when the Earth's semi-axis tilts furthest from the sun. This corresponds to when the North Pole is aimed away from the sun on the 23.5 degree tilt of the Earth's axis. At this point, the sun also shines directly over the Tropic of Capricorn. The information and trivia site Mental Floss says the solstice happens at the same moment for everyone on the plane. However, the hour it occurs depends on your time zone.

2. Areas of the Northern Hemisphere can have varying lengths of day and night on the solstice.

3. The word "solstice" is derived from Latin and means "sun stands still." It was chosen to describe this cosmic phenomenon because the solstice sun seemingly appears in the same position at noontime for several days before and after the winter solstice - at its lowest point in the sky.

4. It is easy to mistake the solstices for the equinoxes, which also occur twice a year. However, the equinoxes occur in fall and spring and mark when the sun is directly above the equator and night and day are of equal length.

5. Despite the winter solstice indicating the beginning of the astrological winter, it may not be the coldest time of the season. Usually those temperatures are reserved for January and February.

6. The Farmer's Almanac reports that many cultures marked the arrival of the solstice as a time of death and rebirth. Early man also kept track of the days by observing the sun's position in the sky.

Did you know?

The majority of people hear Christmas and naturally think of December 24th and 25th. For millions of Christians, these two dates is when Christians commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ.

However, there are certain faithful who will not be celebrating Christmas on December 25th. These are namely those who belong to Orthodox, Greek Orthodox and Coptic Orthodox churches, among others. These churches primarily trace their origins to Eastern Europe and portions of Asia and Africa, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Serbia, Greece, Armenia, and Ethio-

pia. The churches utilize the former Julian calendar for religious observations. This places Christmas on January 7th. It also is believed that 12 days after Jesus was born, three magi visited him to shower him with blessings and gifts, an event known as the Epiphany. Some recognize Christmas as occurring on this day, which is January 6th. In fact, the "true" Christmas holiday takes place between Christ's birth and the Epiphany, or the 12 days of Christmas. Candlemas, which comes 40 days after Christmas, also is considered the official end of the Christmas season for some.



Decorated light poles for the A Very Merry McIntosh Contest. (l-r) Little Bobby's Bar & Grill and First National Bank.



The winning light pole with 11 votes was FarmChek's Grinch tree for the A very Merry McIntosh light pole decorating contest sponsored by the McIntosh Community Club.



A Very Merry McIntosh light pole decorating contest for local businesses was a great success with 9 light poles decorated and the contest raised \$160 to be able to sponsor a child off of Win-E-Mac schools Giving Tree, providing Christmas gifts to those in need this season. First place went to FarmChek with the Grinch theme and second place went to Minnesota Rust with The Shoppes of McIntosh theme. Pictured above (l-r) Kingtown Insurance, Our Savior's Church, Louie's Mercantile, Krissy's Hair Affair, Minnesota Rust, and McIntosh Quilters Club.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

May you have the spirit of Christmas which is Peace,
 the gladness of Christmas which is Hope,
 and the Heart of Christmas which is Love.

**Minnesota
Rust**



**HOWARD
SOAP
COMPANY**



**Louie's
Mercantile**



**The
Clubhouse
Childcare
Center**



**FarmChek
Services**



**NEIL'S
QUALITY
MEATS &
MORE**



**Jered's
Grocery &
Liquor**



**City of
McIntosh**



**Ron's
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