

NEWS AND INFORMATION

McLeod County Newsletter



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4-H'ERS MAKE MCLEOD PROUD



Left to right and top to bottom: Brielle Christen, Brooke Kobow, Shelby Swanson, Nora Yates, Rachel Visser and Kianna Dolezal were among the McLeod County 4-H'ers to earn recognition at the 2023 State Fair.

Locals earned lots of State Fair accolades

McLeod County 4-Her's joined hundreds of students from all 87 counties around Minnesota during the Great Minnesota Get-Together this past August and September. They were there to show off their livestock and other projects, and to see how they stacked up against the

best in state.

McLeod County is proud of these young people and their hard work, and that of the volunteers and families who make it all possible. Here is a look at the 2023 State Fair results.

See STATE FAIR Page 2

4-H'ers earn ribbons of all colors

STATE FAIR from Page 1

Acoma Acorns

- Ariana Buysse, *Rabbit-Holland Lop-Senior Buck, Purple, Interview Finalist*
- Ariana Buysse, *Science of Animals-Rabbit-Health, Purple*
- Daniella Carrascosa, *Fine Arts-Grades 6-8, Blue*
- Charles Feuerborn, *Shooting Sports-Grades 6-8, Blue*
- Samantha Frick, *Senior Yearling Meat Breeding Doe, Blue/Interview Finalist*
- Samantha Frick, *Quilting-Grades 9+, Blue*
- Samantha Frick, *Meat Breeding Doe Showmanship Advanced Grade 11+, Green*
- Carson Hagen, *Market Barrow-Crossbred,*



Orrin Yates shows off his price-winning rabbit.

Blue/9th place

- Austin Howe, *Bantam Breeding Pen, Blue/Interview Finalist*
- Avery Kohls, *Steer-*

Crossbreds and Other Breeds, 4th place

- Avery Kohls, *Market Beef Showmanship Intermediate Grades 6-8, Green*
- Livia Kurth, *Dairy-Holstein, Registered-Fall Calf, Red*
- Addison Luthens, *Market Barrow-Crossbred, Blue/5th place*
- Kamrie Mauer, *Dairy-Jersey Junior Yearling, Purple, 2nd place*
- Carsten Rath, *Spot, Registered-January Gilt, Blue/4th place*
- Parker Rath, *Market Barrow-Spot, Registered, Blue/3rd place*
- Parker Rath, *Corn-Grades 6-8, Blue, Interview Finalist*
- Caydence Reiner-

See STATE FAIR Page 4

McLeod County News and Information

Issue 15

McLeod County News and Information is published quarterly. Visit www.tinyurl.com/3mruf54a to see past McLeod County newsletters or subscribe to have the newsletter delivered to your residence or business. The next issue of the newsletter is tentatively scheduled to be published December 29, 2023.

McLeod County was established in 1856.

Serving the cities of Biscay, Brownston, Glencoe, Hutchinson, Lester Prairie, Plato, Silver Lake, Stewart and Winsted; the townships of Acoma, Bergen, Collins, Glencoe, Hale, Hassan Valley, Helen, Hutchinson, Lynn, Penn, Rich Valley, Round Grove, Sumter and Winsted; and independent school districts #423 (Hutchinson), #424 (Lester Prairie), #465 (Litchfield), #2159 (Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart), #2365 (Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop), #2687 (Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted) and #2859 (Glencoe-Silver Lake).

Contact Information

Government Center

520 Chandler Ave. N. | Glencoe, MN 55336
p. 320-864-1328 | f. 320-864-1809
mcleod.administration@mcleodcountymn.gov

Fairgrounds/Parks and Recreation

840 Century Ave. S.W. | Hutchinson, MN 55350
p. 320-484-4334 | f. 320-864-1811
mcleod.parksandrecreation@mcleodcountymn.gov

Court Administration

830 11th St. E. | Glencoe, MN 55336
p. 320-864-1281 | f. 320-864-5905

Environmental Services

1065 Fifth Ave. S.E. | Hutchinson, MN 55350
p. 320-484-4300 | f. 320-484-4315
mcleod.solidwaste@mcleodcountymn.gov

Law Enforcement Center

801 10th St. E. | Glencoe, MN 55336
p. 320-864-3134 | f. 320-864-5920

Public Works/Highway

1400 Adams St. | Hutchinson, MN 55350
p. 320-484-4321 | f. 320-234-6971



Save time scheduling appointments with QLess

Planning a visit to the McLeod County Government Center? Save time with QLess, the County's virtual waiting line and appointment scheduler. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/b5yey8ds> or scan the QR code to schedule your appointment or check for same-day availability. Call 320-864-1426 for assistance.

Use QLess for your License Center, Assessor, Auditor-Treasurer, Recorder and Veterans Services needs. Once you've scheduled an appointment, QLess will send you live updates on your place in line. Appointments scheduled with QLess are prioritized over walk-in appointments.



Administrator's Message

Congrats and Thanks!

We have great individuals serving McLeod County; it's rewarding to see our employees celebrated for their dedication in providing outstanding public service. The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM) recently recognized our Emergency Management Director, Kevin Mathews, at their annual awards banquet.

Kevin received the Commendation for Meritorious Service, and the award for Outstanding Performance in Emergency Management. According to AMEM, "Awards for Meritorious Service are made to distinguished and longtime members of AMEM and the Emergency Management field." AMEM shared that Kevin was chosen for the performance award "for outstanding performance by any member in furthering the objectives of emergency management in their jurisdiction or agency, and/or the Association and emergency management in Minnesota. For a culmination of outstanding performance both this year, and through the past 25 years."

Congratulations Kevin, and thank you for your continued service to McLeod County!

ADMINISTRATOR

Sheila Murphy



McLeod County Emergency Management Director Kevin Mathews, right, was recognized for meritorious service and outstanding performance in his field by The Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM).

Watch for EAB in McLeod County

An emerald ash borer (EAB) infestation in McLeod County has been confirmed. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has enacted an emergency quarantine for the entire county, with plans to adopt a formal quarantine on October 6, 2023. You may email kimberly.tcremers@state.mn.us if you have questions about the proposed quarantine.

EAB larvae kill ash trees by tunneling under the bark and feeding on the part of the tree that moves nutrients up and down the trunk.

The biggest risk of spreading EAB comes from people unknowingly moving firewood or other ash products harboring larvae. There are three easy steps residents should take to keep EAB from spreading:

- Don't transport firewood. Buy firewood locally from approved vendors, and burn it where you buy it.



One way to identify EAB infestation in a tree is that the larvae leave tunnels and D-shaped holes beneath the bark.

- Be aware of the restrictions on movement of products such as trees, wood chips, and firewood.
- Watch your ash trees for infestation. Visit www.mda.state.mn.us/eab-info-homeowners for resources on identifying EAB, how to hire tree care professionals, and insecticide options for protecting your ash trees.

If you have questions regarding trees on your property, email Emily Hansen with the University of Minnesota Extension at hans6005@umn.edu or call 612-394-6302.

Visit www.mda.state.mn.us/eab for more information on EAB.

Static projects also earn top prizes

STATE FAIR from Page 2

- Albrecht, Quilting-Grades 9+, Purple
- Aubrey Schmidt, Science of Animals-Rabbit-Health, Blue
- Shelby Swanson, Dairy-Holstein, Registered-Winter Calf, Purple/3rd place
- Kayla Visser, Dairy-Jersey Calf, Purple/1st place
- Hannah Visser, Dairy-Jersey Junior Yearling, Purple/2nd place
- Rachel Visser, Dairy-Jersey Junior Yearling, Purple/1st place
- Hannah Visser, Quilting-Grades 9+,Blue
- McKenna Wright, Prospect Calf-Steer, 6th place
- McKenna Wright, Livestock Individual Demonstration, Red
- McKenna Wright, Self Determined-Grades 9+, Blue
- Nora Yates, Rabbit-Champagne d'Argent-Junior Buck, Purple
- Nora Yates, Elements of Photography-Grades 9+, Blue
- Orrin Yates, Rabbit-Champagne d'Argent-Junior Doe, Purple, Reserve Champagne d'Argent
- Stella Zachmeyer, Fine Arts-Grades 6-8, Blue
- Cole Zendejas, Rabbit-Mini Rex-Junior Doe, Blue

Bear Lake Beavers

- Bear Lake Beavers, Club Banner, Red
- Marshall Martig, Ducks-Bantam Breeding Pen, Red
- Marshall Martig, Elements of Photography-Grades 6-8, Blue

Bergen Busy Bees

- Aaron Bennett, Indoor Gardening-Grades 6-8, Blue



It's not all livestock at the State Fair, as Samantha Frick and Ellie Wendolek demonstrate with their prize-winning quilt and woodwork projects.

- Lily Eggert, Exploring Animals-Grades 6-8, Red
- Jason Valen, Safety-Grades 6-8, Blue
- Glencoe Jr. Pioneers**
- Sam Becker, Dairy Market Wethers, Purple/Champion Lightweight Dairy Market Wether/Champion Overall Dairy Market Wether
- Sam Becker, Dairy Wether Showmanship Senior Grades 8-10, Green
- Harper Crowell, Chickens-Egg Production-White Egg Layers, Red
- Ella Dahlke, Potatoes-Grades 9+, Blue
- Ethan Dahlke, Nutrition-Grades 6-8, Blue
- Mason Grams, Duroc, Registered-February Gilt, Blue/5th place/Breeding Gilt Showperson Advanced Division 5th place/Interview Champion
- Brooklyn Kasella, Duroc, Registered-Janary Gilt,

Purple/4th place

- Samantha Mattson, Dairy Goat-LaMancha-Dry Yearling Doe, 1st place/Best in Show Juior Doe/Champion LaMancha Junior Doe/Champion Senior Showmanship
- Samantha Mattson, Woodworking-Grades 9+, Blue
- Charlie Nelson, Dairy-Holstein, Registered-Winter Yearling, Blue/6th place/Showmanship 7th place
- Charlie Nelson, Poultry Poster, Red
- Zoe Ruschmeier, Market Heifer, 3rd place/Interview Champion
- Allison Willcox, Market Barrow-Duroc, Registered, Purple/5th place
- Lake Marion Lakers**
- Mackenzie Breyer,

See STATE FAIR Page 5

Clubs rack up honors

STATE FAIR from Page 4

- Chickens-Egg Production-Brown Egg Layers, Blue*
- Naomi Doerr, *Elements of Photography-Grades 9+, Blue*
 - Alyosha Frick, *Chickens-Egg Production-Brown Egg Layers, Blue*
 - Alyosha Frick, *Crafts-Grades 9+, Blue*
 - Katrina Frick, *Vegetable Plate-Grades 6-8, Blue*
 - Katrina Frick, *Chickens-Egg Production-Brown Egg Layers, Red*
 - Brianna Matheny, *Yorkshire, Registered-February Gilt, Purple/1st place/Reserve Champion Yorkshire Gilt*
 - Nadia Oberg, *Elements of Photography-Grades 9+, Blue*

Lynn Hustlers

- Maverick Finnell, *Poultry Poster, Blue*
- Brooke Kobow, *Ducks-Breeding Pen, Purple/6th place Advanced Poultry Showperson/Champion Breeding Ducks*
- Taylor Lang, *Beef-Black Angus, Registered Junior Yearling, 9th place*
- Taylor Lang, *Breeding Beef Showmanship Intermediate-Grades 6-8, Green*
- Cameron Ziemer, *Sewn Non-Garment-Grades 6-8, Blue*

McLeod County 4-H Riders

- McLeod County 4-H Riders, *Club Banner, Blue*
- Kianna Dolezal, *Rabbit-Satin-Senior Doe, Purple/4th place*

See STATE FAIR Page 6

Meet Miranda

Miranda Kempner is the new McLeod County 4-H Educator

Tell us about yourself and your experience with 4-H.

I was a McLeod County 4-H'er growing up in the Bear Lake Beavers 4-H club. I started exhibiting general projects with my favorite projects being vegetable gardening, outdoor gardening, veterinary science, and wildlife biology. In sixth grade, my family and I started raising poultry. We've been active poultry breeders in Minnesota since then showing in state and national shows. My passion for animals led me to the University of Minnesota to obtain a degree in Animal Science-Poultry Industry and Business. I currently reside in Hutchinson with my husband and our son.



What made you aspire to be a McLeod County 4-H Educator?

I wanted to become the new educator because I always enjoy working with 4-H members and their families, helping share what I learned in 4-H. It taught me how to lead others, step out of my comfort zone, and develop other life skills and interests that are not taught in formal education settings.

As you are responding to this Q&A, you're in the throes of the County and State Fairs. Share some of your fondest memories of those times growing up.

Fair season is my favorite time of year besides holidays! The environment of fair is filled with nerves, excitement, and determination as all the hard work you put in gets showcased. Some of my fondest memories include exhibiting poultry at the Minnesota State Fair every year, washing cows at 3 a.m., tie dying t-shirts on the wash rack, bringing a cat skeleton to Minnesota State Fair for an exploring animals exhibit (I got a lot of concerned looks that year!), and overall being with the best, fun people for an entire week. My favorite fair foods are a footlong hot dog from the stand outside the Coliseum at the State Fair or nitro ice cream. Events that I cannot miss include watching livestock shows, the Round Robin Showmanship contest, and walking through the entire State Fairgrounds at least once a year.

What are the goals and plans you have for the McLeod County 4-H Program that you are most looking forward to?

I hope to bring more awareness to all areas of interest where 4-H can support families from both urban and rural settings. 4-H is focused on hands-on projects in areas like science, health, agriculture, and civic engagement. We encourage youth to take leadership roles and develop social connections. These are areas where I hope I can assist.

Livestock presenters win big

STATE FAIR from Page 5

Advanced Showmanship/Interview Champion-Chair Winner/Interview Finalist/Reserve Champion Satin

- Kianna Dolezal, *Creative Writing-Grades 9+, Red*
- Sophie Dolezal, *Dairy Goat-Saanen-Milking Two Year Old Doe, 2nd place*
- Sophie Dolezal, *Fruit-Grades 9+, Blue*
- Sophie Dolezal, *Dairy Goat Showmanship Senior Grades 8-10, Purple*
- Abigail Gruber, *Elements of Photography-Grades 9+, Blue*
- Alyssa Gruber, *Woodworking-Grades 9+, Blue*
- Chloe Wieweck, *Beef-Black Angus, Registered Junior Yearling, 6th place*
- Chloe Wieweck, *Breeding Beef Showmanship Senior-Grade 9+, Green*

Otter Lake Royal Juniors

- Landon Loncorich, *Beef-Cow and Calf-Black Angus, Registered (Purebred), 3rd place*
- Landon Loncorich, *Cow-Calf Showmanship Intermediate Grades 6-8, Green/4th place*

- Olivia Loncorich, *Market Beef Showmanship Senior Grade 9+, Green*
- Olivia Loncorich, *Steer-Angus, Registered, 2nd place/Reserve Champion Black Angus Steer*
- Madison Plamann, *Beef-Cow and Calf-Commercial, 5th place*
- Madison Plamann, *Cow-Calf Showmanship Senior Grade 9+, Green*
- Makenna Plamann, *Market Lamb-Black Face, Blue*
- Makenna Plamann, *Market Lamb and Wether Dam Showmanship Intermediate Grades 6-7, Green*

Winsted Jolly Juniors

- Easton Bayerl, *Dairy Market Wethers, Blue*
- Easton Bayerl, *Dairy Wether Showmanship Intermediate Grades 6-7, Green*
- Grace Bayerl, *Meat Breeding Doe Showmanship Senior Grades 8-10, Green*
- Grace Bayerl, *Senior Meat Breeding Doe Kid, Blue/Interview Champion*
- Grace Bayerl, *Veterinary Science-Grades 9+, Blue*
- Brielle Christen, *Dairy-Brown Swiss 2 Year Old, Purple/1st*

place/Champion Brown Swiss Cow

- Kalley Christen, *Dairy-Red & White Junior Yearling, Purple/1st place*
- Morgan Feltmann, *Dairy Goat-Alpine-Dry Yearling Doe, 1st place*
- Morgan Feltmann, *Dairy Goat Showmanship Senior Grades 8-10, Purple*
- Brodie Krienke, *Food Revue-Grades 6-8, Blue*
- Jack Otto, *Woodworking-Grades 6-8, Blue*
- Kaylee Otto, *Dairy Market Wethers, Blue*
- Kaylee Otto, *Dairy Wether Showmanship Senior Grades 8-10, Green*
- Julia Quast, *Sheep-Suffolk, Registered-January Ewe Lamb, Blue/Interview Finalist*
- Julia Quast, *Breeding Ewe Showmanship Advanced Grade 11+, Green*
- Ellie Wendolek, *Crafts-Grades 6-8, Purple*

Independent

- Margaret Goebel, *Fine Arts-Grades 9+, Purple*
- Ian Schimmel, *Health and Wellness-Grades 6-8, Red*

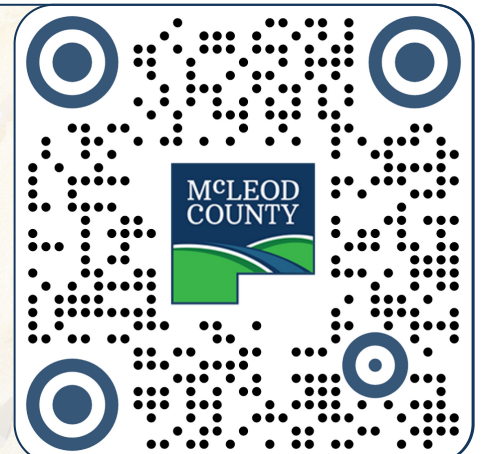
Unknown

- Braeden Trapp, *Cow-Calf Showmanship Intermediate-Grades 6-8, Green*

Follow the path to meaningful work

Like the weather, life also changes seasons. If you or someone you know is looking for a new career, McLeod County has a variety of opportunities for people to grow with a role in public service.

Scan the QR code or visit www.mcleodcountymn.org.





McLeod County Announcements

Upcoming office closures

McLeod County offices will be closed for:

Veterans Day on Friday,
November 10, 2023

Thanksgiving Holiday on
Thursday and Friday,
November 23-24, 2023

Christmas Holiday on
Monday, **December 25, 2023**

Normal hours of operation will resume the following business day.

HHW extended hours

McLeod County's Household Hazardous Waste facility at 1065 Fifth Avenue Southeast, Hutchinson, will be open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Monday, October 2; and Wednesday, December 6, 2023.

The facility will also be open 8 a.m.-12 p.m. on the following Saturdays:
October 7, 2023
November 4, 2023
December 2, 2023

Tax payments made easy

Save time by paying property taxes online

Property tax payment due dates on October 16 and November 15 are quickly approaching.

The McLeod County Auditor-Treasurer's Office wants you to know there are six methods to make payments, including in-person, by mail, secure payment drop box at the Government Center (520 Chandler Avenue North, Glencoe, MN 55336), credit card or eCheck, direct debit, and escrow.

For those who wish to make payments online, the County offers its public access site: <https://publicaccess.mcleodcountymn.gov>. Review the terms, and click the "Agree" button to gain access to the Basic Search for parcels. Enter your Parcel ID (numbers only, no letters) and click "Search." The "Property Overview" tab will be displayed. Scroll down to the "Property Taxes Due" tab, locate the "Current Taxes Due" section and click the

"Pay" button. This will bring you to the secure Point and Pay site where you can complete, review and confirm payment.

The public access site is also available to view any of the following property information:

- *property overview*
- *property GIS location*
- *property owner*
- *property owner history*
- *property special assessments*
- *property tax refunds*
- *property tax pay history*
- *property tax details*
- *property tax adjustments*
- *property taxes due*
- *property values*
- *additional structure*
- *building sketches*
- *commercial/apartment buildings*
- *land information*
- *manufactured homes*
- *multi parcel groups*
- *permit*
- *residential buildings*

Additionally, property record cards, tax statements, value notices, and proposed tax statements can be found at the listed website.

2023 McLeod County Highway Projects Update

Here's a look at how some of this year's larger road construction projects have progressed

- **Roundabout construction at Trunk Highway 7 and County Road 1:** Work on this joint project between the County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation started on July 17 and is scheduled to be complete in October.
- **Roundabout construction at County Roads 115 and 25 (Airport Road and Jefferson Road near Hutchinson) and 3.3-mile concrete overlay of County Road 115:** Due to unexpectedly high bid prices, the project will be rebid for construction in spring 2024. McLeod County is receiving \$860,000.00 in Federal Highway Safety Improvement Project funds for the roundabout.
- **Concrete pavement repair on County Road 115 between County Road 7 and Trunk Highway 7:** Construction was rescheduled for summer 2024.
- **Bridge deck repairs on the County Road 71 bridge over the South Fork Crow River, near Biscay:** These repairs will extend the life of the bridge and reduce impact for access to the landfill for the next 20 years.
- **County Road 5 extension project between County Roads 1 and 9, in Winsted:** As of late September, mass grading was underway and should be substantially completed this fall. Concrete paving, County Road 9 turn lane construction and final grading will be done in spring and summer 2024, with completion scheduled for fall 2024.
- **Installation of ground-in, high-durability pavement markings on recent concrete projects for safety:** McLeod County was awarded \$117,000.00 in Federal Highway Safety Improvement Project funds to install ground-in, high durability pavement markings on three McLeod County roads. Installation of the markings will begin this fall and be completed in spring 2024.

McLEOD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

McLeod County Government Center, 520 Chandler Ave N, Glencoe, MN 55336

Nathan Schmalz

nathan.schmalz@mcleodcountymn.gov

320-282-9647 — Lester Prairie, MN



DISTRICT ONE

City of Lester Prairie
City of Silver Lake
City of Winsted
Bergen Township
Hale Township
Winsted Township

Paul Wright

paul.wright@mcleodcountymn.gov

320-587-7332 — Hutchinson, MN



DISTRICT THREE

City of Hutchinson (SW)
City of Stewart
Collins Township
Lynn Township
Penn Township
Round Grove Township

Joe Nagel

joseph.nagel@mcleodcountymn.gov

320-296-1739 — Hutchinson, MN



DISTRICT FIVE

City of Hutchinson (NW)
Acoma Township
Hutchinson Township

Doug Krueger

doug.krueger@mcleodcountymn.gov

612-756-2855 — Glencoe, MN



DISTRICT TWO

City of Glencoe
City of Plato
Glencoe Township
Helen Township

Daryl Luthens

daryl.luthens@mcleodcountymn.gov

612-281-4840 — Hutchinson, MN



DISTRICT FOUR

City of Biscay
City of Brownton
City of Hutchinson (NE)
City of Hutchinson (SE)
Hassan Valley Township
Rich Valley Township
Sumter Township

Sheila Murphy

sheila.murphy@mcleodcountymn.gov

320-864-1320



COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

McLeod County
Government Center
520 Chandler Ave N
Glencoe, MN 55336

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. OCTOBER 3, 2023

Hutchinson City Center, 111 Hassan Street Southeast, Hutchinson

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. OCTOBER 17, 2023

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. NOVEMBER 7, 2023

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. NOVEMBER 21, 2023

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 4:30 P.M. DECEMBER 7, 2023

McLeod County Government Center

TRUTH IN TAXATION MEETING | 6:00 P.M. DECEMBER 19, 2023

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 4:30 P.M. DECEMBER 19, 2023

McLeod County Government Center

COUNTY BOARD MEETING | 9:00 A.M. DECEMBER 28, 2023

McLeod County Government Center



MCLEOD COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

520 CHANDLER AVENUE NORTH
GLENCOE, MINNESOTA 55336