



MAZEPPA and
ZUMBRO FALLS

Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger™

FEBRUARY, 2023

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Volume 17 • Issue 7

Announcements

• Lenten Soup Suppers/Bible Study:

The Mazeppa UMC invites community members to join them Wednesday evenings (March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29) for soup suppers and a Bible study based on the book of Esther. Supper 6:30-7; Bible study 7-8 PM. For more information call Ann Neil @507 696 3875.

• **Celebrate Recovery meetings every Sunday night at 5pm at South Troy Church, 56817 Highway 63 Zumbro Falls, MN 55991.** Email for questions is: celebraterecoveryouthroy@gmail.comat.

• **The Zumbro Valley Food Shelf is located at South Troy Wesleyan Church, 56817 Hwy 63, Zumbro Falls, MN.** The hours are Tuesdays 11:00am-5:00pm and Thursdays 11:00am-6:00pm. Donations and volunteers are greatly appreciated. For more information contact Pastor Colleen Hoeft at 507-259-1442 or choeft52@gmail.com.

• **The Mazeppa Area Food Shelf, serving Mazeppa, Bellechester, and Zumbro Falls Area is open the second Thursday of the month from 9:30-11 am and 3:30 - 5:30pm, and the fourth Thursday from 3:30 - 5:30pm.** Food drop off locations are First State Bank of Red Wing, Mazeppa Branch, and Entry way to Mazeppa City Hall.

Do you have an announcement?

Email:

hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Mac's Vintage Snowmobile Show



Submitted by Missy Papenfus

Thank you to EVERYONE that came out to support the Vintage Snowmobile Show! Here are the winners and classes.

UNRESTORED CLASS:

1st place: Mark Holm 1969 Polaris Colt 303

2nd place: Todd Greseth 1974 Mercury 390

3rd place: Tim Zelinski 1981 Yamaha SRX

440

RESTORED CLASS

1st place: Jacob Haugstad 1975 Snojet Thunderjet 440

2nd place: Steve Vatland 972 Polaris Colt 340

3rd place: Greg Gernentz 1971 Rupp 440

PEOPLES CHOICE: Dick Majerus was a huge part of our snowmobile community as

well as the Bellechester Legion. He will be missed! The winner of this prestigious award goes to Carl Majerus with his 1972 Polaris Starfire 340.

We hope you all enjoyed the show as much as we enjoyed putting it on!

Special thanks goes to the Bellechester American Legion. See you next year!

Mazeppa City Business in January

Heather Groby, Mazeppa Municipal Liquor store manager resigned effective January 13th. Heather had managed the liquor store for the last seven years and was instrumental in turning the enterprises loss into a profitable business during her time. Heather offered to work with the business while the city looks for her replacement, although the city council did not take her up on the offer. The city is accepting applications for the new manager through February 3rd.

During her time Heather added live music, dart, bean bag and pool leagues as well as some family friendly events which drew larger crowds.

SEMMCHRA representative Nick Koverman informed the council that the city has been granted \$591,125 in funds for owner occupied housing rehabilitation projects. This will facilitate the rehabilitation of fifteen homes and twelve rental units at the River Valley Apartments. Qualified recipients may receive up to \$25,000 for home repairs and the loans are forgiven if the owner continues to live in the home for ten years. These include repairs such as siding, windows, furnaces, plumbing and handicap accessible projects.

The Mazeppa Fire Department will host a skating and sledding party on February from 11am to 3pm at Herb Vik Park.

Mazeppa Winterfest

Saturday, February 11

Mazeppa Lion's Club Bar Bingo

6:00pm

(children welcome to play)

Silent Auction and Live Auction
to Follow Bingo

MAZEPPA • 507-843-4637

Closed Monday

Open 5:00p.m. Tuesday-Thursday
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Sunday, February 12
Stop in for
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Starting at 5PM
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11:30a.m. Friday-Sunday

Increasing in Favor with God and People



By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

Jesus grew up just like you and me- He was fully human. He had to learn to walk and talk. He learned how to comb his hair and how to wash behind his ears. He had to learn to get along with his little sisters and brothers, as well as the adults in his life. He was 100% God too- but that didn't negate his humanness. He experienced all the normal stages of development. So, at age 12- he was considered old enough to go along with his parents to the Passover festival in Jerusalem.

The family had made sure serving and following God was a priority. Jesus was excited to attend this festival with his family. He was also excited to visit the temple and to learn and grow in his understanding of the Scrip-

tures. We can read this in Luke 2:41-52. I want to focus on verse 52 of chapter 2 and how it applies to every one of us. "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

First we read, Jesus grew in Wisdom. Proverbs 9:10-11, "Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment. Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life." David wrote, "Psalm 111:10, "Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true wisdom." In the New Testament James writes, "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking." James 1:5

Jesus grew in wisdom because he knew and obeyed His Father God. He listened to those around Him- He obeyed His parents. And He learned from the religious teachers. He sought to know more and grow in wisdom. Jesus knew that getting wisdom was the wisest thing he could ever do. He obeyed God, He followed God and He learned from God.

The CEV version says he grew strong. Jesus ate his fruits and vegetables. He exercised and he got plenty of rest. He couldn't help but grow - when he did what he was supposed to. Eating healthy was a part of his upbringing- he grew like a boy- he got taller and filled out and then he shot up in his teens and filled out some more—just like every boy! His voice changed and He changed- he began to grow a beard- all these things happened because he was a human being. He didn't stand out because of his looks either, "There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him." Isaiah 53:2, and as a man

the people only thought of him as Joseph's son, "Then they scoffed, "He's just the carpenter's son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas." Matthew 13:55.

Jesus grew in favor- Jesus grew in reputation. Jesus grew a good name. Solomon wrote, Proverbs 22:1, "A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold." What is so important about a good name and growing in favor with God and with people? People know us by our name.

When our name has been drug through the mud- when we've brought shame to our name- that shame, that memory good or bad will be associated with that name for a long time to come. Solomon was correct in saying it is a big deal! Jesus knew that too. He didn't want to bring shame to the name of His Heavenly Father or His earthly parents. When he was 12, he went back home with them and obeyed them-giving him and them a good name.

If we want to grow in favor with God and with people here are 7 basic guidelines to consider:

- Do what you say you'll do. Jesus tells us, "Just say a simple, 'Yes, I will,' or 'No, I won't.' Anything beyond this is from the evil one." Matthew 5:37

- Go out of your way to help others. The golden rule- do to others as you would have them do to you- goes a long way to build good favor with people and with God. Matthew 7:12, "Do to others whatever you would like them to do to you."

- Make other people look good. Put other people first in everything. "Be humble,

thinking of others as better than yourselves. 4 Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too." Philippians 2:3-4

- Go a step beyond what is expected. Jesus said, "If a soldier demands that you carry his gear for a mile, carry it two miles." Matthew 5:41.

- Act with integrity. "Better to be poor and honest than to be dishonest and a fool." Proverbs 19:1

- Get engaged with your community. "When you put on a luncheon or a banquet," he said, "don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. 13 Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. 14 Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you." Luke 14:12-14

- Be likeable. John 13:34-35, "So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

When we live out these traits- as Jesus did- we will prove to the world that we are Jesus' disciples! Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and People. Can that be said of you? Are you growing in wisdom? Wisdom begins with God- there is no true wisdom without a faith in Jesus Christ. James said is we lack wisdom we need to ask God for it. Pray and seek God's wisdom. He'll answer through His Word and He'll direct you when you are truly seeking Him and His direction.



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Friday Mass Adoration 8:00a.m.
Mass 9:00a.m.

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Hall 507-753-2424, West Albany
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Wednesday Mass 7:00 p.m.

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Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m.
(Bible class at 8:30 during the school year)



AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY "Mini Me"

You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

— 1 Thessalonians 1:6

My three-year-old granddaughter is full of life and joy. Every time she runs into our house or I walk into theirs, she shouts, "Grandma, my 'mini me'!" She is thrilled as she shouts the good news. No one can miss it. I have often suggested that she might be my "mini me" (since she is a lot like me), but she insists that I am her "mini me." We share mannerisms and a flare for shopping, and we both tend to be optimistic. We have serious discussions about life, giggle about nothing, and enjoy afternoon naps.

Paul commends the church at Thessalonica that they have stayed strong in faith by following his example and that of other leaders—and ultimately by following Jesus, despite the hardship and suffering in their life. They have set an example of how to serve and live by the Spirit with joy. They have learned to access all the empowerment and energy they need in order to live through the Spirit.

Whoever we are, on any given day we are following someone or leading someone. Our challenge is to follow those who imitate Jesus and to lead those who need to know him.

Prayer: Lord and God, help us to imitate you. May we live by the joy you have given us. May we be empowered by your Spirit. May someone see you in us today. Amen.

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Dave Mohler
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Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

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Pastor Colleen Hoeft
56187 Hwy. 63, Zumbro Falls
www.southtroywesleyan.org • 507-259-1442
Sunday 10:30a.m.
Sunday 5:00p.m. Celebrate Recovery -
5pm- meal, 5:45 large group and 6:30 small groups.
Wednesday Kids and Teen worship at 6pm -
meal at 6, followed by worship and small groups.

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Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the
Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger at:
hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Supporting Our Local FFA & Celebrating National FFA Week February 18-25, 2023



National FFA Week is February 18 - 25th 2023. Starting in 1948, the National FFA Board of Directors designated a weeklong tradition to recognize George Washington's example and legacy as a leader and farmer.

For the past 74 years, FFA members across the country have taken part in agricultural, leadership and service-based activities during National FFA Week.

"National FFA Week is a significant event that really showcases the heart of our organization," says Christine White, chief program officer for the National FFA Organization. "Local chapters use this as an opportunity to highlight program success, recognize com-

munity supporters and amplify the mission of the organization."

Again this year, more than 700,000 FFA members will spend the week of February 18-25 developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

They will do so in creative and innovative ways. Whether volunteering to clean up the local fairgrounds or throwing a citywide party to celebrate the 1732 birth of our first president, there is no limit to how this week can be recognized.

"It could be hosting a breakfast for teachers, an open house for FFA supporters or bestowing chapter-level degrees. It truly is an opportunity to celebrate all things FFA. As a former member and agricultural educator, FFA Week is something I always looked forward to since it was a way to share my passion for the organization," White says. "FFA members should embrace the planning, execution and celebration that occurs with developing activities and events for FFA Week. The skills of teamwork, communication and advocating are ones you will carry with you beyond your FFA experience."

Keep track of all that is happening by following #FFAWeek on your social channels. Find more about all the resources available at FFA.org/National-FFA-Week.

The organization also wants to Thank Alumni and Supporters!

Whether they wore the blue jacket or simply support an organization they were never a member of, these individuals are celebrated on National FFA Alumni and Supporters Day. Since 1971, alumni and supporters have

found ways to significantly contribute to their local chapters.

Jeremy Krerowicz, the past president of the Denmark FFA Alumni in Wisconsin, fondly remembers his time as a member, and he used those experiences as motivation to lead the 2020 Outstanding FFA Alumni and Supporters Chapter.

"Our members love to see the students grow," Krerowicz says. "We love seeing them being recognized at state and national conventions, during their chapter banquet and throughout the community. It shows that we are doing our part. We help them with the resources they need to get that far."

In every state in the nation, alumni and supporters chapters work to create environments where people and communities can develop their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success.

They are raising funds to send members to the Washington Leadership Conference, hosting students with supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs), helping to advocate for their local chapters and more. 2023 marks the 52nd anniversary of the National FFA Alumni Association. Randolph FFA is also fortunate to have an very active alumni as well as great community support.

Chili Cook Off Contest part of this years Dennison Lions Flake Out Festival Saturday, February 4th



The Dennison Lions Club is planning the 2023 Flake Out Festival & Winter Parade for Saturday, February 4th.

The club is holding a raffle in conjunction with the days events to raise funds to support Lions Clubs activities and help support other area non-profit entities and those in need that the club donates to and supports throughout the year. A \$500 1st Prize, plus other cash prizes will be given away.

The Annual Lighted Parade will take place at 6:30 PM, and anyone can participate. A Cash Prize will be given to the best float.

Other returning favorites include Euchre at Fireside, beginning at 9 AM with 100% Prize Payout and Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo at City Hall at 3 pm. New this year will be a Chili Cookoff Contest. Cook up your best chili recipe and bring it down to city hall at 11 AM. Tasting and voting will be from 11:30-12:30 with a cash prize for 1st and 2nd place. If you have any questions, contact Lion President Diane at 612-532-0268. See the full schedule of events on page 16 of this issue of the Messenger.

WE'RE ONLINE!

www.mazeppamn.com
www.zumbrofallsmn.com

BAR OLYMPICS Saturday, February 4 Noon to 5PM



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Heart Attacks and Young Athletes



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

Over the past two years (2021 and 2022), more than 1,650 professional and amateur athletes have collapsed due to a cardiac event and 1,148 of them were fatal. Recently, Buffalo Bills football player Damar Hamlin went into cardiac arrest on live television during a game. A condition called commotio cordis is known to cause cardiac events in baseball when a player is hit dead on in the sternum with a fast-moving baseball. This occurs 20-30 x per year in baseball. It has never been reported to have occurred in football. Cardiac doctors interviewed over the Damar Hamlin incident feel that commotio cordis can be ruled out as the cause of heart failure. The most typical cause of cardiac arrest in athletes is hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. This condition is an abnormal thickening of the heart muscle. Another issue that can lead to cardiac arrest in athletes is the adrenaline rush. During exercise or a sporting event, the body's stress hormone adrenaline is pumping. If that particular athlete has some degree of unknown heart damage, the adrenaline rush can trigger cardiac arrest. Sadly, this adrenaline rush cardiac event not only effects athletes with damaged heart tissue, but it can effect anyone with damaged heart tissue and explains why a lot of cardiac events occur during a person's sleep. The body releases adrenalin during a normal night's sleep between 3 am and 6am. Why the sudden increase in athlete related cardiac arrest? Researchers have

reported on the link between myocarditis in young people after receiving the covid-19 vaccine. Myocarditis is an Inflammation of the middle layer of the heart wall. Myocarditis can weaken the heart, which can lead to heart failure, abnormal heartbeat, and sudden death. The current hypothesis is that undetected myocarditis in conjunction with athletic adrenaline rush, could be a possible cause of the increase in athletes collapsing on the field. The Journal of the American Medical Association reported on the link between myocarditis and covid vaccination in their re-

search paper titled, Myocarditis Cases Reported After mRNA-Based COVID-19 Vaccination in the US From December 2020 to August 2021.

Speaking of covid-19, there is a new variant making the rounds. This variant, called XBB.1.5, has been named the "Kraken Variant," Named after the legendary sea monster that could not be defeated. I am guessing the name Kraken was chosen to scare the general public about the chances of catching covid. The good news is while this variant is more transmissible, it causes milder illness than the

other variants with most people only experiencing only mild cold symptoms.

One last covid item: The CDC and the FDA announced last week that they are investigating a possible link between the Pfizer bivalent MRNA Comirnaty Covid Biologic vaccine and the increased incidence of stroke among people over the age of 65. Data from the CDC vaccine safety datalink uncovered a "safety signal," suggesting those in that age group are more likely to suffer a stroke 21 days after getting the vaccination.

Annual Wellness Exam is Key to a Healthy Year for Older Adults

(StatePoint) You've selected your insurance plan for the year. Now, it's time to start using your benefits, beginning with an annual wellness exam.

An annual wellness exam with a health care provider is important for everyone, but especially for older adults. As we age, we are more likely to develop chronic health conditions, according to Dr. J.B. Sobel, chief medical officer for Cigna Medicare, which serves hundreds of thousands of older adults through its products. An annual wellness exam can help detect potential health issues early so they can be addressed before they worsen, he added.

"By meeting with your primary care provider early in the year, you can highlight the things that are important to you, and work together to develop a plan for your care for the year ahead," Sobel said. "This will ensure you live each day with vitality, happiness and improved health."

Many providers will reach out to schedule an annual wellness exam. If your provider doesn't contact you, make sure to call them.

A number of annual check-ups are available at no extra cost to those with Medicare. They include a "Welcome to Medicare" visit for customers who have just reached Medicare eligibility and an "Annual Wellness Exam" for existing customers. Many Medicare Advantage (MA) plans offer more extensive annual visits at no extra cost. Some even offer incentives for completing a visit. Talk with your provider and Medicare insurer about your benefits.

Each annual exam may be a little different. Regardless of the type, Sobel offers the fol-

lowing tips to ensure you get the most from your visit.

Prepare. Before you go, write down anything you'd like to discuss with your health care provider, including changes to your health over the past year. Bring your prescription and over-the-counter medications with you. Ask plenty of questions and take notes. You might even want to take along a family member, trusted friend or caregiver to ensure you understand everything your provider has shared.

Be open and honest. It's tempting to make things look rosier than they are when talking to your health care provider, but minimizing what you are feeling can lead to an incorrect diagnosis or prescription. Speak openly about unhealthy habits, like smoking or lack of exercise. Your provider won't judge you. Being honest is the only way your health care provider can help you reach your goals.

Mind mental health. Your emotional health impacts your physical health. Many people think depression is a natural part of aging, but it doesn't have to be. Talk to your doctor if you are feeling sad, anxious or hopeless. Treatments, such as talk therapy, medication or both, may be covered by Medicare.

Monitor medications. Adults age 65 and

older tend to take more medications than other age groups, increasing the risk for adverse reactions, such as cognitive impairment and falls. It's a good idea to take your medications to your annual wellness exam and discuss any potential problems or side effects you're experiencing. Don't forget about over-the-counter drugs, vitamins or nutritional supplements you take.

Schedule screenings and get vaccines. There are a number of important health screenings and vaccines that you may need depending on your age and gender, such as colon cancer screening, bone density test, mammogram, flu shot or COVID-19 immunization. Ask your provider about the screenings and vaccines you've had already and schedule any you need as soon as possible. You may even be able to do that before you leave the office. Also, don't forget to visit your eye doctor and dentist. These visits are covered by many MA plans as well. Find out more at www.cignamedicare.com.

"You wouldn't drive your vehicle without proper preventive maintenance, so please don't ignore preventive maintenance for your most prized possession – your health," Sobel said. "An annual wellness exam is a great place to start!"

MISSY'S MESSAGE



MISSY PAPENFUS

MY WORD OF THE YEAR "MOMENTUM"

A few years back, I started hearing about choosing a "word for the year" to describe yourself, basically in terms of improving your physical wellbeing in some way.

This year, I chose "momentum" (strength or force gained by motion or by a series of events).

Last month I talked about making more of a commitment to waking up at 6AM to exercise. Scheduling myself to attend a 6AM Zoom exercise class or meeting my bestie Jenny and to walk has helped me stay on track. My goal this year is to keep moving forward and to keep building off a solid foundation. Momentum can be used in more broad terms, in my organizing home/work/cabin, in business staying on task and getting stuff done. Also in exercise, Keep working up to more days of structured exercise per week, exercise zoom classes, more walking per day, drinking more water etc. Don't look back. Keep up momentum; keep on moving forward. What's your word of the year?

Memo from MotoProz...

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Missy and her husband Mike own MotoProz in Mazeppa.

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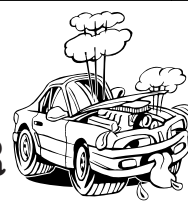
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MotoProz

A Monthly Moment at MotoProz



24 youth passed snowmobike training with Zumbro Valley Snowmobilers in Zumbro Falls.

We held Zumbro Valley Snowmobiler Association’s annual youth snowmobile training Sunday, January 15th in Zumbro Falls at the VFW. A big thank you to the Zumbro Falls VFW for donating the use of the hall for youth training!

Missy's Managing the Manor

A monthly read with tips and tricks (that work for me) on my quest to becoming more organized while decluttering.



By
Missy Papenfus

Tidy Solutions!

I rang in the new year, January 1 and 2 with my high school friend and professional organizer Tricia Herron Meyers, owner of Tidy Solutions in Lake City. We accomplished SO MUCH in two days-our kitchen, pantry, laundry area, three closets, a bathroom and basement bar area. I removed 3 trash bags (mostly expired food) and a few boxes of donations along with a bag full of my shoes I no longer need or use. I was able to pass on a couple nice coats on to my mom, and able to proudly display my new Tom and Jerry Christmas bowl and mug set (Christmas gift from my husband) on a top shelf in our kitchen cupboard. We reorganized our hall closet, and we are now able to see what’s in there. It was jampacked full, Mike and I both found a couple of our coats we were looking for!

Tricia made the process easy, and asked the question numerous times “do you need this?” She would not persuade me to part with something Mike or I would not be ready to toss. Example, my Yellow Sony Walkman from high school. Have I used it in 20 years? The answer is probably no, but my answer of getting rid of it “NO”. Guess what? Tricia was watching the news a couple days later, and what came on as “one of the biggest trends of ’23”? The yellow Sony Walkman!

The two days of hard work were totally worth it! I could have never accomplished as much in a month by myself. I had a few more tasks I wanted to accomplish after my cheerleader left. It’s been much easier to break it down into smaller tasks to do later. I have my Longaberger basket recipe box and church cookbooks from our grandmothers, but I had a few other cookbooks I passed on to our son Monty and cooking magazines I tossed. I typically search the internet for recipes rather than look through cooking magazines, so I see no need to take up a shelf in the kitchen for something we will never use again.

Stay tuned for next month’s topic:
Kitchen Zero theory by Sarah Mueller/Declutter Club
There’s so much to do, so little time. Bye for now!

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Happy Birthday
to Mike
February 7th



MotoProz



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Grants Available to Provide Access to Healthy Food

Good Food Access Program
Grant applications due by
March 16, 2023

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for the 2023 Good Food Access Program (GFAP) grants to increase availability and access to affordable, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods to underserved communities.

The GFAP Equipment and Physical Improvement Grant helps grocery stores and small food retailers purchase equipment or make physical improvements that will allow them to stock more fresh foods. Potential projects may include the purchase and installation costs of shelving, coolers, and freezers, as well as mobile food trucks, permanent in-

frastructure at farmers' markets, or architectural work.

A total of \$320,750 is available for this year's round of GFAP Equipment and Physical Improvement Grants, and the MDA anticipates awarding between 10 and 18 grants of up to \$50,000 each. A cash match is not required, and up to 50% of the award may be requested in advance. Multi-site proposals are encouraged.

The GFAP Technical Assistance Grant is available to help nonprofit organizations and public agencies provide appropriate technical assistance — including guidance and resources on topics such as business planning, financing, marketing, food procurement and distribution, handling and merchandising fresh foods, and more — to eligible food retailers, such as grocery stores, corner stores, and farmers' markets.

The MDA will award up to \$100,000 in this round of GFAP Technical Assistance Grants. Applicants may request between \$5,000 and \$50,000, and the grants can cover up to 75% of project costs.

Awards for both grants must be used to sup-

port projects that are located in or serve census-designated food deserts or low- to moderate-income communities with limited access to supermarkets.

All grant applications are due by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, 2023.

For more information, including a list of eligibility requirements, visit the GFAP Equipment and Physical Improvement Grant and the GFAP Technical Assistance Grant webpages.

MDA Now Accepting Applications for Noxious Weed/Invasive Plant Grants

Counties, municipalities, tribal governments, and weed management entities apply for grants by March 31

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for the 2023 Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant. Counties, municipalities, tribal governments, and weed management entities (including weed management areas) may apply for grants to mitigate noxious weeds around the state. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must spend grant funds by June 30, 2023.

Since 2018, the MDA's Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant has awarded over \$1.3 million to fund a variety of activities such as purchasing equipment and supplies, conducting mapping and outreach activities, and

hiring private applicators to manage noxious weeds. The MDA has awarded 119 grants, averaging \$9,000.

Review the application requirements and find the application on the MDA website. Applications are due no later than 3 p.m. on March 31, 2023. Questions can be directed to Emilie Justen, MDA Noxious Weed Law Coordinator, at Emilie.Justen@state.mn.us.

The grant program is funded by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

Grants Available to Support Minnesota Grown Specialty Crops

Specialty Crop Block Grant applications due by March 13

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has announced that applications are now open for the 2023 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP).

The SCBGP funds projects that will increase the competitiveness of Minnesota grown specialty crops in domestic and foreign markets by:

Leveraging efforts to market and promote specialty crops;

Assisting producers with research and development relevant to specialty crops;

Expanding availability and access to specialty crops; or,

Addressing local and regional challenges confronting specialty crop producers.

The MDA encourages nonprofit organizations, producer organizations, government agencies, universities, tribal organizations,

and other agricultural groups to apply for the grant. For-profit entities, farms, and other businesses who want to develop sector-wide research and development projects are also eligible.

Applications for the 2023 grants will be accepted through March 13, 2023. Applicants may request between \$20,000 and \$125,000, and the MDA anticipates awarding roughly \$1.25 million in total for this round.

Recipients of the 2022 grants will be announced at a forthcoming date.

To access the grant application and more information, including a list of eligibility requirements, visit the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program webpage. Questions may be directed to Ian Kushner at Ian.Kushner@state.mn.us or 651-201-6652.

Updated Minnesota Groundwater Protection Rule Map Now Available

MDA encourages farmers to access the map

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has issued an updated map that will help farmers across the state comply with the Groundwater Protection Rule. The rule restricts fall application of nitrogen fertilizer in areas vulnerable to contamination, and it outlines steps to reduce the severity of contamination in areas where nitrate is already elevated in public water supply wells.

The MDA has made changes to the Fall Nitrogen Fertilizer Application Restrictions map which is accessible on the MDA website. There have been changes to the Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMA). One DWSMA was removed and two DWSMAs had boundary changes. Additional information on the fall application restrictions and exceptions to the restrictions can be found on the MDA's website.

The restriction of fall application of nitrogen fertilizer on these acres will begin September 1, 2023. Farmers are encouraged to check the new map prior to the fall of 2023 to determine if their fields are subject to these restrictions.

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March 5, 20239:00 AM
Kenyon, MN
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Starts Closing:Mar. 30, 2023
Lonsdale, MN
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 Power & Hand Tools, Welders, Air Compressor, Shop Cabinets, Tool Boxes, Battery Chargers, Pullers, Pipe Wrenches, Sockets, New Filters & Oil, New Hardware, All Like New Items

April 1, 202310:00 AM
Lonsdale, MN
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FEBRUARY 07 10:00 AM

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AUCTION LOCATION:
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Our Many Partners Helped Us Make 2022 Successful



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) our motto is collaborating for regional vitality, and we do our best to live up to that commitment. In each area of our work – early childhood, entrepreneurship, and community vitality – we are mindful of partners in the state and region with whom we can collaborate to make a difference. Especially at this time of year as we look back at our accomplishments in 2022, we want to express our gratitude to these partners.

In partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, SMIF issued COVID business

recovery grants to over 2,000 businesses in our region, totaling over \$20 million since the onset of the pandemic. For SMIF this was over and above our regular workload, and I am also extremely grateful to our staff who stepped up to make this happen!

In partnership with Renewing the Countryside, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and other organizations, we co-sponsored the ninth annual Feast Local Foods Marketplace on November 5 at the Mayo Civic Center. It was our most successful event ever, with over 90 local food booths (exhibiting products like syrups and sauces, meats and cheeses, wines, brews and more) and roughly 1300 attendees. This event is a great way to highlight and celebrate the growing local foods sector in our region.

In partnership with, and often a referral from, local banks and economic development agencies, SMIF issued a total of 30 loans in fiscal year 2022 amounting to \$1.7 million dollars. In the first few months of fiscal year 2023, we have already added another seven loan clients to that number. We are proud to play a role in supporting new and early-stage businesses in our region.

SMIF also engages in numerous business training activities each year. These include our Prosperity Initiative offering coaching and mentoring to minority and new immigrant entrepreneurs, our Rural Entrepreneur Venture program which assists communities in creating an entrepreneurial culture, our Entrepreneur Bridge event which draws upwards of 75 small businesses each year for informational sessions important to business success, and our Young Entrepreneur com-



petitions focused on encouraging a new generation to start and build a business in our region. Various partners make these efforts possible – including Community Economic Development Associates (CEDA), the University of Minnesota Extension Service, Red Wing Ignites, Collider in Rochester, Region Nine Development Commission, and the South-Central Minnesota Business Development Center in Mankato – as well as several of our region's colleges and universities.

For many years, SMIF has supported early education through grant-making and literacy efforts in our twenty-county region. This past year our reading programs distributed books

to over 40 organizations, totaling over 21,000 books. Our book program includes a partnership with many Kiwanis Clubs in the area. All of this great work is made possible due to the generosity of two local publishing companies, Abdo and Capstone, who donate books for this purpose.

Throughout each year, SMIF offers trainings for early childhood providers to help them secure the continuing education credits they need to stay in business and be the best they can be. In the past year we provided 29 trainings reaching 711 providers! We want to express appreciations to our key partners in this work: Families First, Le Sueur County, Lake Crystal Little Lakers, Mankato Public Schools, Help Me Grow, United Way of Steele County, as well as various trainers.

As of 2022, SMIF is partnering with 31 communities in southern Minnesota by helping them create and maintain community funds. These funds are designed to assist smaller towns in securing tax-deductible donations to build endowments and to invest in local needs. The book "Boomtown USA" cites community funds as one of the keys to small town vitality, and we are pleased to partner with community leaders in this regard.

As you can see, at SMIF we have much to celebrate and many partners to thank.

We look forward to working with our regional partners again in 2023 to continue investing in the vitality of our southern Minnesota region.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at timp@smi-foundation.org or 507-455-3215.

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Historical Happenings

Compiled by
Helen Reiland

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 1955
THE MAZEPPA JOURNAL, Editor and Publisher: Barbara and Reider Tommeraas
Obituaries
JOHN DAMMAN

Local friends were shocked to hear of the sudden death of John T. Damman, longtime are farmer, at his home in Bear Valley, July 27. He suffered a heart attack, but had been in failing health for two and one half years.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. John Damman, he was born Aug. 20, 1884, in Goodhue County. He was married to Clara Prigge at Bear Valley, April 12, 1916 by Rev. Beck. Mr. Damman farmed all his life in this area and was a member of St. John's Lutheran church.

Surviving are his wife: three daughters, Mrs. Alfred (Rosella) Mueller of Clinton, Ind., Mrs. Reynold (Laurinda) Schultz of Goodhue and Mrs. Willard (LaVerle) Roschen of Red Wing; one son Elton; 13 grandchildren; seven sisters, Mrs. Maggie Damman of Lake City, Mrs. Pete Hadler of Goodhue, Mrs. Herman Post of Zumbrota, Mrs. John Luhmann of Zumbro Falls, Mrs. Albert Oelkers, and Mrs. George Oelkers of Mazeppa, Mrs. Martin Kuehl of Red Wing; one brother, William of Lake City. His parents, one brother and two grandchildren preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday at St. John's Lutheran church, with the Rev. Theo. Haar officiating. Pallbearers were Leonhart Hadler, Ore Oelkers, Ervin Post, Delbert Raasch, Walter Nibbe and John Prigge, all nephews.

Mr. Damman was a prominent farmer in this area, and very well known. The family is offered the deepest sympathy in its great loss.

MRS. A.P. HILGER

Mrs. A.P. Hilger of Rochester passed away there at 3 p.m. July 29, following a lingering illness. She was 71 years of age.

Anne Brucher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Brucher, was born Sept. 10, 1884, at Hammond. She was married to Alexander P. Hilger of Mazeppa, Jan. 20, 1914. The resided here for 23 years, until 1937, after which they lived in Weaver, Minneapolis and Rochester.

Surviving are her husband; one daughter, Mrs. Albert A. Heise, of Rochester; one granddaughter Dema Anne Heise; two sisters, Mrs. N.L. Beyer of Hammond and Miss Rosella Brucher of Rochester and two brothers, Nick Brucher of Mazeppa and Walter Brucher of Faribault.

Funeral services were held at 8:45 a.m. Monday, August 1, at SS. Peter & Paul Catholic church, with Rev. F.J. Felten officiating. Pallbearers were Leo Johnson and Phillip Beyer of Rochester, Vincent and Norbert Sand of Mazeppa, Clarence Hilger of St. Paul and Joseph Huberty of Rochester.

Aerial Wedding Is Fabulous Affair

A group of Mazeppa friends wee privileged to witness the fabulous reception given by Mr. and Mrs. Ed L. Williams at the Nicollet hotel, Saturday evening. The bride of course, is the former Marion Sutton, a Minneapolis and New York model.

The plane was bedecked with baby orchids pinned on a white satin backdrop. The bride's hat was accented pure white orchids with pink throats. There was a white stephanotis bouquet centered with an orchid for the bride to toss as she left the plane.

A skywriting plane traced cupid's hearts in the clouds.

Mrs. Williams will have a trousseau of 25 costumes for her Hawaiian honeymoon. After flying to Kansas City, Mo., she look forward to piloting a white Cadillac convertible, relaxing on either a 40-foot or 80-foot yacht.

Her mother, Mrs. George Krinke, gave the bride a silver coffee service which she had received as a wedding gift from her mother.

Local Nine, Zumbrota In Play-offs

Mazeppa's basketball team advanced into the finals of play-off Sunday by defeating Lake City here, 12-6.

The local club had too much stick power for the visitors and outhit them 14-7 for the lopsided victory. Three homerun's highlighted the game with Koenig and Ayotte each getting one for Mazeppa and Strawmatt one for Lake City. Top hitters were Goodman, three of five and Nelson, Koenig, Kunz, Ayotte and Wilson with two each. For the visitors, Strawmatt was tops on two of five.

Wilson started on the mound for the local club and was relieved by Weber after five innings. Strawmatt and Anderson tossed for Lake City.

Fire Department called to Heydman's

The Mazeppa Fire Department was called to the William Heydman farm located 6 miles northwest of here at 6:40 Monday morning.

The barn full of hay was a complete loss as the fire was out of control before any department could get on the scene. Zumbrota and Goodhue were also called.

Everything that could be moved including milk cooler, milk machine etc. was saved from damage. The barn, approximately 60x40, and its contents, represented thousands of dollars lost. Temporary quarter's for the milking cattle were immediately in the process of erection and plans are to rebuild as soon as possible.

The local firemen remained on the premises until 11:20 a.m.

Local News

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Liffrig moved from the Anna Hoff house, Friday, to an apartment in the Glenn Siems home.

Clifford Liffrig suffered four broken ribs Friday, while assisting his brother Danny in moving to an apartment in the Glen Siems residence.

80c -Chicken Dinner-80c-Sun., Aug. 7-No Delay In Service!
Greg & Marcy's

Historical Happenings are taken directly from the archives of the original papers as printed. Any discrepancies need to be taken up the Editor and Publisher of the said papers, who are deceased.

Regular Meeting of the Mazeppa City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

The regular meeting of the Mazeppa City Council was called to order at 6:01 PM by Mayor Chris Hagfors.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present: Mayor Chris Hagfors, Council Persons Steve Liffri, Michael Hammes, Dustin

Wiebusch, and Erica Young.

Others Present: City Attorney Luke Lamprecht, Wabasha County Sheriff Deputy Joe Schneider, Nick Kovermann from SEMMCHRA, and City Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

Present via electronic meeting: City Engineer Matt Mohs, John Clemens, Holly Galbus of the News Record, and Robert Josselyn.

Motion by Hammes, second by Wiebusch to approve the agenda and addendum. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Re-elected Council members were sworn in: Mayor Christopher Hagfors, Councilperson Dustin Wiebusch, and Councilperson Mike Hammes.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffri Young to approve the meeting minutes for the December 14, 2022 regular City Council meeting and the December 27, 2022 and December 29, 2022 Special Council meetings. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Wabasha County Sheriff Deputy Joe Schneider summarized the Incident Command Report. He also said the burglary that occurred at the City shop is still under investigation.

Public Works Report was read by Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

A Council member commented that updated equipment may be needed to properly get snow removed faster.

The Fire Department report was read by Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

The Municipal Liquor Store report was read by Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

City Engineer Matt Mohs presented an update on current engineering projects. City Attorney Luke Lamprecht added that the Zoning

and Boundary map that Bolton & Menk is preparing is ready to be printed.

A written request for a minor subdivision of platted land by Phil and Shari Olson was given to Council. Attorney Lamprecht will follow up to request further documents from the Olsons.

Discussion on payout of retiring City employee balance in former Health Reimbursement Account was discussed.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to table payout of old HRA account for Jim Glander until more information on proper payout is identified. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Nick Koverman from SEMMCHRA updated Council on the next steps in accepting and disbursing Small Cities Development Grants.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to adopt sections 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 16 of the Small Cities Development Grant agreement. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to approve Resolution 2023-02 entering into an administrative agreement with SEMMCHRA. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Liffri to approve Resolution 2023-03 Adopting a civil rights policy. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Young to approve Resolution 2023-04 Adopting a residential anti-displacement and relocating assistance plan. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Liffri, second by Young to approve Resolution 2023-05 authorizing release of funds on behalf of the City of Mazeppa. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffri to approve Resolution 2023-01 approving City appointments. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Wiebusch to accept resignation from Municipal Liquor Store Manager Heather Groby. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Discussion of keeping Ms. Groby employed as a consultant during transition to new manager. Mayor Hagfors called for a motion; none was offered.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffri to approve Auditor Engagement Letter for 2022 City Audit. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to rescind offer to loan Mazeppa Economic Development Authority to purchase tax forfeited lots. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Mazeppa EDA did not purchase any of the lots offered, so no loan was needed.

Motion by Hammes, second by Liffri to approve pay equity report. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve Resolution 2023-06 certifying past due water sewer accounts to be assessed to taxes. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffri to approve Resolution 2023-07 Accepting a do-

nation to the City. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to pay the bills and claims. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

City Attorney Luke Lamprecht discussed a letter he received from the law firm of Dunlap and Seeger requesting Freedom of Information act info from the City of Mazeppa regarding discussions and information having to do with the portion of 4th Ave. NE that lies on private property.

Council members Young, Wiebusch, Liffri, Hammes, and Mayor Hagfors all wanted to thank MMLS manager Heather Groby for 7 years of service and a job well done. They also wished her well on her future endeavor.

Motion by Liffri, second by Hammes to recess the meeting until 1:00 PM, January 28, 2023 for the Parks and Rec skating party. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Administrator-Clerk

Zumbro Falls City Council Minutes - December 14, 2022

The Zumbro Falls City Council met at City Hall with all members present. Also present was Fire Chief Nate Richardson and Bob Benson.

The meeting was called to order at 6PM. The clerk read to council the minutes from the November meeting that were accepted as read by a motion from Anderson, seconded Dennison, all in favor, carried. Jason gave the treasurer's report with acceptance by a motion from Dennison, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

The Fire Department election for 2023 results are as follows: Fire Chief, Scott Kennedy, 1st Assistant Brad Tighe, 2nd Assistant, Chris Conrad, President Matt Fick, Vice President Ike Klees, Secretary Leon Sexton, Treasurer Bob Benson, Training Officer Philip Heitmann, Assistant Training Officer Logan Deobald, Emergency Management Scott Kennedy, and Fire Relief members Bob Benson, and Tyler Blim. Council accepted election results with a motion from Anderson, seconded Dennison, all in favor, carried.

Christmas festival expenses were presented to the City and paid to the Lions for miscellaneous expenses and Trophy Store and More for the Christmas ornaments. Lighting contest winners were Dana Oelkers, Neptune, Jordan Moon, and Darla Meyer.

Agreement to pay Daren Hofshulte for the second half TIF levy in the amount of \$30,641.00 was agreed by a motion from Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried. Business licenses for the year 2023 will be renewed by a motion from Dennison, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried. Motion to keep the 2023 levy in the amount of \$78,916.00 was made by Anderson, seconded Bankers, all in favor, Carried.

Resolution #22-05 was put in place with a motion from Bankers, seconded Dennison, all in favor, carried. This authorizes the City of Zumbro Falls Fire Department to enter into a joint and cooperative agreement for purchasing of self-contained breathing apparatus.

Motion for the clerk to pay bills presented and the meeting to adjourn at 7PM was made by Anderson, seconded Dennison, all in favor, carried.

Submitted by,
Susan Eischens, Clerk

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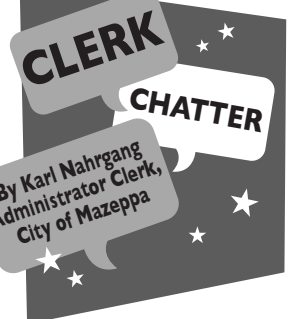
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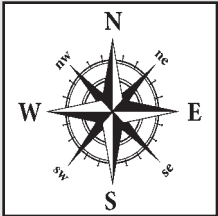


Improvements to the Mazeppa Community Center done well ahead of the original maintenance and replacement schedule, a new sign at Lion's Park, the skating rink, the sledding party, the lighting at the basketball court. These all happened much earlier than thought possible due to the generosity of our local community service organizations and private businesses. I have always appreciated community service organizations in small communities. The members of these organizations volunteer a great deal of time and effort in serving our community.

The events that these organization are fun opportunities for the community to come together and get to know each other. The funds raised at these events go back into the community. Donations are made to all types of worthy causes such as individuals in need, the community schools, and to the City. So if you know a member of the Lion's Club, the American Legion, Fire Relief, or Mazeppa Days committee, give them a word of thanks. Not only do they bring the community together with these social gatherings, but the funds raised go to providing recreation and amenities that are used and appreciated by the entire community.



Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Old License Plates and Memories



By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

Living on a family farm means you have a collection of items that can be much older than yourself. Last summer my wife had one of her interior decorator friends do her magic on our newly remodeled house. One of the things was a display board of some of the tin signs and license plates that have been around the farmstead all my life. These are not only interesting but also convey a wealth of memories from the past, which predates me by quite a time.

The oldest item on this board is a set of license plates off a pre-1920 Model T Ford owned by my grandfather Otis Campbell. From what I can determine this was his first horse less carriage. I can ascertain that the vehicle was a 1919 or older Model T because it had a crank start. He would have bought it used since the plate is dated 1928 and the story, I will relate took place that year when my grandparents first child was just an infant.

Cooperatives were a common type of organization for farm service businesses. Otis was going to go to a meeting in West Concord for what I believe was a creamery association. It was a warm spring day and my grandmother and their very young daughter accompanied him in the open-air vehicle. The young farm couple were in their twenties and I can only imagine what a wonderful world it seemed like a century ago.

While my grandfather participated in the

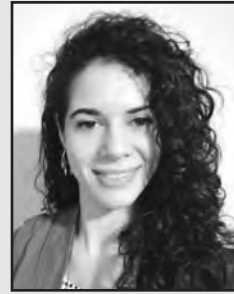
meeting, his wife Eva went for a drive down the dirt road we now know as Highway 56. A few miles to the south of town she decided to turn around. In the course of maneuvering the old Ford to return to town the engine quit. With a little baby wrapped in a blanket on the front seat, my grandmother had to dismount and hand crank the engine to start it again. She got it running and they chugged back to town.

The next set of license plates are motorcycle plates from 1948 and 1952. My father had a Harley Davidson 74 when he was a young man. Most of the stories I heard about the motorcycle were relayed to me by those who knew my dad. One of my dad's friends was our neighbor, Bub Wichser. Bud told me that my dad said he could take the Harley for a ride if he could get it started. By my calculations Bub would have been about 12 years old at the time. Never think a farm boy, no matter how young, can't get an engine started. Bub fired the Harley up and headed down the road on a ride. My dad sold the Harley before I was born, but he did tell me one story. Most roads were gravel back then and while on a trip back from Cannon Falls one evening, he laid the cycle over on a gravel curve. When he got home, he cleaned himself up and had to explain to my grandma about the bloody towels. He had gravel still embedded in the skin around his elbows thirty years later. He may have told me that story just to keep me from riding.

The next set of plates are for my grandfather's old pickup. It was a late 1940's Ford truck. Ford pickups have always played a vital role on our family farm. The last plate was from 1955 and is a "T" plate. As a kid I recall truck license plates designated with a T. I think it indicated a farm truck but am not certain if that was so.

In the granary on the old farm my grandfather had written many bits of information on the board walls. Most where about crops and feed and livestock, but one of them dated in the early 50's stated that he almost ran over Elvis with the pickup. That one got my attention. My dad explained that they named the dog Elvis, because he was "nothin' but a hound dog". One day my grandpa was backing up to the granary to unload feed from the pickup. Elvis was standing behind the pickup looking away and when the pickup bumper hit him, he yelped. Otis in his dry sense of humor noted that on that day he almost ran over Elvis.

A Minnesotan: More on Snow



By RosaLin Alcoser

Recently the Twin Cities got slammed by a ton of powder snow fall; while I was at work in the office. It was not snowing when I left home but started after I got there.

Because of the snow a lot of people left during lunch to finish the day from home. Except for me, the forecast said it was going to stop at 1pm. So I figured I might as well stay all day; after all, if I leave after it's not been snowing for a while then the roads will be plowed. Right?

Wrong! I was wrong in my assumption that the roads would all be plowed.

Now some of the side roads in town I did not expect to be completely snow free by the time I left for work. There were places where one side was plowed and the other was not. Which is to be expected since the plow has to come back in the other direction to do that side.

The issue was when I got to the highway; which I normally do not take home. Normally I take a backway home to avoid traffic. However, due to the large amounts of powdery snow I thought that I should play it safe and take the highway.

Clearly my assumption was that the highway would have been plowed. After all, it's a highway. The highway had not been plowed.

Instead it was a slushy snow filled mess.

I did end up taking it all the way back to my neighborhood though by doing something that I had not done since I was a teenager driving to school.

I followed a 4x4 that was following a Semitruck and got into their tire tracks just like I used to do on snowy Minnesota mornings when I would follow the milk truck out of the valley to the main road.

The process was a little bit terrifying and extremely slow, however, I did live to tell the tale.

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Decide to be a Decision Maker



By Harvey Mackay

A confused young man went to a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist intently listened to his patient and then offered his insight.

"It appears to me you have trouble making decisions. Would you agree?"

The young man pondered for a moment and then responded, "Well, yes and no."

Many people struggle with making decisions. Whether the issue is personal or professional, the inability to decide on a course of action can ruin relationships or careers.

"Inability to make decisions is one of the principal reasons executives fail," said leadership guru John Maxwell. "Deficiency in de-

cision-making ranks much higher than lack of specific knowledge or technical know-how as an indicator of leadership failure."

Remember the time-tested adage: Not to make a decision is a decision. Or as the always entertaining Yogi Berra put it, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it."

To make better decisions, or to teach employees to do so, try this counterintuitive approach: Assume that whatever decision you make will be wrong. If you have a choice between several options, just ask yourself which alternative you would regret most.

This will help you identify the option that, even if wrong, would cause you the fewest problems. You may not arrive at the perfect answer, but you'll at least identify the decision you can live with most comfortably.

Here's a perfect example. General Dwight Eisenhower struggled mightily with the timing for D-Day because he could not make up his mind about the best moment for the attack. The strategy had been planned for years, but it came down to the weather conditions. The airborne attack needed a full moon and the navy needed low tide.

He had teams of meteorologists advising him, who determined that June 5 would be disastrous because of a looming storm. The weight of the decision was enormous for the more than 150,000 Allied troops involved.

Finally, he came to a decision to postpone the operations for a day. "No matter what the

weather looks like, we have to go ahead now. Waiting any longer could be even more dangerous. So let's move it." As the history books tell us, the June 6, 1944, attack marked a historic shift in World War II.

Few of us will ever face such a momentous decision. But for many day-to-day problems, we must recognize that there is a point at which we need to take a leap of faith, because there comes a point after that when the right decision becomes the wrong decision because it was made too late.

Consider these basic strategies for making good decisions most of the time:

List the pros and cons. This is a time-honored practice, but it's still useful. Document the reasons for and against each option. Don't make it an election – one strong factor on the "yes" side can outweigh a dozen items on the "no" side. Sort out the issues and determine which way the facts and your emotions point.

Take other people's reactions and needs into account. You might not make everyone happy, but you want people to know you didn't ignore their feelings. Warning: What's popular isn't always right, and what's right isn't always popular!

Visualize the work. Develop a step-by-step list of what you'll actually need to do to reach your objective, and then picture yourself doing it. Will you be happy (or at least satisfied) along the way?

Start with a small step. Before implementing a decision, try working on one specific aspect of it. Can you do a good job? Or do you suddenly notice problems you hadn't anticipated? A test run can tell you a lot about whether or not a course of action is right for you.

Don't waste time. Take action once you're confident you've acquired the information you need.

Be decisive. Stick to your decision once you've made it. Change it only if the situation shifts. Take responsibility for your decisions.

Rely on your values. It is so much easier to make decisions when you have values that help you set guidelines for your decision-making.

You will occasionally second-guess yourself, and you might make a bad decision from time to time. But Robert H. Schuller's sage advice will help you: "Never make your most important decisions when you are in your worst moods. Wait. Be patient. The storm will pass."

Mackay's Moral: A good decision is the best thing you'll ever make.

Reprinted with permission from nationally syndicated columnist Harvey Mackay, author of the New York Times #1 bestseller "Swim With The Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive."





Dennison Lions Flake Out Festival Raffle

Saturday, February 4

Buy a Raffle Ticket from any Lions Member,
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Grand Prize \$500.00 Cash!

2nd Prize - \$250 Cash

3rd Prize - \$100 Cash

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Raffle Drawing held at 9p.m. at the Fireside Lounge.
Need not be present to win.
Winner is responsible for any taxes or fees.
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Dennison, MN

Saturday, February 4, 2023

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1:30 PM Keg Toss on the Grassy Knoll - \$2 per throw or 3 throws for \$5
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3:00 PM Designer Purse & Gift Card Bingo at City Hall
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8:00 PM LIVE MUSIC AT THE FIRESIDE

9:00 PM Raffle Winners Announced at Fireside

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2nd Prize - \$250 Cash 3rd Prize - \$100 Cash

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