



MAZEPPA and ZUMBRO FALLS

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APRIL 3, 2024

Volume 18 • Issu 4

Announcements

• **MAHS Spring Supper - Thursday, APRIL 18, 2024 - "HOT TURKEY SUNDAE"** Turkey gravy over mashed potatoes, corn, Cole Slaw, dessert & beverage at the Mazeppa Community Center 5-7 pm. Take outs available - 507-250-6021. **FREE WILL DONATION - COME HUNGRY & LEAVE HAPPY! SILENT AUCTION - RED WING COMMEMORATIVES - 1987-1997.**

• **MAHS Annual Meeting - Thursday, May 2nd, 2024.** Jeremy Darst (DNR) - Will present a Presentation on CCC & WPA CAMPS @ 6 pm at the Mazeppa Community Center.

• **Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Goodhue, Pine Island, Kenyon and Wanamingo.** Receive a hot meal delivered to your home by a volunteer at lunch time up to 5 days per week. To qualify you must be 60 or older, live within city limits, have limited mobility and/or are unable to prepare nutritious meals. The suggested donation is \$5-\$10 per meal. For more information on how to sign up for meals or to be a volunteer driver, please contact Dana Bergner at 507-421-6067 or dbergner@threeriverscap.org

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



Left to right: Wes Voeltz, John Gruhlke and Jim Kiffmeyer

Field of Flags

Thank You American Auxiliary Post #588 for 16 years of dedicated service

By Tara Gullickson

The Mazeppa American Legion Post #588 would like to thank Eva Van De Walker and the American Auxiliary Post #588 for all of their years of service hosting the Field of Flags Opening Ceremony each and every year since the program started in July 2007.

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Zumbro Falls Easter Egg Hunt



The Easter bunny sharing a photo op and Easter eggs with the kids.

Submitted by Lori Windhorst

The Zumbro Falls Lioness/Lions held an Easter egg hunt on March 23rd, even the Easter bunny made an appearance!

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Zumbro Falls Couple Honored with Melvin Jones Awards

Submitted by Lori Windhorst

Lions Clubs International recognizes outstanding individuals by bestowing on them an award that is named for its founder, Melvin Jones.



This award is the highest form of recognition and embodies humanitarian ideas consistent with the nature and purpose of Lionism.

Recently local couple Gene and Arlys Schmidt of Zumbro Falls were the recipients of this prestige award.

(continued on page 4)

Pictured to the left: Gene and Arlys Schmidt celebrating their Melvin Jones awards.

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What Things?



By Pastor Colleen Hoelt

It's the third day since Jesus died by crucifixion, on a cross, like a murdering thief. Buried in a borrowed tomb.

It's the third day. But we are not in Jerusalem gathered in the Garden of Gethsemane. We do not find the disciples gathered in the upper room for a Sunrise surprise party— We do not see banners—plastered with gigantic red letters that read—"Welcome back Jesus" stretching across main street in Jerusalem.

It's the third day...and we find ourselves, with two of Jesus' disciples on their way out of town...leaving Jerusalem... on the road to Emmaus. It is about 5:00 in the evening as they walk—huddled close together. They talk frantically between themselves in excited, hushed tones about all that has happened in the last few days:

"Did you see? Did you see the way Peter denied ever knowing him?"

"Did you see the way the Master looked at him...that look of knowing...that look of forgiveness...that look of grief...I've never seen a look like it. And probably never will again."

"Did you see how they beat him with the whip until his back was nothing more than

bloodied, dangling strips of meat?"

"Did you see tears welling up in the eyes of the centurion whose servant Jesus healed?"

"Can you believe how the crowd shouted for Barabbas' release?"

"Can you believe how they turned on Jesus?"

"Can you believe some of the same faces I know I saw among the 5,000...the same faces shoving fish and bread in their mouths till they had their fill when Jesus was teaching on the hillside—cursing and spitting on him as he struggled up that hill..."

"Did you wince, like I did, every time the hammer struck the nails...piercing through his wrists and the soft tops of his feet...again...and again...and again.

"Did you hear his words," My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?"

Maybe it's true...Maybe he wasn't the Chosen One... After all, it's the third day..." The two men are on their way back home. They've had enough of this city and the crowds and all that transpired over the last few days. Only last week they were among the crowds' waving branches and shouting, "Blessed is He who come in the name of the Lord!"

Instead of celebrating they are walking with shoulders slumped, heads down and their hearts broken. Two friends of Jesus heading home. We're only given one of their names, Cleopas. As we consider that first Easter, I challenge you to take our unnamed disciple's place as we travel this Emmaus Road. Both of you have had a terrible week. Your friend, your 'savior' died on a cross instead of breaking the hold of Rome upon the people of Israel. It's a sad day, it's a sad

walk! As you and your friend are walking along a stranger joins you on the road. A stranger that seems to be clueless to the transpiring of the week before. The stranger hears them talking and asks, "What are you talking about?" At this they stopped dead in their tracks. Their eyes staring at the ground. "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" Luke 24:18-19. "What rock did you crawl out from under?" Did you just arrive? The whole city is talking about all the things that have happened in the last few days.

Jesus asks simply, "what things?" And this begins their dialogue as they travel down the road. Neither recognizes who it is- the scripture says that God kept them from recognizing Jesus- they certainly weren't expecting to see Him as they walked home. They believed He was dead and gone- we need to remember there wasn't any halo over his head, there wasn't a glow about him- he again appeared as any ordinary man walking down the road.

They had resigned themselves to believe Jesus was just a Prophet...a Prophet gently tucked away into a rich man's grave. There are many long-faced...despairing...deeply sad people walking around today because they can't see Jesus walking right there beside them! The truth is: if you don't recognize him as a living Lord —you won't recognize Him at all.

Many sad, despairing people now, make the same mistake as those two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They see Jesus as an ancient prophet tucked away into a tomb a long time ago...as an ethics professor...a good teacher from 2000 years ago with a lot

of well-meaning ideas and good intentions that just don't work out in the real world. A good role model... A good man...Just a prophet of old...So they miss the company of the living Lord that longs to have a relationship with them as He walks alongside them each and every day. He is available to any that would call upon His name. In verse 21 it says, they "had hoped" He was the one who was going to redeem Israel. They had hoped He was the Messiah. They had hoped He was going to change their world. And most disturbing of all; "It's the third day!"

They didn't recognize the truth, staring them in the face. They had heard the gospel message! They had heard the good news; Jesus is alive! But they weren't sure.

Walking right alongside them in their disbelief, their disappointment, their doubts; Jesus was there! He was just waiting to be recognized! Just waiting for them to see Him, to recognize Him. Jesus is still here and He is listening with patience to every word waiting for eyes to open wide with realization. You see they knew Jesus the man. The knew Jesus and his words. But they had never known him yet as the risen savior—the resurrected Lord.

Jesus is asked to give the blessing and then he breaks the bread!!! That one action opened their eyes to the reality of who He was! Their eyes were opened! They saw JESUS!

What will it take for your eyes to be opened? Jesus is right here today. This is HIS day!!! He is here. Celebrate His resurrection! His tomb is empty! See Jesus' heart for you. When you see Him- you make a choice- to follow or to ignore. The choice is yours....



Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger

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Jesus Unites Us

I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. . . .
— John 15:5

Are we really united to Jesus like branches to a vine? Yes, and amen! And does that mean we are also united with other people who are Christians? Yes, it does.

If we are united with Christ, we are like a branch of the holy vine of God. Yet there are other branches too, and the people represented by all those branches are loved by God just as we are—even if we might disagree with them in some ways or don't understand why they believe as they do. Sadly, there are divisions in the worldwide church of Jesus Christ, and those can often be ugly and unnecessary. Do different Christians see things differently? Yes. Do they act differently? Yes. May we separate from them, when they are living branches in the vine of Christ? No. To do so would be arrogant and hurtful.

Sometimes, however, people come up with false teachings that deny the truth of Christ (as in 1 John 2:18-27). And if they insist on following those teachings, they can mislead others and cut themselves off from the vine of Christ. That is a terrible tragedy, and we need to know how tragic it is when something like that happens. Let's do all we can to remain united with Christ and with the other branches of Christ's church. Jesus says, "If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love. . . . Love each other as I have loved you."

Forgive us, Lord, if we think that we are always right and that others should conform to our way. May we seek unity in you, the true vine. Amen.

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Pastor Dave Neil
180 2nd Ave NE, Mazeppa • 843-4962
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

ZUMBRO COMMUNITY CHURCH

Dave Mohler
58354 Cty. Rd. 7, Zumbro Falls
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
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Pastor Colleen Hoelt
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.
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Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the
Mazeppa Zumbro Falls Messenger at:
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Obituary

Richard H. Weber

Richard H. Weber, 89, of Mazeppa, passed away Sunday, March 10, 2024, at his home surrounded by family. Richard was born March 31, 1934, in Mazeppa, MN to Casper and Leona (Schumacher) Weber.



Richard was an amazing athlete and graduated from Mazeppa High School in 1954. Richard enlisted in the Army in 1956 and was very honored to become a paratrooper. Richard cherished the time spent with his family and grandkids. He also enjoyed golfing, snowmobiling, and playing Euchre. Richard ran his own business at the local gas station then started and operated Weber's Petroleum for 15 years. He moved on to Greenway Co-Op, was employed there for 10 years and then went to work for Mathees Oil. He

also worked at Mazeppa School as a janitor. Richard was a member of the Mazeppa American Legion, the Mazeppa Honor Guard and the Mazeppa Lions for many years.

Richard is survived by his children, Joe (Rae) Weber, of Zumbrota and John ("Fanny") Weber, of Mazeppa; grandchildren, Nick, Cassie, Steeff, Kimmetha, Sharlton, Casey, and Scarlet; niece, Vicki; step-grandchildren, Laura and Ben.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Annette; oldest son, Michael and

his sister, Betty.

The memorial mass was at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 22 at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Mazeppa. Visitation was from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, March 21 at Mahn Family Funeral Home - Larson Chapel, in Zumbrota and one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will take place at Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church Cemetery, at a later date. Online condolences are welcome and may be shared at mahnfamily-funeralhome.com.

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Thank You

The family of Skeeter Berg are extremely grateful for the support, help, condolences, encouraging words and memories that everyone shared at the time of his passing.

We especially want to thank the staff at the Zumbrota Care Center, who became his extended family, for their excellent care and concern he received during his stay and at the time of his death. The love and kindness they expressed to him was truly remarkable. St. Croix Hospice deserves a huge thank you too for their guidance and care, as well as comforting words at the time of his passing.

Our thanks also to the local and area Honor Guard, VFW and Legion members for their impressive graveside service. The comforting words of Pastor Alan Horn and musical contributions by the Lambkins during the church service will provide lasting memories for all in attendance.

A huge shout-out and words of thanks goes to those who helped serve and clean up at the Mazeppa Community Center for his Celebration of Life. We were told many times that Skeeter was a legend and we will be forever grateful to everyone who reached out to us in any way. We will always be proud of the joy he brought to others and for putting Mazeppa on the map while singing "Where the Hell's Mazeppa."

Denise and Bob Poncelet and Family
DeAnn and Mike Horsman and Family
Delane and Jon Liffrig and Family

Dennis and Colleen Berg and Family
Debra and Dan Dettmer and Family
Daryl Berg and Family

Mazeppa's Annual Clean-up Day!

Saturday, May 4th 9am-11am

NOTHING BEFORE THESE HOURS OR AFTER!!!

Location: Walnut St. in front of the City Garage

Mazeppa Resident (per Household)	Item & Fee	Out of Town Non-Resident
8 free	Tires (automotive): \$5	\$5 each
\$20 each	Tires (Semi/Tractor): \$20	\$20 each
-with Rims additional charge: Reg \$5 Split \$10		
4 free	Small Appliances: \$5 vacuums / humidifiers / microwaves	\$5 each
2 free	Large Appliances: \$20 Hot water heaters / refrigerators / air conditioners / washing machines / stoves / dryers / freezers / dehumidifiers	\$20 each
3 free	TV / Computer Monitors: \$15	\$15 each
Free	Furniture: \$10 mattresses / box springs / sofas / desks / hide-a-bed	\$10 each
\$0.25 each	Fluorescent bulbs: \$0.50 ea.	\$0.50 each
Free	Metal Scrap: Free scrap metal / bicycles / lawn mowers	Free

ABSOLUTELY NO YARD WASTE, GARBAGE, CONSTRUCTION WASTE, DEMOLITION MATERIAL AND ABSOLUTELY NO CHEMICALS!

Mazeppa Residents - Please bring water/sewer billing card for proof of residency. If your landlord pays your sewer/water bill, please bring another utility bill that has your name and proof of Mazeppa residence on it.

If you are a Senior Citizen(65 yrs. +) requiring assistance, contact City Hall at (507)843-3685 NO LATER than 3pm on THURSDAY May 2nd. Thank you!



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Email: agent@svigguminsurance.com

Kalass Agency

242 Main Street
Zumbrota, MN
Phone: 507-732-7614
Email: kalassagency@kalassagency.com

Zumbro Falls Easter Egg Hunt

(continued from page 1)

The snow on the ground didn't stop the kids for looking for the brightly colored eggs filled with candy, stuffed animals and money.

The South Troy Wesleyan church filled around 1,000 eggs and also hide the eggs in the park along

with the Lioness/Lions members. Participants were encouraged to bring can item's or paper products which were donated to the Zumbro Valley food shelf located at the church. The kids had a fun time and full baskets made it a successful day!"

Zumbro Falls Couple Honored with Melvin Jones Awards

(continued from page 1)

Arlys is a charter member of the Zumbro Falls Lioness/Lions group which was started in 1984. A member for 40 years, she has held a variety of chapter positions, has participated in many Lions activities both on a local level and the district level.

Gene has been a Lions member since 1983

starting with the Zumbro Falls Lions and now a member of the Mazeppa Lions. He also has held a variety of chapter positions and continues to serve others for the good of the community. For a combined total of 81 years, the Schmid's exemplify what Lions is all about and carry out the Lions motto, "we serve."



The Zumbro Falls Lioness/Lions having fun with the Easter bunny! Left to right Megan Richardson, Tamara Lewey, Linda Arndt, Easter bunny (Darla Oelkers), Sandy Hein, Lori Windhorst, Arlys Schmidt, Shirley Lehmann and Angie Lehmann

Viterbo University Announces Fall Semester Dean's List

LA CROSSE, Wis.— Six hundred eleven students have been named to the Viterbo University 2023 fall semester dean's list.

Full-time students must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours of credit for letter grades and receive at least a 3.50 GPA with no incomplete grades to qualify for the dean's list. Part-time students must have completed a total of 15 semester hours of credit for letter grades at Viterbo with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Part-time students must also complete a minimum of six semester hours of credit for letter grades and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or above with no incompletes.

Viterbo is a liberal arts university located in La Crosse, Wis. Viterbo was founded in 1890 by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration.

Mazeppa
Madelyn E Fitzgibbons

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MISSY'S MESSAGE

BODY ACHES AND PAINS



MISSY PAPERFUS

A big part of taking care of yourself is listening to your body and resting when needed. For a short amount of time, it is okay to rotate ibuprofen and acetaminophen. Icing and heat also can help aches and pains. Sometimes a person needs to take a rest day. Heavy lifting or too much exertion can flare problems back up. It's important to listen to your body. Doing a little yoga a couple times a week and the older I get, that really helps my body feel better, keeping stretched out.

Mike's hand was pretty swollen from his snowmobile crash. He could move it, so I was pretty sure it wasn't broken. Icing it really helped and putting it by the jet while sitting in the hot tub also helped. Each day is getting better and better. He was lifting stuff we were taking to the Rochester Home & Leisure show, and it tended to flare his back problem back up. After a couple days of rest, he was ready for tear down and hauling it back to MotoProz.

Missy and her husband Mike own MotoProz in Mazeppa.

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.

Too Many T-Shirts!



By Missy Papenfus

How many t-shirts are too many? My husband Mike mainly wears a t-shirt. It is rare you see him in anything else, even when it is 0 degrees out. At home, we each have our own walk-in closet, so he is on his own with his closet organization. He has always been organized. When a t-shirt gets too many holes in it (from working with batteries and the battery acid at MotoProz), I tell him it is time to toss the shirt!

At our cabin we share a closet. Many days during the summer we do not leave the cabin, so we don't really care what the shirt looks like. I decided it is time to try a couple different storage methods, so I can see what works best for t-shirt storage. I bought some totes with a handle to pull out of our closet, a couple short hanging sweater holders, and a hanging shoe organizer to see what works best.

I've been putting this project off literally for months. It only took me 1 hour, and it is so much more organized. I used all the shirts that were there, and didn't downsize a thing. We can now see everything! All of the organizers worked great for the space.

Stay tuned for next month's topic:

Electronic organizing.

There is so much to do, so little time. Bye for now!

Memo from MotoProz...

Ready for Spring? We are!! Check out our inventory of new E-Z-Go Golf carts, new and used ATVs and side by sides, and new and used Hustler mowers online at www.MotoProz.com or stop in and see what we got! We've got something for everyone! The place to go is MotoProz!

We participated in the Home & Leisure Show at Graham Arena March 15th through 17th and decided to have a booth at the Mazeppa Monthly Markets this summer. If you're at the 3rd Thursday Summer Markets in Mazeppa, stop over to chat with us!



Business Highlight

By Tara Gullickson



MotoProz is well known for their wide selection of new and used Arctic Cat Power Sport Machines such as ATV's, UTV's and Snowmobiles as well as fulfilling an important need within this amiable rural community. MotoProz offers an array of services

such as the sales and servicing of chainsaws including sharpening or replacing the chains themselves, a selection of shop vacuum cleaners, trimmers, and battery operated mowers; all of which can be serviced right at the shop. Let's also not forget to mention their exceptional customer service as I watched the staff greet friends and customers alike. I had the opportunity to exchange pleasantries with a few patrons who had stopped in with various requests for Mike and his team. Mike is definitely what you would consider a Jack-of-all-Trades; a local patron who had so graciously shared a story with me while I was there about a time when Mike actually cut a wedding band right off a finger due to his friend having been stung by a bee in his hand causing his entire hand to swell double in size. Using his quick wit and pure precision Mike was able to get the wedding band removed successfully without causing further injury. What was previously known as L&R Services when Kelly Larson and Louie Richardson of Mazeppa first established the



Missy, Mike & Monty Papenfus of MotoProz

business in April of 1959 until 1974 when Kelly bought Louie out and changed the name to Kelly's Sales & Service, in 1997 Kelly then sold the business to Danny Anderson. The business name was later changed to MotoProz by Mike & Missy Papenfus of Zumbro Falls, MN on April 2, 2007 after purchasing the business from Danny Anderson

and is the second oldest Arctic Cat Dealership in Minnesota. The name MotoProz was thought up by Mike, Missy and Monty as they were coming up with business names early on they knew they wanted to use their initials M. P. in some way as the whole family share these same initials.

(continued on page 6)

SPRING SAVINGS EVENT

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NEW Hustler Raptor X 54" \$4,549	NEW Hustler FasTrak 54" \$8,299	NEW Hustler Super Z 60" \$16,199

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A Monthly Moment at MotoProz



By Missy Papenfus

It's been a couple years since the boys raced snocross, since their race was cancelled last year. Father and son, Mike and Monty of MotoProz decided to participate in Sunday Funday Snocross race at ERX in Elk River, Minnesota on Sunday, March 10th. ERX had been making snow and having snocross racing all year there, despite any "real" snow here in Minnesota. Race day was daylight savings time. We were up at 6AM (felt like 5AM) and headed north. Racing started at 11 AM but check-in was 8AM. The boys first race went without any mishaps. Race #2, on the other hand, was another story.

When they started race #2, Mike got a good whole shot and was running in 2nd place until the guy in front of him crashed hard. They restarted the race. You'll have to check out the video I took on Facebook of race #2. About 10 seconds into my video, Mike did a flip off his snowmobile. He hopped back on and ended up getting 4th out of 11 racers in his Ditchbanger class. On the video, you can see Monty two guys behind him. Monty stopped the racer in back of Mike, so he couldn't run Mike over. Mike's left hand was swollen, he scalped his shin, and his back hurt for over a week. He's doing better every day and is planning on racing again next year!

Business Highlight

(continued from page 5)



Mike & Monty Papenfus

Monty was only in Pre-K when MotoProz was first purchased by Mike and Missy and since then the two have made several upgrades to their building in the last 17 years of ownership. Missy says the first upgrade had to be the front door as the original door was so thin it could hardly be considered an exterior door at all. Missy knew just how to confirm when the new door had been installed as that same year Monty was starting Kindergarten and she had started taking his first day of school picture in front of the new door every year since then till Monty's graduation in 2020. A few years later the new windows were replaced for energy efficiency. MotoProz recently underwent a full face-lift to the exterior of the building in 2020 and Mike and Missy could not be happier with the results. Mike is full of valuable information on all sorts of topics and is always up for a chal-

lenge when asked, his immense knowledge and expertise regarding the machines he stands behind and services in-house shows just how passionate he is for what he does. Mike has over 26 years of hands-on experience in the Power Sports Industry, and is the frontman of MotoProz where he is trained in all things outdoor. He started his career out at Plainview Power Sports where his dream of one day owning and operating his own dealership began. Mike has always had a passion for sno-cross racing and finished 'Top 10' in the 'Semi-Pro Open Class' in 2003. Mike was not yet ready to hang up his helmet for good as he still occasionally races his Arctic Cat ZR-440 in the "Ditch Banger Class"; which is a class of older models of snowmobiles racing their way towards vic-



Building Renovations 2020

tory once again. After 14 years of working part-time at MotoProz Missy ended her career at Mayo Clinic and was able to start working full-time helping out with not only the bookkeeping but also parts look-up, service writing, marketing, and sales. Mike and Missy are the proud parents of their Sales Staff Monty, whom is stepping into his fathers shoes and learning all he can to one day be able to take over the family business. I spoke briefly with the guys in the shop while they performed their duties and I learned of the roles each played within the company and what they were responsible for day to day to help make MotoProz run like a well oiled machine. Monty loves to help out however and wherever he can. He is a 2020 ZM graduate and has been a full-time employee since and is the go-to guy when Mike has stepped out of the shop. Sam Meyers, Certified Techni-

cian, has been an essential member of the team since May 2016 and continues to stay loyal and grow with the company as the team continues to expand their store front and services. MotoProz proudly offers a great selection of 'Arctic Cat' Power Sports Machines, 'E-Z-Go' golf carts, 'Hustler' zero steer mowers, 'Stihl' power equipment and 'Triton' trailers; all of which can be serviced right here in the shop. MotoProz is located at 339 1st Avenue North in Mazeppa and their hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday 8:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. till noon. If you need to get in touch with the staff at MotoProz with your parts order or service questions you are encouraged to contact them by phone or by using this same number, try the new text feature by sending a text to 507-843-2855 and a staff member will get back to you at their earliest convenience.

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Business Highlight

By Tara Gullickson

Mazeppa Area Food Shelf

The Mazeppa Area Food Shelf opened its doors in January of 2015 by a group of six longtime friends from the local area and is now being organized by Jim Perrotti, Food Shelf Director, and his team of Community Advocates. This program serves low income families, single parents, senior citizens, unemployed individuals, disabled veterans, working poor, and anyone else in need of food assistance in the Bellechester, Mazeppa and Zumbro Falls area. Services provided to the community include whole food options to meet the basic nutritional needs to those who cannot afford food for meals or in response to an emergency situation. The Mazeppa Area Food Shelf currently serves 22 families total and has the capacity to accommodate many more families in need of this assistance. Each family gets around 90 pounds of food of their choice, with a few limitations on certain items

higher in demand. The bulk of the food for this program comes from Channel One out of Rochester, MN; this organization is also responsible for being the reporting monitors for all of the food shelves in the Rochester Region. What Jim and his team are not able to obtain through Channel One they use monetary donations to purchase what is needed for the shelves. Jim and his team feel it's important to stock the shelves with whole foods versus prepackaged meals for nutritional benefits and I think we can all appreciate that. March was Food Awareness Month; meaning any monetary donations that were brought in the entire month of March the State of Minnesota then matches ten to fifty cents on the dollar. The Mazeppa Area Food Shelf had set a goal this year of reaching \$3,000.00 and as of March 12, Jim and his crew had raised \$2,400.00, which is quite impressive. The food shelf continues to grow by government grant funding, community drives put on by local advocates and donations from local businesses and citizens. An Annual Pancake Breakfast was held on March 10 from 9 until noon at SS Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Mazeppa hosted by the Knights of Columbus of the Bellechester Council where the members of the Council presented a \$1,500.00 check to the Mazeppa Area Food Shelf. In the month of December each year the Zumbrota Mazeppa Primary School holds a toilet paper drive and the packages of toilet paper that are brought in by the students are split between both the Zumbrota Area Food Shelf and Mazeppa Area Food Shelf. Last November, the Honor Society & FFA put together 'Birthday Baking Baskets' for



Rosa & Gabriella Perotti putting away donated food

anyone interested in receiving a basket of baking supplies to bake a cake for their birthday month. This past December the area 4 H Group - Mazeppa Musketeers - hosted 'Food Under the Christmas Tree' which is a state funded program for food shelves in Minnesota to supply families in need a holiday meal to cook and enjoy in their home. With this approved grant from the State of Minnesota 15 families were fed last year. Each of the families was given a turkey or ham, a bag of potatoes, corn and other choice of vegetables, dinner rolls and a pie. The Mazeppa Area Food Shelf is open the 2nd Thursday of the month from 9:00 a.m. till 11 a.m. and reopens for the day at 3:30 p.m. till 5:30 p.m. as well as the 4th Thursday of the month from 3:30 p.m. till 5:30 p.m. The food shelf is located at 329 1st Avenue North in Mazeppa. If you or anyone you know is in a situation where they need food in an emergency situa-

tion or cannot afford food for themselves Jim invites you to contact the Mazeppa Area Food Shelf as everyone deserves access to good, nutritional food. If you are interested in donating non-perishable items to the food shelf Jim suggests donating these items as they are the most in demand currently; baking supplies, pudding, cake mixes, sugar, flour, etc. These items can be dropped off at any drop-off location around town including the Bank and City Hall. Also, monetary donations are always appreciated, anyone who wishes to make a monetary donation to The Mazeppa Area Food Shelf may do so at First State Bank of Red Wing - Mazeppa Office. The Mazeppa Area Food Shelf would like to say 'Thank You' for supporting this need within our community and helping to find a solution to fighting world hunger - it starts right in our own community, together.

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What's Normal?



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

As we progress into the first days of Spring, we look back on a winter season that was not the typical Minnesota winter. We can also look back to the fourth anniversary of the Covid pandemic and the infamous shutdown the entire society endured. As that experience dragged on there was an increasing desire to see things “return to normal.” But how do

you define normal?

Normal is “a standard, or regular pattern” according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, and is often associated with a routine, or possibly a habit. One individual online described “normal” as that action or belief that is accepted by 62% of the population. However, what is considered normal may not be healthy, or good for you. How comfortable are you with making a healthy choice that is not be seen as ‘normal’?

The Standard American Diet is a common phrase used by nutritionist with the emphasis on the first letter of each word – S.A.D. The normal choices for food consumption among Americans has resulted in SAD consequences. Back around 1901, the normal consumption of sugar per American was around 5 pounds of sugar per year. Today, the normal consumption of sugar per American is over 100 pounds of sugar per year. Before 1930, vegetable oil, corn oil, soybean oil, and canola oil did not exist. Today, soybean oil and corn oil are the top oils consumed promoting significant inflammation. There are a multitude of foods available in our warehouse grocery depots that our great grand-

parents would not recognize. What we consider normal today has brought about SAD consequences.

Unfortunately, in our culture, normal is not the same as healthy. Consider some of these examples:

- More than 70% of the American population is overweight or obese leading to heart disease, diabetes, and a weakened immune system
 - Premenstrual cramps, headaches, and irritability each month is considered normal
 - Constipation with bowel movements less than once a day is considered normal
 - Braces to straighten teeth and pulling wisdom teeth is considered normal
 - More than 10 prescriptions per American is the current average
- To make a healthy choice, or choose a healthy lifestyle is not considered normal. Do some of these healthy choices seem ‘abnormal’ to you:

- Have some vegetables with your breakfast
- Be sure to drink 8 cups of filtered water (or more) each day
- Eat an apple every day
- Eat only three meals a day with no snacks between meals
- Each meal should include a protein (meat, egg, dairy, or beans)

When what is normal is not a healthy choice, you and I have the opportunity to be an influence to our circle of friends and relatives to help them recognize a healthy option. To be an influencer is to be one who helps others to be interested and to recognize there is another choice available. The normal advertisements and recommendations coming across the television screen are not presenting healthy options, they are presenting normal options. Internet videos presenting extreme diets and exercise are not presenting healthy options, they are sales gimmicks. The healthy options are going to be consistent, natural-based options your great grandparents would recognize. Healthy options are lifestyle choices that pro-

mote longevity, fertility, and a healthy environment. You can be an influencer to help move the American culture back to a healthy standard. Perhaps one day, healthy choices will be the “new normal.”

I invite you to join me this spring at the Northfield Holistic Health Summit “New Beginnings” Saturday, May 4, 2024, to learn more about healthy lifestyle choices and the resources available to you. Ten local health practitioners will be presenting information on – herbs, homeopathy, acupuncture, toxins, neurology, allergy therapy, and more. Purchase your ticket today for this event that includes a healthy catered meal by Café Shawn. Ticket sales close on April 30. More information at <https://www.nutritionproportion.net/healthsummit2024> or scan the QR code.

Make your health a priority in 2024. Change is required, but the outcome is worth the effort. Little changes can make a big difference over time. If you would like to pursue a healthy lifestyle and increase longevity, I can help.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for 2024. I can help you reach those health goals with whole food plans customized to your specific needs. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net



SCAN ME

Field of Flags



Left to right: Wes Voeltz and Raymond Goranson

(continued from page 1)

Eva and the ladies of the American Auxiliary have graciously handed off their important duties to The Mazeppa Honor Guard. These dedicated ladies have been honoring loved ones who have since passed on in such a beautiful way for the past 16 years. Last year the Auxiliary counted just short of 500 flags which are spread across the Jaycee’s Walking Bridge Park in a breathtaking view of red, white, and blue. If you have not yet had the opportunity to take part in this event I encourage the community to attend this year. The Mazeppa Honor Guard would like to invite you all out to the Field of Flags Opening Ceremony, the program will take place at Jaycee’s Walking Bridge Park on Thursday, July 11 starting at 7:00 p.m. Flags are now available for request and the cost of the flags are \$10.00 each; you can request a flag honoring your loved one by contacting Troy Liffriq or Wes Voeltz of the Mazeppa American Legion via email at legionpost588@outlook.com; please include with your request your contact information. The American Legion is open for business Monday evenings at 5:00 p.m. and the community is welcome to stop in during open hours to inquire about flag requests as well as before and after the Memorial Day Service which will be held this year on Monday, May 27.

Congratulations to the latest 50-Year continued members of the Mazeppa American Legion Post #588: Jim Kiffmeyer, John Gruhlke & Raymond Goranson

DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

Flags for the Field of Honor held during Mazeppa Daze will be available for purchase starting in April.

Contact any Legion member for details.



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Teacher of the Year: Katie Kennedy

Health, High School Phy Ed & DAPE Teacher

Courtesy of Z-M School

This is Katie Kennedy's 16th year at ZM & 20 year teaching. She taught at White Bear Lake & Forest Lake before coming to ZM. When asked why she keeps coming back she said, "We live here, have roots here now and really good friends. I enjoy my coworkers a lot and the kiddos - it's unique to get to see them go from Kindergarten to senior year. Fun transitions to watch!". Katie lives in Mazeppa with her family.

Katie's Nomination:

One of our star teachers has provided rigorous and well-thought, relevant content to her students every day along with a safe space for students to pour out their fears and anxieties, hopes and dreams or even just a peaceful place to collect themselves before starting or continuing their day. Her Health and Wellness classroom is a hot spot for students of all abilities and backgrounds to drop by and say hi or even just be before they go to their next destination. More often than not, her joyful presence is their destination.

So have you ever had a chance to observe a 10th grade Health and Wellness class while Katie Kennedy teaches? It's a wonder to behold: kids of very, very different perspectives and upbringings interacting and having deep discussions about vulnerable and sensitive topics, opening up to each other and having multiple "light bulb" moments. Many times

these kids come into the class at the start of the semester and have a chip on their shoulder, and by the time they finish are wishing it wouldn't end, both because of their outstanding, energetic teacher and because of her comprehensive, detailed and thorough teaching.

Have you ever seen her engage her Developmental Adaptive Physical Education students when they are having a rough day? She is all smiles, singing songs and giving constant encouragement with a "don't quit, let's get to it" attitude. All that talk we have each year about differentiating for our students? Katie can do that in her sleep, on the fly and in fractions of seconds. Her creative and quick mind is always running for her students to make each lesson one of the best.

And have you ever walked along the catwalk while she teaches a high school Physical Education class? It's the best, we all know that, and if we don't, we should. PE classes, gyms and weight rooms are always stereotypically the most intimidating places, but Katie makes these environments fun for everyone of all experience levels, from the competitive athletes, motorheads and artists, to the less athletically inclined, and even our sensitive, withdrawn students who may loathe moving their bodies or just simply being around others in such an open and different setting. She connects with her students as naturally as if they've known her their whole lives, but it's a lot of work behind the scenes and she puts in the time with meaningful conversations and honest, encouraging feedback. Besides all of the fantastic curriculum and fun opportunities she provides her students, she also participates with her kids to get them engaged, and is competitive when she needs to be but can tone it down in an instant to meet the needs of her other students.

Katie pours her heart and soul into her lessons and her teaching not only because she holds herself to the highest of standards, but also she does it for her students. Her students

are aware EVERY DAY of what they're learning and for what reason, and walk out of her classes with the knowledge to be successful in their own lives, decisions and relationships. I have run into alumni over the years and so many of them know or ask how Katie is doing because they care to continue the relationship she helped foster.

This superhuman teacher has dealt with plenty of curveballs in her own time at Z-M, from the never ending leaky ceiling issues in our gyms and who knows how many gym floodings at this point, to not having a Health classroom for over a year and constantly having to relocate to teach her students throughout the day. She bends over backwards to serve and help others, and can still land on top in terms of her ability to teach and foster relationships with her students. She has collaborated with so many of her colleagues, community members, parents and guardians, law enforcement, health professionals, other teachers in other districts, and dozens of alumni students to provide EVERY opportunity for our students in her time at Z-M. She is here for ALL students of all abilities, backgrounds and upbringings. Students feel safe and heard in her classroom and presence and they are also just smiling all the time when they're around her.

In the past, Katie has served as Student Government Co-Advisor and Senior Class Committee Advisor; coached Volleyball for a season, and Dance Team and line judged for Volleyball for many years; helped bring the "Walk! Bike! Fun!" curriculum to our district so our students have the opportunity to bike in their high school physical education classes; facilitated the obtainment of cross-country skis from Nordic Rocks so our students 2nd grade and up can experience cross-country skiing; assisted in the Safe Routes to School program which helped get maps of safe walking and biking routes out to the communities of Zumbrota and Mazeppa. The amount of grants that Katie has applied for and been awarded for our



Katie Kennedy

District and students behind the scenes is unreal. She has served as a member of the Site Team many times, and was even asked last year to come back to it.

Currently, she is (and has been for many years) the Chair of the Wellness Committee (including serving on the District Wellness Committee in the past); a REACH teacher for one section of students; a member of the Emergency Response Team when there is a medical emergency at the Zumbrota site; coaching Softball; co-teaching Unified PE to better serve our SPED students in DAPE and provide empathetic and inclusive experiences to a group of hand-picked general education students. There are a host of other things past and present not listed, however, her contributions to our students, staff, families and communities should not go unnoticed.

93 Students and Staff Participate in the Polar Plunge



Courtesy of Z-M School

The Polar Plunge was held on Friday March 15th. The Unified Physical Education class in cooperation with Special Olympics Minnesota raised a total of \$11,383! 95 Students and Staff participated in the Plunge! The top 3 Student Fundraisers were: Alex Sheldon, Levi Matthees and Troy Clemenson.



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\$1.1 Million to be Awarded to Southern Minnesota Businesses

Competitive grants to support existing operations or planned growth

By Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation

Through a partnership with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) will award \$1.1 million in competitive grants to businesses in southern Minnesota to invest in existing operations or planned growth.

Grant awards will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000 and can be used for working capital to support payroll expenses, rent or mortgage payments, utility bills, equipment, and other

similar expenses that occur in the regular course of business.

Grant awards will be limited and approved on a competitive basis. Not all eligible businesses will receive a grant. Primary business operations must be located in SMIF's region, which includes 20 counties and one Native nation. Businesses must earn \$750,000 or less in gross revenue (based on 2021 taxes) to be eligible. Additional eligibility requirements are listed on SMIF's website.

The grant cycle opened March 27, 2024 and will close on April 24, 2024. For the application and guidelines visit smifoundation.org/promise. Contact Melissa Langer (melissal@smifoundation.org) or Brian Conzemius (brianc@smifoundation.org) with questions.

The PROMISE Act is funded by one-time allocation from the State of Minnesota Legislature in partnership with DEED. This program looks to drive economic recovery in our region through grants to small businesses in south central and southeastern Minnesota experiencing lack of access to capital, loss of population or an aging population, or a lack of regional economic diversification.

"We are honored to, once again, partner with MN DEED to support entrepreneurs in southern Minnesota," said Tim Penny, presi-



dent and CEO of SMIF. "This will be an important boost for economic development in our region."

The PROMISE Act Grant is a statewide program with multiple partners accepting applications throughout Minnesota. SMIF is one of six Minnesota Initiative Foundations (MIFs) that will accept applications through this program, in addition to the Neighbor-

hood Development Center, which will accept applications in certain areas of the Twin Cities metro.

For businesses that are not located in SMIF's region, please consult the following website to determine who to contact for this program: <https://mn.gov/deed/business/financing-business/deed-programs/promise-grant/>



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Latest Democrat Illegal Immigrant Bill Would Make Minnesota a Sanctuary State



Rep. Pam Altendorf (R) District: 20A

On the heels of Minnesota Democrats giving illegal immigrants free drivers' licenses,

free college, and free health care, comes news that they're not finished catering to those who are not in this state legally. The latest Democrat brainchild would make Minnesota a sanctuary state, prohibiting local or state law enforcement from assisting federal agencies in immigration cases.

Let's review why this radical idea is giving many lawmakers heartburn.

According to the Washington Post, when President Biden rolled back many President Trump-era restrictions at the border, crossings by illegal immigrants skyrocketed. Since then, the number of people taken into custody by the U.S. Border Patrol has reached the highest levels in the agency's 100-year history, averaging 2 million per year. And that only includes the number of illegals the agency was able to count! Heaven only knows how many thousands or millions have entered during President Biden's tenure without a second glance.

And it's not just poor families from Mexico looking for better lives. The overwhelming majority are men who are crossing without family members. And they are not just from Latin America, as Chinese and Russian aliens

have also been spotted at the southern border.

Instead of sending these people home, many of them are being shipped to sanctuary cities and states in other parts of the country, and they have struggled with the surge in illegal immigration. It has caused tremendous strain on their housing, education, food shelves, health care, public safety, and other resources. And now, Democrats want to make Minnesota a haven for illegal immigrants at a time of crisis with our southern border hemorrhaging.

Furthermore, according to the Minnesota Department of Health, fentanyl is now involved in 92 percent of all opioid-involved deaths and 62 percent of overdose deaths in Minnesota. We need to work with federal authorities to stop the flow of drugs like fentanyl across our borders and making Minnesota a sanctuary state would undermine those efforts.

Minnesotans do not support this extreme policy. A recent KSTP/Survey USA poll found making Minnesota a sanctuary state was opposed by 54% of respondents, while only 28% agree with the idea.

With – at least – 8 million new illegal immigrants taking advantage of President Biden's chaotic border policies, it's time for Minnesota Democrat lawmakers to recognize enough is enough when it comes to their prioritization of residents who shouldn't be here in the first place. Minnesotans want a secure border. Minnesotans want immigrants vetted so we know who is moving into our neighborhoods. Minnesotans are already strained as one of the highest taxed states and cannot afford this expansion of government. Minnesotans overwhelmingly do not want their state turned into a magnet for illegal immigration that failed elsewhere. Please let your voice be heard on these important issues.

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Historical Happenings

Compiled by
Helen Reiland

THE MAZEPPA JOURNAL, Editor and Publisher: Barbara and Reider Tommeraas

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1955 continued

KEN ATKINSON ACCEPTS POSITION AS BANK EXAMINER

Ken Atkinson has resigned his position as assistant cashier of First State Bank of Wabasha, effective Jan. 1. He accepted a position as a bank examiner with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, Ninth district, with headquarters in St. Paul.

Mr. Atkinson, has worked at the Wabasha bank for five and one-half years and prior to that at People's State Bank, Mazeppa. He has been active in community affairs, adjutant of Post 50, American Legion at Wabasha, secretary of the Senior Chamber of Commerce, treasurer of the KC's. He will continue to reside in Wabasha.

Local School Plat Rejected By State

Word was received Wednesday by Supt. F.G. Eimermann, through a copy of a letter sent to County Supt-Verma Olin, that approved of the plat for the consolidated school district here has been turned down by the state department of education.

The news came as a shock to local residents, because an earlier plat had been approved. Due to a technical error, however, it had to be resubmitted.

The state board listed several reason for the rejection---too small a valuation; too small enrollment; limited pupil potential and high cost of building a new school.

The department said the earlier approval had been set aside because of a change of attitude of local residents as expressed through letters, petitions etc. It recommended that Mazeppa seek a merger with nearby enlarged district.

We Don't know What To Say

We were so shocked Wednesday at the news the state department of education had turned down the consolidated plat for the Mazeppa district that we feel a little numb. In that case, we would be wiser to simmer down a little before writing about it, but that isn't the way human nature works.

A town without a high school, much as we hate to face it, is bound to go down hill. It's apt to be too small for a newspaper and other business lines that are not having too easy a time of it in these times of rising costs.

Supt. Eimermann, the school board and a committee members, we feel, did all that was humanly possible to save the school and spent hours and days at the task.

And, after witnessing the work put into the Christmas operetta just last Thursday, we can only wonder if those who oppose it can possibly realize the blow they have struck Mazeppa and the entire surround area?

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 1956

Village Mayorless Until January 10

The Village of Mazeppa has been in a peculiar situation since Jan. 1---it has no mayor.

In the village elections in December, J.B. Gregoire defeated the incumbent mayor, E. R. Hoefs. Neither man filed for the office. Mr. Gregoire refused to qualify for the office.

The council wrote to Attorney General Miles Lord regarding the situation, and he advised them it is only necessary for them to appoint a mayor and no special election is needed.

The council will appoint a mayor at its next meeting, Tuesday evening, Jan. 10.

Light- Power Rate Change Announced

The Mazeppa Light and Power Commission announces the following rate schedule in effect Jan. 1, 1956, for power and commercial users.

First 100 kilowatt hours per month at 5.3 cents per kilowatt hour

Next 300 kilowatt hours per month at 4.5 cents per kilowatt hour

Next 1500 kilowatt hours per month at 3.5 cents per kilowatt hour

Excess kilowatt hours per month at 2.7 cents per kilowatt hour

Minimum billing for single phase service \$1.

Minimum billing for three-phase service, \$3.

That's Telling Her

Heard this via the grapevine:

Mark Schmitt wanted to go out to slide the other day, but his mother told him first he'd have to pick up a Christmas toy containing an awful number of parts.

He put his hands on his hips and said: "Who wrote that letter to Santa Claus for me?"

"I did," his mother replied

"Well," Mark replied logically- "You pick them up then."

Regular Meeting of the Mazeppa City Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, March 13, 2024

The regular meeting of the Mazeppa City Council was called to order at 6:00 PM by Mayor Chris Hagfors.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present: Mayor Chris Hagfors. Council Persons Steve Liffrig, Michael Hammes, Erica Young, and Dustin Wiebusch.

Others Present: City Attorney Luke Lamprecht, City Engineer Matt Mohs, Wabasha County Sheriff's Patrol Sergeant Jason Bade, Municipal Liquor Store Manager Todd Ihrke, Joe Sand, and Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

Present via electronic meeting: Holly Galbus from the News Record.

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

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve the February 14, 2024 regular Council meeting minutes. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Wabasha County Sheriff's Patrol Sergeant Jason Bade presented the monthly Incident Command Report. A Council member mentioned that a small blue Ford had been speeding down 1st Ave. every morning during the week.

No Public Works report was given.

Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang gave the Fire Department report.

Municipal Liquor Store Manager Todd Ihrke gave the liquor store report.

City Engineer Matt Mohs gave an engineering update.

City Administrator Karl Nahrgang gave a City Hall activities report.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to approve Rever Bluff second subdivision. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2024-06 Temporarily Closing portions of Walnut St. and 2nd Ave. NE for Cleanup Day. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to approve 2024 Cost of Living Adjustments and merit pay raises for City staff. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to approve the Administrator Clerk contract for 2024. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2024-07 renewing liquor licenses for 2024. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to accept quote of \$23,557.00 for excavating and base for 5th Ave. NE improvement. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Hammes to approve Resolution 2024-08 transferring funds from G.O. loan to general operating funds to pay for current costs on WWTP project. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Young to approve Resolution 2024-09 issuing a temporary off-site gambling permit for the Mazeppa Lion's Club. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2024-10 issuing a temporary off-site gambling permit for Mazeppa Fire Relief. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

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

Councilperson Young informed the Council that the Parks and Recreation committee would be holding a park cleanup on May 18 from 09:00 to 12:00 and that the summer market dates are set to be held on the 3rd Thursday of June, July, August, and September.

Motion by Young, second by Liffrig to recess the meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Meeting recessed at 6:58 PM.

Administrator-Clerk

Quorum Meeting of the Mazeppa City Council Meeting Minutes Saturday, March 23, 2024

A meeting of the Mazeppa City Council was called to order at 5:00 PM by Mayor Chris Hagfors.

The meeting was called to order because a quorum was present at the Mazeppa Fire Department Appreciation event.

Present: Mayor Chris Hagfors. Council Persons, Erica Young, and Dustin Wiebusch.

Others Present: Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang, present and former members of the Mazeppa Fire Department, spouses, and other guests.

No business was discussed.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to recess the meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Meeting recessed at 8:00 PM.

Administrator-Clerk

Zumbro Falls City Council Minutes - February 14, 2024

The Zumbro Falls Council met at 6pm at City Hall with all council members present. Clerk read the minutes from the January meeting which were accepted as read by a motion from Anderson seconded Benson, with all in favor, carried.

Treasurer's report, given by the Clerk, was accepted with a motion from Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Discussion followed on the purchasing of two new pumps for the Lift Station. Further discussion and more information will follow at the next council meeting.

Donation from the Olmsted Medical Center was received in the amount of \$500.00 to be used for the Fire Department's greatest need. This donation was accepted with a motion from Anderson, seconded Bankers, all in favor, carried.

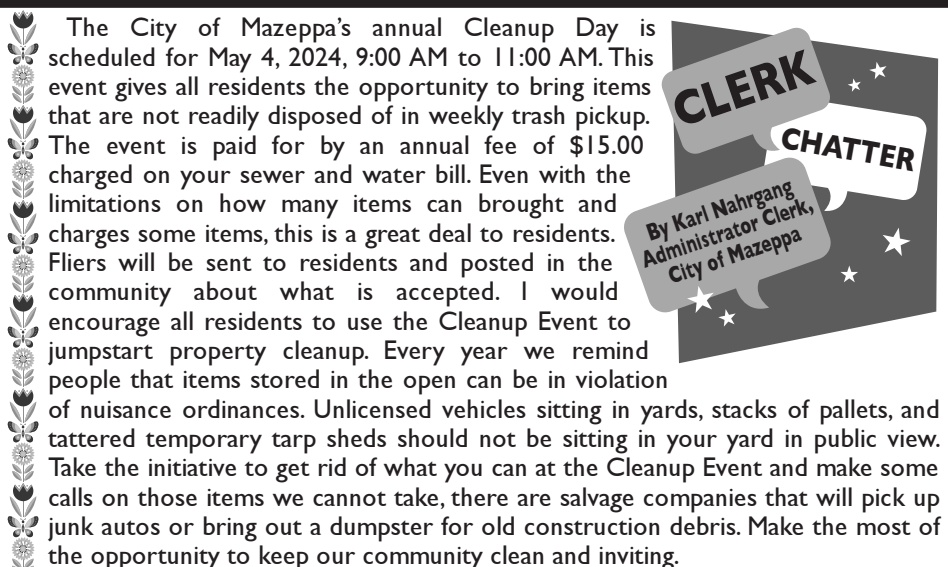
The Zumbro Falls Fire Department proposed budget for 2024 was approved with a motion from Benson, seconded Anderson, all in favor carried.

Council agreed to approve the contract with MMS Environmental for the 2024 year by a motion from Benson, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried. There were no price increases for the year 2024.

Motion for the meeting to adjourn and the Clerk to pay all bills presented was made by Bankers, seconded Benson, all in favor, carried.

Submitted by,

Susan Eischens, Clerk



The City of Mazeppa's annual Cleanup Day is scheduled for May 4, 2024, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. This event gives all residents the opportunity to bring items that are not readily disposed of in weekly trash pickup. The event is paid for by an annual fee of \$15.00 charged on your sewer and water bill. Even with the limitations on how many items can be brought and charges some items, this is a great deal to residents. Fliers will be sent to residents and posted in the community about what is accepted. I would encourage all residents to use the Cleanup Event to jumpstart property cleanup. Every year we remind people that items stored in the open can be in violation of nuisance ordinances. Unlicensed vehicles sitting in yards, stacks of pallets, and tattered temporary tarp sheds should not be sitting in your yard in public view. Take the initiative to get rid of what you can at the Cleanup Event and make some calls on those items we cannot take, there are salvage companies that will pick up junk autos or bring out a dumpster for old construction debris. Make the most of the opportunity to keep our community clean and inviting.

CLERK CHATTER
By Karl Nahrgang
Administrator Clerk,
City of Mazeppa

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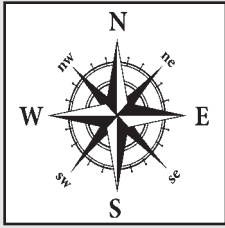
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Rock and Roll Hotel



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.

We like going to rock concerts. One of our favorite bands is the southern rock group, Blackberry Smoke. Always a great show every time we see them and we are willing to travel see them perform. So, when my wife got tickets to see Charlie and Benji doing an acoustic two man show in Decatur, Alabama I was ready to go.

The Princess theater was a four-hour drive from our home in Tennessee, so we figured an overnight trip was in order. Driving back in the middle of the night after a show is not fun anymore. She booked a hotel overlooking the Tennessee River, the same river that our home in Tennessee is on. I am a farm boy and she is a city girl. Hence a room on the fifth floor seems like a great idea to her but not so much to me. A great view is not as important as keeping my feet on the ground.

When we checked in at the front desk a couple came in behind us. She was young, excited all and caught up in the moment. Her boyfriend was Benji Shank's brother and they were opening for the band that night. And here were fans coming to see the show and her exuberance could hardly be contained. Her boyfriend gave her the look like she was a bad dog. Maintain your composure and don't interact with the common folk. She suddenly looked a little downcast. After I saw their performance, I thought he should have let her have her 15 minutes. They were a long

way from the level of talent required for anyone to notice or remember them.

We ate at the Magic Mushroom pizza restaurant just around the corner from the theater, saw a great show and headed back to the hotel. That is where the events got a little weird. At 2am I was jolted out of a sound sleep. And nothing to do with mushrooms, either.

I woke up to a strange popping sound and then smelled smoke. I sat up and looked at the cabinet where the television was mounted and saw smoke rolling out of the door. I looked at the hotel room door and realized it was partially open. My next epiphany was that my wife wasn't there. I am sitting on the edge of a bed in a hotel room, alone on the fifth floor with windows that I already knew wouldn't open. There was a burning smell, smoke rolling out of the credenza in front of me and still an occasional popping sound. The door was propped open and my wife was nowhere to be found. My mind processed the information and analyzed that she wouldn't have fled a fire without waking me up. I hoped anyway. I opened the cabinet door to find a microwave complete with a microwave popcorn package inside way past the two minutes necessary to pop the popcorn properly. In fact, it was just about to the point where it would set a hotel room on fire.

Now I have been able to wake up out of a deep sleep to run out and chase cattle in the middle of the night. But this event was giving my brain a while to process. At the moment none of it made any sense. Fortunately, at this point my wife walked back in the door to explain the circumstances I was witness to. She wanted a snack in the middle of the night and started the popcorn, when she realized we had no drinks in the hotel room so she headed out the door to the vending machine around the corner which turned out to not be operating so she took the elevator down to the next floor to find a soda, and at that time not realizing that the microwave had been set to twenty minutes instead of two. Since hotel rooms always smell pretty funky anyway, the burned popcorn was kind of an improvement. It didn't set off the smoke alarm so we were able to resolve the incident without anymore excitement. The popcorn was beyond edible, but there was still the leftover pizza.

A Minnesotan: Matters of Turkeys and Armadillos



By RosaLin Alcoser

Over the years I have discussed geese, ducks and of course goats. However, what I have yet to discuss are turkeys.

My current neighborhood has a roaming gang of wild turkeys that has at least ten members. Which I go to great lengths to avoid as they are wild turkeys. With good cause too as I once watched them chase a college student down the street. As I watched from my living room window it got me thinking about two encounters that I've had with wild turkeys. Except mine were both out in rural Minnesota rather than being chased down a Twin Cities suburban street.

My first encounter was when I was about

five or six years old. I had gone with my father to the farm of one of his church members at the time. This particular member did not keep a dog but still needed something to keep wild animals out of his chickens. So he kept an attack turkey.

This attack turkey was a big old Tom that was roughly the same size that I was at the time. And this turkey did his job well and pretty much attacked anything that it saw. Including me.

Well that big old Tom came running at me and I ran as fast as my little legs could carry me until it was called off. It felt like I had been chased forever. In reality it probably only chased me for all of one to two minutes but it felt like forever.

About 10 years later I had my second encounter with a wild turkey. I was walking outside with my mother and sister when I saw something stirring in the brush out of the corner of my eye. Then suddenly it moved and like any logical person would do I screamed "Armadillo!" Well the screaming caused it to fly up into the air right in front of me. To which I screamed again "Flying armadillo!"

Of course as this is Minnesota and not the South it was in fact not an armadillo nor can armadillos of any kind fly. As you might have already guessed it was in fact a turkey. More especially it was a mother hen who thought I was after her nest and was doing her best to get me to move away from it.



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 9. Taj Mahal city
 13. Ernest, to mommy
 14. "Fat chance!"
 15. Fits of shivering
 16. Rundown
 17. Historical period
 18. "___ its weight in gold"
 19. *Namesake of famous pact signed in 1955
 21. *"The City of a Hundred Spires"
 23. Financial assistance
 24. Bird's groomer
 25. Pod nugget
 28. Fountain order
 30. Duck dish a certain way
 35. Picture on a coat
 37. Feline vibration
 39. Stocking fiber
 40. Stink to high heaven
 41. Cocoyam, pl.
 43. Pelvic bones
 44. Frost over (2 words)
 46. Stew bean
 47. Sleeveless garment
 48. Predicament
 50. Snakelike fish
 52. Hi-___ monitor
 53. Toothy wheel
 55. *Street, in capital city in #38 Down
 57. *On the Danube
 60. *On the Thames
 63. Virtue, in Italian
 64. *Street, in capital city in #25 Down
 66. Dashboard instruments
 68. Beside, archaic
 69. Geological Society of America
 70. Type of heron
 71. Parks or Luxembourg
 72. Pecking mother
 73. Like oboe's sound
- DOWN**
1. "___ the land of the free ..."
 2. Cold one
 3. Peruvian Empire
 4. Miss America topper
 5. Blood infection
 6. Prepare to swallow
 7. *Dublin's cultural quarter neighborhood, "Temple ___"
 8. Parallelogram, e.g.
 9. All excited
 10. Spiritual leader
 11. Network of nerves
 12. Certain something in a tray
 15. Rouse
 20. Take puppy from a pound
 22. *Hamilton: An American Musical" singing style
 24. Great ___ Reef
 25. *On the Seine
 26. Not slouching
 27. Arabian chieftain
 29. Like Roman god Janus
 31. *Also the most populous city in Ukraine
 32. More ill
 33. Neil Diamond's "Beautiful ___"
 34. Annoying tiny biters
 36. Arctic jaeger
 38. *Located in boot-shaped country
 42. Sound of artillery
 45. Kind of hickory nut
 49. Jack's inferior
 51. Like a Grammy nominee
 54. Frustration, in print
 56. "A bird in hand is worth two in the bush," e.g.
 57. Source of veritas
 58. Wraths
 59. Volcano in Sicily
 60. Ground beef description
 61. Fairytale giant
 62. "All You ___ Is Love"
 63. Variable, abbr.
 65. Put to work
 67. Hog heaven

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Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin Becoming a Farmer: First Steps

By Monica & Claudia Vanderborght

A farm dog -- for companionship and protection.

Monica's daughter had two dogs, both labcrosses. Together, they could get into so much trouble!! If they weren't locked in their kennels each and every time the family left the home, disaster would greet them upon return: upturned garbage cans spilling their contents, pillows and sofa cushions strewn about, shoes chewed, once they even managed to open the refrigerator door and raid the contents. Mocha and Ice didn't have a bad life, but their weekdays were relegated to their kennels. Ice was a sweetie with those he knew -- but a car accident had left him with only three legs and abuse made him untrustworthy around strangers, particularly men. Mocha was an easy girl with a wonderfully loud, deep, (and often too frequent) bark. After a few lessons at PetCo, Mocha knew basic commands and actually followed them on occasion.

Mocha absolutely loved her new-found freedom. She followed Monica everywhere, although she kept a safe distance when the chainsaw was in use. The rule of "No Dogs on the Couch" was quickly forgotten -- when Monica was on the couch, Mocha was there. When Monica was in bed, Mocha was there.

The two spent many hours outside each day, and she was Monica's constant companion.

Cats -- for amusement and critter control. Monica is adventuresome and brave, but when it comes to rodents and snakes Monica reacts like a typical girl.

Never mind that Monica fearlessly drove her 4WD Jeep over / through trails (and creeks and large rocks) in Minnesota and Wisconsin with the Dakota Dirt Diggers. (An important lesson that would also serve her well on the farm: "If you aren't getting stuck, you aren't learning anything.") All by herself, Monica traveled 49 states and several Canadian provinces on a Goldwing motorcycle. In 2005 she volunteered to be deployed with the Naval Reserve: ten days later she was on a plane to CENTCOM in Tampa for paperwork and immunizations; two weeks later she was on the long flight to Qatar.

Brave, yes. But when it comes to snakes and rodents, Monica actually believes she can levitate when startled by either. Perhaps it is the scream that gives the extra lift. Cats, for critter control, were absolutely essential.

So four kittens came to the farm: two from CraigsList, two from a friend. Each grandchild was tasked with naming one kitten. Cuddles and Tippiie were siblings (who hated each other and hissed whenever the other drew near). Shelley and Oliver were lively, curious, and chased each other all over the house. Slowly, the kittens were given greater outdoor freedom as they grew.

One dog, four cats, and dozens of boots (Monica, kids, grandkids, friends of grandkids) can bring in a tremendous amount of dirt and mud from the outside. The barely-nice house with easy-to-clean floors was ap-

preciated.

Autumn turned to winter. The days got shorter and colder. Claudia, who for decades had heated her homes exclusively with wood, assured Monica that the fire could burn all day without supervision. It could burn all night too. If the grandkids wanted to find the kittens, the fireplace was the first place they looked.

Every January, the fifth grade teachers and students headed to Eagle Bluff for a three-day field trip. This was the first extended "vacation" Monica would be away from home. (Not really a vacation, having to supervise all those children -- and their parents.) But it was a wonderful learning experience for the kids, many of whom had lived their entire lives in apartments with hundreds of TV channels and piles of video games. Mocha returned to Ice's house for a three-day sleepover. Thermostats for the electric heaters were set to 55 degrees. Food and water was left for the kittens ... although one wasn't looking well. Shelly was lethargic and showed little interest in food or water. Either she would be okay, or she wouldn't. Monica left for the field-trip, hoping for the best.

The internet was slow at Eagle Bluff, but Monica looked up symptoms of feline diseases. She asked for advice from the teachers. All symptoms pointed to feline leukemia -- a death sentence for Shelley and probably the other three. It was a long three days and a dreaded return home.

Mocha was thrilled to be out of the suburbs and back on the farm where she could run free again. Three kittens seemed fine, but



Mocha

Shelley was seriously ill. Monica still had two days before the weekend to consider options. Her colleagues sympathetically suggested that Shelley be taken to the vet for a confirmed diagnosis and to be euthanized. All the suburban friends agreed.

But Monica resolved: wasn't she a farmer now? Farmers don't take their cats to the vet to be euthanized -- they do it themselves. Farmers do not let their animals suffer. It was a difficult, agonizing, painful decision. But when she got home from school that day and saw the pitiful state Shelley was in, Monica knew what she had to do. It was a rough, rough weekend -- but she knew she had done the right, the farmer thing.

Several months later, Oliver started going downhill -- the same symptoms. This time the decision was no easier, but farmers do not let their animals suffer. Oliver's suffering was shorter, and the decision was easier, though no less painful.

Monica felt she had just passed a huge milestone in becoming a legitimate farmer. The first, difficult steps had been taken.

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