



Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger™

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DECEMBER 1, 2025

Volume 19 • Issue 12

Z-M Students Honor Our Military Heroes



Courtesy of Z-M Schools

Our Veterans Day Programs honored our military heroes. We express our appreciation to Anton Snyder, a National Guard Veteran, as well as to our students and staff who participated and organized this event.

(additional pictures on page 9)

Announcements

• **ZM Dance Team Alumni Recognition December 13, 2025.** Attention all former Zumbrota-Mazeppa Dance Team members and coaches – please join the current ZM Dance Team at their home invite on December 13, 2025, for an alumni recognition event. The invite starts at 11am and an alumni photo is planned during the start of intermission. There will be past photos and costumes on display throughout the commons area.

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*Do you have an announcement?
Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com*

The Best By Par

By Tyler Weeks



While the rest of us are enjoying warm nights by the fire and brilliant blankets of snow, the sports world shares a universal sadness over winter. Across football, soccer, and other outdoor

sports, teams are forced to either pack up their things or move indoors for the season. Luckily, these communities often have indoor arenas and stadiums to sustain themselves through the winter.

Zumbro Falls Golf Club has not had the same luxury, however, having to close its green and rely on other means to stay afloat during Minnesota's cold season. Wanting to fix this while giving members a chance to practice their winter swings, Kevin Kautz and his son Kaleb recently closed their deck for the installation of four state-of-the-art golf simulators.

Alongside a driving range and practice green, these developments have produced a system with stunning graphics that will remain available through the winter season. Their efforts to stay open seven days a week, year-round, are actively making golf more accessible to the larger community.

Kevin: "We looked for a system that could fit our seasonal needs for golf. The [simulators'] amazingly clear graphics are about as close to real golf as it gets."

(continued on page 6)



15th Annual Soup & Chili Luncheon



The Mazeppa Area Historical Society is hosting the 15th Annual Soup & Chili Luncheon on Saturday, December 13th from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Mazeppa Community Center.

Serving soup (Quik Trip) & chili. Free will donation. Mazeppa Area Historical Society cash raffle, silent auction, Red Wing commemoratives & Marilyn Monroe collector plates.

**SANTA WILL MAKE AN
APPEARANCE!**

Memories of Christmas Past

Every year we visit with residents of local assisted living homes and hear their memories of Christmas when they were a child. Here are some of the stories from their childhood for you to enjoy.

Anne grew up in a family of eight kids in a small town in Minnesota. She recalls that times were tough and the family did not have a lot of things.

(continued on page 15)



We are all set at Dollar General Mazeppa to accept toy donations for Christmas!!

Now until Dec 8, 2025. All you need to do is purchase a toy and drop it in the chimney and we will deliver it to those in need by Dec 8. The collection point is located by the checkout registers at the front of the Dollar General store. This a joint effort with the Saint Peter and Paul Catholic Church Angel Tree.



May Your Dreams Be Merry and Bright

To our friends, neighbors, and folks we've yet to meet, we'd like to extend our sincere best wishes for a holiday that's as beautiful as you are.

We thank you for your valued patronage, and hope you'll visit us again, soon.

Rhonda's Hair Care

120 1st Ave. N. Mazeppa
507-843-5912

GIFT CERTIFICATES MAKE THE PERFECT GIFT!

Season's Greetings

With best wishes from our entire team this holiday season.

We look forward to your continued friendship in 2026.

Large groups are welcomed with reservations for 8 or more.

507-753-3131
60146 Hwy. 63, Zumbro Falls

WINE BINGO EVERY SATURDAY NOON TO 2:30 PM!

TRY OUR STATE-OF-THE-ART GOLF SIMULATORS!

ZUMBRO FALLS Winery

Announcements

(continued from page 1)

- **Celebrate Recovery meetings every Sunday night at 5pm at South Troy Church, 56817 Highway 63 Zumbro Falls.**
- **Mazeppa Area Food Shelf, serving Mazeppa, Bellechester, and Zumbro Falls Area holiday hours: December 11 open 9:00-11:00a.m. & 3:30-5:30 p.m.; December 23 open 3:30-5:30 p.m.; December 25 Christmas Day closed.** Food drop off locations are First State Bank of Red Wing, Mazeppa Branch, and Entry way to Mazeppa City Hall.
- **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.
- **Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Bellechester, Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Goodhue, Pine Island, Kenyon, Wabasha 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. Please contact Three Rivers at 507-316-0610 or email: oas@threeriver-scrap.org



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MERRY MAZEPPA

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

Saturday, December 6th 5:30PM

Lions Park

SANTA ARRIVES at 6:00PM

Please join us for:

Christmas Music, Crafts for Kids, Campfire, Our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting

Sloppy Joes, and Mac & Cheese will be served along with Hot Coco & Apple Cider

Sponsored by: Mazeppa Business Women
Adult Beverages for purchase

Bring a donation for the Mazeppa Food Shelf and a chance to win a Christmas Basket!

Goodie Bags donated by Mazeppa Lions

Merry Christmas to all!



Attitude of Gratitude



By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

Attitude of Gratitude

Long ago there was as a great British poet by the name of Rudyard Kipling. One day a young man walked up to Mr. Kipling and said, "Mr. Kipling, I just read that somebody calculated that the money you make from your writings amounts to over one hundred dollars a word."

Mr. Kipling raised his eyebrows and said, "Really, I certainly wasn't aware of that!"

Then the reporter reached into his pocket and pulled out a one-hundred-dollar bill and gave it to Mr. Kipling and said, "Here's a one-hundred-dollar bill. Now give me one of your one-hundred-dollar words." Rudyard Kipling looked at that piece of currency for a moment, then he folded it up and put it in His pocket and said, "Thanks!" (Author Unknown)

The word thanks is certainly a one-hundred-dollar word. Paul wrote to the church in Thessalonica "Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

Always be Joyful! Always Pray!!! Always be thankful! Be thankful in ALL circumstances. Gratitude is something we must show and practice every day. In Celebrate Recovery we encourage each other to have a gratitude list- to write down every day those things that you are thankful for. It's important to be grateful- thankful for the blessings and people and things in our lives.

Gratitude is something that should always be expressed. Romans 1:21 says; "For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him." Paul is describing a lost world, a group of people who knew about God, they knew of His existence, they knew He was powerful and they knew His laws and decrees. Yet, they still did not thank Him, and the Book of Romans tells us that their thinking became futile, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

That's why Paul said, be thankful in ALL circumstances! We are to give thanks always! We are to express gratitude always, simply because Scripture says to. David wrote, "Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, who daily bears our burdens." (Psalms 68:19) We are always to be thankful for God's daily goodness and mercy. 2 Corinthians says we are to "thank God for His indescribable gift, Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Have you ever thanked God for the person who planted the seeds of the gospel into your

life? Have you thanked Him for the prayer intercessors He raised up on your behalf? Have you ever thanked God for those who bring the Word of God to you or to those who take God's Word out into the world?

When was the last time you thanked God for your helpmate; your spouse/partner? When was the last time you thanked God for His provision for you and your family?

There is so much to thank God for. And those who have an attitude of gratitude, along with filling their minds and hearts with Biblical truth, are able to destroy any hold the world or the devil has in their lives.

Gratitude is to always be expressed. The Holy Spirit moved the Apostle Paul to write, "...give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17). The two words "all circumstances" makes this exhortation from the Lord difficult. If we were told in "most things" or "in good things," we would find it much easier to accept and obey. It's easy to be thankful when everything is going good- it's much more difficult when life is difficult. Yet, I've found in my own life that even in those very difficult circumstances God has always been with me- He has never left me, He has never forsaken me. Through the death of a child, being betrayed by a loved one, living through financially difficult times- God has always been my hope and my strength- a very present help in all my troubles. I wasn't 'happy' in those events in my life, but I could be thankful for God, His presence in my life and His unfailing love!

Gratitude is the mark of a growing Christian. Babies are not born being able to express gratitude. You can walk a colicky baby for several hours throughout the night. When you lay the baby down, he will not express gratitude, because he can't, he is a baby. But as the child begins to grow, good parents train the child to say, "thank you" and as the child continues to grow, he is expected to show gratitude by the way he lives. If the parents don't teach them, their children will grow up self-centered. It is a sign of maturity when our children express their gratitude.

We don't want to be like the little boy who thanked his grandmother for the piece of pie that he received. His grandmother said, "O I like it when you say thank you."

(continued on page 3)

Lands Christmas Worship Services

Christmas Eve, December 24th

4:00 and 9:00 PM

At Church and Streaming on Facebook

Christmas Day, December 25th

Streaming on Facebook at 9:00 AM



Lands Lutheran Church
16680 Hwy 60 Blvd, Zumbrota MN 55992



TRINITY LINCOLN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Dan Reich
507-753-2576 • 35933 Cty. Rd. 17, Lake City, MN
Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.

ST. PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

222 1st Ave S., Mazeppa
507-843-3885
Sunday Mass 10:00 a.m.

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Hall 507-753-2424, West Albany
Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m.
Wednesday Mass 7:00 p.m.

ST. JOHNS (BEAR VALLEY) LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Dan Reich • 507-753-2576
Sunday Worship 8:30 a.m.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (POTSDAM)

Pastor Dean Zemple
7134 Highway 246 NE, Elgin, MN
Sunday worship at 9:15 a.m.
(Bible class at 8:15 during the school year)

LANDS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor: David Krinke, Email: pastordavid@landslutheran.org
Pastor: Nikki Rockne, Email: pastornikki@landslutheran.org
P O Box 225/16640 Hwy 60 Blvd, Zumbrota, MN (507) 732-5482
Web Site: www.landslutheran.org
Facebook: Lands Lutheran Church
Sunday services 8:30 am Contemporary Worship
10:30 am Traditional Worship

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Let's Go and See!

"Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." — Luke 2:15

The shepherds are relatively obscure actors in this story. We don't know their names. We're not sure if they are hired hands or tending their own flocks. They hear the angel's announcement of Jesus' birth. They run to find Jesus. And after they return to their flocks, we don't hear from them again.

Even so, the shepherds pull me further into this story. They begin in a rather ordinary space, "living out in the fields" with their sheep. When the angel suddenly appears, they are terrified! Who wouldn't be? Nothing could have prepared them to meet angels shining the light of God's glory in the middle of a field at night. Then quickly they move from terror to wonder to delight and finally to joyful worship. By the end of the night, the shepherds are the first human messengers to share the good news of Jesus' birth! Like the people whom the shepherds first told about Jesus, I am amazed at what I hear.

After the angelic choir disappears, the shepherds urge each other: "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." What else could they do? As I read this story again, I find myself responding to the shepherds: "Yes! Let's go and see, looking into the amazing good news of the child who has been born in Bethlehem!"

God, whether we've read this story before or we are hearing it for the first time, awaken in us the joy and wonder of the good news of Jesus' birth! Amen.

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

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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.
Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

SOUTH TROY WESLEYAN CHURCH

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.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Dean Zemple
80 3rd Ave. S., Hammond, MN
Sunday worship at 11:00 a.m.
(Bible class at 12 noon during the school year)

ST. JOHN'S MAZEPPA

Pastor Al Horn • 507-843-5302
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

20 - 3rd St. SW, Oronoco, MN
507-367-4711 • www.oronocochurch.org
10:00a.m. Worship

South Troy Church wants to invite children age 4 years old-5th grade to join us.

First Wednesday VBS
The first Wednesday of each month from 6-7:30pm.

This is a monthly Vacation Bible School format filled with God's word, some crafts, fun and a meal.
• December 3: God's Greatest Gift (Christmas)

January-April the Armor of God:

- January 7: Belt of Truth
- February 4: Breastplate of Righteousness
- March 4: Gospel of Peace
- April 1: Shield of Faith
- May 6: Helmet of Salvation and Sword of the Spirit



Religion

1st Wednesday VBS at South Troy Church



Youth group helping the younger ones to fill the food bags for PEM Backpack for Food program



Youth group helping the younger ones to fill the food bags for PEM Backpack for Food program



Students making thank you's for the Zumbro Falls Volunteer Fire Department



Students making thank you's for the Zumbro Falls Volunteer Fire Department

Attitude of Gratitude

(continued from page 3)

The boy replied, "I will say it again if you would put some ice-cream on top of the pie." We show gratitude to God and for the things He has done for us by helping others in the Name of Christ. A thankful Christian will be a giving Christian.

It has been well said, "Thanksgiving is just thanks, then giving." You can give without being thankful, but you cannot be thankful without giving. When you give, you are not only acknowledging that everything you have has been given to you by the Lord, but you are expressing your gratitude to Him. A true "Attitude of Gratitude" will change your life.

As we reflect on Thanksgiving and look to the Christmas season, think on this verse and learn to live it out- you will be glad you did!

"Always be joyful. 17 Never stop praying. 18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.)

Merry Christmas & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's been a wonderful year and we'd like to say thank you to all of our customers and friends.

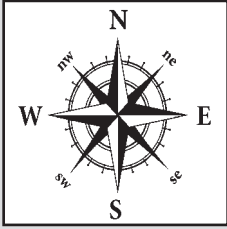
We look forward to seeing you in 2026!





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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Christmas



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.

Christmas has always been a favorite time of year for me. The holiday spirit was happy and joyous. Everyone seemed to be of good cheer. I recall walking from store to store on Main Street as a kid and there was music playing everywhere. And the decorations were so festive. Everyone had an expectation of good things. My parents were practical and we had the same small artificial tree every year. It sat on top of round cabinet in the living room with the presents stacked around the bottom. They were green before it was the "in" thing to do.

I used to look through the "wish books" as a kid. They were magical. In the fall we would

get the Christmas catalogues from Sears & Roebuck, Montgomery Wards and J.C. Penney. My sister and I compiled a list for our parents with hopes everything would make the cut. I remember spending hours looking but I cannot recall getting anything we had listed on our want list. I actually can't remember a single gift I received.

As I became older, I lost the excitement of getting something. When you reach to a certain age, you simply buy the things you want and usually don't much care for the things others give you. You have to act thankful for something you know you will never use. We all know what that is like.

In our family growing up we would get each person in the family one gift. That meant I would buy for seven people. I put a lot of thought into what I was going to get each one. I was certain they would love it more than anything else they received. I can still remember those gifts I purchased. One year I bought my older sister a Carpenter's record. It was the "Close to You" album. My sister was five years older than me and so cool. She got tickets to go to see the Carpenters at the Mayo Civic and when her college friend cancelled out, she took me instead. So, I knew that was the perfect gift and she would be thrilled. The last year I lived at home I bought my little brother Aaron a battery powered robot with a voice. The body of the robot was inflatable so we blew it up and pointed it at our cat, Buffy. It said, "I am Marzon" and lumbered toward the cat. Buffy was a monster slayer and took one swipe and Marzon deflated on the spot. Shortest life for a present



ever.

My mother was also special and I wanted to get her something she would really appreciate. When I look back, I realize that a 12 year-old boy has no clue what to get, but I was on a mission. I had searched all the catalogues and came across the perfect thing in my mind. It was a jewelry box that played a tune when opened. And this was not just any music box. It was a Swiss Chalet. There was a water wheel on the side that one would turn to wind the mechanism. They when the roof was lifted where your treasures were kept it would play "Edelweiss". I would give my mom the cash for my purchase and she would write a check out to the mail order company. I quickly wrapped it the day it arrived. I could barely contain myself waiting for her to open

it. I do not remember my mother's reaction to opening her gift that Christmas. My mother was a diplomat. She had six kids and tried to treat each one evenly. I remember she used to say, "I love all my kids". I couldn't understand that, I mean I grew up with the rest of them.

Looking back, I realize why I can remember the gifts I gave and not the ones I received. The whole spirit of Christmas is giving. It is better to give than to receive. That is even a Bible verse. Acts 20:35 remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive".

I like being an adult. We do not give gifts to each other anymore. If you truly want to do something for someone you love, why wait until an arbitrary date? Just do it now.

Merry Christmas

and Happy New Year!

We would like to share our thanks and best wishes with you, our valued customers and friends. We appreciate your patronage and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mazeppa BP Convenience Store

360 1st Avenue, Mazeppa • 507-843-3165

We wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

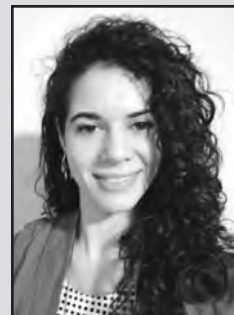
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A Minnesotan: The Christmas Bat



By RosaLin Alcoser

I absolutely love Christmas decorations and the whole process of decorating for Christmas. Now that I am grown I have my own home to decorate and my own decorations. But there are times when I think back to how my parents house was decorated for Christmas when I was a little kid.

Back when I was a child in the early 2000s a large number of my mom's best friend's, who would always spend at least part of Christmas with us, Christmas decorations made their way into our house. From the Nativity, that still goes up every year, to the mechanical Stantas that used to scare me as a child.

Things from her house just kept turning up at our house; usually the things there were the more kids geared decorations. Including the light up moose that was meant to stand out in the yard. It was only out in our yard one year and did not work very well while it was out there. His head was supposed to move. Except he got broken while being put up that year. We all still maintain that my dad and grandpa broke the moose on purpose.

The Christmas decoration that still stands out to me to this day is the one that never made it to our house. And that would be the Christmas Bat.

One year when I was about six or seven mom's best friend's son, the same one who didn't pay attention to where he hid the six dozen Easter eggs, very excitedly pulled out his favorite childhood Christmas decoration. It was a light up Halloween bat that went in the window. That was flashed to look like it was flying when turned on.

I've been told that the Christmas bat was originally a Halloween bat that just never got put up until way after Christmas. However, when he was a child and asked about it he was told it was still up because it was a Christmas bat. Which led it to becoming the Christmas bat.

While I do know that the Christmas bat did not get put up that year or any other in my memory. I do clearly remember him pulling it out and telling us about how it was a Christmas decoration.

The Best By Par

(continued from page 1)

Sand flies when you hit out of the traps; water features have moving water; selected courses have different animal species in the background. Even hitting yardages are spot on to the same distance you might hit a ball outside."

When Kevin first constructed Zumbro Falls Golf Club in 1999, golf simulators were hardly on his mind. With rolling hills and four ponds surrounding this 9-hole course, his only priority was to open such a beautiful venue up to golfers. After a year of construc-

tion and the beginning of a new millennium, the course's opening brought members flocking to drive fifteen minutes north of Rochester, 63, to enjoy a rather scenic round of golf with water views on every hole. Getting through the course is no easy feat, though, as golfers must utilize every club in their bag to get through its two 550-yard holes, several unexpected breaks, and their famous hole #4, the 180-yard par three that has never seen a hole-in-one in the course's 25 seasons of operation. With the addition of their first grapes planted nine years ago, golfers now enjoy a lovely vineyard on hole #6. In 2023, they officially became licensed and had their first toast of wine the following winter.

Aside from the course, the clubhouse offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner items, a picturesque wedding venue, and the previously discussed winery and staff. These developments bring us back to the present, when Kevin and



Practice green

Kaleb realized the inevitably slow business of the winter season. When mid-October arrived along with its cold weather, the two were ready with a plan to close in the club's deck and erect four simulator bays within the over ten feet of newly available ceiling space.

Without fastening anything to the floor or ceiling, they installed the system alongside minor cosmetic improvements in a five-day process with better-than-expected results.

(continued on page 7)

Mazeppa Historical Society Fundraiser

Drop-off bin at the Mazeppa Community Center parking lot.

THANK YOU for donating!

Historical Happenings

Compiled by Helen Reiland

THE MAZEPPA JOURNAL, Editor and Publisher: Barbara and Reider Tommeraas
FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1956
Marion Siems is Queen Candidate
Miss Marion Siems, 20-year daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Siems of South Mazeppa, is enjoying a week jam-packed with glamorous activities as a candidate for Aquatennial queen in Minneapolis.
There was an excellent picture of Miss Siems on TV during Saturday's parade, when each Aqua princess rode in a convertible.
Coronation night will be held this Friday at the Parade Stadium, Minneapolis, where a gala program will be staged.

Weddings
PONCELET-MAJERUS
Miss Marge Poncelet, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Matt Poncelet of Bellechester, and Jerry Majerus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Art Majerus of Bellechester, united in marriage at 9 a.m., July 3. The Rev. Anthony Louis officiated at the ceremony held at St. Mary's Catholic church.
The bride attended Villa Maria Academy at Frontenac and the groom attended St. Mary's School at Bellechester. He is employed by Gillett and Eaton at Lake City.

Obituaries
WILLIAM G. RILEY
William G. Riley, 79 of Rochester, died Monday morning in a Rochester hospital after being ill for three months.
Mr. Riley was born March 6, 1877 at Hammond, Minn. He married the former Anna Wagner Nov. 25, 1903 at Hammond. About 15 years ago they moved to California and three years ago moved to Rochester where they have resided since.
Survivors include his wife; five sons, Clarence, William and John of Rochester, Norbert at Hammond, and Robert of South Gate, Calif.; three daughters, Mrs. Thomas Fetzer, Mrs. C.L. Jansa and Mrs. Richard Wren, all of California.

WALTER H. AYOTTE
Walter H. Ayotte, 64 of Winona, a veteran of more than 45 years of railroading with the Chicago and North Western Railway, collapsed from a heart attack and died shortly afterward while making his regular run Wednesday afternoon of last week to Chicago as engineer on road's "400" passenger train.
Mr. Ayotte was born Jan 18, 1892 at Two Rivers, Mich., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ayotte. He married the former Mary Crawley June 19, 1916.
He is survived by his wife; four daughters, and one son, Walter P. Ayotte of Mazeppa, and 10 grandchildren.
Funeral services were held Saturday at Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery.

HOFFMANN AND ACQUARD FAMILIES HOLD REUNION
The Hoffmann and Acquard families held a reunion and picnic Sunday at Silver Lake in Rochester with 98 present. The event honored Mr. and Mrs. Donald Campfield and family of Springfield, Mass. Mrs. Campfield is a niece of the Hofmanns and a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Acquard of Rochester.
Those attending from Mazeppa were Mr. and Mrs. J. Alex Weber, Mrs. Gertrude Reiland, Mr. and Mrs. N.P. Sand and family, Barbara, Kathy and Mary Jo Reiland, Gene Hoffman, Mrs. Caroline Hoffmann and Teddy and Lorraine Schumacher of Red Wing.

Pictured above is Carl Goetsch of Mazeppa who ran into a streak of luck last Wednesday afternoon when he caught the two catfish, one a five pounder, and the other 14 1/4 lbs. below the Rochester power dam. Both were hooked within minutes of each other and bait used was a split crappie head. Who wants to go North???

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.

The Best By Par

(continued from page 6)

Actually installing the courses was another matter, as it took nearly two weeks of round-the-clock downloading to acquire and configure 2,000 courses from around the world. Since the simulators are only popular during uncomfortable weather, the club plans to take them down on May 1st. The winter season certainly does not mean that leagues will stop, however:

"We are offering six men's league nights, a couple's night, and a ladies' night. All of our leagues are casual and play a 2-person scramble format. Each league will have sixteen people and play every other week. We will be open for business seven days a week, opening every day at 10:00 a.m. and closing at 8:00 p.m. Our rates are \$40/hour per bay. A four-some would only pay \$10/hour."

With this expansion, Zumbro Falls Golf Club aims to attract golfers year-round, especially during the slower winter season. To those who would prefer to wait until everything thaws again, however, the winery and eatery will always be there to keep members occupied. More importantly, Kevin and Kaleb have given a previously underutilized space a valuable, year-round use. You can catch one last look at their course before the snow or test out these new simulators off Hwy 63 just south of Zumbro Falls. When that fated frost does eventually roll around, the golfing community can rely on simulator bays like these to ease the burden of a harsh winter. After all, if you love something enough, no amount of obstacles will stand in the way of pursuing it. Instead of letting the challenge of winter tear them down, Zumbro Falls Golf Club built around it. The result has provided the golfers with year-round practice and reminded them of a crucial lesson in the process- decisions made for the community are the best by par.

To join one of their leagues or book a bay from an online tee sheet, reach out to Zumbro Falls Golf Club at 507-421-3101 or on their website.



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Z-M Students Attend STEAM Summit at RCTC



In November, Z-M 9th and 10th grade students had an opportunity to attend a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art & math) summit at RCTC. *Courtesy of Z-M Schools*

Best wishes to Larry on his retirement!



Larry stopped by Mrs. Duden's kindergarten class to thank the students for their kindness. *Courtesy of Z-M Schools*



In honor of World Kindness Day, students at ZM Primary are spreading kindness. This includes Mrs. Liebenow's class washing the cafeteria tables, Mrs. Nelson's class distributing 3D-printed kindness critters, Mrs. Duden's class creating treat bags for the custodians, and Mrs. Jensrud's class passing out kindness rocks and performing their own song about kindness. Way to go Primary Students! *Courtesy of Z-M Schools*



Z-M Students Honor Our Military Heroes



Z-M Students Donate Meals to Mazeppa and Zumbrota Food Shelves



Working with the HS FCCLA our Elementary students donated about 180 meals for the food shelves in Mazeppa and Zumbrota! Mr. Sand's class was the leading donors and the were able to help some High School FCCLA members pack up the meals. Great job everyone! *Courtesy of Z-M Schools*



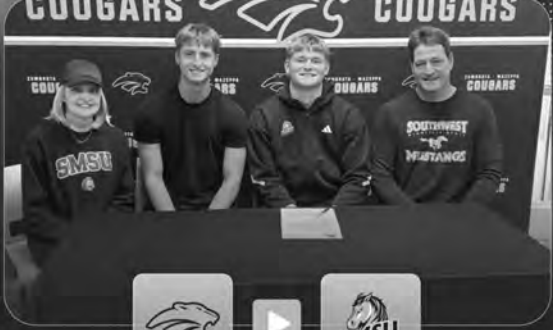




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Farm Girl Chatter The Heart of Agriculture

By McKell Lemmerman

Agriculture isn't easy. It's not just a job — it's a way of life. And it's one of the hardest, most humbling, and most rewarding paths a person can walk.

It's early mornings that begin before the sun even peeks over the horizon — when the rest of the world is still asleep, and you're already knee-deep in work. It's long days that stretch into night, when you collapse into bed with sore muscles and dirt still under your fingernails. It's the kind of tired that runs deeper than your bones — but so does the satisfaction that comes with it.

It's planting with faith, not certainty — putting seeds in the ground and trusting that God will send the rain, the sun, and the right conditions for life to grow. It's watching the weather like your livelihood depends on it — because it does. It's knowing that no matter how hard you work, there are some things you can't control — and choosing to keep going anyway.

But agriculture isn't just rows of corn or fields of hay. It's also the heartbeat of the barn. It's livestock — cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens — animals that rely on you for everything. It's feeding them before you feed yourself. It's bottle calves in the kitchen and heat lamps in the garage. It's standing in freezing wind to pull a calf that wouldn't come on its own, and laying in the dirt beside a sick animal, doing everything you can to give it a chance to live.

It's the quiet trust in a good horse, the soft nudge of a cow who knows you mean well, the flurry of feeding time, and the stillness of the barn at night when everything has finally settled. It's life and death, heartbreak and hope — sometimes all in the same day.

Most people will never understand the weight of this life. They won't know what it feels like to raise something from nothing — to pour your blood, sweat, tears, and prayers into the land and your livestock, and then do

it all again tomorrow. They won't see the hard choices, the long hours, or the sacrifices made behind the scenes. They don't see the birthday parties you miss, the vacations you postpone, or the holidays spent hauling hay or helping a heifer in labor.

But you do — because you were called to this life.

Not everyone gets to live it. And truthfully, not everyone could. It takes a special kind of person to farm and ranch — to care so deeply, work so hard, and live so selflessly. It takes strength. Grit. Patience. Wisdom. And a whole lot of faith. It means trusting God not just with your future, but with every single day.

You get to live a life connected to creation in a way most people never will. You get to witness miracles — new life being born, fields turning green, rain falling on dry ground. You get to see the beauty in hard work, the sacred in the ordinary, and the hand of God in every sunrise.

So be thankful — every single day. Not because it's easy, but because it's real. It's honest. It's good.

In the world of agriculture, nothing ever stays the same for long. Prices rise and fall. Weather patterns shift. Costs fluctuate. Markets for corn, soybeans, wheat, hay, and livestock can change overnight — driven by global events far beyond the fencerow. One year brings record yields; the next, drought or flood. Still, through all of it, farmers keep going.

They plant in the spring not with certainty, but with hope. They work the ground knowing full well that conditions may not cooperate — yet they press forward anyway. From dawn to dusk, and often beyond, their hands work the land while their minds navigate a thousand unseen variables: crop futures, feed prices, machinery breakdowns, trade news, and the forecast that never quite holds.

What sets farmers apart isn't just their ability to endure — it's their willingness to do so again and again, season after season.

While others may measure their days in meetings and minutes, farmers measure in seasons and yields. Their work is physical, yes — but it's also deeply mental and emotional. It's a life built on resilience, on lessons passed down through generations, and on a profound connection to land and livestock.

Technology has changed. Equipment has advanced. Markets have gone global. But the heartbeat of the farm — the people — re-



mains the same: gritty, grounded, tireless.

To the outside world, a dip in soybean prices may be just a headline. A spike in fertilizer costs may be just a graph. But to a farmer, those numbers mean something real — a decision to replant or not, a loan to carry forward or not, a hope for profit, or just enough to keep going one more year.

And still, they rise before the sun. They walk the rows. They fix what's broken, make do with what they have, and carry the weight of generations on their shoulders.

Because for most farmers, it isn't just business — it's legacy. They keep going not because it's easy, but because it matters: to their families, their communities, and to a world

that depends on them, often without realizing it. In a world of fluctuation and uncertainty, the farmer remains a steady presence — a constant. A quiet, powerful force that feeds not just our bodies, but our sense of what it means to endure — and to do so with purpose.

So, when you're exhausted, when the bills stack up, when the weather won't cooperate or the herd has had a rough week — remember this:

God didn't choose just anyone for this life. He chose you.

He saw something in you — something strong, something steady, something faithful — and knew you were the right one for the job.



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Zumbro Falls Area



Huge Success for the 1st Annual Mazeppa Monster Dash 5K Fun Run

Mazeppa Trail Committee
Mazeppa, MN

The 1st Annual Mazeppa Monster Dash 5K Fun Run, held on Sunday, October 26, proved to be an unforgettable fall celebration that brought the community together in a big way. Under clear skies and warm autumn air, residents turned out in impressive numbers to support the Mazeppa Trail Project—and their enthusiasm didn't go unnoticed.

The event raised over \$8,300 toward Phase 1 of the trail, and attendance was so strong that organizers quickly ran out of pumpkins and food, a testament to the community's excitement and support.

In addition to the fun run, families enjoyed a wide variety of fall festivities, including a lively Trunk-or-Treat event hosted by the Mazeppa Business Women, face painting, pumpkin decorating, vendors, games, a costume contest, and more—adding festive charm and warmth to the afternoon.

A special thanks was extended to the dedicated volunteers, community partners, the Mazeppa Lions, Mazeppa Fire Department, the Muni, the Mazeppa Business Women, sponsors, donors, and Ben Sand, who helped organize the 5K alongside the Mazeppa Trail team. Significant financial contributions from the Mazeppa Lions and Mazeppa First State Bank of Red Wing also played a crucial role in moving the project forward.

Thanks to the success of the event and these major contributions, the City of Mazeppa has approved a Cultural Resources Survey, officially allowing Phase 1 of the Mazeppa Trail Project to begin. This milestone marks the first major step toward bringing the long-envisioned trail to life.

The Mazeppa Trail organization is also proud to announce that it has been awarded both the Safe Routes to School Grant and the Local Partnership Program Grant, providing additional momentum and financial support for upcoming phases.

With funding secured, community enthusiasm at an all-time high, and Phase 1 ready to move forward, organizers say this is only the beginning for the Mazeppa Trail.

As the inaugural fun run wrapped up, one thing was clear: Mazeppa's community spirit is stronger than ever—and the trail's future is brighter than before.



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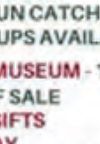
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10AM

11 AM - 3 PM
11 AM - 3 PM
11 AM - 2 PM
11 AM - 3 PM

11 AM - 3 PM

11 AM - 3 PM
11 AM - 3 PM
11 AM - 5 PM
11 AM - 3 PM

2 PM - 3PM
3PM - 4PM

4 PM

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LEFT TO THE COUNTRY SECTION

Memories of Christmas Past

(continued from page 1)

The kids would hang their every day stockings in the living room in anticipation of getting treats on Christmas Eve. She recalls one year how her brother looked out the upstairs window and said he saw sleigh tracks in the yard. They all began to get excited until her dad yelled up the stairs to get back to bed. The next morning, they came down to find a tangerine, banana, candy and nuts in the stockings.

Christmas was very simple and they usually received one present each from their parents. Usually, it was a new pair of pajamas. Her oldest brother gave her a present one year she really wanted. It was a copy of the book, Little Women. Even though she couldn't read it by herself yet, it was a treasured gift. The family would open one present Christmas Day and then they headed off to church. She remembers playing the Virgin Mary, holding a doll in a manger scene when she was about six-

years old. The noon meal was usually a goose with all the trimmings. Anne hated the stuffing, and her mom would ask her to take the bowl of dressing from the cooked goose to the table and she would cry that she didn't want to eat any of it. Her grandma would stay with them over the Holidays and make steamed pudding. Anne didn't like that either.

They all shared the toys they received. One year her brothers received a set of blocks which resembled buildings and they would all arrange them on the living room floor, setting up a miniature village to play with for hours at a time.

As the family grew her mother talked their dad into buying a small farm in the country so the kids would have room to play. They moved to a forty-acre place in the country and had a cow to milk, a pig to raise and chickens to take care of. The farm had a pond to skate on and a hill to toboggan down. Her dad owned a gas station and a bait shop and she remembers going to the river with him as a young child and helping to net minnows for the customers.

Carole grew up with three sisters in the city and recalls her father would get a tree to decorate a couple weeks before Christmas. They would flock the tree and decorate it with balls, lights and strings of popcorn. After Christmas he would set it outside for the birds to eat for the winter. Carole and her sisters would find the wrapped presents when the parents were not home and open them carefully to snoop at what they were getting.

Then re-wrap the packages and act very surprised on Christmas morning when the parents gave them each their gifts.

The Christmas meal was oyster stew and chili. She remembers so much food it was unreal. Her favorite was the milk from the oyster soup. Another favorite was lefse with butter, brown sugar and cinnamon sugar.

One year when Carole was ten years old, she had her eye on a guitar in the Used-A-Bit store in town. She looked longingly at it every day when she walked by and was so disappointed one day to see it was gone. Much to her surprise, her parents had purchased it for her and presented it on Christmas morning.

Shirley grew up outside Claremont on a small farm with three brothers and four sisters. Her childhood was lots of fun and she had a great dad who worked very hard. He would cut blocks of ice and sell them for people with ice boxes for keeping their food cool. Folks would come to buy ice at fifteen cents a block and her dad would give the kids change to run into town to buy candy.

One Christmas Eve her dad went to town and bought lots of nuts. The family would sit around until late in the night cracking and eating nuts. Christmas morning they would open presents with often included homemade dresses from her mom. One year she received a great big life size doll. Another year the present was a tricycle she had to share with her sisters. When she was twelve, they all received a bicycle which they shared as well.

Dan was raised in a big family of three boys and four girls on the east side of St. Paul. His dad loved Christmas and always made it a big celebration. They had lots of relatives who would come to spend the day at their house. His mom would cook a turkey or a large ham and all the relatives brought side

dishes, desserts, snacks and candies. Someone always brought a fruit cake and it seemed that would last until April. He looked forward to Christmas as soon as Thanksgiving was over.

His parents would hide the presents in a locked room until Christmas eve. They would send the kids down to the basement where they waited while hearing people come and go with boots thumping across the floor upstairs. Finally, they were called upstairs where presents were waiting for them. The presents were mostly toys and some clothes. The older boys got tools and one year the best gift was an electric train and tracks. He had one cheap uncle who would always give him a tie. The kids would make presents for their parents at school. He remembers his mom and dad always seemed happy to open them. The evening slipped by fast and then they were sent off to bed to await Christmas Day.

It was during the depression and WWII years and they didn't go many places because gas was rationed. The street car was the main mode of transportation. He would ride the street car about a mile to school each day. His older sister dropped out of school and got a job as a housekeeper on the other side of town. Marty, one of his older relatives went to college and ended up playing for a pro football team in St. Louis. He was considered quite a celebrity in the family. They lived by Hillcrest Golf Club and the boys would caddy for money. He only knew one uncle who was wealthy enough to play the 18 hole golf course. His dad worked for the Pioneer Press Dispatch and they printed two papers daily, one morning issue and one evening issue. Dan was hired on as an engraver after finishing with school. In the early days they had one color picture per issue.

Holly Thyme Craft Show

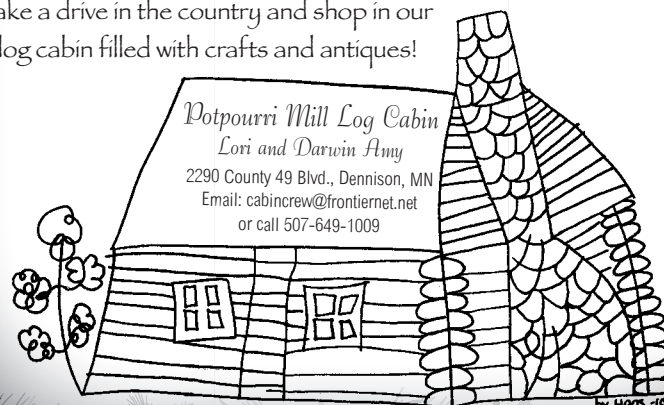
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More Egg Stuff + Cold and Flu Season



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

For years, eggs were painted as “cholesterol bombs,” but newer research shows that dietary cholesterol from eggs has little effect on blood cholesterol for most people. In the right dietary context, eggs can actually support healthier cholesterol profiles and heart health. The key is differentiating cholesterol from saturated fat: they don’t behave the same in the body, and food context matters.

A recent American Journal of Clinical Nutrition study tested three diets varying cholesterol and saturated fat. Participants following a high-cholesterol, low-saturated fat plan that included two eggs per day lowered their LDL cholesterol over five weeks, while groups eating higher saturated fat saw LDL rise. The takeaway: cholesterol from eggs didn’t raise LDL; saturated fat did.

Mechanistically, saturated fat impairs the liver’s ability to clear LDL efficiently, increasing circulating LDL. Eggs provide cholesterol without burdening the system with saturated fat, allowing normal LDL clearance and helping prevent artery buildup. It’s not the eggs at breakfast that pose the problem—it’s typically the bacon and sausage alongside them.

Observational data echo these findings in older adults: weekly egg intake was associated with a 29% reduction in heart disease deaths and a 17% reduction in all-cause mortality. Moderation appears to be protective, aligning with the idea that eggs can fit into a cardiometabolic-friendly diet when the rest of the plate is thoughtful.

To maximize benefits, choose pastured eggs, avoid cooking with high-omega-6 vegetable oils, and pair eggs with nutrient-dense whole foods like greens and avocados. This keeps saturated fat and linoleic acid in check while leveraging eggs’ nutrients—supporting heart health and overturning outdated guidance that unfairly cracked the humble egg.

As many of you know, I am a passionate advocate for optimizing your vitamin D levels. The best way to do this is through sensible sun exposure, but as we get into fall, that becomes much trickier. The days get shorter, and the sun sits lower in the sky,

meaning we get less of the essential UVB radiation needed to produce vitamin D in our skin. This is especially true for those of us living in northern states, where the change in seasons significantly reduces our ability to make enough of this crucial vitamin.

When sunlight isn’t enough, we must turn to our diet. I always tell my patients to look for foods rich in vitamin D to bridge the gap. Some of the best sources are fatty fish like wild-caught salmon, which can have between 383 to 570 IU per serving, and rainbow trout, which offers around 645 IU. You can also find it in herring, tilapia, and fortified dairy products like plain yogurt or kefir, which typically provide around 100 to 116 IU per cup.

Supplementation is another key strategy, but it’s important to do it right. I always advise starting with a 25-hydroxy vitamin D test to know your baseline. The goal is to reach a blood level between 60 and 80 ng/mL, which is where the real protective benefits are seen. When choosing a supplement, go for vitamin D3, which comes from animal sources and is much more effective than the plant-based D2. Since D3 is fat-soluble, be sure to take it with a meal containing healthy fats like grass-fed butter or egg yolks to ensure your body can absorb it properly.

Chiropractic care during cold and flu season: The spine and nervous system are at the very core of how our bodies manage health, and their communication pathways have a direct influence on immune system function. When spinal joints lose their mobility or become misaligned—what chiropractors refer to as vertebral subluxation—this communication gets disrupted. Left unchecked, these interruptions can throw the autonomic nervous system off balance, impacting not only stress responses but also the body’s capacity to mount a strong immune defense. Chiropractic adjustments directly address these spinal issues, working to restore that critical nervous system connection so your body can handle stress more effectively and maintain resilience against illness. From what I’ve witnessed in my own practice, and what’s being shown in studies over the years, chiropractic care produces positive changes in immune markers. Adjustments have been linked with increases in protective immune cells and antibodies such as cytokines and salivary IgA—key players in how your body fights off threats. There’s also solid evidence showing that chiropractic care can lower stress hormones, which otherwise suppress healthy immune activity. Instead of a passive approach to health, chiropractic offers a proactive and hands-on way to support and even strengthen your immune system.

Making chiropractic care part of your personal wellness routine just makes sense if you want to optimize your body’s ability to stay well. Of course, habits like regular movement, getting enough sleep, good hydration, and even workstation ergonomics matter too. But if you truly want to give your immune system that extra edge, chiropractic should be at the top of your list.

**Information and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*



Alzheimer's



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

In the early 1900s, Dr. Alois Alzheimer performed an autopsy on the body of a patient who had died after symptoms of dementia. In his investigation, he observed formations in the brain tissue that have become known as “amyloid plaques,” and the condition received his name. This plaque buildup has been the focus of research and proposed medications for decades. In more recent years, the urgency to understand this disease has become more obvious as a 2023 article in the Alzheimer’s and Dementia Journal reported a 145% increase in deaths from Alzheimer’s between 2000 and 2019. Although billions of dollars have been applied in researching medications to stop or reverse the progress of Alzheimer’s, a medical solution has not been found.

In 2017, Dr. Dale Bredesen, published “The End of Alzheimer’s,” which has become a New York Times Bestseller, and Dr. David Perlmutter describes as “a monumental work.” Dr. Bredesen not only describes the discovery of the cause of Alzheimer’s, but also presents the solution, which his team has effectively used to help hundreds of clients stop the progress of Alzheimer’s and in many cases reverse the symptoms.

Dr. Bredesen describes the discovery of the amyloid precursor protein as the key to understanding the progress of cognitive de-

cline. Every human being produces amyloid precursor proteins in various cells of the body including brain cells. How your body processes these precursor proteins determines whether amyloid plaques develop or not. Dr. Bredesen presents four primary causes for amyloid plaques to develop: 1) Inflammation, 2) Glucose toxicity, 3) Nutrient deficiency, and 4) Environmental toxicity. When one or more of these causes become predominant in your body, then amyloid plaques will begin to build up. When you make a priority to remove these causes from your body, the brain can return to clarity and health.

In other words, Alzheimer’s disease can be described as a metabolic disorder, which can be addressed with dietary changes and nutrition. Inflammation can be addressed with whole food sources and healthy oils. Glucose toxicity, often associated with diabetes, can be reversed by consuming foods that have a low glycemic index. Nutrient deficiencies can be identified with proper blood tests and whole food choices, and environmental toxins can be removed from your body through guided detoxification protocols. Dr. Bredesen presents testimonials from clients who have followed these steps to return to active lifestyles.

Adding quality fats, fermented foods, fresh vegetables and fruits, and removing quick, processed foods from your lifestyle can make a significant difference in your brain activity. According to the Brain Health and Alzheimer’s Prevention Program at Loma Linda University over ninety percent of Alzheimer’s cases can be prevented with simple changes in diet and lifestyle. Contact me to discuss your health goals for the coming year. Nutrition is designed for healing. I can help you reach greater health freedom in 2026. Contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net

**Information and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*

Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol



Question: *At a 4-way stop, when 2 cars stop at exactly the same time, which one has the right of way? Is it the car on your left? It seems like no one knows what to do these days and everyone just sits there.*

Answer: That is a good question for a good topic. Right-of-way and yielding laws help traffic flow smoothly and safely. They are based on courtesy and common sense. Violating these laws is a leading cause of traffic crashes.

- Intersections without traffic lights or signals: When you reach an intersection at the same time as another driver, the driver on the left must yield to the one on the right.

- All-way stops or flashing red traffic lights: When you reach an intersection at the same time as another driver, the driver on the left

must yield to the one on the right.

- Left turns: When you want to make a left turn, you must yield to vehicles approaching from the opposite direction that are in the intersection or close enough to pose a risk of a crash.

- Green arrow signal for left turn: When a green arrow signals that you are allowed to turn left, you must yield to other vehicles or pedestrians already in the intersection. After yielding, you may continue in the direction of the arrow.

- Uncontrolled “T” intersections: When you approach an uncontrolled “T” intersection, you must yield to all cross traffic if you are the one turning.

- Entering a public road from a private road or driveway: You must stop and yield to pedestrians and traffic.

- Transit and metro mobility buses: When driving in the right lane, you must yield to transit and metro mobility buses merging from a bus stop or shoulder. This includes yielding to any school bus trying to enter the lane from a shoulder, a right-turn lane, or other location where the school bus has stopped to load or unload passengers. The school bus must use the left turn signal to indicate intent to move into the right-hand lane.

- Funeral processions: When a funeral procession identifies itself with headlights or hazard warning lights, you must yield to the entire procession.

- Pedestrians: You must yield to pedestrians crossing at intersections and crosswalks, whether marked or unmarked.

Question: *Can I get some clarification on stop signs. I always wonder where to stop. Is it at the stop sign or at the stop line I sometimes see on the road. Thank you.*

Answer: This is a good question that I do get fairly often. Here is what you need to know and do when it comes to stopping.

Stop signs:

- Come to a complete stop at stop signs.
- If there is a marked stop line, stop before the line.

- If there is a pedestrian crosswalk, stop before entering the crosswalk.

- Yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, bicyclists and traffic before proceeding.

Obstructed view: If your view of the intersection is obstructed, be prepared to stop again for traffic or pedestrians in your path.

You must also come to a complete stop:

- Before entering a road from an alley, private driveway, parking lot or parking ramp. Always stop before crossing a sidewalk or crosswalk.

- At an intersection or crosswalk with a traffic signal displaying a red light. Wait until the light turns green and your path is clear before proceeding.

- At any intersection or crosswalk, marked or unmarked, where a pedestrian or bicyclist is crossing the road. Stay stopped until they have passed your lane.

- At a flashing red traffic light. Treat it as you would a stop sign.

- At a freeway ramp meter when the light is red.

- At a railroad crossing with a stop sign.

- When a flag person or traffic device directs you to stop.

- At a bridge that has been raised to open a path for boats.

Question: *Hi. I have two grandsons, one 17 years old with a driver's license the other is 15 with a permit. They both have a bad habit of driving with one hand on the wheel. I stress how dangerous this is and both hands need to be on wheel all the time. I drive at the 9 and 3 position and try to have them do the same. Any suggestions?*

Answer: When it comes to driving try to keep at least 10 inches between yourself and the steering wheel. When it comes to hand placement, keep your hands at the 8 and 4 o'clock or 9 and 3 o'clock positions on the steering wheel. Avoid the 10 and 2 o'clock position. Keep your thumbs turned out on the steering wheel.

Question: *I want to make sure my child is safe in the car, but I've heard that some car seats sold online are fake or don't meet U.S. safety standards. How can I tell if a car seat is unsafe?*

Answer: Good question. I reached out to the expert who is the Community Programs and Occupant Protection Manager for the Minnesota Safety Council and here is what I found out.

Fake, counterfeit, or non-compliant car seats can look real, feel sturdy, and even have labels—but they may break in a crash or miss critical safety features that keep children safe. Some of these car seats are being

sold online and may even look like a real car seat, but they aren't made to save lives. If you look closely, some may say they were made for dolls or have labels in broken English like: “Never leave child unattended.”

What to look for in a legitimate U.S. car seat:

- Safety labels written in English
- Chest clip as part of the 5-point harness
- Manufacturer name, model number, and weight/height limits
- Registration card and owner's manual
- Statement that it meets all U.S. federal safety standards (FMVSS)

Red flags for fake, counterfeit or non-compliant seats:

- No U.S. safety labels, or labels only in other languages
- Missing chest clip, registration card, or manual
- Unknown manufacturer
- Very low prices or sold by unknown online sellers (avoid buying car seats from third-party sellers)

Important note: Some car seats may be legitimate and crash-tested in other countries (like European models) but do not meet U.S. safety standards. For example, many European car seats do not have a chest clip, which is a required feature for U.S. seats. Even if these seats are safe elsewhere, they are not compliant for use in the U.S.

Need help?

You can always contact your car seat manufacturer or a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician (CPST) if you have questions, want to verify a seat, or need help with installation. A one-pager on compliant car seats and a list of all U.S. car seat manufacturers and their contact info is available here: <https://buckleupmn.org/infants-children/finding-the-right-car-seat/>

If you buy a car seat online and the deal seems “too good to be true,” it might be!

For more information and guidance, visit: <https://buckleupmn.org/>

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

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Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls
Messenger

Steering Wheel Safety

One small habit that can have major safety implications behind the steering wheel is where to put your hands on the wheel. Whether you've been driving for 50 years or 5 months, safe steering wheel techniques are critical to maintaining control in an emergency and ensuring your safety in the event of an airbag deployment.

Give Yourself Space: Make sure you have at least 10 inches between your chest and the steering wheel. If the airbag deploys, that space is what keeps you safe.

Best Hand Positions: Avoid the traditional 10 and 2 o'clock position. Keeping your hands slightly lower helps reduce the risk of injury if the airbag deploys. Aim for:

- 9 and 3 o'clock
- 8 and 4 o'clock

Relax Your Thumbs: Keep your hands on the outer rim of the wheel, and don't tightly grip the inside. Rest your thumbs turned out along the rim instead.

Making these simple, deliberate adjustments to your steering habits will enhance your overall safety on the road. Together, we can drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.



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Mazeppa Fire Department Receives Compeer Financial Grant

More Than \$600,000 Awarded to 160 Rural Emergency Response Departments

Compeer Financial funds new equipment and technology for volunteer departments in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin

SUN PRAIRIE, Wis. – Emergency response departments supporting rural communities across Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin received \$605,998 to fund much needed equipment and technology upgrades. Through its Fund for Rural America, Compeer Financial awarded the 160 Emergency Response Equipment Grants to help volunteer fire, rescue and ambulance departments improve their operational efficiency, safety and response times.

Rural volunteer emergency response departments are struggling to service their communities due to fewer volunteer first responders, outdated personal protective equipment (PPE), increases in service requests and rising costs for essential equipment. Grants like these from Compeer are one way departments can continue to serve and protect their local communities. Due to budget constraints as volunteer departments, they are heavily reliant on public funding, grants, donations and local support to fund needed equipment, gear and training.

“For first responders to give their best, they need to be equipped with the proper tools. We recognize the challenges volunteer emergency response departments face with funding, and we hope these grants help give them the life-saving equipment necessary to effectively respond to critical situations,” said Karen Schieler, manager of Compeer Giving at Compeer Financial.

Six themes emerged from applications for this year’s grants:

Communication Equipment: Many rural areas experience cell coverage gaps, making communication difficult especially during multi-department responses when time is critical. Departments requested upgraded radios, pagers and communication systems to ensure reliable communication with dispatch, law enforcement and other emergency departments.

Safety and Protective Gear: Many departments are using PPE, such as helmets, boots, gloves and turnout gear, that no longer meet safety standards. New gear will help ensure the safety and confidence of firefighters, improve operational efficiency, and help retain and attract volunteers by providing a safer working environment.

Specialized Rescue Equipment: Rural communities experience rescue scenarios, including grain bin rescues and wildland firefighting, that are different than those in urban areas. Departments requested modern tools like thermal imaging cameras, gas detectors, rescue struts and extrication tools to improve speed, safety and effectiveness in these unique and other emergency situations.

Medical Equipment: Many rural areas experience long ambulance response times. Upgrades to medical equipment like LUCAS devices, vital signs monitors and CO2 detectors were requested to improve patient care and outcomes.

Ventilation and Lighting: Firefighters encounter numerous challenges during calls in rural communities. Departments requested new battery-powered ventilation fans and LED lighting to improve efficiency and safety by reducing smoke damage and improving visibility during operations.

Training Equipment: Much like their PPE, training equipment has become outdated. Departments plan to purchase new training equipment, such as mannequins and simulators, to help them better prepare for various emergency scenarios and improve the skills of both first responders and community members.

Since beginning the Emergency Response Equipment Grants in 2018, the Fund for Rural America has provided nearly \$5 million in grants to equip volunteer first responders with the equipment and tools needed to aid rural residents across Compeer’s 144-county territory. The grant will change slightly in 2026 to the Emergency First Responders Grant, accounting for both the needs of the department to service the community and the safety needs of the volunteer first responders. The grant amount will also increase from the current maximum of \$4,000 to a maximum of \$7,500. Applications will open April 15, 2026, and close



May 31, 2026. Departments that have not received a grant the prior two years will be eligible to apply for two new grant areas:

Essential Response Equipment: This encompasses equipment needed to effectively respond to incidents. Examples of equipment include hand and extraction tools, fire suppression tools, fire response and medical equipment.

Responder Life-Safety Need: This includes equipment and resources needed to protect and support first responders. Examples include communication equipment and PPE.

There were 53 departments from both Illinois and Minnesota and 54 departments from Wisconsin that received an Emergency Response Equipment Grant of up to \$4,000 this year.

Included is:

Mazeppa Fire Department: Portable pulse oximeter and probes, O2 bags, portable suction unit, stethoscopes, first-in bag.

About the Fund for Rural America

The Compeer Financial Fund for Rural America is the corporate giving program of Compeer Financial, structured to support Compeer Financial’s mission to enrich agriculture and rural America. Compeer Financial’s Board of Directors has dedicated one

percent of annual net earnings to support the Fund’s focus areas of agriculture education, youth engagement, rural development and community enrichment, agricultural advocacy and development, and cooperative initiatives. The Fund is managed by a Board of Trustees, made up of team members and members of the Compeer Financial Board of Directors. Learn more about opportunities available through the Fund.

About Compeer Financial

Compeer Financial is a member-owned Farm Credit cooperative serving and supporting agriculture and rural communities. The \$35.5 billion organization provides loans, leases, risk management and other financial services throughout 144 counties in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin. Based in the Upper Midwest, Compeer Financial exists to champion the hopes and dreams of rural America, while providing personalized service and expertise to clients and the agriculture industry.

Compeer Financial is the third largest cooperative of the Farm Credit System, a nationwide network of lending institutions supporting agriculture and rural communities with reliable, consistent credit and financial services. Learn more about Compeer Financial’s patronage program.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor are not necessarily those of The Messenger.*

To the Editor:

City officials also are not thinking on a regional level when they need to be regarding data centers. The Prairie du Chien and Jordan aquifers are two prominent aquifers for the SE Minnesota region. For a brief perspective of just who relies on these 2 aquifers in some capacity for private wells and municipal water: Rice county has 7 cities. Dakota county has 34 cities. 8 out of 10 cities in Goodhue county connect to at least one of them. That’s 49 communities so far. Olmsted County, Winona County, Dodge County also connect to them in varying capacities and the list goes on since the Jordan aquifer touches 7 states. 6 hyperscale data centers (Pine Island, Apple Valley, Cannon Falls, Farmington, Faribault, Lakeville) are currently proposed to draw from these 2 aquifers alone. 4 of them are being sued by the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. None of them have done full environmental assessments. Not a single one. Being in the karst region our aquifers are at the highest vulnerability risk for being compromised by human activities and remediation efforts are also harder to do. These 7 cities are intentionally and wantonly jeopardizing the entire region’s groundwater supply and they need to be taken to task and held accountable. Residents of SE MN should be infuriated by the complete lack of regard these 7 cities have for the most basic element needed to survive: water. Let them know it before it’s too late.

Aubree Derksen
Pine Island, MN
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Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls
Messenger

Regular Meeting of the Mazeppa City Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 12, 2025

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: Mike Hammes, Erica Young. Councilperson Dustin Wiebusch was present via electronic meeting.

Others Present: City Attorney Luke Lamprecht, City Engineer Matt Mohs from Bolton & Menk, MMLS Manager Todd Ihrke, Public Works Director Scott Ellingson, Trails Committee Member Andrew Miller, Lacey Lexvold from ZM Wrestling Boosters Club, and City Administrator-Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

Present via electronic meeting: Wabasha County Sheriff’s Chief Deputy Jim Warren.

Motion by Hammes, second by Wiebusch to amend the agenda striking item 6D. and correcting the Resolution number on 6G. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

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

Motion by Young, second by Hammes approve the October 8, 2025, regular Council meeting minutes. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Wabasha County Sheriff’s Chief Deputy Jim Warren gave the ICR for the month of

October. Council asked if there were any other reports of theft or vandalism related to a theft report on the ICR. Chief Deputy Warren asked that information from a related incident to be relayed to the County Investigator. More information helps in apprehending those responsible.

Public Works Director Scott Ellingson gave the Public Works report.

Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang gave the Fire Department report.

MMLS Manager Todd Ihrke gave the Liquor Store report.

Andrew Miller gave an update in conjunction with City Engineer Matt Mohs on additional funding for Phase II of the Walking Trail Project and will be at the December meetings for Council approval.

Motion by Young, second by Hammes to support Wabasha County SHIP Community Partner Funding application. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

City Engineer Matt Mohs gave the Engineering update.

Motion by Hammes, second by Young to approve WWTP pay application 12 for \$1,225,425.98. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve street utility project pay application 5 for \$398,686.99. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Hammes to accept quote from CRW Architecture and Design for \$30,000.00 for design services to

bring City Hall into ADA compliance as a part of the WWTP project. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang reported on City Hall Activities.

Lacey Lexvold from the Z-M Wrestling Booster Club requested approval for its annual raffle in February 2026 to be held at Z-M Elementary School building in Mazeppa.

Motion by Young, second by Hammes to approve the Z-M Wrestling Booster Club raffle to be held February 2026. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve building permits 25-18-0019, 1371 River Bluff Rd. SE - Deck. 25-18-0029 1331 River Bluff Rd. SE – New Home. 25-18-0030, 114 3d Ave. SE – bath remodel. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

City Attorney Luke Lamprecht updated the Council on the Quiet Title Action on the parcels that make up Herb Vik Park. The field survey is complete and ready to move forward.

Motion by Young, second by Hammes to accept the resignation of Larry Liffbrig from the Mazeppa Economic Development Authority, with thanks for his years of service. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

The cleanup of the property at 140 Cherry St. E is stalled and the City still has not been granted access to the structure to perform a structural profession. City Attorney Lamprecht has spoken with Wabasha County Planning and Zoning, and Wabasha County Health. They told him that they have done an external inspection from the street and do not see an obvious violation to move forward with legal action to gain access for further inspection. City officials were not notified that this had taken place. Further discussion of options to move forward to make sure the property is safe. Councilperson Hammes left the meeting after the discussion to protest the lack of action that has been taken.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve Resolution 2025-39 approving Paul Stimets as EDA Treasurer and signatory on the EDA operating account. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve Resolution 2025-40 removing signatory authority for the Mazeppa EDA operating account from former Mazeppa EDA Treasurer Larry Liffbrig. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to approve Resolution 2025-41 accepting principal and interest payment from Mazeppa EDA. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve Resolution 2025-43 accepting and anonymous donation to Mazeppa Public Works. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to approve Resolution 2025-44 certifying past due utility billing amounts to be assessed to 2026 property tax. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to approve Resolution 2025-45 authorizing pursuit of LRIP grant for 4th Ave. NE extension. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to approve 2025-2026 road maintenance agreement with Wabasha County. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

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

City Attorney Luke Lamprecht shared the quote he received from the Wabasha County Attorney’s office to prosecute criminal cases. An agreement will be before the City Council at the December meeting. Mr. Lamprecht will figure this change of his services in his 2026 legal services agreement to be considered at the December meeting.

Council congratulated the Trail Committee on the success of the Monster Dash event in October.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Administrator Clerk
Next Meeting: December 10, 2025

Zumbro Falls Events

Christmas in ZF	Dec 2025	Zumbro Falls	See City of Zumbro Falls on FACEBOOK for events
Lioness Easter Egg Hunt	March 2026	Cardinal Park ZF	See Zumbro Falls Lioness FACEBOOK
BINGO	Dec-April, last Sat of the month	Neptune	See Neptune on FACEBOOK
Wine BINGO	Every Sat at Noon	Zumbro Falls Winery	See Zumbro Falls Winery on FACEBOOK
Lioness Kid's Planting Day	May 2026	Jenny's Greenhouse	See Zumbro Falls Lioness on FACEBOOK
Youth Snowmobile training	January 2026	ZF VFW	See Zumbro Valley Snowmobile Assoc on FACEBOOK for date.
ZF Lioness Meeting	2 nd Weds of the month	Varies	See Zumbro Falls Lioness on FACEBOOK for dates, locations and upcoming events
Zumbro Valley Snowmobile club Meeting	1 st Tue of Month 7:30pm Sept-April	ZF VFW	See Zumbro Valley Snowmobile Assoc on FACEBOOK for upcoming events
Zumbro Valley Sportsman Club	1 st Thurs of month at 7p	ZF Sportsman Park	See Zumbro Valley Sportsman Club for upcoming events
Car Show	June 2026	ZF Park	See Neptune on FACEBOOK for event date
Sucker Fishing Contest	May 2026	Zumbro Falls	See Zumbro Valley Sportsman Club for Dates
All Events			Check ZUMBRO FALLS, MINNESOTA on FACEBOOK or Website: zumbrofallsmn.org

Zumbro Falls City Council Minutes - October 8, 2025

The Zumbro Falls City Council met at City Hall at 6PM. All council members, mayor and clerk were present. Absent from the meeting was Scott Kennedy, Fire Chief.

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor. The clerk read to council the minutes from the September meeting which were accepted as read by a motion from Anderson, seconded Benson, all in favor, carried.

Treasurer’s report followed with acceptance by a motion from Winters, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Darla Oelkers was present at the meeting representing the Christmas in Zumbro Falls Committee. A request to the city was made to utilize city facilities, including the Hall and the park for this event. The event will be held December 13th and will include wreath making, chilli feed, an antique snowmobile show and a lighting contest with a \$250 prize. A motion was made by Benson to approve the request with a second Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Mayor Heitmann addressed the council with an update to the invoice amount from Rochester Sand and Gravel for road repair. Council approved an increased payment amount with a motion from Benson, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

The council reviewed the current Fee Schedule. A motion to approve and publish the updated schedule to be called Resolution 25-03 was made by Winters, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

The meeting then adjourned around 7:15 pm with all bills presented to be paid by a motion from Anderson, seconded Benson, all in favor, carried. The next council meeting will be held November 12th.

Submitted by,
Blake Hanson, Clerk



I hate to be the one to mention it, but snow removal season is almost here. No one likes to think about removing the remains of a winter weather event, but it makes sense to have a plan for the winter. Sidewalks are to be cleared within 16 hours after a snow event. The property owner has the responsibility of clearing the sidewalk adjacent to their property. If you hire snow removal, have it done by a neighbor, or the tenant if you rent space, be sure that whoever does the removal realizes that the sidewalk in front of your home needs to be cleared also. If the City needs to clear it, there is a charge that will be billed to the homeowner.

Since snow removal is the topic, please remember that there is no street parking from Midnight to 6:00 from November to April to accommodate snow removal operations. Also, give the equipment operators plenty of room, operators may not be able to see you due to conditions or where you are in proximity to the equipment. The City is sharing this information now because our operators, contractors, and staff want you to be safe this winter.



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THEME: HAPPY HOLIDAYS

ACROSS

1. Shapeless form

5. Hot springs resort

8. Not square

11. Private theater box

12. Relating to ear

13. Rome's Colosseum, e.g.

15. I ____ you so!

16. *The opposite of a store the day before Christmas?

17. *"Auld Lang Syne" poet

18. *Partridge's perch (2 words)

20. Vegas numbers

21. New Zealand's indigenous people

22. Fuss

23. Tabby's favorite herb

26. More so than swell

30. Big-headedness

31. Resembling an ape

34. John Wayne Gacy's ____ the Clown

35. Photographer Dorothea of "Migrant Mother" fame

37. Type or kind

38. Like a sheep after a haircut

39. D'Artagnan's weapon of choice

40. Superlative of #33 Down

42. U.S. central bank

43. Wilma and Fred's hometown

45. *Latke's main ingredient

47. Word of possibility

48. Turning token taker

50. Exclamation of sorrow

52. * ____ Odbody of "It's a Wonderful Life"

55. Raspberry drupelets

56. Sainly glow

57. Letter opener

59. Hunts for food

60. Banana leftover

61. Guesstimate phrase

62. *Color on a Kwanzaa flag

63. Not divisible by two

64. Scholarship criterion

DOWN

1. Deli acronym

2. Chicago's central district, with The

3. Gawlk at

4. Wish harm upon, arch.

5. One of The Beatles

6. Pileus, pl.

7. "The Road Runner" corporation

8. Group of cows

9. Bed-and-breakfast alternative, pl.

10. *"The Nutcracker" step

12. Certain cephalopod, pl.

13. It's sometimes humble

14. *Chuck Berry's "Run, ____, Run"

19. Reason to strike

22. Grass bristle

23. Famous one, slangily

24. Open-mouthed

25. Like a well-defined muscle

26. Hot alcoholic beverage

27. Washing sponge

28. Type of heron

29. Rondeau, alt. sp.

32. *Santa's beverage of choice

33. Not well

36. *Original home of Christmas tannenbaum

38. Fur shawl

40. Extremely unfriendly

41. Plane trick

44. Reprieve in a desert

46. Muscle to bone connector

48. Skidded

49. Weighed

50. 4,840 square yards

51. Told an untruth

52. Head of family

53. Wrap in waxy cloth

54. Comfort

55. Financing acronym

58. Stewart of "Maggie May" fame

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