



Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger™

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APRIL 2, 2026

Volume 20 • Issue 4

Mazeppa UMC Women Host Annual Breakfast



Submitted by Ann Neil

Another spring breakfast is in the books! March 14 showed community members streaming into the Methodist Church.

(continued on page 3)

Announcements

• **Mazeppa Clean Up Day Saturday, May 9.** (see ad on page 16)

• **Mazeppa Area Historical Society hosting hot turkey gravy sundae over mashed potatoes, corn, coleslaw, bread, dessert & beverage. FREE WILL DONATION-THURSDAY, APRIL 16TH 5-7 p.m. at Mazeppa Community Center. TAKE OUTS AVAILABLE- 507-250-6021.**

• **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.

(continued on page 2)

A little something sweet

By Jocelyn Aldrich

For Diana Bishop, a little treat can make a

Zumbro Falls Annual Firemen's Supper

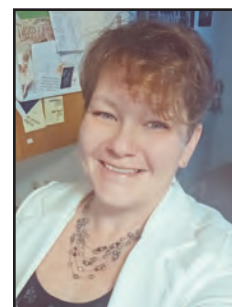


Courtesy of Zumbro Falls Fire Department

In March, we held our Annual Fireman's Supper and got to show appreciation to our current and past members, along with showing great appreciation to our spouses and city council for their tremendous support in the work we do.

(continued on page 14)

world of difference. Baking treats for family and friends helped Bishop to recognize how much joy a little treat can bring. In March of 2026, her business, Sweet Puff Pop's, began. Bishop says, "I started by making treats for small gatherings and celebrations, and over time I realized how much joy homemade desserts can bring to people." With some en-



Diana Bishop

couragement from family and friends, she decided to start a cottage food business and spread joy to others with her treats.

Bishop says, "Seeing people smile when they try something I made inspired me to turn my passion into a small business."

(continued on page 6)

Bloom for the Trail: Community Plant Sale to Support Local Trail

Submitted

This spring, our community is invited to dig in for a good cause. On May 2nd from 8-1:00 PM at the Mazeppa Lion's Park local volunteers will host Bloom for the Trail, a plant sale fundraiser supporting the development of our community trail.

(continued on page 11)

Zumbro Falls Lioness/Lions to host a PLANTING PARTY for KIDS! Submitted

The Zumbro Falls Lioness/Lions are hosting a Planting Party for Kids at Jenny's Greenhouse, Zumbro Falls on May 2, 2026 from 9:00 -11:00am, drop in anytime.

Kids of all ages are invited and will get to decorate a pot, choose a flower, then plant it and a craft available to make too! It would make a great Mother's Day gift!

Kids must be accompanied by an adult (who can shop at Jenny's too!)

Giveaways, cookies and drink provided. The cost is \$5.00 per pot.

**DONATIONS TO ZUMBRO VALLEY
FOOD SHELF ARE WELCOME.**



2026 Annual Mazeppa Firemen's Appreciation Dinner



Courtesy of Mazeppa Fire Dept.

2026 Annual Firemans Appreciation Dinner was held in March. (continued on page 14)

Easter Brunch Menu

Sunday, April 5th • Serving 9:00a.m.-3:00p.m.

Reservations Strongly Suggested

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Consider Jesus this Easter



By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

We are celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ- the greatest event in history! It's amazing that this weekend with literally millions and millions of other Jesus followers and hundreds of thousands of churches all over the globe, we gather together to celebrate the greatest event in the history of the world; not just Christian history- of all history! Without this 'event' this world would be

a hopeless, dark place. We often think it is bad now—but without Jesus, without His Holy Spirit and His prevenient grace- it would be so much worse!!!

What is one of the big questions in life? It is: what does it take to be made right with God?

How are you made right with God? It's probably no secret; I am a follower of Jesus. What's really interesting to me is that in the world today, you can talk about spiritual things all day long and it's really not controversial. You can say you have a higher power, higher being, God, spirituality, and it's not controversial. But when you bring up the name of Jesus, all of a sudden, it gets really controversial which is interesting because hardly anybody debates the existence of Jesus. There's almost no one, no rational-thinking person that is going to say, "There was no historical figure named Jesus. People accept generally that yes, someone named Jesus lived. What's also interesting to me is that people don't really dislike His teaching. After all he taught people to love and was an example by helping the poor, loving those that others overlook, and forgiving people. People don't debate the teachings of Jesus, and they don't debate the existence of Jesus.

Som why is it that everybody gets all out of shape about Jesus? I believe it's probably because of the exclusive claim of Jesus. Jesus didn't sugar coat his life and what it would take to be His followers. We live in a very inclusive world, that includes the thinking that all beliefs should be treated equally, that nobody should be left out, that all roads should lead God. Jesus told His followers and anyone who desires to know that He is the only way to God- to heaven. It's the exclusive claim of Jesus. In fact, in John 14:6,

this is exactly what Jesus said when Thomas asked Him: "Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Jesus says, "No one comes to the Father "Except through Me." In this very inclusive world of religious pluralism, Jesus makes an exclusive claim that He is the only way. Instead of other people and other religions- I want you to consider Jesus and His claims. Consider Jesus within three aspects of His life.

- Consider the ministry of Jesus. Consider who He came for and how He treated them. In Mark 2:16-17, the passage essentially tells us why Jesus came. Jesus came to call sinners! I love this with all of my heart. Jesus did not come for those who have it all to-

gether. Jesus came for people like me who need help, and need grace, and need mercy. Jesus actually came for those that religion rejected. Jesus loved those that everyone else despised. He welcomed those people that others would turn away. Jesus didn't come for those who are perfect. Jesus came for all people.

- Consider the resurrection of Jesus. Why does the resurrection matter? Jesus lived the perfect life for us. On the cross, he became sin for us. He suffered a horrible death for humankind. While the creation was mocking the Creator; as they spit on Him, hurled insults at Him, and beat Him beyond recognition, on the cross Jesus looked up to heaven and cried out, "Father, please forgive them for they don't even know what they're doing."

(continued on page 3)

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We meet Sundays at 5 pm

South Troy Wesleyan Church
56817 Highway 63 Zumbro Falls, MN

Schedule for meetings:

- Supper at 5:00 pm
- Large group meeting: 5:45 - 6:30 pm
- Small group meeting: 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Celebrate Recovery is a safe place to find healing for your hurts, hang-ups and habits.

Begin your journey today!

Questions?

Contact Pastor Colleen Hoeft at celebraterecovery@southtroy.org or 507-259-1442
Visit southtroywesleyan.org for more information

Announcements

- **Celebrate Recovery meetings every Sunday night at 5pm at South Troy Church, 56817 Highway 63 Zumbro Falls.**

- **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@threeriverscap.org

Do you have an announcement?

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Pastor Dan Reich
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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

A Sign of Healing and Life

Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, they lived. — Numbers 21:9

Israel had a lot to learn about being the people of the holy and faithful God. In our story today the people grew impatient with God again as they traveled through the wilderness.

They spoke against God and against Moses, saying, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?" Sometimes the Lord was merciful when the people acted so rebelliously, but other times, when they had gone too far, the Lord sent punishment. This time the consequence for their actions was a plague of venomous snakes, and a number of the people died from snakebites.

What would happen next? How would salvation appear for these unfaithful people?

In what is a preview of the saving work of Christ, a bronze snake became an instrument of healing and life. Moses made a bronze snake and lifted it up on a pole, and the people were told to look at this snake and live. Many years later Jesus explained that this miracle in the wilderness pointed to the gift of his own life for us all (being lifted up on a cross—John 3:14-15). Through this act of faith, we are freed from death!

Lord, we can be so rebellious and stubborn in our resistance to you. Help us to look to you and believe in Jesus, who was lifted up for us. 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

Mazeppa UMC Women Host Annual Breakfast



McKenzie Peck, Zola Harvey, Tracey Nelson, Ariel Nelson



Nancy Goranson, Gage Goranson, Shiela Albers

(continued from page 1)

Many ordered "The Works" which included pancakes, sausage patties, scrambled eggs, toast, coffee and a selection of pastries--all for a free will offering slated for operation and the ministries of the church, such as STORM Camp and UMCOR relief efforts. Besides feeding hungry people, the best part of the morning, according to church member Dora Hellerud of Mazeppa, were the friendly conversations!

EASTER AT SOUTH TROY

Good Friday Meditation and Communion
April 3, 5-7pm

April 5: Easter Sunday
Easter Breakfast at 9:30 am -
STC Youth will be cooking and serving!
Easter Celebration Service 10:30am
We will be focusing on the true meaning of Easter.
There will be activities for the children as well as great music and teaching for the entire family.

South Troy Church
56817 Highway 63 Zumbro Falls, MN

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.

January-April the Armor of God:

- April 1: Shield of Faith
- May 6: Helmet of Salvation and Sword of the Spirit

Consider Jesus this Easter

(continued from page 2)

That's GRACE!

Then, Jesus cries out the victorious cry, "It is finished. Into your hands, I commit my spirit," and He breathes His last and gave His life. The moment He did, the earth went dark. The ground trembled. The Roman centurion who was not a follower of Jesus but saw His love, saw His heart, saw His mercy, saw who He was looked on and said, "I didn't believe before, but I believe now. Surely, that man was no ordinary man. Surely, that man was the Son of God." Next Jesus was laid in a tomb and just as He had predicted, "I will give my life and three days later, I'll rise from the dead."

Three days later, the women went to the tomb where he was buried. The stone was rolled away, and He was not there. He was risen from the dead. (just like He said.)

Because of Jesus' resurrection- the church was born; Acts 2 records more than 3000 people were saved in one day!

2000 years later there are 2.6 billion people that identify as Jesus followers that placed their faith in the empty tomb. He is not there. He is risen from the dead. Consider Jesus. Consider his ministry. Consider the resurrection.

- Consider the eternal message of Jesus. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. Notice what it doesn't say? It doesn't say we're made right with God by being good enough, by not being bad, by not saying bad words in anger, by not yelling at our kids in the car, by not getting in a fight with our spouse and our kids on the way to church! We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. This is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. This is true for you if you believe. It doesn't matter who you are. It doesn't matter what you've done. It doesn't matter how bad you've been. It doesn't matter how bad your life is messed up right now. It doesn't matter how many people you've hurt. It doesn't matter how many times you've sinned. You're not made right with God by you being good enough. You're made right with God because Jesus was perfect, and He took the penalty, and paid the price for your sins.

It's the difference between religion and relationship. Don't miss it, Jesus did not come to start a religion. Jesus came to offer us eternal life. Jesus came to show us the love of God.

This Easter, consider the claims of Christ. And once you do, the only reasonable response will be: Jesus, I believe. I admit I am a sinner and am separated from God. I believe that Jesus came to bridge that gap between me and God, and I accept the gift of salvation- and I commit to follow Jesus from this day forward! Consider Jesus this EASTER!

Lands Easter Worship Services

Moonlight Vigil, April 4th
8:00 PM In the park - Weather permitting
Followed by a Glow in the Dark Egg Hunt and Easter S'mores

Easter Morning, April 5th
8:30 and 10:30 In Person and on Facebook
Breakfast and Egg Hunt Between Services

Lands Lutheran Church
16680 Hwy 60 Blvd, Zumbrota MN 55992

Farm Girl Chatter The Year of the Horse

By McKell Lemmerman

Let's take a break from cow talk for a moment and talk about something just as important around a farm—the year itself.

2026 is the Year of the Horse. If you have ever truly known a horse, that title carries a lot more meaning than most people realize.

Now, plenty of folks like to joke and call horses “hay burners.” To be fair they've earned the nickname over the years. Horses can eat like a fat kid in a candy store. You can give them a full square bale of hay at night, and by the next morning they will stare at you like they have been starving for three days. Nicker at you like as if they are asking “why is breakfast late?”

But anyone who has ever really owned a horse understands them a lot more than hay-burning lawn ornaments.

Growing up, horses were where my imagination lived.

Long before I ever turned a key in a pickup, a horse was the first vehicle I ever got to drive. No gas pedal. No steering wheel. Definitely no insurance policy. Just a saddle, a set of reins, and the kind of confidence only a kid can have when they believe they've got everything under control. Looking back now, I'm pretty sure the horse was the one doing the driving most of the time. That's part of the magic of horses. They let you think you're in charge while quietly making sure you both make it back to the barn in one piece.

The truth is, the Year of the Horse represents exactly what horses have always been—powerhouses of strength, endurance, and heart. Long before tractors, combines, trucks, trains, and highways took over the countryside,

horses were the engines that built it. They pulled the plows that turned the soil, hauled wagons across rough country, and carried people farther than their own two feet could ever take them. They carried generals through the blood and gun smoke of wars, and Native Americans through their buffalo hunting expeditions.

They weren't just animals.

They were business partners, the best ones too, non-speaking.

When I was younger, my horses were my entire world. They were where worries disappeared and dreams ran free. On horseback, a simple pasture could become the open frontier. A fence line turned into a trail. A kid could become a cowboy chasing outlaws, playing cops and robbers, exploring new country, or racing the wind just because I could.

Horses have a funny way of teaching lessons along the way. They teach us humiliation. Nothing will knock your ego down faster than a 1,200-pound animal deciding your riding skills are not up to par, that you are better off learning from the ground that day. They teach patience too. Sometimes your adventure turns into twenty minutes of negotiating with a stubborn horse that has decided the gate you want to go through is suddenly the most terrifying object on earth. Lastly, they teach balance, usually the hard way.

Now, years later, horses still carry that same quiet magic.

Sure, nowadays there are side-by-sides, and every machine imaginable to get across a pasture. They're faster, easier, and a whole lot less stubborn. But none of them will ever replace the feeling of riding a horse down a trail you made yourself.

A machine takes you somewhere. A horse takes you on an adventure.

Some communities, like the Amish, still rely on horses as their everyday transportation, living much like people did generations ago. For others, like me, horses have become something different. Their entertainment, therapy, adventure, and freedom all rolled into one.

Just go to a rodeo. That's where horsepower

meets heart. Riders and horses working together in a dusty partnership that may only last a few seconds but carries a tradition that's centuries old.

When you're a kid, they're your escape. When you grow up, they become your reminder.

They remind you where you came from—dusty summer evenings, long rides with no destination, and a younger version of yourself who believed the world was as wide open as the pasture in front of you. Somewhere along the way life gets busier. Jobs, responsibilities, bills, and worries pile up higher than a winter hay shed.

Horses have a way of bringing you back to center.

There's a quiet moment that happens when you're riding—when the only sounds are hoofbeats, wind through the grass, and your own thoughts finally slow down. In those moments it's hard not to feel like there's something bigger at work. The truth is, horses teach faith in a way few things can.

When you climb into a saddle, you're putting your trust in something stronger than you. You guide the path, but ultimately you trust that horse to carry you safely down the trail.

Life with God can feel a lot like that ride.

So, if 2026 really is the Year of the Horse, maybe it's more than just a title.

Maybe it's a reminder.

A reminder of the strength God places in quiet things.

A reminder of the trust it takes to follow a path you can't always see.

And maybe most of all, a reminder that sometimes the best way to understand where you're going...is to saddle up and remember where you started.



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A little something sweet

(continued from page 1)

Sweet Puff Pop's specializes in cake pops and other hand-dipped treats. Bishop decided to specialize in these sweet treats because she says, “whenever I brought cake pops to gatherings, they were always the first dessert to disappear.”

Cake pops offer so much opportunity for Bishop to display her creativity. Bishop especially loves that each order can be unique. She says, “I love helping people celebrate birthdays, weddings, baby showers, and other special moments with custom treats.” When asked what she enjoys the most about having her own business, Bishop replied, “what I enjoy most is the creativity and the connection with customers. Every cake pop is home-made and crafted with care. I focus on fresh ingredients, attention to detail, customizing flavors and designs to match each event or celebration.”

Bishop loves serving the local community, but she will also deliver her sweet treats. Sweet Puff Pop's serves customers in Rochester and the Twin Cities. Sweet Puff Pop's will also deliver within a 20-mile radius of Mazeppa. Bishop can cater to events farther away with an additional delivery fee.

Bishop wishes to express her gratitude to her community for their continued support of her and Sweet Puff Pop's. She says, “supporting local businesses helps entrepreneurs turn their passions into something meaningful, and I'm excited to continue sharing Sweet Puff Pop's with more people and making celebrations sweeter.” To learn more about Sweet Puff Pop's and support a local business, follow Sweet Puff Pop's on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. Orders can be placed online through Bakesy.

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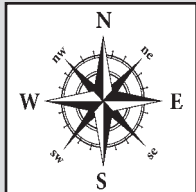
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Rocket Ship on the Tennessee River



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 live along the Tennessee River on the banks of Kentucky Lake. Kentucky Lake was formed in the 1940's when the Tennessee Valley Authority built a lock and dam to raise the Tennessee River to accommodate larger barges carrying coal, steel and bulk products on the river. The barge traffic travels all the way to Chattanooga. Where we live, the lake is about a mile wide. Lots of barge traffic and fishing boats. One of my favorite activities is to take the runabout on the river to experience life on the water. Every day we see something unusual. This last trip in the middle of March was no exception.

We were heading downstream to eat lunch at the Burger Barn at KenLake Marina, a little more than an hour down river. We noticed a white object a few miles ahead on the river and assumed it was one of the tug boats pushing a barge. The closer we got, the bigger it got. I have never seen an ocean-going vessel on the river. There are river cruise boats on the lake but not this large. As we passed the vessel I had to circle around and follow it, taking a closer look. There was an orange totally enclosed sea worthy lifeboat on each side of the ship. I knew this was no river boat. My wife looked up the name on the side and we were surprised to discover what it actually was.

The United Launch Alliance Rocket Ship is a 312' cargo vessel that transports space rocket components from the 1.6 million sq. ft. production facility in Decatur, Alabama to Cape Canaveral, Florida. It is 82' wide and 50' high with a draft of 15'. It weighs 9,500 tons and carries Atlas V, Delta VI and Vulcan Centaur boosters, second stages and payload



fairings in an environmentally controlled setting. The rockets are rolled in on semi-trailers through the 80' wide fold down ramp at the aft for the ship. It is the only United States flagged ship with the capability to transport rockets on both rivers and open ocean. It is powered by two General Motors G7A engines developing 4,000 horsepower each and four Caterpillar generator engines of 831 horsepower each to maintain the A/C for the cargo hold and a 371 horsepower emergency Caterpillar engine. The fuel capacity is 163,800 gallons of diesel.

The ship requires a crew of 16 to operate and has living quarters, dining area, helicopter pad, below deck machine shop and the most sophisticated computers and navigational system available. The officers are assigned four-hour shifts while on the river and eight hour shifts in the open sea, and two experienced river pilots come on board to guide the boat while inland. There is a cook and assistant to serve meals during the eight day/4,336 mile one-way trip from Decatur to Cape Canaveral Space Force Station. The

Rocket Ship has been in constant service since 1999 and a 356' sister ship has just been built and will enter service this spring.

Now more on the sophisticated navigation system. On August 7, 2001, the Rocket Ship ran aground on a sand bar on the Tennessee River and had to be freed by a tugboat. On January 26, 2012 the Rocket Ship struck the Eggner's Ferry Bridge on the Tennessee River, which is about five miles from where we encountered the ship. The crew was operating in a recreational channel rather than the shipping channel at the time and destroyed a 322' section of the bridge. The pilot's failure to use all available navigational tools was found to be the cause of the accident, while ignoring two coast guard broadcasts and a radio call from a nearby ship. The bridge built in 1932 was scheduled for replacement and the incident sped up the schedule for the construction which was completed in 2016. Had we known all that, we might have given the Rocket Ship a wider berth when we passed by.

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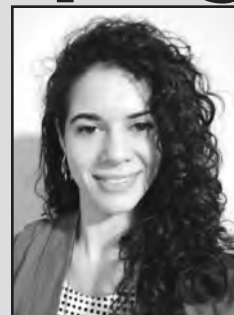
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A Minnesotan: Spring



By RosaLin Alcoser

They have returned. The harbingers of spring have been spotted. In other words the geese are back. As I am sure that I have mentioned in the past, geese and I do not get along.

Mostly because since I was a young child they have taken great delight in chasing me; well into adulthood. When I was in my late teens and was attending community college over in Rochester there were geese that always hung around on campus. Those

geese chased me just about every day for two years.

My mother thought I was exaggerating until one day she came in to the school when coming to get me. We were sharing a car at the time and while walking to the car I saw the geese coming and I asked her for the keys. Which she gave me right before I took off running with honking geese on my heels.

After that she believed me that geese had been chasing me about campus. Before anyone says 'well they wouldn't have chased you if you didn't run from them'. I did try that and you know what happened they swarmed me and hissed. Have you ever been bitten by a goose? Because I have and it hurts more than you would think.

With that being said as much as I dislike geese and will go out of my way to not go anywhere near them. I have learned one very important thing about them that adds a point in their favor. When they return in the spring it usually is a good sign that winter is over and it probably won't snow again until at least Halloween.



Courtesy of Zumbrota - Mazeppa Community Education

A BIG thanks to all involved with this years Early Childhood Family Expo. This has always been a fun event where families with young kiddos can come and have loads of fun! Thank you to everyone that donated money, a silent auction item or your time. It did not go unnoticed!



Historical Happenings

Compiled by
Helen Reiland

THE MAZEPPA JOURNAL, Editor and Publisher: Barbara and Reider Tommerraas
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1956

Six Persons Injured In Auto Collision

Four Mazeppa youths, a Zumbrota doctor and a Goodhue girl were hospitalized last Thursday night as the result of a collision 7 1/2 miles north of Zumbrota on Highway 58.

The car driven by Duane Windhorst 19, collided with an auto driven by Dr. James Halvorson of Zumbrota. The Halvorson car was driving north on Highway 58 and the Windhorst car was coming onto the highway from County 28.

Dr. Halvorson is a patient at St. Johns hospital in Red Wing with a dislocated wrist and hip. Karen Haas of Goodhue, a passenger in his car was hospitalized at Zumbrota with head injuries.

Riding with Windhorst were Sidney Frank, David Arendt and Daniel Majerus, all of Mazeppa. All were hospitalized at Zumbrota. After examination by a specialist, no serious injuries were found, in contrast to previous reports.

“Queen of Furrows” Contest All Set for Two-Day Plowville Event Sept. 14-15

Thirty farm girls from as many Minnesota counties will compete Saturday, Sept. 14th Mazeppa for title of Minnesota’s “Queen of the Furrows”. It was announced today by Mrs. Cyril Sackett, Stewartville, President of the Minnesota Daughters of the Soil.

“Farm girls are showing considerable interest in this event,” Mrs. Sackett observed. “We feel this contest will an outstanding part of the Plowville ’56 program.”

The girls will compete at 9 o’clock Saturday morning, Sept. 15, in the tractor driving contest. During the luncheon hour they will be judged on personality and at 2 o’clock they will be quizzed on their knowledge of conservation practices such as terracing, contour strips, grassed waterways and the like. The winner and her attendants will be crowned at 3 o’clock possibly by Gov. Orville Freeman.

Scoring will be on the following basis:

Ability at handling a tractor, 25 points; homemaking story and community activities, 20 points; good grooming 15; personality 20; and soil conservation knowledge 20.

Consolidation Observance Slated for Sat. Night

A party, sponsored by a group of local citizens who worked for school consolidation here will be held at Gahler’s Nite club this Saturday evening, Sept. 8th.

It will of course be held to commemorate the good news received last Thursday morning that the Mazeppa School has been granted consolidated status by the state department of education.

There will be dancing to juke box music, and chicken will be served.

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.

Additional Children’s Photos Published Below



Reading from left to right, top row, are Michael, 7 months, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Liffbrig; Brenda, 9 months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Oelkers; and Michael Smith, 11 months. Pictured in bottom row from left to right are, Michael, 13 months, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weber; Denise, 13 months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vernard Jackson and Dawn, 21 months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eldred Kuehn.

Thank you to Midwest Machinery in
Wanamingo for hosting the ZM Powers class!



Courtesy of Z-M Schools

Primary Students Celebrate Reaching
Cougar Paw Goal



Our Z-M primary students celebrated reaching their cougar paw third-quarter goal. The celebration included lunch served by teachers, music, and extra recess.

Courtesy of Z-M Schools

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Email: kalassagency@kalassagency.com

ZUMBRO FALLS EVENTS

Event	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	INFO
Lioness Easter Egg Hunt	April 4 th , 2026 at 10am	Cardinal Park Zumbro Falls	See ZUMBRO FALLS LIONESS on FACEBOOK for dates, locations and upcoming events
Kid's Planting Day	May 2, 2026 at 9-11am drop in	Jenny's Greenhouse	\$5.00 for each pot made Refreshments/treats provided See ZUMBRO FALLS LIONESS on FACEBOOK for dates, locations and upcoming events
Sucker Fishing Contest	April 18-May 2nd 2026 Awards party at Sportsman Park at 5pm May 2 nd , 2026	Weigh in at Neptune	See ZUMBRO FALLS SPORTSMANS CLUB for more info
Sportsman Campground opening	May 1st	Possibly earlier if weather is good.	See ZUMBRO FALLS SPORTSMANS CLUB for more info
Buckwild 9yr Anniversary Party	May 31, 2026	Live music, DJ, Bean bag tourn., raffles and much more	See BUCKWILD on FACEBOOK for more info
Cribbage Tournament	1 st and 3 rd Sat of month at 1PM (End of season April 4 th)	Neptune	See NEPTUNE on FACEBOOK for more info
Meat Raffle	Every Friday at 7PM	Neptune	See NEPTUNE on FACEBOOK for more info
Euchre	Every Monday and Tuesday at 7PM	Neptune	See NEPTUNE on FACEBOOK for more info
BINGO	Dec-April, last Sat of the month 1PM	Neptune	See NEPTUNE on FACEBOOK for more info
Wine BINGO	Every Sat at Noon	Zumbro Falls Winery	See ZUMBRO FALLS WINERY on FACEBOOK
ZF Lioness Meeting	2 nd Weds of the month 6:30PM	Varies	See ZUMBRO FALLS LIONESS on FACEBOOK for dates, locations and upcoming events
Zumbro Valley Snowmobile club Meeting	1 st Tue of Month Sept-April 7:30PM	ZF VFW	See ZUMBRO VALLEY SNOWMOBILERS ASSOC on FACEBOOK for upcoming events
Zumbro Valley Sportsman Club	1 st Thurs of month at 7PM	ZF Sportsman Park	See ZUMBRO FALLS SPORTSMANS CLUB for upcoming events
All Events			Check ZUMBRO FALLS, MINNESOTA on FACEBOOK or Website: zumbrofallsmn.org

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Sixth Grade Math Masters

Submitted

Zumbrota-Mazeppa sixth grade Math Master teams did extremely well at the Math Master competition in Rochester on March 4th. There were nine different schools with a total of twenty teams bringing the top sixth grade math-minded students from the Southeast Minnesota area to compete at Wood Lake Meeting Center in Rochester.

The day started with the fact drill. The students have 5 minutes to complete 75 questions such as $24-4+6(7+3)$. (Answer 80) Students at ZMES do know their facts and all fifteen placed in the upper half of the 98 students at the competition. Special recognition went to Bristol Henderson placing 2nd and Payton Gosse at 10th place.

Next were four sets of individual story problems where again most ZMES students placed in the upper half of all participants. In this section Cohen Smith took 5th place and Emmett Weiland placed 10th of the 98 in attendance.

In the final section of the competition, the students worked as teams of five to solve more complicated problems. The three ZMES teams were all recognized with awards by placing 3rd, 4th, and 7th out of the 20 teams competing. Well done Zumbrota-Mazeppa 6th grade!!

Over 500 Pounds of Food Collected for Mazeppa and Zumbrota Food Shelves



Courtesy of Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools

The National Honor Society along with ZMHS/MS staff and students donated food and money for the food shelves of Mazeppa and Zumbrota. We collected over 500 pounds of food! Thank you to all for your time and generous donations to make this fund-raiser such a success!



Front Row: Crue Olson, Emmett Weiland, Cohen Smith, Logan Trickey, Luke Trickey, Kyson Miller, Brooklyn Rude. Back Row: Rayfe Walker, Patrick Fruth, Jaxson Poncelet, Bristol Henderson, Arya Knapp, Arora Post, Payton Gosse, Lucy Young, Coach Denise Leedham



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AUTO PARTS

Congratulations to our 2026 ZM National Honor Society Inductees



Courtesy of Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools



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A Century of Family Owned Plumbing & Heating Company

Submitted

Harkins Plumbing and Heating was established in April 1919 by Frank Brettschneider and in 1923 moved to 108 S Lakeshore Dr in Lake City. In 1930 "Brett" needed help so he contacted his brother-in-law Ray Harkins, a plumber in St. Paul. Ray, his wife Lottie and son Larry moved to Lake City permanently. Larry Harkins began working in the business in 1940. He and his wife Virginia bought the

business from his uncle Brett in 1953. Larry's son Tom began working in 1971. In 1985 Tom and Margie Harkins bought the business from Larry. Larry's son Jim started working in 1981 and Jim and Rhonda Harkins purchased the business from Jim's brother Tom in 1997. The business moved to its current location at 1255 N 7th St in Lake City in 2004.

On 1/1/26, Jim and Rhonda's daughter and son in law, Baxter and Emmy O'Reilly purchased the business. The team now consists of Baxter O'Reilly with 6 years of experience, Jim Harkins with 45 yrs of experience, Dave Glomski with 23 years of experience, Gavin Roosen with 4 years of experience, and new hire this year, Danny Keller.

Jim and Rhonda Harkins feel fortunate to be able to continue the business by passing it on to family.

Baxter O'Reilly feels that it's an honor to be able to carry on the family business and uphold the values that have been passed down through generations of owners and em-



ployees past and present. Baxter feels that he is lucky to have 107 years of expertise and knowledge on his side.

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the best of their ability to ensure that their customers feel appreciated and well taken care of.

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(continued on page 11)

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Bloom for the Trail: Community Plant Sale to Support Local Trail

(continued from page 1)

Shoppers will find hardy perennials, a variety of succulents, and a selection of creative repurposed planters. Rhubarb and raspberries plants will also be available. Whether you're planting pollinators, looking for some fruit plants or just looking to enhance the beauty of your yard or porch, you'll be helping the trail bloom too.

The trail volunteers will also be hosting a kids creative planting activity from 9-11 PM or until supplies run out, whichever happens first.



If you have any items you are willing to donate, such as old pails, mailboxes, colorful rubber boots, baskets, wash tubs, wagons, flower pots, wheelbarrows, etc. Please contact Jenny Darcy at 507-251-0979.

*We hope to see you on May 2nd.
Come early for the best selection
and support your local trail.*

A Century of Family Owned Plumbing & Heating Company

(continued from page 10)

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Speaking of Cannabis: Tools for trusted adults

By Wabasha County Public Health

According to Stanford Medicine's REACH Lab, the possible short- and long-term side effects of using cannabis include "altered brain development, anxiety, paranoia, slowed reactions, and poor memory."

Since the teen brain is actively developing until about age 25, it's recommended that young people 25 and under avoid or reduce cannabis use to protect their brain health. Using cannabis during the teen years and early 20s can alter brain development and lead to long-term harm.

Understanding the facts helps prevent harm, reduce misinformation and encourage conversations across families and communities. The Speaking of Cannabis campaign aims to

support parents, caregivers, mentors and other trusted adults in having conversations with the young people in their lives about the risks of cannabis use.

"When adults truly listen and ask open ended questions, it helps teens feel heard, connected, and more willing to open up," said Fillmore County Public Health-Health Educator Brenda Pohlman, BS, MPH. "These questions can also be used to start age-appropriate conversations with elementary-age kids. Tell them their brain is growing and that using weed makes it harder for their brain to grow like it should."

Asking open-ended questions can invite more thoughtful answers and further conversation. They can give teens a sense of control over what they share, which might help them open up.

The campaign recommends using open-ended questions to invite thoughtful dialogue, not "yes" or "no" answers, with examples including:

- "How do you think using cannabis might affect someone's ability to reach the goals they've set for themselves?"

- "In what ways do you see social media or movies influencing how people your age

view the risks of using cannabis?"

- "What are some healthy ways you or your friends deal with stress or pressure instead of turning to substances?"

Adults can learn more about how to talk with kids about cannabis by visiting SpeakingofCannabis.org and clicking 'Resources' and then choosing 'Talk to Teens in Your Life' from the drop-down menu. There, they can find a SAMHSA Talk. They Hear You. brochure with more tips for talking with their child.

This initiative is supported by a grant from the Minnesota Department of Health's Health Improvement Bureau and is featured as part of the Preferred Business sponsored content program. Local residents can find more information by visiting Goodhue County Health and Human Services.

Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona County are partnering to inform adults through the website, speakingofcannabis.org.

This activity is made possible by a grant from the Cannabis and Substance Use Prevention program of the Minnesota Department of Health's Health Improvement



Courtesy of the Regional Cannabis Communication Campaign

Bureau.

If you would like to connect with our Wabasha County Cannabis and Substance Misuse Prevention Collaborative, please reach out to Tina Moen, Wabasha County Coordinator at tmoen@co.wabasha.mn.us.

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Wabasha County Public Health Spotlight

EYES Forward ~ Don't Drive Distracted

By Tisha Bergner, PHEPC

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month and on April 1, Minnesota NETS, (Network of Employers for Traffic Safety) with support from State Farm, will launch a new distracted driving campaign "Someone is Waiting for You." The campaign will remind drivers to slow down and pay attention by emphasizing the devastating consequences for those they love.

Who is it? Your spouse? Your child? Your co-workers? Your dog? For most of us, each time we get behind the wheel there's someone on the other end who's anticipating our safe arrival. Whether there's a special celebration planned, an important project to finish or a pet food dish that needs filling, they are depending on you. But all of that can vanish in a moment. One glance at a phone, an effort to retrieve a dropped item or other distraction can turn to heartbreak for those waiting for you.

Have you ever drove to work or to an event and looked at every driver you meet on the road? Ever noticed that many don't even see you because they are looking down, holding their phone or reaching in the back seat?

Cell phone use and any activity that takes the driver's attention away from safe driving are distracted driving behaviors. Distracted driving endangers everyone on the road including other drivers, passengers, pedestrians and bicyclists.

According to NHTSA, (National Highway Traffic Safety Admin) 16,384 people died and about 1.7 million people were injured in distraction-affected crashes from 2019 to 2023.

In 2023 alone, there were 3,275 people killed in traffic crashes involving at least one distracted driver, accounting for 8% of all traffic fatalities that year. An estimated additional 324,819 people were injured in traffic crashes involving distracted drivers in 2023.

Safe driving requires focused attention. Adopting these phone-free driving habits is key to creating a safe driving environment for everyone on the road:

- Pull over and park in a safe location before using the phone to send or read a text message.
- Ask a passenger to be the "designated texter" and allow them to manage calls and messages during the drive.
- Avoid social media scrolling and any form of messaging while behind the wheel.
- Use "Do Not Disturb" mode to silence notifications.
- Drivers can put their phone in the trunk, glove box or back seat of the vehicle to break the habit of driving distracted.

Cell phone use while driving is dangerous. Phone-free driving and keeping hands on the wheel is committing to keeping all eyes on the road and focusing on driving. Remember: Eyes Forward. Don't Drive Distracted.

For more information on distracted driving, visit NHTSA.gov/DistractedDriving.



Children's Blood Pressure On The Rise



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

The prevalence of high blood pressure (HBP) among children and youth has nearly doubled over the past two decades, rising from 3.4% in 2000 to 6.5% in 2020, according to The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health. Once considered an adult issue, HBP is now a growing concern in pediatric settings, classrooms, and playgrounds. This alarming trend raises questions about whether children are genuinely becoming sicker or if expanded diagnostic criteria are contributing to the surge. Factors such as changes in diet, sleep patterns, stress levels, physical activity, and environmental influences are believed to play a significant role in this increase.

A pivotal moment came in 2017 when the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) updated its blood pressure guidelines. These changes aligned adolescent thresholds with adult standards and simplified diagnostic categories, leading to millions of previously "healthy" teens being reclassified as at-risk or hypertensive. For younger children, the recalibration of percentiles using only normal-weight peers effectively lowered the thresholds for diagnosis. While these updates made it easier to identify HBP, they also expanded the number of children falling into elevated or hypertensive categories, sparking debate about the implications of this broader diagnostic net.

The rise in HBP among children is linked to

a combination of medical and lifestyle factors. While some cases stem from underlying conditions like kidney or heart problems, diabetes, or genetic predisposition, research highlights poor diets, obesity, physical inactivity, and sedentary lifestyles as primary drivers, particularly in older children. These lifestyle shifts, coupled with increased stress and environmental changes, have created a perfect storm for rising blood pressure levels. Despite this, prevention efforts often lag behind, with new medications frequently prioritized over strategies to address root causes and promote healthier habits.

High blood pressure in children, though often silent, poses significant long-term risks, including cardiovascular and kidney complications. The 2017 AAP guidelines replaced the term "prehypertension" with "elevated blood pressure" and adopted fixed adult cut-points for adolescents, simplifying diagnosis but also increasing the number of children classified as hypertensive. This underscores the urgent need for prevention-focused approaches, such as promoting balanced diets, regular physical activity, and stress management, to combat this growing health crisis and ensure better outcomes for future generations.

Resistance Training Shown To Improve Brain Function: -intensity resistance workouts have been shown to enhance cognitive function by improving reaction times without compromising accuracy. These exercises boost inhibitory control, working memory, and brain-processing speed, as evidenced by faster P3 latency signals. Such cognitive benefits are attributed to the brain's ability to update information more efficiently and coordinate attention-related networks effectively. This is particularly useful for tasks requiring focus, multitasking, or quick decision-making.

The cognitive improvements from resistance training are likely linked to temporary increases in systolic blood pressure during exercise. This enhances blood flow and neural efficiency, allowing the brain to process information faster and more effectively. These physiological changes make resistance workouts a powerful tool for sharpening mental acuity, especially when incorporated into daily routines. Even a single session can yield immediate benefits, making it a practical strategy for boosting mental performance on busy or demanding days.

Children and teenagers also experience cognitive gains from resistance training, with small but consistent improvements in cognition, classroom behavior, and academic performance. These benefits are particularly pronounced in youth with lower baseline muscular fitness, highlighting the importance of strength training for overall development.

For adults, maintaining 40 to 60 minutes of strength training weekly is optimal for longevity, as excessive lifting can diminish benefits and even negatively impact mortality outcomes. Whether you're looking to enhance cognitive function, improve physical health,

or support long-term well-being, resistance training proves to be a versatile and effective solution.

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

Cancer



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

Like many of you, I have had friends and relatives diagnosed with cancer and have walked with them through their journeys of chemotherapy, radiation treatments, surgery and the loss of life. Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the USA, exceeded only by heart disease. In December of 1971, President Nixon signed into law the National Cancer Act declaring a "war on cancer." The estimated deaths from cancer in the United States in 1970 was 330,000 as reported in the Cancer Statistics report of 1970. Compare that to 618,120 estimated cancer deaths in 2025 according to the Cancer Facts and Figures report of 2025. On the American Cancer Society website, the article headline states 1 in 3 Americans will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime. In research compiled by Provetus, 1.5% of the population in 1971 lived with cancer. Compare that to roughly 5.4% of the population that is living with cancer in 2026. This "war on cancer" does not seem to be making significant advances. After all these years, why have we not seen more progress towards a solution to cancer? What options can be considered?

Since 1971, billions of dollars have been spent researching various types of cancer and the possible treatments to eliminate them. Chemotherapies have been developed that target weak points of cancer cells but can also weaken healthy cells resulting in a loss of stamina and vigor during treatment. Radiation treatments have been developed that can target cancer cells with laser precision but can also cause damage to nearby healthy cells. Surgery can remove cancer tumors but does not get to the cause of why the cancer growth started in the first place. An entire industry has been developed around the treatment and care of cancer without significant change in stopping cancer. The cause of cancer does not seem to be identified by this industry.

Cancer is a global problem, not just an American problem. The International Agency for Research on Cancer has developed a database collecting information

from 185 centers around the world to understand the global severity of cancer. A 2020 report using this database identified breast cancer and lung cancer as the most common around the world followed by colon and prostate cancer. From the year-by-year data collected, many researchers are predicting the number of cancer cases to nearly double by 2040.

Nature Medicine journal published an article in February of 2026 using the same database to determine what factors are contributing to these increased cancer rates. The researchers found that 44% of cancers were associated with lifestyle factors that could be modified. The lifestyle factors most clearly associated with cancer were smoking, infections, and alcohol. Smoking and alcohol are clearly personal choices that when reduced help improve health and the immune system resulting in reduced infections.

A healthy immune system is an important key to fighting cancer cells. According to Dr. Thomas Seyfried, research into cancer cells has been focusing on the genetics of cancer and not on the how cancer cells process energy. In his 2012 book, "Cancer as a Metabolic Disease," Dr. Seyfried outlines how targeting the energy process of cancer cells may help us to finally identify solutions to conquer cancer. Stated another way, the standard American diet with an abundance of seed oils, refined flour, and sweeteners produces an energy pathway that promotes excess weight and cancer growth. A healthy immune system is promoted with fresh, whole foods prepared without preservatives. A healthy immune system will generate a healthy weight, reduce inflammation, and help eliminate cancer cells.

On Saturday, May 2, there is an opportunity to learn more about holistic cancer treatment at the Northfield Holistic Health Summit. This annual event brings together community members to listen to local professional health practitioners, meet health vendors, and enjoy a delicious catered lunch. The theme this year is "Cancer and Immune Health," with seven practitioners, 20 vendors, and many attendees. For more information on the agenda and tickets, check out the web page <https://www.nutritionproportion.net/healthsummit> or scan the QR code with this article.

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.*



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Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls
Messenger

Zumbro Falls Annual Firemen's Supper

(continued from page 1)

We also got to celebrate some amazing accomplishments from the team and even got a special surprise!

Crissy Passe, Lucas Passe and Jena Kutina stopped by and surprised us all with a very generous donation on behalf of their family and in honor of our late dear friends, Kelly Guinn Preble and Dan Preble. A very sincere thank you to you all!

As we looked back on last years accomplishments, our team as a whole responded to 118 calls of service and logged over 703 hours of being on scene throughout the year! Mind you, that is just on scene time. That doesnt include the additional time to clean up the trucks or our gear, or the hours of ongoing

2026 Annual Mazeppa Firemen's Appreciation Dinner

(continued from page 1)

Lifesaver Awards were presented to members for their selfless actions that helped save a life! These were directly related to specific calls throughout the year where, without life saving intervention, it could have been futile.

20 Years of Service - Dennis Tri
15 Years of Service - Bryce Dohrn
5 Years of Service - Andrew Piva
5 Years of Service - Mike Peck
Thank you for all the support!



maintenance and meetings they put in either! They also logged in over a combined 1400hrs in training throughout 2025. An amazing feat in itself!

A job well done to the entire team!

A few individual accomplishments that we got to recognize were:

Years of Service Milestones:

Nate Richardson -25 Years

Logan Diebold - 15 years

Alex Leonard - 10 years

Chris Conrad - 10 years

Bob Benson - 5 years

Top 3 Responders for the year

(most calls attended)

Caleb Tesmer - Top Responder

Isaiah Klees - 2nd Top Responder

Logan Diebold - 3rd Top Responder

Firefighter I/II Certifications Completed:

Austen Michel & Caleb Tesmer

Keep up the great work everyone!

We would also like to thank our community, the communities around us, our dispatch team, and our mutual aid partners for the continued support each and everyday!

Thank you all!



ZPD Superhero Insignia Fundraiser—Proceeds Benefit ZAHS

National Superhero Day is celebrated on April 28th to honor both fictional icons and real-life heroes. The ZPD and ZAHS created a special superhero patch as part of a fundraiser for ZAHS. Zumbrota Police Officers will proudly wear these patches on their uniforms during April in tribute to Zumbrota native C. C. Beck (1910-1989).

Charles Clarence Beck was a cartoonist and comic book artist, best known for his work on Captain Marvel (Today known as Shazam!) The Zumbrota Area Historical Society is selling these patches for \$10 (or \$11 if shipped).

ALL PROCEEDS go to benefit the Zumbrota Historical Society. The commemorative superhero insignia is available for sale at the Zumbrota History Center located at 55 East 3rd Street, Zumbrota. As well as online at ZumbrotaAreaHistoryCenter.org, the history centers' Facebook page, or scanning the QR Code. The Zumbrota Area Historical Society



is open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Or stop by the Police Station Mon – Thurs and ask for Chief Patrick Callahan.

Jason Bade Announces Candidacy for Wabasha County Sheriff

I proudly announce my candidacy for Wabasha County Sheriff.

Public service is my lifelong foundation. I have served 29 years in local law enforcement (24 years with Wabasha County and 5 years with Plainview Police Department), 20 years with the Plainview Fire Department, and 5 years as a member of the PEM School Board. Throughout my career, my focus has remained the same: serve with integrity, lead with accountability, and prioritize our citizens' best interests always.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank retiring Sheriff Bartsh for his years of service to the citizens of Wabasha County. If elected, I am committed to continuing the examples of community service set by those before me, and look forward to expanding my vision and constant dedication to lead our great community.

Ultimately, I would like to sincerely thank the citizens of Wabasha County for their continued support of the Sheriff's Office and area law enforcement. Your support, especially during the challenges of recent years has not gone unnoticed and is truly appreciated.

Respectfully, I ask for your support and your vote.

Sincerely,

Jason Bade

Candidate for Wabasha County Sheriff



Republican Delegates Pack Lake City Venue as Senate District 20 Holds Endorsing Convention

Lake City, Minn. — Nearly 170 delegates from across Senate District 20 filled the Wild Wings Plaza event space on Saturday for an endorsing convention that marked both a transition and a turning point for the district's legislative landscape. The gathering brought together precinct leaders and local residents for several hours of speeches, procedural votes, and discussions about the district's political future.

The convention honored Sen. Steve Draskowski, who has represented the area in the Minnesota Legislature for nearly two decades. Draskowski will retire at the end of his current term. His decision created an open Senate seat.

Delegates unanimously endorsed Rep. Steve Jacob for the Senate District 20 seat. Jacob, who currently serves in the Minnesota House, was uncontested. His endorsement shifts the

district's legislative lineup and begins a new chapter for the Senate seat held by Draskowski.

The convention also addressed endorsements for the district's two-House seats. Rep. Pam Altendorf secured the endorsement for House District 20A, while Sara Bertschinger received the endorsement for House District 20B. Altendorf was also uncontested. Sara Bertschinger was endorsed following the delegates hearing from the candidates before casting their votes.

Throughout the day, the atmosphere inside Wild Wings Plaza reflected a mix of routine party business and the significance of a generational shift. Delegates lined up to register, chatted in small groups between sessions, and filled the hall for speeches. Volunteers managed credentials, staffed tables, and kept the proceedings moving as the convention worked through its agenda.

In addition to endorsements, delegates heard reports from party officers, updates on the current legislative session, and information about the upcoming election cycle. The strong turnout highlighted the level of engagement among local party members heading into a competitive election season.

With endorsements now finalized, candidates will begin preparing for the next phase of the campaign, which includes outreach across the district's communities and participation in the statewide primary and general election cycles.



Michael "Hutch" Hutchinson to Run as Independent Candidate for Minnesota House District 20B

U.S. Army Veteran Pledges to Serve Constituents Over Parties

ZUMBROTA, Minn. - Minnesota State House candidate Michael "Hutch" Hutchinson will run for office in District 20b as an independent. Hutch, who was the district's DFL candidate in 2024, cited a combination of constituent concerns and issues with the direction of the Democratic party in Washington, D.C. as reasons for the decision.

"During his 1796 farewell address, George Washington warned us about the dangers of dividing politics into parties," Hutch said. "In his words, 'they are likely in the course of time and things, to become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.'"

In an age where the 'cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled' among the ultra-rich have exploited our government to hoard their money and interests while eroding people's faith in the institutions meant to serve us all, Washington's words have never rung truer."

Driven by a belief that government should represent its people and reflect their will, and not answer solely to those with unfettered access to money and power, Hutch looks forward to serving the people of District 20B and the State of Minnesota without having to worry about also serving a political party and billionaire mega-donors.

"I believe that by running as an independent, I am making it clear that when elected, I will honor my duty to serve all my constituents, and make a priority of building a better district, state, and country for everyone," Hutch said.

About Michael Hutchinson

Hutch is a U.S. Army veteran living in Zumbrota with his wife, pets and plants. An ardent patriot and lover of his country, Hutch knows our government should be doing more to serve all of us. When not trying to make the world better through charity and service, Hutch is an avid fan of history who enjoys gaming when it's cold and the outdoors when it's not. As part of his initiative to meet everyone in his district so they can be heard, Hutch is planning events in all 18 towns and 30 townships that make up District 20b.



Michael Hutchinson

Sara Bertschinger Endorsed as Republican Candidate for Minnesota House District 20B

Lake City, MN — The Republican Party has officially endorsed Sara Bertschinger as its candidate for Minnesota House District 20B, marking a significant step in the 2026 election cycle. Bertschinger enters the race with a platform centered on strengthening public trust, expanding personal freedom, and ensuring opportunities for every Minnesotan.

Bertschinger's campaign emphasizes several core priorities:

- **Fraud Prevention:** Advocating for stronger safeguards to protect taxpayer dollars and ensure government accountability.
- **Election Integrity:** Supporting policies that reinforce transparency and confidence in Minnesota's electoral process.
- **Life:** Upholding values that reflect her long-standing commitment to protecting life.
- **Liberty:** Championing individual freedoms and limiting government overreach.
- **Opportunity:** Promoting economic growth, educational access, and pathways for families and businesses to thrive.

"I'm honored to receive the Republican endorsement and to stand with the people of District 20B," Bertschinger said in a statement. The grassroots endorsement is vital to the election process. The Republican Delegates are responsible for vetting candidates and giving their endorsement to the person they believe best represents the district and the Republican Platform. Sara pledged to the convention Delegates to be a Representative "who will work tirelessly to protect their freedoms, safeguard their hard-earned tax dollars, and expand opportunities for future generations."

The campaign will focus on meeting voters across the district, listening to their concerns, and outlining Bertschinger's vision for a more accountable, transparent, and opportunity-driven Minnesota.

About Sara Bertschinger Sara Bertschinger is a community-minded leader with a record of public service. She is a Registered Nurse and has been married to her husband for 10 years. Sara lives on a family farm in rural Pine Island. She is committed to representing the values and priorities of the residents of House District 20B.



Sara Bertschinger

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**Regular Meeting of the Mazeppa City Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 11, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Mazeppa City Council was called to order at 6:16 PM by Mayor Chris Hagfors.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.
Present: Mayor Chris Hagfors. Council Persons: Mike Hammes, Dustin Wiebusch, Crystal Hughley, and Steve Liffrig.

Others Present: City Attorney Luke Lamprecht, City Engineer Matt Mohs from Bolton & Menk, Jason Hughley, Public Works Director Scott Elingson, Deputy Clerk-Erica Young, and City Administrator-Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

Present via electronic meeting: Holly Galbus from the News Record, Wabasha County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Jim Warren.

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

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2026-08 appointing Crystal Hughley as interim City Councilperson. Four in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Oath of office was administered by City Administrator-Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to approve the regular Council meeting minutes for February 11, 2026. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Wabasha County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Jim Warren gave the ICR for the month of February. He said that he would check on a report from City Hall about parking at Riverview Apartments and he announced his retirement coming April 30, 2026.

Public Works Director Scott Elingson gave the Public Works report.

Administrator-Clerk Karl Nahrgang gave the Fire Department report.

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

City Engineer Matt Mohs gave the Engineering update.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to approve WWTP pay application 16 for \$240,535.25 All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to approve WWTP Change Order 4 for \$20,155.08. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to approve Task Order 10, Web GIS Transition for \$11,000.00. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to approve City Hall ADA Improvement Draft Amendment 6 contingent on Rural Development approval. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Administrator-Clerk Karl Nahrgang gave the City Hall report.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to accept Sara Betcher's resignation as deputy clerk, effective March 31, 2026. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to approve City Administrator-Clerk Contract. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to approve changes to the City Personnel Policy Handbook. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

ried.
Motion by Hammes, second by Wiebusch to approve appointment of Crystal Hughley as Parks & Rec Committee chair. Four in favor, none opposed. Hughley abstained. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2026-09 Street Closure for City Clean-up Day. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch to approve price list for City Clean-up Day. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2026-10 Liquor Licenses for WDz 2, Rumors Bar & Grill, and Club License for American Legion Post #588. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2026-12 granting EDA account signature authority to Paul Stimets. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2026-11 granting EDA,

City, and MMLS account signature authority to Deputy Clerk-Erica Young. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to approve the sale of PW 1993 Ford Grass Rig. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2026-13 removing signature authority from Sara Betcher. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

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

City Attorney Luke Lamprecht addressed Council on open meeting law and public purpose expenditure.

Council thanks Sara Betcher for her years of service to the city and success in her new endeavors.

Motion by Liffrig, second by Hammes to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.
Deputy Clerk

**Notice: Open Book Appeal –
Value or Classification of Your Property**

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization for City of Zumbro Falls will be open from April 6th, 2026 to May 29th, 2026 – Contact the Assessor's Office for an appointment Monday through Friday, 8am to 4pm (Phone 651-565-3669 or email LBAE@co.wabasha.mmn.us). The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and to determine whether correction needs to be made.

If you believe that the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appeal before the local Board of Appeal and Equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local Board of Appeal and Equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to the County Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Given under my hand this 12th day of March 2026, Blake Hanson, clerk of the City of Zumbro Falls.

Zumbro Falls City Council Minutes - February 11, 2026

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 Benson seconded Anderson, with all in favor, carried.

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

The Zumbro Falls Fire Department fire contracts for 2026 were sent out and approved with a motion from Benson, seconded Winters, all in favor - carried. ZFFD welcomes recruit - Brayden Burgeson to the department.

Donation from the Olmsted Medical Center was received in the amount of \$250.00 to be used for medical supplies. This donation was accepted with a motion from Anderson, seconded Winters, all in favor, carried.

Sara Anderson gave an update on proposals for new Water & Sewer software with options significantly lower cost than previous options.

Motion for the meeting to adjourn and the Clerk to pay all bills presented was made by Benson,

seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried. The next meeting is scheduled for March 11th, 2026.

Submitted by, Blake Hanson, Clerk



Periodically, as we approach City Cleanup, the City sends letters to property owners whose properties we have received complaints about in the previous year. The City reminds them that Cleanup Day is an economical way to get rid of items that they have stored in view that other persons may seem as unsightly, unhealthy, or dangerous. The City's nuisance ordinances lay out items and methods of storage that can be seen as detrimental to the community. The letters these individuals receive encourage them to use Cleanup Day as a start point to bring their property into compliance. Many items are covered for residents in the annual Cleanup/Recycling fee included in the water/sewer bill. Other items, or extra quantities of items may require paying a small fee. The City has information on local for local salvage to pick up unlicensed or non-running vehicles.



**Take advantage of Cleanup Day. Saturday, May 9, 2026
from 9:00 AM until (in line by) 11:00 AM.**

Mazeppa's Annual Clean-up Day!

Saturday, May 9th 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
No Agricultural Tires will be Accepted		
8 free	Tires (automotive): \$5	\$5 each
\$20 each	Tires (Semi): \$20	\$20 each
-with Rims additional charge:		
Reg \$5		
Split Rim \$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

**ABSOLUTLY 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 7th. Thank you!

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