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JULY 30, 2026

Volume 20 • Issue 8

Data Center Controversy Reaches Mazeppa

At the July 8th city council meeting he city attorney was instructed to draft an ordinance pertaining to Data Center construction within the city. The ordinance should be ready for review by the council at the August meeting. The Mazeppa Planning and Zoning has looked at drafts of other communities and how they attempt to control the construction of such complexes when faced with the expansion of the business.

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Announcements

- The Mazeppa Area Historical Society museums will be open **AUGUST 8th & AUGUST 22, FROM NOON UNTIL 3! BOTH BUILDINGS WILL BE OPEN SO COME & CHECK US OUT!** Growing every day- with new items to share! Have had inquiries from Texas, Oklahoma & the twin cities! Love coming here to Mazeppa!

- Aluminum can drop-off at the Mazeppa Community Center parking lot. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

- 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.

(announcements continued on page 2)

South Troy Wesleyan Church Celebrating 170 Years of Ministry

By Reverend Colleen Hoeft

South Troy Wesleyan Church is celebrating 170 years of ministry in the Zumbro Falls Community. South Troy is the oldest Wesleyan Church in Minnesota.

This rural church about 10 minutes north of Rochester (on Broadway Avenue/Highway 63N) continues to serve and minister in SE Minnesota.

South Troy operates the Zumbro Valley Food shelf.

Sunday morning worship services at 10:30am.

Sunday evening Celebrate Recovery service/ministry at 5pm.

(continued on page 3)



Dave Betcher and Ann Nibbe speak during a power point presentation for Goodhue County Holstein Association members, past members and guests.

Holstein Club Anniversary Observed

By Beth Brekke

70 people gathered in the haybarn on Jeff and Heidi Miller's farm east of Bellechester to celebrate the Goodhue County Holstein Association's 80th Anniversary.

(continued on page 8)

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Not Today God...



By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

When I was 11 years old I wanted a ‘pony’ (horse) for Christmas. So, in December of 1971 I opened up a box to a gray plastic horse introducing me to my gray/white mare named Mitzy with a colt in tow. Since then there have been a number of horses, bumps, bruises, learning and love for these beautiful large 4-legged animals. Horses, for their survival, have a fight or flight response. When frightened, their first instinct is to escape the situation and get as far away as possible.

You and I also get into a flight or fight mode at times too. When we are faced with a situation we don’t like or feel boxed into or just

plain don’t want to do- we may choose to ignore it, argue about it- refuse to do it, or run away from it!

Jonah. had no plans to be a ‘hero’ to a foreign nation. He had no desire to be anything to them- He flat out, ran away from his assignment. Most of us think that if God ‘told’ us something to do we’d do it! But not this guy—he got on the next ship going the opposite direction. God told Jonah- get up and go- pretty simple instructions- there isn’t any room for a misunderstanding. Jonah heard the message- Jonah understood the message and Jonah said- not today God- and chose to disobey- he chose flight in the opposite direction. It wasn’t only the opposite direction, he wanted to get away from the Lord! He didn’t want to obey the word of God.

Jonah was in flight mode- “I can’t and I won’t go to Ninevah God.” Instead of talking to God about it- he ran. It seems that when the going got tough he got going. You and I respond to stress and difficult situations in similar ways to Jonah. We probably don’t get on a ship in another direction- but we will try to change course. The extremes may include divorcing a spouse, quitting a job prematurely, a ‘mid-life’ crisis, turning to drugs, gambling or alcohol to give us some peace amidst the stress.

God wasn’t finished with Jonah though- He sent a storm- a storm so severe that seasoned sailors were ready to give up. Once they believed that it was Jonah’s fault that God had sent the storm- a couple of unique things happened- those sailors decided to try out this new God and pray to Him. And then- when Jonah said throw me overboard- they prayed to this God of Jonah’s for forgiveness. Next, when the storm subsided imme-

diately upon Jonah hitting the waves- these sailors became believers! They chose to take Jonah’s God as their own. Even through Jonah’s disobedience lives were being changed! What an amazing God we serve!

Next, Jonah is in the process of drowning in the sea and God sends a great fish to swallow him. As his life was slipping away- a rock-bottom moment- he remembered God and prayed. You and I are thinking- what took you so long Jonah? We have the blessing of hindsight- yet how many times have we had to have a ‘wake-up’ call in our lives. We know the right thing to do- but we do the wrong one anyway. We know the right way to go, but want to take a short cut, we want to have the ‘feelings’ we want to have the thrills- and when our faith walk feels like work- we think it’s too hard and change course.

Faith involves growing in our knowledge of Scriptures and of the person of God. Faith involves serving God by loving Him and loving people. When we have committed our lives to Him- we will automatically obey His call, no matter the cost- no matter the direction we are sent.

Jonah finally went! He was grateful to not be fish food. He was grateful to be alive. He recognized the power of His God. Now it was time to do what he was supposed to do in the first place. This time he obeyed God’s command! Jonah got to this large Gentile city- of his enemy- and walked through it delivering an 8-word message, ““Forty days from now Nineveh will be destroyed!” Nothing flowery or persuasive in this delivery. Jonah told the message without any encouragement, any hope, or any soft pedaling. Jonah was given a message of warning and

death to the people of this city- and they responded! They believed him and they listened! When they heard that in 40 days their city, their homes, would be destroyed they believed him. Word got around so fast that the king himself responded and believed the message.

That’s the dream of every minister- that when the message is preached people believe and respond in such a way as to bring a revival to their church and their community. South Troy has stories like that- during the days of Reverend Fletcher- his son shared this story with me about 14 years ago: Iin the late 30’s Reverend Fletcher has been going from farm to farm to meet the people, pray with them and see how he and the church could help. On farmer was not interested. He was a hard-working man, very independent, and very much someone that enjoyed his drinking and carousing. So Reverend Fletcher and others in the community began to pray for this man. Every week at noon the church would be open for prayers and prayer meetings began. Even the children of the school walked over and prayed once a week for the taciturn farmer as well as others in the community. With those prayers revival began! The farmer they prayed for became a believer- and when people in the community saw the changes and the faith of that one many- many more were added to the family of God through the ministry of the South Troy Church

South Troy began with 4 people, and we went door to door with everything from batteries to scotch tape, introducing ourselves- and inviting people to Pie Socials on Sunday nights, Thursday night Bible studies and finally to Sunday morning worship.

(continued on page 3)

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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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
Wednesday Mass 6:00 p.m.; 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@lands-lutheran.org
Pastor: Nikki Rockne, Email: pastornikki@lands-lutheran.org
P O Box 225/16640 Hwy 60 Blvd, Zumbrota, MN
(507) 732-5482
Web Site: www.lands-lutheran.org
Facebook: Lands Lutheran Church
9:00a.m. Worship in Everson Park next to the church

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY Finding Honey

If you find honey, eat just enough—too much of it, and you will vomit.
— Proverbs 25:16

Late summer to early fall is usually the time when beekeepers “find” honey. At that time of year for bees, the days of gathering pollen and nectar are winding down. Wise beekeepers provide extra room in the hive, taking advantage of the bees’ hoarding instinct and “tricking” them into making more honey than they need. A healthy hive will often have two to three times as much honey as the bees will need for winter. The beekeepers then take the extra honey, making sure to leave enough for the bees to survive on.

Finding honey is not so difficult with the hive boxes and removable frames we have today. In the wild, though, it can be a lot more challenging to find and gather this treasure. Through the centuries people have learned to search for honey in hollow trees, small caves, remote cliffs, and other protected spots that are near abundant varieties of flowering plants.

While honey is sweet, our proverb for today tells us to “eat just enough” and not too much. It makes good sense not to overdose on honey—or on any of the sweet things in life. Wisdom calls us to a healthy balancing act.

Sadly, the siren song of our world today is that “more is always better.” But finding honey reveals the wisdom of enjoying sweet things in life within wholesome limits.

In what ways is the Spirit of God directing you to set wise limits in your life?

Thank you, Lord, for the sweet things in life. Guide us to follow you and to gain a heart of wisdom. In Jesus, 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 Wesleyan Church Celebrating 170 Years of Ministry

(continued from page 1)

We will be celebrating over two days- August 22, 4-7pm is our annual Ice Cream social benefiting the Celebrate Recovery ministry of the church through free-will donation.

There will be live music by Warrior Revival, (a local band), an inflatable for the kids, ice-cream, hotdogs and lots of fun. The first 'home' of South Troy Church- the Little Red Schoolhouse will also be open for people to tour and experience a one-room school.

August 23 will be our 170th CELEBRATION DAY.

10:30 am Worship

12 pm meal

1pm Celebration and Remembrance service with special speakers.



Not Today God...

(continued from page 2)

And then on Easter Sunday April 8 of 2012 we had our launch- every Sunday worship and we had 44 people that first Sunday. We've had many ups and downs and challenges, but we're still here! Still desiring to obey God's call despite the enemy's tactics. That's the power of obedience to the call. That's the power of the Holy Spirit to change hearts and lives.

One of the best lessons we can learn from the book of Jonah is that God can use even Jonahs to bring messages of hope and salvation to the unsaved world around us. There are days that you and I fail as representatives of Christ. There are days that the message we are sharing seems to fall flat. There are times when we sin, when we fall terribly short of God's best and yet God uses us in our inadequacies to save a soul. No matter how reluctant you are- God has a better plan- God has the best plan!!!

Obey God's call- He will do the rest!



Celebrate Recovery

A COMMUNITY OF HOPE

A Christian 12 Step Program
Join us on Sundays at
South Troy Church

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 Calleen Horst at celebraterecovery@southtroy.org or 507 298 1442
Visit southtroywesleyan.org for more information

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE

YOUR WORD IS A LAMP FOR MY FEET. - PSALM 119:105

Vacation Bible School at Grace Lutheran in Oronoco will be held August 17, 18, & 19, 2026 from 5:30 p.m.- 8:00 p.m.

There will a meal served each night from 5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Join us for three fun-filled evenings of Bible stories, music, crafts, games, snacks, and learning about God's love! This year's theme is "Campout with Jesus" "Your word is a lamp to my feet - Psalm 119:105"

Please share the registration link with family and friends- the more the merrier. Please fill out the registration forms as soon as you are able to so we can plan accordingly.

Here's the link: <https://forms.gle/yhrWuQAocYendA5g8>

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Ann Elizabeth (Pierce) Streiff

Ann Elizabeth (Pierce) Streiff, 74, of Zumbrota, Minnesota, died on Saturday, July 11, 2026, at Elysian Fields in Red Wing, Minnesota.

Ann was born on October 19, 1951, to Bill and Mary (Petersdorf) Pierce in Rochester, Minnesota. She grew up in Pine Island and graduated from Pine Island High School in 1969. Ann married Gayle Streiff on July 30, 1977. She was a proud mom and loved working with kids. Ann worked as a paraprofessional in the Zumbrota-Mazeppa School District for over 30 years... she always had a soft spot for the naughty kids. She will be missed.

Ann is survived by her loving husband of 48 years, Gayle Streiff; son, Brian (Amy Frank) Streiff; sisters, Mary Ellen Godbe and Janet Ryan; and brothers, Daniel and Bill Pierce. She is preceded in death by her father, Bill Pierce; mother, Mary Klingsborn; stepfather, Max Klingsborn; and brother-in-law, Mike Ryan.

A visitation took place from 5-7pm on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at Mahn Family Funeral Home, Mahler Chapel in Pine Island. Memorial service was held at 1pm on Friday, July 17, 2026, at Pine Island Methodist Church with Pastor Allison Schwarz officiating, visitation an hour prior to the service. Burial followed at Pine Island Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to American Legion Post 588 in Mazeppa.

Colin Joseph Atkinson

Colin Joseph Atkinson, 89, of Oak Center, MN, died on July 18th, 2026 from complications with ALS.

He was born to Merle and Evelyn (Fick) Atkinson on January 6th, 1937 in Wabasha County, MN. He was the

brother to seven siblings, Lucille, Janice, Shirley, Sharon, Glenn, Curt and Connie. He attended rural grade school, District 52, near Zumbro Falls up until 8th grade. He then attended Rochester High School and graduated in 1954. After high school, he worked for Alfred Schumacher, Contractor, operating motor grader from 1955 to 1959 in Oak Center. He joined the United States Army on September 14th, 1959. Served two years in the regular Army, came home and was called to activate duty with the 544th ordinance company out of Wabasha, MN. Then deployed to Fort Polk, Louisiana in 1962 and received an Honorable Discharge in September of 1962. Colin was a member of the Millville Valley American Legion.

He married the love of his life, Alice (Dubbels), on December 27th, 1959. They celebrated 67 wonderful years together. After his years in the service, he worked for Quarve and Anderson of Rochester, MN, operating road grader from 1962 until 1967. He then started Atkinson Construction, (excavating and grading) in Oak Center in 1967. He preferred Caterpillar excavating equipment and you could often see him around town wearing a signature Caterpillar cap. After 47 years of running the business, he sold it in 2013 to his son and grandson Craig and Jacob Atkinson. Craig worked for him ever since graduating from high school in 1981 and after serving in

the Army. Colin plowed snow for 70 years from 1955 to 2025.

Colin was a member of the United Methodist Church in Zumbro Falls, MN and was confirmed there. In 1954, he was confirmed at Trinity Lincoln Lutheran Church and has been a life-long member since that time. He held the offices of Trustee, Chairman/Elder, and head Usher.

His hobbies included operating motor grader for his son and grandson, deer hunting, traveling (especially out West), playing 500 and Euchre, attending Atkinson family breakfasts, and spending time with his children and grandchildren. Colin and Alice played in two different card clubs for over 50 years, and attended a lot of wedding dances for friends and family.

He is survived by his loving wife, Alice; daughters Valerie (Mark) Moyer and Amber Atkinson (Shane Christopherson); sons Craig (Connie) Atkinson and Colin Jr. (Anita) Atkinson; 9 grandchildren, Megan (Lisa) Lindell, Jake (Teresa) Atkinson, Drew (Meagan) Miller, Ashley (Ethan) Logsdon, Brianna (Travis Knudsen) Miller, Cole (Kenedy) Atkinson, Alexa (Rusty) Grisim, and Mela and Jane Schmitz; his 11 great-grandchildren Taylor Lindell, Parker and Julia Atkinson, Erin, Jordy and Harrison Miller, Corinne, Meredith and Emmett Logsdon, William and Noah Atkinson; and siblings Janice (George) Gilbert, Curt (Deb) Atkinson, Connie J. Atkinson, sister-in-law, Carol Atkinson Zabel, and brother-in-law Lance Issenberg.

He was preceded in death by his parents and

siblings Lucille Michel, Shirley Nibbe, Glenn Atkinson and Sharon Issenberg; nephews Justin and Daran Atkinson, Dana Michel, and Brent Hughley.

The reviewal will be held at Schleicher Funeral Homes in Lake City, MN on Thursday, August 6th from 4-7pm and the funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, August 7th at Trinity Lutheran Church - Lincoln with Pastor Daniel Reich officiating. Friends and family may also visit one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Schleicher Funeral Homes, Lake City Chapel, the guest register may be signed at: www.schleicherfuneralhomes.com

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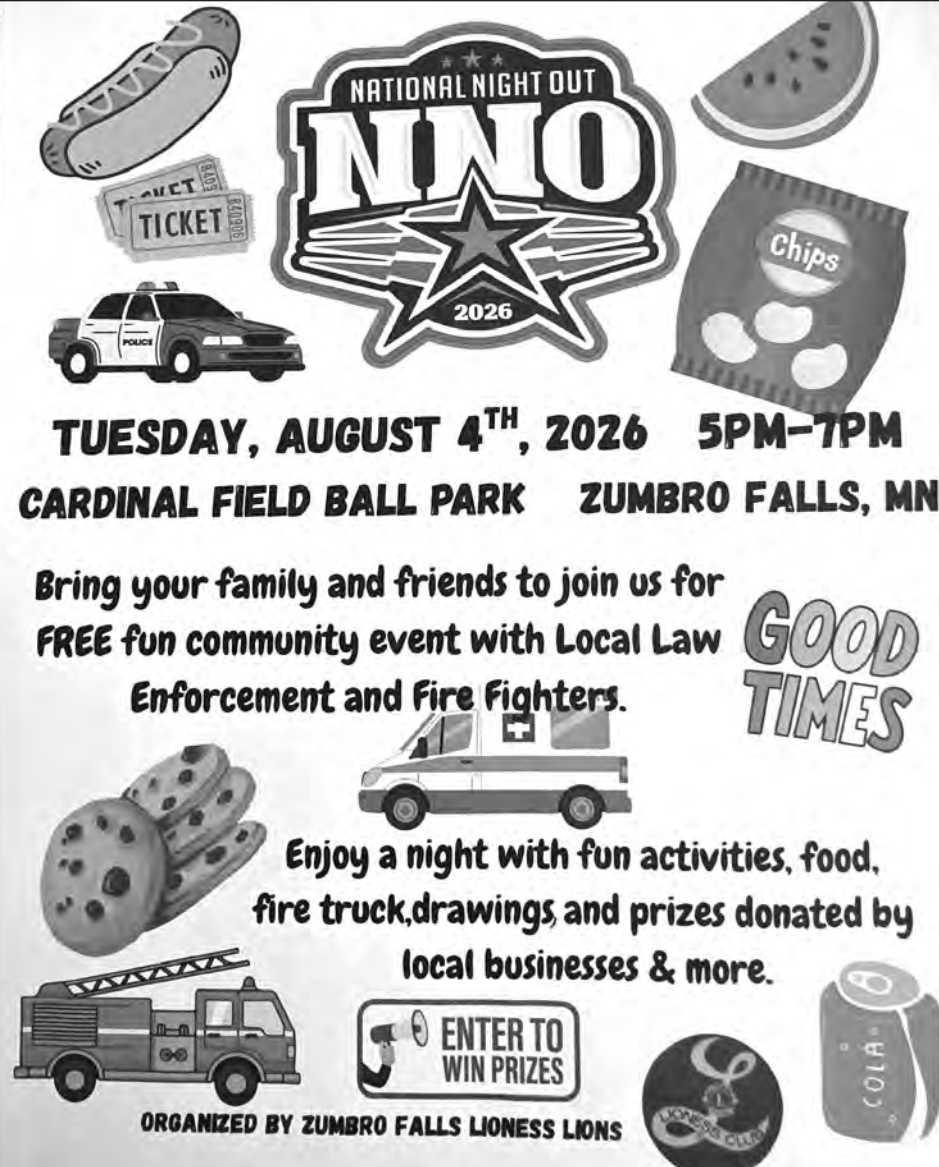
DO YOU HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT?

Email:

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ZUMBRO FALLS EVENTS

Event	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	INFO
Women's Softball	WEDS All Summer thru July 28th 7PM	Cardinal Ball Field Zumbro Falls	Hot Dogs, Brats Chips and Candy bars for sale by ZF Lioness club at each game.
Jenny's Greenhouse	July 1-31	Apache Mall Location	End of Summer specials 50% annuals, 20% off perennials and 30% trees
Jimmy Buffet Day	July 25, 2026 Noon-4P	Neptune	Food and Drink specials. Ron Bublitz live music See NEPTUNE on FACEBOOK for more info
National Night Out	Aug 4 5-7pm	Cardinal Park Zumbro Falls	FREE Food, drawings and prizes, kids activities. Firemen and Law Enforcement attending. EVERYONE in ZF AREA WELCOME
Bluff Valley Music Fest	Sept 19th and 20th	Bluff Valley Campground	Food, activities, music and MORE See www.bluffvalley.com for details and ticket 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
Wine BINGO	Every Sat at Noon	Zumbro Falls Winery	See ZUMBRO FALLS WINERY on FACEBOOK
ZF Lioness Meeting	2nd Weds of the month 6:30PM	Varies	See ZUMBRO FALLS LIONESS on FACEBOOK for dates, locations and upcoming events
Zumbro Valley Snowmobile club Meeting	1st Tue of Month Sept-April 7:30PM	ZF VFW	See ZUMBRO VALLEY SNOWMOBILERS ASSOC on FACEBOOK for upcoming events
Zumbro Valley Sportsman Club	1st Thurs of month at 7PM	ZF Sportsman Park	See ZUMBRO FALLS SPORTSMANS CLUB on FACEBOOK for upcoming events
All Events			Check ZUMBRO FALLS, MINNESOTA on FACEBOOK or Website: zumbrofallsmn.org



TUESDAY, AUGUST 4TH, 2026 5PM-7PM

CARDINAL FIELD BALL PARK ZUMBRO FALLS, MN

Bring your family and friends to join us for
FREE fun community event with Local Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters.

Enjoy a night with fun activities, food, fire truck, drawings, and prizes donated by local businesses & more.

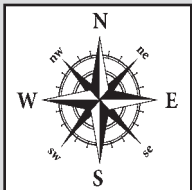
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GOOD TIMES

Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Stories about Spirits in Bottles



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.

Growing up I used to find old bottles around the farm. There were buildings dating back to the turn of the last century for me to explore. I found many interesting bottles, some having the lettering cast into the glass. A few still had an aged cork stuck in the mouth. What a story they could tell.

My grandfather had a story that displayed

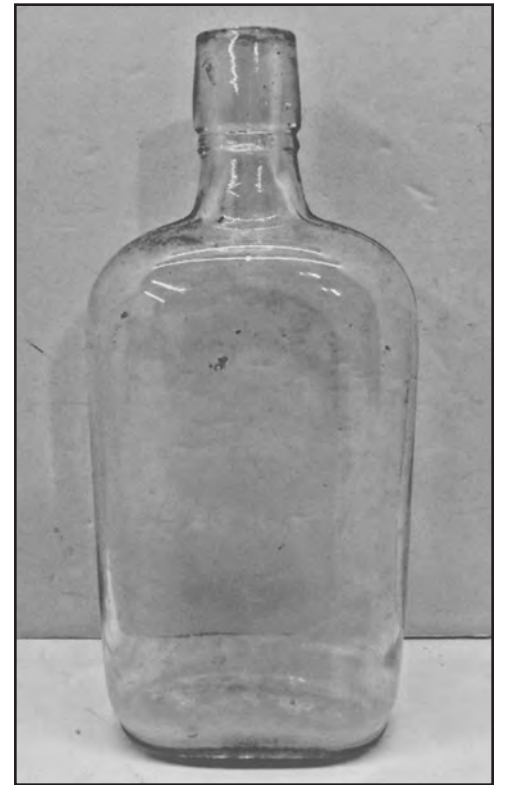
his dry wit. This tale would have taken place around 1920. He was not a drinker so this was an unusual story about a dry fella. My grandfather, as the story goes, was heading to Mantorville with the horse and wagon for supplies one morning. He asked the hired man if there was anything he wanted from town. Mantorville was five miles south of the farm but with a horse drawn wagon that would take over an hour and a half each way. There would be some livestock minerals, farm supplies and household goods to return with. Is quite interesting to think of Mantorville as a shopping destination where one could purchase everything needed for a farm family.

The hired man usually wanted a plug of chewing tobacco and a bottle of whiskey brought back on the weekly trip. A hired hand would usually live in a small shack or a simple room inside the farm house. Prior to the 1920's radio had not been introduced to rural America, and electricity was still a decade away. Probably not much to do for entertainment after a long day of work on the farm.

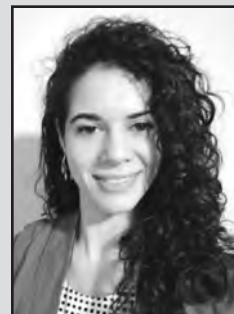
My grandfather picked up a bottle of whiskey for the hired hand, before he left town and proceeded homeward. My grandfather loved to talk. He stopped at a number of the farms along the way home to visit with the farmer and let his horse get a drink at the stock tank beside the windmill. Being a social and friendly guy, he also offered his host a nip from the bottle. At the last farm he realized that the bottle was getting about half empty. The solution was to refill the bottle from the well pump and press the cork in like nothing had happened. Once home he delivered chew and the whiskey to the hired man.

The next week when he inquired what he could pick up for the hired man in town he received the same order, but with one caveat. Please get different brand of whiskey than you brought home last week. That one was quite weak.

When I was a young lad, it was customary to give Christmas gifts to the milk hauler for the holiday. My mom usually made Christmas sugar cookies and fudge wrapped in a festive looking box. That Christmas the Maple Island milk hauler left a bottle of wine as a gift. Now my parents were teetotalers as well so the bottle was put in the back of the cupboard in the house. My curiosity got the best of me. To avoid suspicion, I knew I couldn't drink the bottle and dispose of it so I came up with a plan. I carefully opened the bottle, drank the contents and then refilled it with grape soda, sealed the cap and put it back in the cupboard. No one was every the wiser. Forty-five years later at a family gathering my sister confessed to my mother that she had opened the bottle of wine and tried it, only to find it totally disgusting. Wine may get better with age but grape soda definitely doesn't.



A Minnesotan: Jello Salad



By RosaLin Alcoser

My husband on the other hand is born and raised Minnesotan. So you can imagine our shock when we found out that he, the man who loves hotdish, had never the other tried and true Minnesota food staple. Jello salad.

Now I have seen Jello salad's of all kinds on a pot luck table over the course of my life. Even when we would go visit family back south you would see the pink or green modeled one— you know the one with the marshmallows that was popular with the elderly who had been adults in the 1950s-on the table. Never as many as here in Minnesota, but they would be there.

I can remember whole tables of just Jello salad being out when I was little. And somehow growing up in the same state my husband had never had a Jello salad. Until my mom made one for church when she knew he'd be there.

Now like the rest of us Minnesotans he has had a Jello salad. It was one of the classic mandarin orange ones. Which he did like, mostly because he likes orange Jello and mandarin oranges. However, he did tell me afterwards that he would not count it as a salad.

My family has exactly one tried and true Minnesotan in it; that would be my husband. He is also the only real midwestern in the family. Since the rest of us are really transplants from the South.

Proportionally I have been here the longest of my family since I was a small child the fall of 1999 when we first came this far north. However, I am still a transplant as can be seen in my high heat tolerance and how I pronounce many words.

Happy Birthday

Beverly Poncelet

Beverly Poncelet will be celebrating her 90th birthday on August 25, 2026. Family and friends please take a moment to send a birthday card with your heartfelt wishes. It would mean so much to Beverly to hear from all of you on this special day.

You can send your card to
174 Summit St. Mazeppa MN 55956.
Thank You all for helping make this birthday special for her.

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Farm Girl Chatter Long Hot Summer Days

By McKell Lemmerman

That's right. Seems fitting for the time of year when you step outside and already have sweat in places you don't want it. Livestock hover over the water tanks and shove each other out of the shade trees like little kids trying to be first in line.

By 9 a.m., your shirt's stuck to your back, your boots feel like they're full of soup, the tractor's seat could fry an egg, and the steering wheel feels like it was forged in a blacksmith shop.

The cows stand belly-deep in the pond with that look that says, "If you need me, I'll be here until October." The horses have perfected the art of planting themselves under the one shade tree in the pasture, swishing flies and refusing to move unless grain is involved. Even they have enough sense to know when it's too hot to do anything productive.

The flies, on the other hand, always have the best summer of their lives. They don't care how much fly spray you buy or how fancy the tag in the cow's ear is—they're back before you can put the cap on the bottle. By lunchtime you've burned more calories, swatting flies than you've burned stacking hay. The livestock swish and kick at the little flying demons only to realize they're just using them for a free ride around the pasture. And don't even think about leaving the pickup windows down unless you're looking to start your own fly sanctuary.

Speaking of hay, whoever came up with the phrase "make hay while the sun shines" clearly never throws square bales in July.



Nothing builds character quite like hugging 60-pound bales in 95-degree weather while itchy hay dust super glues itself to every drop of sweat you've got.

By supper time, everyone's moving a little slower. The dogs have dug themselves a hole to China just to find cool dirt. The livestock are parked around every water tank like it's happy hour, and you're on your second or third glass of iced tea wondering if sweating counts as cardio. "It's not the heat... it's humidity," like that's supposed to make anyone feel better. Still, once the sun finally drops below the trees and a little breeze rolls across the farm, it's hard to complain too much. The cicadas and frogs are singing. The best friends of the flies, yup, the mosquitoes are filing flight plans. The kids smell like sun-

screen and dirt. And the sunset reminds you why you put up with the heat, the dust, the flies, and everything else summer throws at a farmer.

Because before long, we'll be standing in chore boots three sizes too big with three layers of socks, wishing for one more long, hot summer day.



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Meet the 2026 Minnesota Farm Families of the Year

University of Minnesota will honor 86 families at annual Farmfest ceremony at 1:15 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, at Gilfillan Estate near Redwood Falls

Families and growers from across Minnesota will be represented as the University of Minnesota honors them in the 2026 Farm Family of the Year ceremony at 1:15 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 6, at the annual Minnesota Farmfest near

Redwood Falls. The event will be held on the Gilfillan Estate in the Wick Buildings Farmfest Center.

Collectively, the selected families cover a wide spectrum of farming, from traditional crops and livestock to community-based ventures and operations producing an array of fruit, vegetables and flowers. They were selected by local University of Minnesota Extension committees based on the honorees' demonstrated commitment to enhancing and supporting agriculture.

"This year's Farm Families of the Year reflect the impressive strength — and incredible variety — of agriculture in our state," said Extension Dean Bev Durgan. "The University of Minnesota is proud to honor these families and their innovation and dedication to Minnesota agriculture."

Visit with University of Minnesota educators, researchers and staff at Farmfest

- University of Minnesota | Booth 615S: Extension, CFANS and others will share programming and resources for farmers as well as specific crop diagnostics and hands-on ac-

tivities for kids.

- UMASH | Booth 326: The Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center will offer activities, including a Polaris/4-H ATV exhibit.

- WROC | Booth SR11: West Central Research and Outreach Center staff and researchers will share the latest in University of Minnesota agricultural research, education and innovation.

Wabasha County Farm Family Jostock Family

The Jostock family farm was established in 1942 when Robert and Audrey Jostock began raising dairy cows and operating a farrow-to-finish hog operation on 200 acres overlooking the Zumbro River near Hammond.

In 1991, their son, Edwin, and his wife, Lynn, purchased the farm while raising their four children, Katie, Samantha, Alan and Rebecca. In 2015, they sold the dairy herd and transitioned to a crossbred beef herd with a focus on Red Angus cattle.

Today, Alan and his wife Betsy represent the third generation on the Jostock farm. Their daughters, Gracelyn and Alexa, are also involved in the operation. The family manages a 60-head cow-calf herd, finishing all steers hormone-free and raising their own replacement heifers.

The family also operate a 25-sow farrow-

to-finish hog enterprise focused on Berkshire and Duroc genetics, raising hogs humanely and sustainably without hormones or antibiotics. Approximately 30% of their beef is sold directly to customers.

The Jostocks farm 250 acres of corn, soybeans, oats, barley and hay, utilizing no-till practices and cover crops on some acres. They have diversified in recent years by adding pumpkins, squash, popcorn and 80 laying hens, with eggs marketed directly to customers. In 2025, they were honored as the Wabasha County Conservationists of the Year.

The family is deeply engaged in their community. Edwin and Lynn previously served on the board of directors for the Minnesota Milk Producers Association. Edwin currently serves as chair of the Zumbro Township Board, president of the Wabasha County Minnesota Farmers Union and treasurer of the Wabasha County Pork Producers. He is also a past advisor for the Riverland Community College Farm Business Management Program. Lynn served as president of the Plainview Milk Products board and was a key leader for her children's 4-H clubs. The family are members of the Wabasha Cattle-men's Association.

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1:00-4:00 pm *Bent Highway Band*
4:00-8:00 pm *Dakota Ramblers Band*

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Holstein Club Anniversary Observed

(continued from page 1)

Current board and committee members, Charlie Dicke, Dean Opsahl, Paul Nibbe, Tony Scheffler, Brian Clemenson, Beth Brekke, Kay Schwartau and Dave Betcher began planning in 2025, working with the Millers to host the special edition of the club's annual Twilight Meeting. The 7 PM meeting time, wide-open doors, and a few fans eased the July 14th "Cow Appreciation Day's" mid-upper 90s temperatures.

Dave Betcher and Dean Opsahl gave a power point presentation on club history, calling on any former members in attendance to share additional information. Beth Brekke spoke on the history of the county's Junior as-

sociation and Clara Benrud talked about her experience attending the 2026 National Junior Holstein convention in Orlando, Florida where she placed third in the junior division of the Dairy Jeopardy contest.

The Millers have no cattle on their farm but brought in a few heifers as the star players in a round of cowpie bingo. Each square sold for \$10 with the winner – determined by where the first cowpie lands – receiving half of the money. Member, Kevin Schafer conducted an auction of donated items including a Red Holstein calf provided by Dean Opsahl of Goodhue and purchased by Brian Clemenson of Zumbrota. The fundraising efforts brought in over \$2500.00.

Members and guests enjoyed socializing and viewing an assortment of photos, prize ribbons, and local farm and Goodhue County Holstein sale catalogs dating back to the 1950s. Ice Cream was donated by the Goodhue County American Dairy Association and served by Goodhue County Dairy Ambassadors along with cake provided by the club.



Paul Nibbe holds an auction item as Kevin Schafer calls for bids and Dean Opsahl (standing) and Dave Betcher and Kay Schwartau look on.



The 80th anniversary edition of the Goodhue County Holstein Association twilight meeting was held in the haybarn on the Jeff and Heidi Miller farm near Bellechester.

Healthy Aging Month Webinar Series in September

As more Americans reach older adulthood, the importance of supporting lifelong health and wellbeing continues to grow. Each September, Healthy Aging Month shines a spotlight on the opportunities that come with aging and encourages people to take steps toward a vibrant, fulfilling life. Healthy aging recognizes the value of nurturing physical, emotional, social, financial, and spiritual wellness at every stage.

The University of Minnesota Extension invites anyone who is aging and those who support older adults to visit <https://z.umn.edu/HAM2026> to access resources and register for over 30 free webinars covering topics such as:

- Financial health, estate planning and fraud protection
- Mental wellbeing and brain health
- Nutrition and food safety
- Physical safety and independent living
- Relationship and community building

Our minds and bodies undergo countless changes as we age, but embracing a healthy lifestyle can help us navigate through these transformations with grace and vigor.



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Rain Location: ZMPS Gym

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3rd-7th Grade (2025-26)

Sweet summer projects! A comfy shorts, a water bottle bag, criss-cross headband and more. No experience necessary. Students will make, showcase, and take home all their projects. Hand and machine sewing techniques are taught with SAFETY FIRST always in mind. The final day is a showcase where friends and family are invited to see the projects in action. Sign up today to THINK, LEARN and PLAY WELL with {YEL!}.

Monday, August 3rd – Friday, August 14th

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

ZMPS Art Room

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Stroke Risk, Watermelon and Condiment Ingredients to Watch Out For



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

Stroke Risk: Before you've even had your first sip of coffee, your body is already making important adjustments for the day ahead. As you wake, hormone levels shift, blood pressure naturally rises, and your blood becomes slightly more likely to clot. Re-

searchers say these normal morning changes may help explain why strokes seem to occur more often during the early hours. Although a stroke can happen at any time, experts believe the body's internal clock plays a meaningful role in cardiovascular health, especially during the transition from sleep to wakefulness when the heart and blood vessels face new demands.

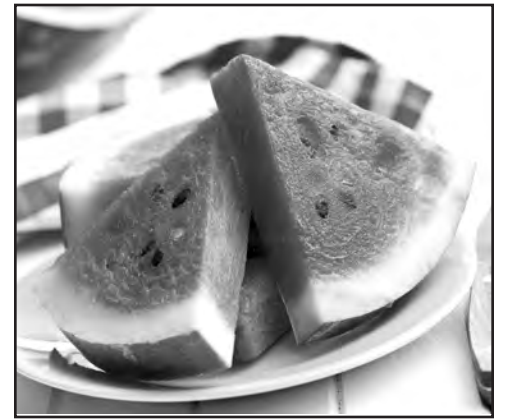
This is a useful reminder that circadian rhythm affects much more than sleepiness — it influences many of the body's essential biological processes, including heart and brain health. Supporting cardiovascular wellness starts with daily habits, not just reacting when symptoms appear. Restorative sleep, healthy blood pressure habits through good nutrition and regular movement, stress management, and exposure to natural morning light can all help maintain a healthy circadian rhythm. Since your body starts preparing for the day before you even get out of bed, giving it the right support may be one of the simplest ways to protect long-term heart and brain health.

Watermelon is very good for you: Watermelon is so much more than a sweet treat on a hot afternoon. This juicy fruit comes loaded with nutrients that support hydration, circulation, and your overall well-being. You get vi-

tamins A and C, potassium, and the powerful antioxidant lycopene in every bite. Watermelon also gives you L-citrulline, an amino acid that helps your body make nitric oxide, which keeps your blood flowing smoothly and your blood vessels working well. The benefits go far beyond simply quenching your thirst. Its high water content keeps you hydrated, while its antioxidants help shield your cells from oxidative stress. Research has connected regular watermelon consumption to healthier blood pressure, stronger cardiovascular function, faster muscle recovery after a workout, and better digestive health thanks to its water, fiber, and natural prebiotics.

For most folks with healthy metabolic function, ripe watermelon is a wonderful source of carbohydrates that also delivers valuable vitamins, minerals, and protective plant compounds. That said, if your gut isn't running at its best, your body may struggle to handle larger amounts of complex carbohydrates right away. This is where supporting your mitochondrial and gut health really pays off. When those systems are working well, your body can better use the nourishment that whole foods like watermelon provide, helping you get the most out of what nature so generously offers.

Condiment Use Can Be a Problem: Most of us don't give a second thought to the toppings we pile onto our meals, but those little extras can quietly shape our health over the years. Processed meat-based condiments, like bacon bits and bacon jam, are worth cutting back on. Eating processed meats regularly has been consistently tied to a higher risk of colorectal cancer, which makes those seemingly harmless sprinkles more concerning than they appear. The trouble comes from



what's inside them: nitrates, nitrites and other preservatives that can form potentially harmful compounds during processing and cooking.

Many store-bought barbecue sauces call for the same careful look. They're often packed with added sugars, high-fructose corn syrup and a long list of ultra-processed ingredients. Over time, that combination can contribute to metabolic problems while adding to your body's overall toxic load. The real issue isn't enjoying a favorite sauce now and then on a special occasion. It's the daily pattern of reaching for these products that adds up, giving you plenty of refined sugar and artificial additives with little real nutrition in return.

The good news is that flavor doesn't have to come from a factory. Turning back to simple, whole-food ingredients is one of the easiest ways to brighten a meal without the unwanted extras. Fresh herbs, garlic, onions, homemade salsa and a good mix of spices can transform your food naturally. These small swaps might feel insignificant in the moment, but over the years, choosing real ingredients over processed toppings becomes a meaningful part of supporting your long-term health.

Mazeppa Historical Society Fundraiser
Drop-off bin at the
Mazeppa Community Center
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THANK YOU for donating!



Historical Happenings

Compiled by
Helen Reiland

THE MAZEPPA JOURNAL, Editor and Publisher: Barbara and Reider Tommerraas
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1956

Obituaries

JOHN PALZER

John Palzer of Mazeppa passed away last Friday at the Wabasha Rest Home at the age of 81, following a long illness. He was born Aug. 11, 1875, in Rochester and was a longtime resident of Mazeppa. He was employed as a day laborer. Surviving are a sister-in-law, Mrs. Anna Palzer, and several nieces and nephews. Pallbearers were Bernard Marx, Bernard Hofschulte, Walter Tri, Emil Hofschulte, Richard Schmitt, and Gene Hoffman. Interment was in the Mazeppa Catholic cemetery.

C.G. Helgerson Dies Unexpectedly

The community and entire area was saddened Tuesday by news of the sudden death of Cy Helgerson. Death came at 2 p.m. at St. Mary's hospital, Rochester from a heart attack where he had been hospitalized during a short illness. Cyrus G. Helgerson, Son of Hans and Rose Helgerson, was born Aug. 4, 1879, at Freeport, Iowa, but spent his youth in Millville and attended school there. He was married June 25, 1913, to Elizabeth Stecher at Zumbrota.

Cy, as he was known to everyone, came to Mazeppa about 1900. He spent about three years in Canada and one at York's Store at Hammond.

He was employed as a clerk in Phillips' Store on coming to Mazeppa and around 45 years ago went into partnership with the late George Squire in Squire & Helgerson general store. He became sole owner upon Mr. Squire's death in 1942. He sold his store to Mr. and Mrs. Reider Tommerraas in August of this year after more than half a century as a popular and efficient "storekeeper" in Mazeppa.

Mr. Helgerson's principal hobby was music, and he came to Mazeppa because of the fine band here. He played a trumpet in the municipal band for 35 years and also used to play in a dance orchestra. He was director of the municipal band for a time. He also played baseball on the local team in his younger days.

Surviving are his wife; two sisters, Mrs. Carl Polson of Red Wing and Mrs. Charles Timm of Minneapolis and a step-brother Caleb Olin of Millville.

Pallbearers will be Clyde Thomas, Reider Tommerraas, Ernest Hoefs, John Roland, William Gruhlke and Max Maas. Honorary pallbearers will be Charles Denison, Frank Almeter, George Sand, Herman Hofschulte, George Hoffman of Rochester and Dr. McGuigan of Red Wing.

As a businessman in Mazeppa for more than 50 years, Cy will be greatly missed. But he will be missed for more than that---for his unfailing cheerfulness, his love of people and especially the children coming into his store, and as good citizen taking part in most civic activities. It is impossible to measure the loss of a friend and citizen such as Cy.

****The store was next to the Post Office to the north — empty lot.

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.



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August 7 & 8, 2026

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Sign up at Cattlemen's Saloon

LIVE MUSIC

BOB TOTAL COUNTRY Welcomes

**Old Country
Boys**
7-11PM

Presented by Cattlemen's Saloon,
Fireside Lounge,
Sapphire Cocktail Lounge



SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

PROBUILT ServiceMASTER BOB TOTAL COUNTRY
Welcomes
Shane Martin
7:00PM

Presented by Cattlemen's Saloon, Fireside Lounge, Sapphire Cocktail Lounge



Saturday Schedule of Events

- 8-11a.m. **All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast** Under Mainstreet tent
Hosted by Nerstrand-Dennison Fire Dept., and Dennison Community Church. \$12 for adults,
\$5 for kids 12 & under, 3 & under FREE. Includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, juice, milk
- 8a.m. **Farmers Market Downtown**
Citywide Garage Sales
Classic Car Show on Mainstreet Presented by Clutchmen Car Club. Registration \$10.
Trophies at 1p.m. Contact Jason Aldorfer 612-203-4172
- 8:30a.m. **Euchre at Fireside Lounge** For information, contact Jen Eggum 507-649-0602
- 9:00a.m. **Scavenger Hunt - \$100 Cash Prize!** Meet and sign up at the tent. Hunt will begin at 9am.
- 10a.m. **Truck & Tractor Pull on the Hill** For more information contact Dave Remme 507-649-0710
Kids Pedal Tractor Pull on Mainstreet (At Mainstreet intersection) Sign up begins at 9:30a.m.
- 11a.m. **Food Stands Open**
- Noon **Kids Bingo** Under the tent. Presented by Dennison Lions. Ages 3-11
Costume Kickball Tournament Hosted by Cattlemen's Saloon. Sign up at Cattlemen's Saloon
- 1:00p.m. **Car Show Trophies Awarded**
- 1-3p.m. **Kids Carnival**
- 1:30p.m. **Parade Downtown - A Kiddie Parade Leads Off Main Parade** (Ages 12 & Under)
\$300.00 Prize for Best Parade Entry! Sign up at Noon. South Mainstreet. Call 507-645-9992
- 2:30p.m. **Cattlemen's Saloon Bags Tournament - Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place!**
Sign up at Cattlemen's or call 507-782-9061
- 4:00p.m. **Power Tool, Gift Card & Purse Bingo** Presented by Dennison Lions & Fireside Lounge
- 6:30p.m. **Keg Toss - 100% Payout! \$5/throw** Across from Fireside Lounge
- 7:00p.m.-12a.m. **Live Music - Shane Martin** 18+ event. No Cover Charge. 21 to drink.
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Fatigue



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

This time of year, the outdoor temperatures are rising higher and the need for some cool, refreshing beverage is obvious. The human body is about 70% water, and maintaining this level of water in the body becomes a life-long practice. Water is important for all the chemical processes that are happening in the body every minute. When water concentration decreases the chemical process will slow down waiting for the right amount of water to be available. One of the primary causes of fatigue and lack of energy may be the lack of water inside the body.

Brain function and clarity of thinking can decrease when not enough water is consumed. A study published by BMC Medicine in 2023 followed almost 2000 participants who were 55 – 75 yrs old. Eighty percent of the participants met the standard for adequate

water intake, but the measure of water in the blood serum of fifty-six percent of the participants were at dehydration levels. There was a strong association between dehydration and lower brain function.

This study shows us that even though water was consumed, there were not enough minerals in the water to help properly balance the water inside the cells of the body compared to outside the cells. The difference in the amount of water inside the cell compared to outside the cell is controlled by the electrolytes. When the electrolytes are provided through quality foods and seasonings, the water balance will reach optimum levels that result in energy production. Energy cannot be produced without a proper water balance.

While water is the primary molecule in the body, there is a balance of minerals in the water that make the chemistry work. Calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, and carbon dioxide are the primary minerals used in the body for healthy cell communication. These electrolytes are very carefully controlled by the body because an imbalance of any of these minerals can cause communication problems between the cells of the body. Electrolyte imbalances are related to heart problems, kidney problems, and brain disfunction as noted in the study above.

Some will reach for coffee or a caffeinated drink to achieve an energy boost. While a brief boost will be generated from the body’s urgent response to get rid of the caffeine, the long-term result will be greater dehydration. Coffee and caffeinated drinks cause the body to become more dehydrated over time because these drinks do not provide water but stimulate the kidneys to get rid of more



water. Over time fatigue increases with greater dehydration.

To promote greater energy and hydration, consider the following points:

- Make a habit of drinking water throughout the day. A general guideline is to drink half of your body weight in fluid ounces. (A person weighing 128 pounds would drink 64 oz = 8 cups)
- If your urine is dark yellow, this is a sign of dehydration. More water is needed
- Consume fresh foods that contain water like cucumbers, melons, berries, and salads
- Consider quality salts – Himalayan, Celtic, Sea salt – to be added to foods or water
- Identify an electrolyte mix that contains

calcium, magnesium, sodium, and potassium without any added sugar. This electrolyte mix may be used once a day to improve electrolyte balance and water absorption inside the body

If you are struggling with fatigue and lack of energy, I can help identify the cause and provide support for improving your quality of life. 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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Friends and Neighbors,

This is the last newsletter you will receive from me as your Senator. Minnesota law states that no mass communication may be sent by a legislator within 90 days after the end of a legislative session in an election year. There are a few things I want to leave you with. First, here is a list of laws effective August 1. It's a bit longer than the ones that came into effect last month! Second is a summary of the issues facing the next senator from District 20 and all of you. Third, some opportunities to be aware of over the next month. It has been a great honor to serve the people of southeastern Minnesota in the House and Senate.

Follow the Fraud in Minnesota on MN-Fraudfiles.com!

New Laws effective August 1

In my last newsletter, I sent a list of the laws taking effect July 1. Here is a partial list of laws (Mostly policy changes) going into effect on August 1.

Finance & Commerce

1. Prediction Markets banned in the state

Predication Markets like Kalshi and Polymarket cannot operate or advertise in Minnesota. The legal challenges are still ongoing, and no final ruling has been issued yet. A federal judge heard arguments in late June and is expected to decide soon whether to block enforcement of Minnesota's ban before its Aug. 1 effective date.

2. Virtual currency kiosks to be banned in the state

Beginning Aug. 1, 2026, virtual currency kiosks will be banned in Minnesota. Operators have until Dec. 31, 2026 to remove kiosks and pay out any money or virtual currency held for customers.

3. Customers can designate a 'trusted contact' with financial services

Customers will be able to designate a trusted contact their financial services provider can reach if suspected fraud occurs in an account, or if the customer is unresponsive or in an emergency.

4. Credit unions can insure accounts by other methods

Credit unions will be allowed to insure accounts through an approved credit union guaranty corporation, not only the National Credit Union Administration.

5. Payment Transparency Act' helps subcontractors get paid

Increases payment transparency on state agency and political subdivision construction projects. Requires payment information to be provided to subcontractors not being paid, enabling enforcement of the Prompt Payment Act

6. Banks and credit unions can offer virtual currency custody services

Banking institutions and credit unions may provide virtual currency custody services in a non-fiduciary capacity, subject to written poli-

cies on risk management, cybersecurity, and compliance.

7. Paddlewheel prize maximums increase to \$200; max ticket price rises to \$5.

8. The Consumer Protection Restitution Account annual deposit cap rises to \$10 million, with a new distribution formula.

This is an account that recovers money from scammers and uses it to pay back victims

9. Uniform Electronic Estate Planning Documents Act established

Allows estate planning documents such as trusts, power of attorney, health care directives, and guardianship documents to be created and stored electronically, similar to the 2023 Uniform Electronic Wills Act.

Public Safety

10. New law bans access to "nudification" technology

Websites, apps, or services must not allow users to alter images or videos of real people by removing their clothing. Advertising or promoting such services is also prohibited. Violations carry civil penalties.

11. Age to purchase and possess kratom raised from 18 to 21

It will be a gross misdemeanor to sell kratom to a person under 21 and a misdemeanor for a person under 21 to possess kratom, raising the minimum age from 18.

12. Food banks can accept donated eggs past the quality assurance date

Allows eggs to be donated to food banks past their quality assurance date if they remain in original packaging, have been continuously refrigerated, and are still safe to eat.

13. New law overhauls medical and adult-use cannabis supply chain

Merges the medical and adult-use cannabis supply chains and creates a new type of license. The license and related changes take effect Jan. 1, 2027.

14. Judicial branch policy changes: court notices, dissolution procedures

District courts may publish notices online if no qualified local newspaper exists. Persons petitioning for dissolution must notify the county child support enforcement agency if either party receives support.

15. Grooming a minor established as a felony

Creating a false trusting relationship with a child 18+ years younger with the intent of engaging in future sexual conduct is a felony offense, regardless of whether sexual conduct occurs.

16. Peace officers must disclose use of chemical irritants within buildings

Requires peace officers to notify building owners and occupants before and after deploying chemical irritants (tear gas, pepper spray) or smoke devices inside a building.

17. BCA records sharing altered: expungements, protection orders

Authorizes the Bureau of Criminal Appre-

hension to correct records sealed in error under the automatic expungement process. Updates rules on sharing protection orders against financial exploitation of vulnerable adults.

18. Safe at Home address confidentiality program changes

Prohibits discrimination against Safe at Home participants, adds emancipated minors to the program, and makes various other changes to the address confidentiality program for domestic violence and assault victims.

19. Organized retail theft statute expanded to include gift card theft

Expands the 2023 organized retail theft statute to include theft involving gift cards, making it a crime when members of a group steal gift cards with prior theft offenses and attempt to resell them.

20. Criminal penalties increased for extortion using private sexual images

Enhances penalties when threatening to disseminate private sexual images is a contributing factor in the victim sustaining financial harm, upgrading the charge to a felony with greater penalties.

21. Victim rights to object to plea agreements

Victims already have the right to a victim impact statement. Now they have a right to be informed of a plea arrangement before the plea is accepted and to have their statement be part of the information that the judge will consider when ruling on the plea.

22. Increased penalties for impersonating a peace officer

Increases impersonating a peace officer from misdemeanor to felony (2 years) with no further action, or up to 5 years if gaining access to a public building or government facility through deception.

23. Highway in Zumbrota renamed for Gary Schroeder Jr., officer and firefighter

The section of Trunk Highway 58 in Zumbrota will be designated 'Officer / Firefighter Gary L. Schroeder, Jr. Memorial Highway.' Funding for signs must come from non-state sources. Rep. Jacob and I were the chief authors of this bill.

24. Tow trucks permitted to use variable message signs

A tow truck may display a variable message sign (e.g., 'Keep Left,' 'Stalled Vehicle on Shoulder') while performing emergency services, subject to Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices standards.

25. New law standardizes firearm surrender in domestic violence cases

Creates a standard firearm transfer process for domestic violence offenders ordered to surrender firearms. Transfers must be made to local law enforcement, a licensed dealer, or a third party at a law enforcement agency. Previously, a judge could order this, but enforcement was inconsistent.

26. Improving prison inmates' access to treatment programs

Clarifies that the Dept. of Corrections must provide substance use disorder programs for both adults and juveniles, meeting minimum statutory standards. Authorizes the department to operate mental health units.

27. Strengthening prevention by withholding payments to suspected fraudsters

Removes the 60-day cap and expiration

date on agencies' ability to withhold payments to suspected fraudsters. Lowers the evidentiary standard to a credible allegation of fraud.

Miscellaneous

28. Changes to the Minnesota Human Rights Act for disability accommodations

Adds language specifying that failure to engage in an interactive process to determine a reasonable disability accommodation can be classified as an unfair discriminatory practice under the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

29. A constitutional amendment could increase permanent school fund aid

State voters will be asked at the 2026 general election to allow annual distributions from the permanent school fund endowment to increase up to 4.5% of the fund's three-year average.

Housing and Property

30. Minnesota Common Interest Ownership Act

Changes to the Minnesota Common Interest Ownership Act governing condo and homeowners' associations, modifying exemptions, board composition, and liability insurance provisions.

31. Changes to renter and landlord law

Allows landlords to estimate final utility bills based on the previous cycle. Requires landlords to provide payment options, clarifies online payment rules, and updates eviction procedures.

32. Gopher State One Call must use electronic notice to excavators

Gopher State One Call, the central notification center for underground utilities, must notify excavators electronically before any digging begins. Modernizes the notification system established in 1988.

Environment

33. Reimbursement fund established to replace outdated underground piping

A portion of the Petroleum Tank Release Cleanup Fund (Petrofund) can reimburse owners of underground petroleum storage tanks for 50% of the cost of replacing single-walled steel piping with compliant equipment.

34. Tribal governments added to wastewater pollutant discharge notification

Adds downstream tribal governments as required recipients of discharge notifications when a publicly or privately owned treatment works or domestic sewer system releases pollutants that may affect their water.

Health

35. Regions Hospital gets exception to hospital construction moratorium

Regions Hospital, a Level 1 trauma center in St. Paul, may proceed with a construction project adding 85 beds, as an exception to the state's hospital construction moratorium.

Veterans

36. Veterans education program consolidation

Consolidates statutory references to veterans' higher education programs, simplifying benefit applications. Closes a rarely-used \$750 educational benefit but preserves it for POW/MIA/deceased servicemember dependents.

37. State Dept. of Veterans Affairs resources may support veterans' groups with staff time and resources.

(continued on page 15)



(continued from page 14)

Provides clear statutory authority for the Dept. of Veterans Affairs to use staff time and non-monetary resources to support groups addressing veterans' food insecurity, homelessness, and suicide prevention.

What's next for Senate District 20

When I decided to run for the Minnesota Senate in 2022, after redistricting, it followed more than a decade representing southeastern Minnesota in the House. Over that time, I've watched the region develop in many ways.

Senate District 20 is not one-size-fits-all. It stretches across river towns, farm country, and places feeling the pull of Rochester and the

Twin Cities, so needs vary from one county line to the next.

Wabasha County is shaped by the Mississippi River, agriculture, and small-town concerns like roads, local businesses, and keeping communities viable for the next generation. Winona County's district areas are more spread out and focus on farming, transportation, and the basics that keep rural life functioning. District 20 includes one precinct in Dakota County — the small town of Miesville — which more closely resembles the rest of District 20 than the larger suburban cities in Dakota County.

Goodhue County mixes deep farm country,

river communities, and growing towns, so it faces rural needs and development pressure simultaneously. Cannon Falls and Red Wing are the district's largest cities, and both struggle to meet rising service demands within constrained budgets. Red Wing benefits from utility payments tied to the Prairie Island Nuclear Reactor and a strong relationship with the Prairie Island Indian Community; when the reactor is eventually retired, that revenue will end, and Red Wing must manage that transition without overburdening taxpayers.

The Olmsted County portion is different because it is closer to Rochester, with related job, traffic, and service demands. I was disappointed to see the "good neighbor" sales-tax sharing expire last year. Rochester-centric development won't serve the small towns to the north and east.

Jobs and the economy

A major issue will be keeping young adults and working families in the district. Communities need good-paying jobs, and the statewide business climate will affect that. The border with Wisconsin and proximity to Iowa make Minnesota competitive only if our policies don't saddle employers with high taxes and heavy compliance costs. Agriculture will remain central, but farm families need stable markets and predictable regulations to manage rising input costs.

Infrastructure

Transportation and basic infrastructure will stay important because District 20 includes commuter areas and rural townships with aging roads, bridges, and water systems. Local governments depend on state aid and flexible funding to help keep property taxes down. Even small shifts in state policy can have outsized effects on local budgets. Many drinking-water and sewer systems are aging or need expensive updates. I'm proud to have helped start the North Zumbro sewer project, which will serve Zumbrota, Pine Island, Goodhue, Wanamingo, and the new Elk Run development for the Prairie Island Indian Community. Projects like this share costs and create efficiencies that our capital investment policies should reward, not fund bridges to nowhere or non-profit headquarters.

Data Centers have become a hot-button issue in the district. These developments and the utility construction that accompany them present an opportunity for our communities, but they also entail significant costs. That is why I co-authored a bipartisan bill to stop elected officials from signing non-disclosure agreements that keep their citizens in the dark about the details of these projects. Community leaders will always be attracted to development and the prospect of the tax revenue it brings, while hoping to limit taxes on residents. But these are choices that need to be made in an open and transparent way.

Health care and aging

Health care is another pressure point, especially where clinics, hospitals, and nursing homes struggle with staffing and financing as the population ages. Emergency response capacity will need to expand as distances grow and the number of providers shrinks. When I met with an FFA group last session, I was encouraged to hear from young people training to be first responders for their communities. The need will be critical but there is hope for the future if these young people step up to support their communities.

I spent much of my career in the House and Senate focused on holding down state spending and rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse. These are perennial priorities that must remain central for the next legislature, alongside these new and ongoing challenges ahead.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Downpayment Assistance Program application period open

The Minnesota Down Payment Assistance Grant offers up to \$20,000 in assistance to qualified farmers to purchase their first farm. The MDA will award these grants using a random lottery process with priority given to eligible applicants as described below. Applications are open from July 6, 2026 until 11:59 p.m. Central Time (CT) on August 31, 2026. For more information, go to the program website.

To sign up for MDA Grant Alerts for information about this grant and others, visit the email updates page. Note: this is a two-step process, and you must opt in for grant emails on a second page after submitting your email address.

Well water testing clinics at County Fairs this summer

Residents in Southeast Minnesota can get their private well water tested for free at upcoming nitrate testing clinics hosted by area Soil and Water Conservation Districts in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

The Minnesota Department of Health recommends annual testing for nitrate and other contaminants in all private wells. Municipal water supplies are tested and treated regularly, but private well owners are responsible for their own water safety.

Testing your water is confidential. Just follow these steps:

Run your cold tap for 5–10 minutes
Collect at least one cup of water in a clean, sealed container

Keep the sample cool
Bring it to the clinic during open hours
These events are paid for with state sales tax dollars through Minnesota's Clean Water Fund. Clinic attendees receive on-the-spot results and personalized guidance at no cost.

Olmsted County Fair-Graham Park

July 30, noon-3 p.m.
July 31, 3 p.m.-6 p.m.
1403 3rd Ave SE
Rochester

Goodhue County Fair

Aug. 13, noon-4 p.m.
Aug. 14, noon-4 p.m.
44279 County 6 Blvd
Zumbrota

Data Center Controversy Reaches Mazeppa

(continued from page 1)

The news of a proposed Data Center near Pine Island and the issues faced with the increased water and electrical consumption to the residents has created a lot of concern among the citizens.

By addressing a land use the city can control what type of industry is able to locate in the community. Look for more news after the August meeting.

TRAGIC EFFECTS OF PROPOSED DATA CENTER

WHAT ARE LOCAL CONCERNS?

- Continuous low frequency noise with many negative effects.
- Google representative stated there will be 1,500,000 gallons of water to fill the closed loop cooling system, while stating data center will be a "No Water" cooling system.
- Potential well impacts from Google's water use that residents have to pay for.

WHAT HAPPENS 0-5 MILES OUT? (LOCAL IMPACT)

- Increased high tension high voltage power lines coming in from many other locations.
- Potential loss of your property value.
- High potential increase of gas and electricity costs being passed on to local residence.

WHAT HAPPENS DOWN THE ROAD (15+ MILES)? (REGIONAL EFFECTS)

- Water pollution potential of the Zumbro river. All the way through Rochester MN.
- Little long-term job creation.
- Minnesota courts, agree that Google, Ryan Construction Co, and the City Of Pine Island have not complied with Minnesota law.

★ WE NEED ANSWERS ★

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK @ STOP THE PINE ISLAND DATA CENTER PAGE

ATTEND THE MEETING:

Sunday, July 19th at 4:00 PM
at Nicole Mills Photography,
located at 520 S Main St,
Pine Island, MN 55963.

Printed locally for community awareness.

Regular Meeting of the Mazeppa City Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 8, 2026

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present: Mayor Chris Hagfors. Council Persons: Mike Hammes, Dustin Wiebusch, Crystal Hughley, and Steve Liffrig.

Others Present: City Engineer Matt Mohs from Bolton & Menk, Wabasha County Deputy Sherriff Joe Schneider, Wabasha County Sherriff Jason Bade, MLS Manager Todd Ihrke, Peter Grimsrud, Mazeppa Daze President Dan Nelson, Fire Chief Bryce Dohrn, Public Works Director Scott Elingson, Jeremy Tri, Deputy Clerk-Erica Young, and City Administrator-Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

Present via electronic meeting: City Attorney Luke Lamprecht.

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

Motion by Hughley, second by Liffrig to approve the regular Council meeting minutes

for June 10th, 2026. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Wabasha County Sherriff Jason Bade presented the ICR for the month of June.

Public Works Director Scott Elingson presented the Public Works report.

Fire Chief Bryce Dohrn presented the Fire Department report.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to approve new volunteer firemen; Nicole Hanf, Brandon Hanf, and Mitchell Dahl. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

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

City Engineer Matt Mohs presented the Engineering update.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to approve WWTP Contractor Pay Application #20 for \$367,319.20. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Liffrig to approve Street Utility Contractor Pay Application #8 for \$170,612.24. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hughley to approve WWTP Change Order #5 for

\$50,315.68. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Administrator-Clerk Karl Nahrgang presented the City Hall report.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch to approve building permits 26-18-0014, 26-18-0011, 26-18-0006, 26-18-0015, 26-18-0013, and 26-18-0016. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Jeremy Tri requested the council consider adopting a moratorium on data centers within city limits.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hughley to have an ordinance drafted pertaining to the temporary moratorium on data centers in the city of Mazeppa. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2026-29 approving issuance and delivery of an allonge for the MWRA/Frandsen Engineering Loan. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2026-28 granting temporary On-Sale offsite Liquor License for MMLS at the MCC. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hughley to approve Resolution 2026-30 granting temporary Gambling Permit for Mazeppa Fire Relief. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch to approve Resolution 2026-31 accepting donation from Mazeppa Lion’s Club Gambling Fund for costs associated with Mazeppa Daze. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch to approve Resolution 2026-32 accepting donation from Mazeppa Lion’s Club for costs associated with Mazeppa Daze. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch to approve Resolution 2026-34 adjusting city employee Dan Nelson’s pay rate. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Deputy Clerk

Zumbro Falls City Council Minutes - May 13, 2026

The Zumbro Falls City Council met on Wednesday, May 13th, at City Hall. Council member Bob Benson was absent. The meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 6PM.

Clerk read the minutes from the May meeting which were accepted as read with a motion from Anderson, seconded Winters, all in favor, carried. Treasures report followed with acceptance by a motion from Winters, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Fire Chief Conrad informed the council that he is working to install new software at the City Hall/ Fire Station to display area mapping and response details which will improve response time and efficiency. Additionally, ZFFD is actively looking to purchase new extraction/vehicle cutting equipment in the near future.

Sam Meyers was present and was granted approval for the Zumbro Valley Snowmobile Association to again host their annual raffle on Feb. 2nd 2027.

The Council passed a motion to move forward with road construction on Water St. which will repave from the post office to the entrance to the ball field. Construction will include cement work to direct water and avoid future potholes due to temperature changes. This project will take place mid to late summer. Motion was made by Winter, second Anderson, all in favor, carried.

The city agrees to the new FEMA floodplain ordinance effective 7/21/2026 and which will be known as Resolution 26-01 with a motion from Winters, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

August 4th, 2026 will be National Night Out and the Lioness Club will again be hosting a gathering at Cardinal Park with activities, food/drink and prizes.

At 7PM the motion was made to adjourn the meeting and the clerk to pay bills presented from council member Anderson, seconded Winters, all in favor, carried. The next meeting will be held June 10th, 2026.

Submitted by,
Blake Hanson, Clerk

To the Editot:

May freedom ring loud and clear.

This July we celebrate two hundred and fifty years of Freedom! During this month we don’t just light sparklers. But rather across our state we are lighting that old flame of Freedom! Liberty! and Patriotism! Here in Minnesota, we know the value of hard work and aren't afraid to show up to lend a helping hand. We continue to live out the American Spirit. Our country was made a reality by those who dared to dream, work and sacrifice for a better tomorrow, and that’s how we keep our State and Country free.

It’s time to take our country back. Back for faith, family, freedom, hard work, and honest conversation. Back to the simple truth that our rights come from God, not from government; and that We the People are responsible for what we leave to the next generation.

So let’s stand tall, fly our flag, speak with courage and teach our kids to love this land. We can't do everything but we all must do something! Our Country's future is in our hands. It only takes a spark of courage in truth to ignite a wave of patriotism! Let’s live out the American Spirit!

God bless Minnesota. God bless the United States of America. And may freedom ring today and every day!

Sara Bertschinger
Pine Island MN

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



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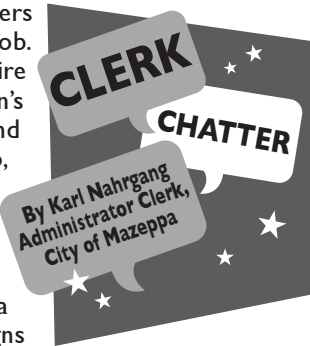
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Another Mazeppa Daze has passed. The volunteers who make all the events happen do a great job. Members of the Mazeppa Daze Committee, Fire Department, American Legion and Honor Guard, Lion’s Club, and other organizations put in many hours and late nights to pull the celebration together. So, THANK YOU to all of those who put it together for all of us to enjoy. The City had very few complaints about the event, so a thanks to all of those who attended for being respectful of others. Although, to the few that did not act in such a manner, what is the fascination of stealing STOP signs during a big event. Its unsafe and expensive. Ther are plenty of other souvenirs that you can purchase commemorating the celebration.

Last, we see some children that are operating quads, golf carts, and off-road motorcycles on the streets of the community. Children are not allowed to be in operation of a motorized vehicle on City streets. I know that law enforcement has communicated with some of them and with their parents to keep them off the streets and to stay safe.



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