



Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger™

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OCTOBER 8, 2026

Volume 20 • Issue 10

Announcements

• **MAHS** hosting their Fall Supper on Thursday, October 29th at the Mazeppa Community Center from 5-7 pm. Serving scallop potatoes & ham, cole slaw, corn, dessert & beverages. Free Will donation. **COME HUNGRY & LEAVE HAPPY!** Carry outs available call Helen 507-250-6021.

• **It's 4-H Week!** We decorated at Lion's Park in Mazeppa. Our first meeting of the new 4-H year is this coming Sunday, October 11th, 5pm at the Mazeppa Community Center! We welcome anyone interested in joining our club to attend, Kindergarten through 13th grade! *(continued on page 2)*



Pondy Restaurant Closes

Sunday October 4th the Pondy Restaurant and Bar closed for good. Steve Overton and his son Riley, have owned and operated the business for the past eight years. Overton has worked in the restaurant business his whole life and also owns a general contracting business in Rochester. *(continued on page 8)*

Zumbro Falls Fire Department Open House October 10

Courtesy of Zumbro Falls Fire Dept.

**FREE FAMILY
PHOTOS + FIRE
SAFETY DAY!**

October 10th from 9:00 AM – Noon at Zumbro Falls Fire Department. *(continued on page 4)*



Things to do this fall



Albers Acres is officially OPEN for the 2026 season. Come out and start your fall, check out our new pumpkin building we are excited to see you. We have a nice selection available. Open dawn to dusk everyday now until Oct 31st. 60647 413th Ave Zumbro Falls MN 55991. Pumpkin prices \$4-10.

(continued on page 10)

MAZEPPA MONSTER DASH 2026



The Mazeppa Community Trail is hosting its second annual Mazeppa Monster Dash! The Halloween 5K fun walk/run will be held on Sunday, October 11th at the Herb Vik Athletic field in Mazeppa.

Several new events are planned for this year including a new and improved route! Additionally, there will be face painting, drinks, food, pumpkin decorating, a costume contest and games for the everyone.

(continued on page 9)

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Announcements

• **Stordahl Lutheran and Lands Lutheran Churches have teamed up to bring back the Klubb Supper on Oct. 17th at Lands Lutheran Church, 16640 Highway 60 Blvd, Zumbrota.** The supper will be held from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm. The price is \$20 per meal for adults, \$5 for under age 12 and individual Klubb can be purchased \$5 for 3 Klubb. Dine in or take out.

• **Open House History gathering for Zumbro Falls November 8, 2026 2 to 5pm at Zumbro Falls city hall.** Bring your photos of Zumbro Falls to be scanned and preserved for future generations. Audio and video recording will also be available to record more history/stories. Light refreshments provided. Sponsored by Zumbro Falls Lioness & Lions.

• **Wabasha County Social Services Drop In:** Wabasha County Social Services offers Drop-in availability for current clients and members of the public seeking information about public assistance programs at Plainview Public Library twice a month. Stop in and speak with an eligibility worker. No appointment necessary. Available at the Library Office Booth on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 2:00 - 6:00pm.

• **Hiawatha Valley Genealogy Society meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at the Goodhue County History Center, 1166 Oak St. Red Wing. Your first meeting is complimentary! Oct 13 Shirleen Hoffman, PGDip, QG will present: "Expand your family history toolbox with no cost Minnesota genealogy resources."**

• **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.

• **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?
Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com*

A New Thing



By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

I like new things- the smell of a new car or wearing new clothes, (that used to be the highlight of the school year- wearing the new school clothes that my mom had bought for me. It was always kind of frustrating that the first days of school were often very warm and the new clothes were more for the fall. I'd have to wait until it got cooler or looked really silly. But it is fun to get new things.

And who doesn't like a new start? When you have messed up and desire a start over. When you are young and mess up you are reminded that you can do a re-do. Practice makes perfect, it's ok to try, try again. You and I appreciate it that we can get re-do's in our career, in our personal lives, in our faith journey. When we sin, when we make mistakes, when we find ourselves in the throes of addiction- we can find forgiveness and a second chance. God is doing a new thing.

God is great at doing "new things. Just look at creation- look at the very beginning of time: He made a world out of nothing- he made lakes, rivers, plants, animals, birds, fish- human beings- all were new, all were unique, all began at His command. And ever since He created this world and you and me; He continues to create new things.

Isaiah was a preacher and prophet to the smaller kingdom of Judah. Isaiah prophesied during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah (Isaiah 1:1). This period was marked by political instability, social injustice, and spiritual decline. Amidst these challenges, Isaiah's message of deliverance offered hope and a call to return to God.

The message of hope and a call to return to God remain applicable to us today. "I am the Lord, your Holy One, Israel's Creator and King. 16 I am the Lord, who opened a way through the waters, making a dry path through the sea. 17 I called forth the mighty army of Egypt with all its chariots and horses. I drew them beneath the waves, and they drowned, their lives snuffed out like a smoldering candlewick. "But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. 19 For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland." Isaiah 43:15-19.

God desires to bring you and I through the waters and out of our lives of sin and shame to a marvelous 'new life' in Christ. God has brought me and countless others out of the waters of sin and addiction to be renewed- to have Him create a 'new thing.' God wants to do a new thing in you. The 1st step to em-

bracing the new thing what God wants to do in your life is to:

1. Change your focus -- quit looking behind start looking head v.18 I love how the verse says, "But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do." Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. If you are continually looking behind you cannot see where you are going. If you are going to move on to new things that Christ has for you, you must learn that:

• You Cannot Depend Upon Past Victories to Sustain You forget the former things. The question isn't what has God done —the question must be:

• What is God doing in your life right now?
• What is it that you want Him to do in your life right now?

B. You Cannot Allow Your Past Failures to Possess You: do not dwell on the past. In the beginning you made a commitment to follow Jesus- stuff was going good- then you got tired, you find things to criticize about His church, about the Pastor, about His people. You quit going to church- too busy, you choose to put other things before your commitment to Him. You may not sacrifice a calf to Baal, but you turn in your walk with Christ, for a cheap imitation that promises far less in returns in the end.

God says, through the words of Isaiah- leave the past in the past- leave it all behind- you are to stay new. Begin fresh and go forward- don't look back. Turning back to your old life, romanticizing your old life will leave you back in the same pit you were in before. God wants to do a New Thing in you- don't settle for a cheap imitation.

For the people of Israel God was not condemning them for their past.

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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@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 mornings: 8:30a.m. Contemporary Worship Service & on Facebook; 9:30a.m. Sunday School; 10:30a.m. Traditional Worship Service & on Facebook
Wednesday Evenings: 6:15p.m. Confirmation; 6:15p.m. Worship & on Facebook; 7:00p.m. Adult Study

AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

Jesus, Name Above All Names

God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow. . . . — Philippians 2:9-10

There are a lot of big names out there: Zuckerberg, Apple, Xi, Trump, Oprah, AI. Does our world rise or fall with these names?

Or how about some names closer to home: Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, ALS, Down Syndrome? Or what about labels that society might apply to us: divorced, disabled, addicted, infertile, fired, foreclosed, forgotten, paroled? Do any of these have the power to make or break us?

No. Our reading today proclaims that no name, whether it carries princely power or brings us problems or roadblocks, is greater than Jesus — not even light years close.

None of those names went down low, "taking the very nature of a servant" and "becoming obedient to death" to raise us up. None of those died on a cross to give us new life.

Jesus is the only One whom God gave the name greater than any other name. He is the only One we should bow to. We can take him more seriously than any other name or label, for he himself is God, and he rules over all things.

This month, let's reflect on the various names of Jesus and what they show us about him. Each one reveals something marvelous and matchless about Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom every knee and power and threat will bow, "to the glory of God the Father." We are in his hands, and he puts all things in their place.

Thank you, Jesus, for all you have done to give us new life and faith in the power of your name. May we honor your name above every name. 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-Zumbro Falls Messenger

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A New Thing

(continued from page 2)

They could do nothing to change it. Instead, God was holding out the hand of hope. If you are going to get anywhere in your spiritual life you must understand:

- You Cannot Live on Yesterday's Faith. You and I cannot continue to live as a baby Christian. We are to mature in our faith and in our testimony. Our testimony of what God has done and what He is doing in our lives should continue to change as we do.

Lastly you need to embrace the new thing what God wants to do in your life. For that to happen you need to:

2. Clarify your focus -- discover what God wants for you. "Forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do. 19 For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?"

What do you see when you view your life? Do you see possibilities or problems? You can view your past and focus on your problems, or you can focus on God and what He wants to do in your life. You can focus on the way forward or the desert behind. You can find the streams or stay stuck in the desert. How do you want to live your life?

God is able to transform the desert areas of your life into fields of blessing and abundance. God can take a dried-up useless life and trans-form it into a life of purpose and grace.

3. Commit yourself to God's plan. God has set into motion a new direction and a new purpose for your life -- will you follow Him?

Will you trust Him? Become that new thing in His Hands- He's got you!

Kids Connection at South Troy Church



Dan Siem



Four helpers for filling food bags for Plainview, Elgin, Milville families. Front row: Reese Mulvihill and Cora Dohrn. Back row: Rose Zerby and Bristol Dohrn.



Making tool boxes

KIDS CONNECTION

**Every Wednesday
at 6:00-7:30 PM
at South Troy Church**
56817 Hwy. 63, Zumbro Falls
507-259-1442
Children 4 years old through
5th grade welcome.

Breakfast at Mazeppa Methodist Church

**Saturday, October 17
6:30a.m.-10:30a.m.**

*Pancakes, Eggs, Toast, Sausage
and Lots of Treats!*



Linda Kay Lemmerman

Linda Kay Lemmerman, 78, passed away on September 28, 2026 surrounded by family at the MCHS-Lake City Nursing Home after an eight-year battle with Parkinson's disease and other related complications. Linda was born on September 17, 1948 to Norman and Ann (Russell) Siewert of Lake City, MN.

Linda was baptized and confirmed at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lake City, Minnesota. She attended grade school at Oak Center Parochial School in Lake City and graduated from Lincoln High School in Lake City, Minnesota in 1966.

On February 18, 1967, she married Thomas (Tom) Lemmerman of Mazeppa, Minnesota. Together, they were blessed with four children. After Tom returned home from serving in the Army during the Vietnam War, they settled in Mazeppa, where they later took over the family farm and worked it together. Linda also worked off the farm at several local facilities, including Zumbrota Nursing Home and Pine Haven Nursing Home. She spent 25

years working as a paraprofessional at Zumbrota-Mazeppa Schools, where she formed many lasting connections with students, families, and colleagues.

She loved puzzles, baking, listening to music, tending to her garden, admiring flowers, and playing cards with friends, always enjoying the laughter and shenanigans that came along with it. Her faith and her church were very important parts of her life. Mazeppa Daze was one of her favorite traditions, and she proudly organized the Field of Flags for many years. Above all, she cherished time spent with her grandchildren and loved attending their sporting events. She was always their proudest supporter, cheering them on from the sidelines, and treasuring the many special memories they made together.

She will be missed by many, including her husband, Tom; four children, Todd Lemmerman, Cory Lemmerman, Jody (Tim) Wagner-True, and Jamie (Jay) Rechtzigel; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Jay (Mary) Siewert, and Thomas (Judy) Siewert.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Norman (Tubby) and Ann Siewert, and her sister, Cheryl (Chere).

A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, October 3, 2026 at 11 am at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lake City. Rev. Daniel Reich officiated. Visitation was held on Friday, October 2, 2026 from 4 to 7 pm at the Mahn Family Funeral Home, Anderson-Peterson Chapel in Lake City and at the church 1 hour before the service. On-Line Condolences may be placed at www.mahnfamily-funeralhome.com

Raymond "Ray" Howard Sands

Raymond "Ray" Howard Sands, 95, of Kenyon, died on Monday, September 14, 2026, at his home with his daughters by his side.

Ray Sands, a life-long musician, farmer, was born January 9, 1931, on his family's 200-acre dairy farm near Kenyon, Minnesota. He was a third-generation farmer and was one of four children

born to Charles "Charley" and Florence Sands.

Ray learned to milk cows by hand at the age of five and began playing the accordion at age nine. By the time he was 11, he was performing alongside his siblings in the family band. Ray attended country school and farmed alongside his father on the family farm, milking cows, raising turkeys and planting and harvesting crops in the field. He took over the farming operation after his father's passing, continuing the dairy herd until he retired from milking in 2009.

After graduating from Wanamingo High School in 1949, Ray was invited to play accordion with a municipal band in Zumbrota to help raise money for a new hospital. That experience helped lead to the formation of the Polka Dots, who went on to become a successful old-time polka band that toured throughout Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. In 1963, Ray was asked to lead the band and continued doing so until their final performance in August 2022.

On December 12, 1970, Ray was united in marriage to Susan (Fossum) Sands at Holden Lutheran Church. Together, they shared a life centered around family, music, farming, and their community. They had two daughters, Kristy and Heidi, who performed with them at numerous venues.

Ray performed with the band for more than seven decades, bringing the happiness of polka music to festivals, fairs, nursing homes, conventions, dance halls, and community celebrations. He recorded several albums and CDs with the Polka Dots and the Ray Sands Combo, including milestone recordings commemorating the band's 40th, 50th, 60th, and 70th anniversaries. He also helped make musical history when the Polka Dots became the first old-time band to record an LP with their signature song, "The Ping Pong Polka." Throughout his remarkable career, Ray performed internationally at polka festivals in Austria, Norway, Denmark and Sweden, appeared on nationally syndicated polka shows and was featured on Prairie Home Companion and a movie called "His Neighbor Phil." The band also played at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Southwest Polka Festival in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ray received numerous honors for his contributions to polka music and his community. In 2000, he was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. He was named

Kenyon's Rose Fest Parade Grand Marshal and Kenyon's Citizen of the Year in 2009, and in 2020, he was selected as Goodhue County Citizen of the Year.

Ray's greatest legacy was the joy he brought to others through his music. For more than 70 years, he rarely turned down a request to perform, continuing to share his talent with audiences of all ages. Whether playing for a crowded dance hall, a community celebration, or a nursing home gathering, Ray understood the simple power of music to bring people together and create lasting memories.

His dedication to music, family, farming, and his community made him a beloved figure whose influence will continue for generations. Ray will be remembered for a life filled with music, hard work, generosity, and a genuine love for the people around him.

He is survived by his daughters, Kristyn (and Matt) Jacobson of Kenyon, Heidi (and Mikkel) Gusenius of Minnetrista; grandchildren, Bryan and Colin Jacobson, Rylan and Marika Gusenius; brother-in-law, Robert Fossum and his nieces.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Susan Sands; parents, Charley and Florence Sands; brothers, Wilbur and Duane Sands, and his sister, Doris Nodland.

Visitation was at Michaelson Funeral Home, Kenyon on Friday, September 18, 2026, from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. Funeral services were held on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at 11:00 AM at Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Aspelund with a visitation starting at 10:00 AM. Interment was in the Emmanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Aspelund.

Zumbro Falls Fire Department Open House October 10

(continued from page 1)

Bring the family out for FREE family photos, enjoy a FREE lunch, and take some time to make sure your home is fire-ready.

- Fire safety awareness
- Get your fire extinguishers checked
- Get your smoke/fire alarms checked
- Free family photos
- Free lunch

The event is completely free, but any donations received will go directly back to the Zumbro Falls Fire Department.

Come grab a family photo, learn a little about fire safety, meet your local firefighters, and support the people who help keep our community safe!

ZUMBRO FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE SAFETY

Open House

COMMUNITY | EDUCATION | FAMILY | A SAFER TOMORROW



SERVING FOOD
ALL DONATIONS GO BACK TO ZFFD



FREE FAMILY CHRISTMAS CARD PHOTOS
IN THE PARK WITH A FEW STAGED AREAS



FREE FIRE EXTINGUISHER CHECK
CONDUCTED BY FIRE SAFETY USA



SATURDAY OCT 10TH



9AM - NOON



ZUMBRO FALLS CITY PARK

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EVENT SPONSORED BY




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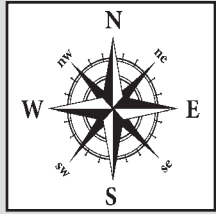
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Oh Canada



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 took a trip up the North Shore in September to spend a night in Thunder Bay, Canada. The scenic drive was spectacular as the leaves were turning color and the weather was perfect. One of the stops we made both coming and going was Betty's Pies at Two Harbors. Betty's started in 1958 and sells 700 pies a day during the peak summer rush. The food was great as well as the pies.

I have always considered Canada to be just like northern Minnesota. I used to go skiing in Thunder Bay in the 1970's. The people seem just like us, only friendlier. We stopped at Grand Marais and exchanged our Ben Franklin's for some Canadian currency. The exchange rate was \$133 Canadian for \$100 American. But the Canadian money is so colorful. There is a different color for each denomination. And it is a durable plastic coated material with a transparent reflective band in

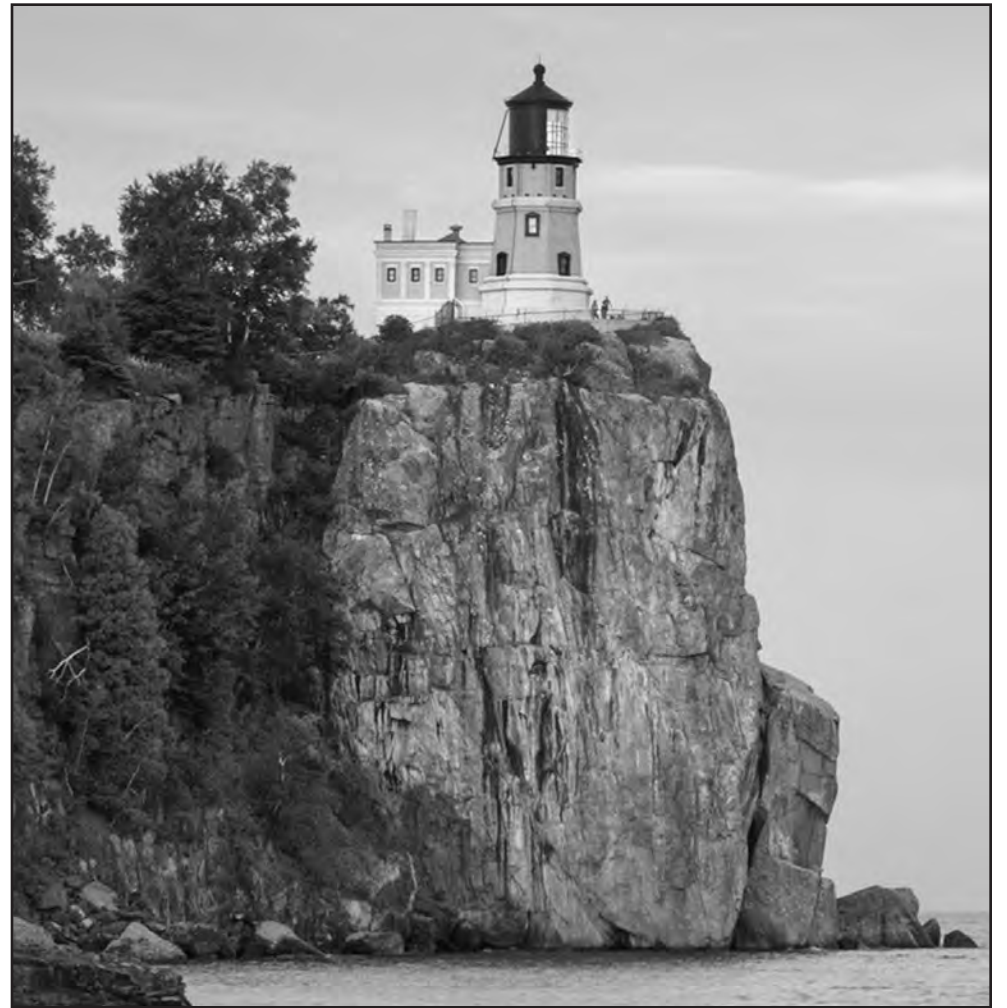
it. The one-dollar coin has a picture of a Loon and is called a "Loonie" The two-dollar coin has a picture of a Polar Bear and is called a "Toonie".

We had to stop at a Tim Hortons as soon as we arrived. We bought a box of "Timmies", which are the donut holes. Next was supper at a Pizza parlor where we enjoyed pizza and my wife was able to watch two hockey games at the same time on the tv monitors. We stopped at a grocery store where my wife bought "Shreddies". I thought they were Wheat Chex, but north of the border they are gourmet breakfast cereal. One is allowed to return to the states with up to \$200 in groceries and we put that rule to the test.

We stopped at Split Rock Lighthouse on the way home to tour the world's most famous lighthouse. There was a movie presentation about the reasons for building the lighthouse. In 1905 there were 29 ships wrecked on the lake and the State appropriated \$75,000 to build a lighthouse, 187' above the waterline to warn ships away from the rocky shores. The 1,000 watt lightbulb cast a beam that was visible 25 miles across the water. At the time there were no roads in the area and all materials and supplies were shipped in on boats. It was completed in 1910 and the road was built in 1924. Quite impressive to tour the lighthouse and see how the staff kept the beam shining across the waves every night to protect the big ships on Lake Superior.

It was quite sobering to realize the number of ships and sailors who were lost in storms on Lake Superior. Since 1816 over 240 ships have been sunk due to storms on the world's largest freshwater lake. The last one was on November 10, 1975 and was immortalized by Canadian Gordon Lightfoot's song "The Wreck of the Edmond Fitzgerald." The winds reached 60 mph with waves up to 35' high that fateful night.

The Edmond Fitzgerald was the largest ore boat on Superior when it was built in 1958. 729' long and carried 27,402 tons of iron ore mined in Minnesota and loaded at Silver Bay. The ore boat made 748 round trips to Detroit Michigan traveling over a million miles. A round trip took 5 days. The ship's hold could be loaded with taconite pellets in 4 1/2 hours. Unloading took fourteen hours. It could reach 16 mph even when fully loaded. The Edmond Fitzgerald had luxury staterooms which accommodated first class passengers who were guests of the shipping company.



There was no one but the 29 man crew on board on the final trip.

It was a 74 degree day and before leaving we took the hike down to the lake to admire the sight from the water's edge. My wife

couldn't resist taking a swim in Gitche Gume, an Ojibwe word for "big sea". Had to prove the world's most dangerous lake was no match for her.

A Minnesotan: Decorations



By RosaLin Alcoser

As the days get shorter, the nights longer, and the air gets colder fall start to bring in the end of the year. While some might be eager to skip over the fall months and go straight to the Christmas holiday season fall holds my favorite month of the year. Which is of course October, because I love Halloween.

Part of what I've always liked about Halloween— and most other holidays— is decorating. And yes, my Halloween and Fall decorations have been up since per season Football started. Because if my husband is going to be watching the Vikings play in August I get to have my leave garlands and skeleton out at the same time.

Decorations are a key part of Halloween. Because decorations are part of the magic that makes Halloween magical and in some cases terrifying.

When I was a child going out to trick-or-treat, after dark it was the decorations that separated the scary houses from the none scary houses. Since even a house decorated in a way that is terrifying after dark isn't too scary during the light of day. Most houses in the area where not the scary and where easily approachable in the dark. There was one house though that scared me enough that I ran away from it crying.

I don't remember what I was that year or how old I was. I do remember wearing a jacket so it was a typical Halloween in Minnesota. What I can remember is that the whole yard was decorated like a grave yard with skeleton hands sticking up out of the ground and colored lights leading up to the grange door. Where I was terrified out of my mind by a Zombie which I fled from abandoning any promise of candy. In reality was a teenager in costume, who did feel bad about scaring me so badly that he did give my sister and extra candy for me.

If I saw that same yard display now I would think it was cool, however, then I was terrified enough to flee the seen and temporarily halt my goal of obtaining candy. Because decorations are holidays matter and at Halloween the decorations separate the mundane from the magical and the down right terrifying.

Got a Great Local News Story?

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Email:

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WINE BINGO!

EVERY SATURDAY 12-2:30PM

Large groups are welcomed
with reservations for 8 or more.

507-753-3131
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4-H Youth Exhibit At 2026 Minnesota State Fair

Submitted by Aly Kloeckner and Amanda Gebhart, Goodhue County 4-H Extension Educators

The Minnesota State Fair was a success once again for our Goodhue County 4-H members. Goodhue County sent 163 youth to the state fair to participate in Livestock Shows, Livestock Judging Contests, General Projects, Arts In, Public Demonstrations, Chef for a Day and much more!

Throughout the year, 4-H youth select project areas that reflect personal areas of interest and pursue hands-on learning that is both self-directed and guided by adult volunteers. The results of their learning are exhibited at county fairs across the state. A collection of the best exhibits and livestock from each county fair is brought to present in the 4-H Building and barns at the Minnesota State Fair.

Education is integral in the “learn by doing” philosophy of 4-H. As part of the educational component, Minnesota 4-H requires every youth participating in the livestock encampment to take part in a livestock interview. Examples of the interview process include an online knowledge test, skill-a-thons, and personal interviews about their project area.

Along with interviews, all 4-H youth participating in livestock programming are required to complete the Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics (LQA&E) Training. Through this



Fine Arts, Mari Hanson



Clothing Constructed, Allison Lubahn



Clothing, Allison Lubahn

certification, youth are educated on biosecurity, educating the public on the role of livestock, and caring for their animal’s welfare.

Exhibiting project work and delivering public presentations at the state fair provides youth an opportunity to showcase their achievements and continue learning.

This year the Dairy Project had another great showing at the Minnesota 4-H Dairy Showcase and had 7 outstanding participants based on their dairy industry knowledge, 4-H dairy project involvement, along with state fair dairy show results. Congratulations to Ben Scheffler (Zumbrota), Garrett Pearson (Red Wing) and Hannah Gudknecht (Wanamingo). Additionally, Cora Foss (Kenyon), Grant Clemenson (Zumbrota), Gracie Pearson (Red Wing) and Clara Benrud (Goodhue) were named to the Dairy Showcase “Rising Star” Program. The Rising Star program honors youth who have completed 6th through 8th grades to encourage younger 4-H members to participate in the 4-H dairy showcase.

(continued on page 7)



Photography, Emerson Addington



Creative Writing, Faye Pfannkuch



State Fair Beef Kids: Back Row: Jacob Ryan, Carter Dicke, Finn Lodermeier, Bo Holst, Curtis Klindworth, Wyatt Finnesgard, Braylen DeFrang. Middle Row: Gabby Peters, Kendra Reed, Taylor Reed, Madelyn Wachholz, Natalie Thomforde, Hazel Volkmann, Jaysa O’Connor, Aubrey DeFrang. Front Row: Leighton Burfeind, Lance Peters, Jence Fitzgerald, Joseph Buck, Trevin Dicke, Carter Sivahop



General Livestock Team: Coach Maddie Hokanson, Trevin Dicke, Amelia Kispert, Jeffrey Jenson, Kendra Reed, Blake Stark, Leia Patterson, Haley Betcher, Brooke Betcher, Avery Stark, Abby Dicke, Coach Laurel Jacobson, Coach Josie Jenson

4-H Youth Exhibit At 2026 Minnesota State Fair

(continued from page 6)

Goodhue County was fortunate to have 3 youth participate in the State Fair Purple Ribbon Auction this year. Gabby Peters (Zumbrota) with her dairy steer, Logan Dicke (Goodhue) with his swine and Colby Dohrn (Zumbrota) with a sheep.

The General Livestock Judging Team members included: Brooke Betcher (Mazeppa), Haley Betcher (Mazeppa), Amelia Kispert (Kenyon), Abby Dicke (Goodhue), Trevin Dicke (Goodhue), Jeffrey Jenson (Welch), Kendra Neeser (Red Wing), Leia Patterson (Kenyon), Avery Stark (Cannon Falls), and Blake Stark (Cannon Falls). The intermediate team places second, and the senior team placed 5th!

The Dairy Judging team members included: Clara Benrud (Goodhue), Macy Chamberlain

(Zumbrota), Grant Clemenson (Zumbrota), Troy Clemenson (Zumbrota), Cora Foss (Kenyon), Hanna Gudknecht (Wanamingo), Lily Hovel (Cannon Falls) Garrett Pearson (Red Wing), Gracie Pearson (Red Wing), Ben Scheffler (Zumbrota), Liesl Veiseth (Zumbrota). The combined team with Olmsted County advanced to the National 4-H Contest at the All American Dairy Show in Harrisburg Pennsylvania.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the Parents, Chaperones, Volunteers, and Mentors who help our 4-H youth succeed in all that they do! We would not have the successes we have achieved without all of you.

Congratulations to all the Goodhue County youth who participated in 4-H at the 2026 Minnesota State Fair!

With more than 175 screened adult volunteers, 700+ 4-H members, and 18 4-H clubs across the county, Goodhue County is ranked one of the largest 4-H programs in Minnesota. To find out more information about 4-H, or to locate a 4-H club in your area, please visit the 4-H website at extension.umn.edu/local/goodhue, or contact the Goodhue County 4-H Staff, at the Goodhue County Extension Office at (651) 385-3100, schw1348@umn.edu or gebha162@umn.edu

More Minnesota State Fair results and photos can be found at www.4-H.umn.edu/fair-results.



Purple Ribbon Auction: L-R Goodhue County Purple Ribbon Fund Representative Derek Dicke, Gabby Peters, Colby Dohrn, Logan Dicke, Goodhue County Purple Ribbon Fund Representative Noah Erickson



Arts In: Back Row: Dan Carpenter, Rebekah Luhman, Jacklyn Tangen, Adult Director Collin Warren, Adult Director Lanny Reese, 3rd Row: Chelsea Tangen, Sylvia Hedeem, Annabelle Diercks, Lillian Tangen, Greyson Bartholomew, Clara Weckerling, Faye Pfannkuch, Miranda Koehler, Travis Geisinger, Rilynn Smith, Adult Director Cheyan Koehler. 2nd Row: Abigail Tipton, Ruby Smith, Arrowlyn Bartholomew, Rosie Cook, Evan Weckerling. Front row: Trenton Diercks, Ella Eggenberger



Poultry Kids: Carleen Weckerling, Reese Holz, William Ryan, Oliver Lee, Isaiah Kispert, Willow Whalen, Amalia Dicke, Amelia Kispert, Ethan Weckerling

Goodhue-Olmsted Dairy Judging Team Competes at All American Dairy Show



Harrisburg Team, L-R, Troy Clemenson (Zumbrota), Liesl Veiseth (Zumbrota), Anna Rott (Elgin), Ross Simpson (Pine Island)

Submitted by Aly Kloeckner and Amanda Gebhart, Goodhue County 4-H Extension Educators

The Goodhue-Olmsted Dairy Judging team was awarded the opportunity to represent Minnesota 4-H at the All American Dairy Show in Harrisburg Pennsylvania after placing well at the Minnesota State 4-H Contest. The contest was held on Sunday, September 13th. The team was made up of Goodhue County team members Troy Clemenson and Liesl Veiseth (both of Zumbrota) and Anna Rott (Elgin) and Ross Simpson (Pine Island) of Olmsted County. Overall the team placed in the top 5 for several breed divisions - 5th in Guernsey, 4th in Holstein and 3rd in Jersey and this earned them an 8th overall team placing. Congratulations to each of these participants!

Farm Girl Chatter

Fall Is Around the Corner... and So Is the Hay

By McKell Lemmerman

Well folks, it's that time of year again. Fall is creeping around the corner, which means harvest is coming, cattle work is picking up,

and before we know it, we'll be wondering where the heck summer went.

Normally, this is when farmers start getting ready for harvest and thinking about the long winter ahead. But this year, Mother Nature apparently decided to turn the faucet off.

The pastures are starting to look more like the African safari. Grass is drying up, growth is slowing down, and the cattle and other livestock are getting hungrier after each bite.

This means now that some livestock producers are being pushed into feeding hay much earlier than normal. Those bales that



My oldest cow “starving” for a sweet corn cob, and she did in fact eat it in pretty much one gulp! Haha

were supposed to sit perfectly stacked in the shed until winter are getting rolled out sooner than planned.

Farmers have enough on their plates already.

Soon the combines will be rolling, trucks will be hauling, and now somebody has to remember to feed hay too. It's a wonderful time

of year when the days get shorter but somehow the to-do list gets longer.

For now, we'll keep watching the sky, praying for rain, and counting the hay bales.

Around here, we may not be able to control the weather, but we'll sure find a way to work around it.

Pondy Restaurant Closes

(continued from page 1)

Increasing costs were given as the reasons for the decision to close as expenses have increased while business has declined. The Pondy had a staff of five employees, which was half of the number during the past years when business was good. Winter hours have not been profitable as lack of snow has stopped the snowmobile traffic which was previously a mainstay for business during the cold months. He also credited ASCAP fees for performing bands as becoming a liability for live music venues.

Overton does not rule out opening another restaurant in the Rochester area in the near future.

OPEN HOUSE

History Gathering

FOR ZUMBRO FALLS

Nov 8 • 2-5p

Zumbro Falls City Hall

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ZUMBRO FALLS EVENTS

Event	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	INFO
ZF Fire Safety Open House	Oct 10 th 9a-Noon	ZF Fire Hall	Get fire safety info and get fire extinguishers See ZUMBRO FALLS FIRE DEPT on FACEBOOK for details checked.
Christmas Card Photos-FREE	Oct 10 th 9a-Noon	ZF Fire Hall	During the ZFFD Open House get free family pics done for your x-mas card. Different back drops Food will be served and all donations will go to ZFFD See ZUMBRO FALLS FIRE DEPT on FACEBOOK for details
Gun Bingo	Oct 17 th 1p	BuckWild	See BUCKWILD on FACEBOOK for more info
Canvas and Cocktails	Oct. 24 1-4p	Neptune	Painting and drinks Signup before required \$25 See NEPTUNE on FACEBOOK for more info
ZF Lioness Pumpkin Carving Contest	Deadline Oct 30 8p	ZF Lioness Club	Carve a pumpkin. Snap and Tag a pic for chance to win prizes. All ages. See ZUMBRO FALLS LIONESS on FACEBOOK for flyer.
ZFFD Halloween Open House	Oct 31 5p-8p	ZF Fire Hall	Hot Dogs, chips and candy provided at Fire Hall and TRUNK OR TREAT across from Fire Hall. All are welcome to set up "TRUNK" for kids.
Halloween Costume Party	Oct 31 st 8p-close	Buckwild	See BUCKWILD on FACEBOOK for more info
Halloween Costume Party	Oct 31	Neptune	Judging at 9p See NEPTUNE on FACEBOOK for more info
Open House History Gathering Event	Nov 8 2-5pm	Zumbro Falls City Hall	Bring your pictures of Zumbro Falls to preserve history. They will be scanned and given back to owner at event. See ZUMBRO FALLS LIONESS on FACEBOOK for flyer
Sip & Shop	Nov 14 th 11am	Buckwild	ZF Lioness will provide Baked Goods! See BUCKWILD on FACEBOOK for more info
Purse Bingo	Nov 21 11am	Buckwild	See BUCKWILD on FACEBOOK for more info
Pheasant and Tree Ordering	December meeting deadline to attend for pheasants Feb meeting deadline for trees	Attend a Sportsman Monthly Meeting at ZF Sportsman Park to order	See ZUMBRO FALLS SPORTSMANS CLUB on FACEBOOK for upcoming events
Vikings Games	Viking season	Neptune	Drink specials and "catch the football" See NEPTUNE on FACEBOOK for more info
Vikings Games	Viking season	Buck Wild	Road to the Superbowl. Win tickets. Drink Specials See BUCKWILD 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
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	Everyone welcome See ZUMBRO FALLS SPORTSMANS CLUB on FACEBOOK for upcoming events
All Events			Check ZUMBRO FALLS, MINNESOTA on FACEBOOK or Website: zumbrofallsmn.org

Mazeppa
Historical Society
Fundraiser



Drop-off bin at the
Mazeppa Community Center
parking lot.
THANK YOU for donating!



2nd Annual
Mazeppa
Monster Dash
(continued from page 1)

Several local vendors are participating in the event this year and Halloween Bingo has been added to the list of events, sure to be fun.
What a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon with family and friends.
Registration is currently open. The cost is \$30 per participant. Participants registering

on the day of the race are welcome.
The days events will begin at 1:00 with check-in, the walk/run starts at 2:00 and other family fun activities will start immediately after the 5K. The event will end at 5PM or until supplies run out.
To register you can find us at the website listed below or by scanning the QR code below which will take you directly to the electronic form. Checks can be mailed or dropped off at Mazeppa City Hall.
[Http://Mazeppatrailconnections.com](http://Mazeppatrailconnections.com)



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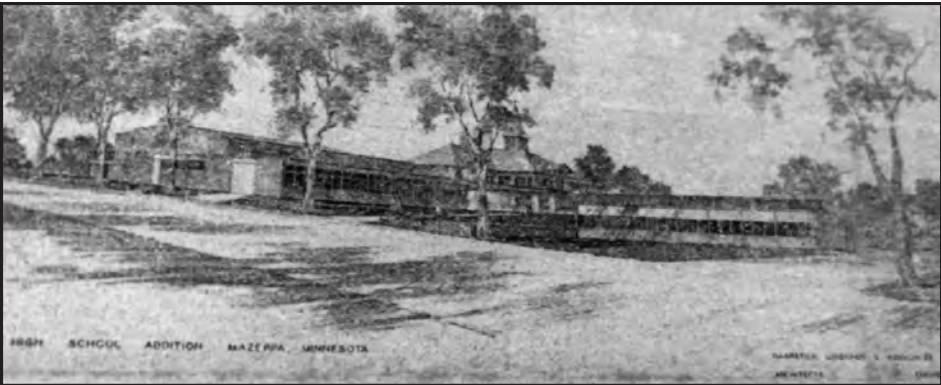
Historical Happenings

Compiled by
Helen Reiland

THE MAZEPPA JOURNAL,
Editor and Publisher: Barbara and Reider Tommeraas
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1956
School Mass Meeting Next Monday Evening; Bond Vote Thursday, November 29

This is the last in a series of articles concerning the \$350,000 special school bond election to be vote upon Nov. 29 by Joint Independent School District No 141-150 of Goodhue, Wabasha and Olmsted Counties, Mazeppa.
The bond consultants, Peterson and Popovich, of St. Paul, assisting the board of education, state that the bond issue for the Mazeppa school district is within the ability of the school district to finance and the district to carry.

“Our analysis of the school district,” they said, “indicates that it compares favorably with other school districts of its type in Minnesota and that the proposed issue is a feasible one and within the ability of the school district to finance.”
NINE QUESTIONS WERE ASKED & ANSWERED- COME TO MUSEUM & READ ALL ABOUT.



The above photo is an architect's sketch of proposed new Mazeppa school which will be voted on November 29. New classrooms are shown at lower right with old addition in background.
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.

Parents View Special Departments



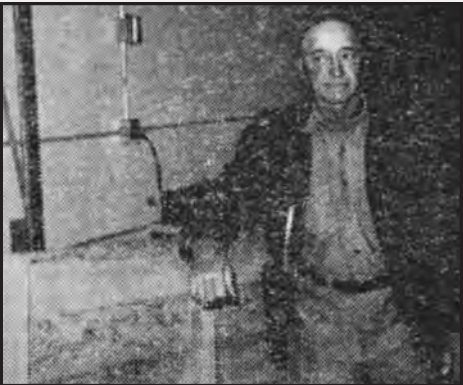
Miss Mary Eppler, shows a Thanksgiving centerpiece featuring a bread-dough cornucopia and fruit to an interested spectator, Mrs. G. A. Gahler, in a kitchen of the department, at an open house last Thursday evening.



Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Schmitt are looking over the second kitchen provided for the students. A sewing room and office-library complete the department, located in the former Susan Arendt house.



In the beautifully-equipped agriculture-shop building, Gerald Halvorson, instructor, stands in the lab where students learn to test soil, milk and seeds.



Jack Siems examines a farm trailer student is building. This department is located in the Munger building on Main Street. An open house also was held last Wednesday night for parents, featuring a panel discussion. Bad weather cut down attendance both evenings.

Things to do this fall



(continued from page 1)
Specialty pumpkins \$6; Warty pumpkins \$5; Large White and yellow \$5; All Squash \$2 each or 3/\$5; All mini's and small gourds \$.50-\$2.00; Large Fancy Gourds \$4; All Mums \$15; Straw bales \$8; Corn Maze \$3 each or \$15 max per family.

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MN HOUSE 20B

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* Prepared and paid for by the Sara Bertschinger for House Committee, 49685 County 55 Blvd., Pine Island MN 55963

King's Path Academy Opens in Zumbrota

Over 10 years ago, Rachel See had a vision from the Lord showing her that she would one day start a school and ministry for families, bringing in the wisdom of older generations and the younger blessing the older generations. It would consist of male and female role models who love Jesus and can come alongside families of all different backgrounds and meet all different needs in the community, displaying Christ's love.

She held that in her heart and prayed for years about it, waiting on the Lord's timing to see it come to fruition.

At the time, she was running a humble daycare in her home after quitting her career as a nurse to raise her daughter and work with children. When her oldest daughter hit kindergarten age in 2018, Chanou and Rachel felt called to homeschool to provide a Christ centered and academically excellent education to their children. When the pandemic started in 2020, some of her daycare families needed educational support due to the uncertainty of the illness and the schools' schedule while parents continued to work. Rachel offered daycare services while their children studied

alongside hers and offered the consistency and support that these families needed. This was the beginning of her microschool journey, which was an unfamiliar term to her at the time. After this, more families in her neighborhood and community began expressing the same desire for their children after they witnessed the academic and emotional progress in other children in Chanou's and her care. The microschool in her home grew to 15 children, in which they felt called to find a larger space outside of their home to give more families the opportunity to homeschool, build confidence in children, build up their faith, guide and support parents, and provide individualized instruction to children.

In 2022, Meghan Hewitt (Pine Island) and Rachel See (Rochester) crossed paths by recommendation through the curriculum company they were both using, My Father's World. They just happened to be on the same year in the family learning cycle as well, which starts over every 5 years. After a few coffee dates and many phone calls, the two became friends. Shortly after Rachel met her, Meghan also started a microschool in Pine Island. They both had a passion for starting and growing their microschools and providing an excellent and unique hands-on learning experience for children, allowing them to develop a lifelong love of learning. One day, Rachel felt the Lord telling her to call Meghan and ask her if she would consider

starting a larger microschool in Rochester together so they could reach more people. Meghan had just had a thought the day prior, nudging her to call Rachel and ask her the same thing! The two of them quickly realized it was the Lord that was bringing them together in this endeavor.

Soon, Rachel felt she needed to call Pastor Aaron at Bear Creek Christian Church. The next day, he told her he had been praying to partner with a Christian school to use their church space during the week. Meghan and Rachel were there for the 2025-2026 school year together. 36 students attended and they served children from kindergarten through 12th grade. "Bear Creek was wonderful to us and so accommodating. We are hoping to inspire more churches to support Christian alternative education in this way and partner with us to make this affordable and sustainable for all families," See says.

In February of 2026, Ted Galaty ran into Meghan Hewitt at Walmart in Rochester and offered prayer for the school. She was sharing with him how King's Path needed a man to minister, provide an example and structure for the many middle and high school boys that were enrolled. He prayed for her and went out to his car to find that his employee at his business needed hours on the exact days that Meghan had shared with him. He felt called to volunteer, which quickly turned into a part-time position. He is now full time at King's Path Academy and is so excited to be ministering alongside Meghan and Rachel.

In June 2026, an anonymous person approached Meghan and Rachel and asked if they would be interested in receiving a donation of the previous Lutheran school in Zumbrota, MN. The donor heard the Lord tell them to purchase the school and donate it to King's Path Academy. They opened the school in mid-July and began cleaning and preparing for the 2026-2027 school year. The school is in the process of being donated and will be a great blessing to the community. Most of KPA's families and students live in Rochester right now and the distance was a concern. Another family donated a full size school bus to the school one week before it opened in the fall so they could provide daily transportation to the school in Zumbrota. The bus has two pickup locations in Rochester at local churches every morning and afternoon to meet this need.



Many people have come together and you can see God's hand in it all. "He is our provider and deserves all the glory," See says. Another family donated 3 brand new commercial stainless steel refrigerators, another paid for a local artist to paint a forest mural in the auditorium featuring a cross, and countless others have donated various items, furniture, their time, gifts, and talents to make this come together for the community. We are very excited to be in Zumbrota and hope to be a blessing to the area families!

(continued on page 12)

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King's Path Academy Opens in Zumbrota

(continued from page 11)

What is a microschool?

A small close-knit learning community, made up of two or more families.

Students of multiple ages learn together using the same curriculum, similar to a one-room schoolhouse.

Older children grow into natural leadership roles, while younger students learn by example.

Mirrors the rhythms of family life, with built in mentoring and community.

What makes King's Path unique?

Individualized instruction allows children to soar ahead in areas they are excited about and go back and fill holes in their education that was preventing them from growing in weaker subjects. Whenever we receive a new student, we start somewhere that feels comfortable to the student in order to help them gain confidence and speak life into their hearts. Many children come to us believing that they are not good at certain subjects or have come to accept that they will never be able to catch up. Others were bored in school because they were restricted in how far they could learn because of age, grade, or staying with the group. Our approach allows all children to stay together in the same "classroom" and be on many different levels in many different sub-

ject areas. Under direct supervision and guidance, older children assist younger children, gaining confidence in teaching and leadership skills while younger students learn to utilize their resources and look up to older children as examples. Due to the one room schoolhouse approach, small class size, and everyone on different levels, it removes all comparison and pressure, allowing students to focus on their own progress and enjoy a family-like home environment. Even with the move into a bigger space, classrooms have comfortable living rooms, live plants, family style tables, and home furnishings to provide the comfort of home and reduce stress as children learn. All children have clipboards so they can take learning anywhere; outside, on the floor, or to another room.

A few other things that we offer:

Weekly hands-on learning activities and scheduled family field trips.

Short, high-quality lessons that cut out busy work.

Students are not confined to desks but are free to move around as they learn.

All students get a 45 min to 1 hour recess each day, which is vital to their learning and development.

We teach life skills such as cooking, baking, sewing, cross-stitch, gardening, maintenance of a vehicle, finances, chores, etc.

We offer foreign languages, fitness, variety of arts, and other unique learning experiences.

Daily live worship, prayer, and bible time.

We have individual, small, and large group learning opportunities each day.

On average, we have 5-6 adults present, male and female role models that love the Lord.

We have a school grandmother that greets the kids each day (Chanou's mother).

We partner with parents and love to communicate and involve them.

We not only teach academics but also character development and love of country.

We offer Piano and Guitar lessons each week and practice time in school.

The King's Path Academy name and logo came from Meghan and Rachel desiring to show that life and education is a journey toward Christ. We want to develop a lifelong love and pursuit of learning and most importantly, Jesus. We want to encourage ourselves, our children, and others in our community to pursue Him through reading and studying the bible. One chilling fact is that a very similar logo is embedded in the brick near the front door of the new school in Zumbrota. "It is like it was meant for us to be here," says Meghan.

We are not affiliated with any church, although we love to partner with different churches in order to provide scholarships to families, for prayer and guidance, provide safe bus stops, and support in many other ways. We are wanting to partner with many churches and help others catch the vision of Christ's desire to support children and families in this way. We are currently under the ministry of Olmsted Outreach which is a

501c3 while we await approval for our own non-profit status.

We currently have 32 students officially enrolled with several more families just learning about the school this week. We accept enrollment year-round and encourage families and churches to come check out how we are different than your typical education setting. Most people are so surprised to see how our microschool functions and how it has a family feel in the relationships between the students and their teachers. Christ's love is evident.

Tuition is \$600/month for full time and \$300-\$450/month for part time. We also offer a Homeschool Advising Program for families who are homeschooling and just need accountability, support, guidance on curriculum or other things. We also offer educational support and tutoring to those families if needed. Our microschool is open 8am-2:45pm Monday through Friday. The bus picks up at our first location in Rochester at 7:30 am.

About us:

Rachel See brings a unique blend of medical, educational, and spiritual experience to the vision of launching a private Christian school. With a Bachelors degree in Nursing and 13 years in the medical field, Rachel is also a devoted mother of five who has homeschooled for the past 10 years and spent 11 years running a daycare and preschool from her home.

(continued on page 13)

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Email: info@lakeshoreins.com

**Sviggum
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133 Main Street
Wanamingo, MN
Phone: 507-824-5105
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Survey closes Oct 31, 2026

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Thanks! Becky and Deb at

www.saveyour.town

King's Path Academy Opens in Zumbrota

(continued from page 12)

Rachel believes children thrive when learning is interactive, outdoors, and rooted in real-life skills like gardening, animal care, and practical living.

To her, the outdoors is "God's classroom," and education should reflect His creation—alive, engaging, and purposeful. She is committed to shorter, meaningful lessons that support deeper understanding and spiritual growth.

Most importantly, Rachel is passionate about keeping Christ at the center of all learning.

As the Children's Ministry Co-Director at Mosaic Church, she actively disciples the next generation and sees education as a powerful way to shape both hearts and minds.

Meghan Hewitt is an educator, speaker, and advocate for Christ-centered education.

She holds degrees in Bible and Psychology from Northwestern University in St. Paul and has homeschooled her five children for more than 16 years.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Meghan became a trusted mentor for families entering homeschooling, providing practical guidance and encouragement as many explored new educational options. She later founded a

Christ-centered microschool in Pine Island, Minnesota, before co-founding Kings Path Homeschool Academy alongside Rachel See. Together, they are cultivating a multi-age learning community that partners with families to provide individualized, relationship-centered education rooted in a biblical worldview.

In addition to her work at Kings Path, Meghan founded Alpha Christian Halls, a micro-college inspired by the Oxford tutorial model, and has partnered with a national Christian homeschool curriculum company to mentor parents, churches, and educational leaders launching homeschool programs and microschools across the country.

Meghan loves making learning come alive through meaningful, hands-on experiences and believes some of the best education happens beyond the classroom walls. Whether exploring a historical site, discovering a new culture, or experiencing God's creation, she enjoys traveling and embarking on adventures with her five children that turn learning into lasting memories.

When she isn't teaching, mentoring, or developing new educational opportunities, Meghan enjoys reading and collecting books, savoring a good cup of tea, playing softball, and planning the next adventure.

Ted Galaty has years of experience teaching and advising in secondary and post-secondary education. Ted holds a Master's in Education from Grand Valley State University in Michigan and a Bachelors of Arts degree from St. Olaf College in Sociology/Anthropology and Health &

Wellness. Ted worked at the University of Minnesota as an academic advisor for the Occupational Therapy and Medical Lab Science programs. In Hawaii Ted taught math and physical education with the Marimed foundation, a program focusing on severely at-risk youth.

In 2018, the Lord called Ted and his wife, Tricia, into the ministry. The ministry started at the Olde Pine Theatre promoting Christian rock concerts. Ted was ordained as a minister in 2020. This ministry has developed into Friday Night Fire, a family focused fellowship. Last year Ted brought Friday Night Fire to Steeplechase Ski & Tubing area.

The plan is to continue to grow Friday Night Fire through fellowship opportunities in the community.

Ted is an avid sport enthusiast who has taught/coached swimming, softball, weight training, water & land aerobics, snowboarding, and water skiing. Ted also enjoys theatre and acting. He has acted and directed multiple community theatre productions. He is an active member of a local non-profit, Pine Island People for the Arts. Ted's past non-profit work includes program development and grant writing.

Ted began teaching as a part-time instructor at King's Path Academy in February 2026.

Ted's focus has been on Christian character building of secondary and middle school youth through biblical principles. The Lord has showed Ted that he is to be in full time

ministry at King's Path Academy focusing on Christian centered education.

Ted and his wife, Tricia, have four grown children.

Chanou See is a devoted husband to Rachel and proud father of five. He holds a bachelor's degree in Bible and Missions from Crossroads Bible College, with a minor in Music, and has spent many years serving in worship ministry as a guitarist and vocalist.

Chanou and Rachel have faithfully served families through their in-home childcare ministry, where his patience, kindness, and joyful spirit have made a lasting impact on countless children. He also brings experience from the restaurant and catering industry, as well as his work with adults with disabilities at Ability Building Center in Rochester.

As part of the King's Path Academy community, Chanou supports the ministry in a variety of ways, including helping lead worship and investing in the life of the school alongside his family. His warmth, humor, and genuine love for people make him an encouraging presence for students, families, and staff alike.

How can I find out more?

You can visit us on our website at www.kingspathacademy.com or find us on Facebook

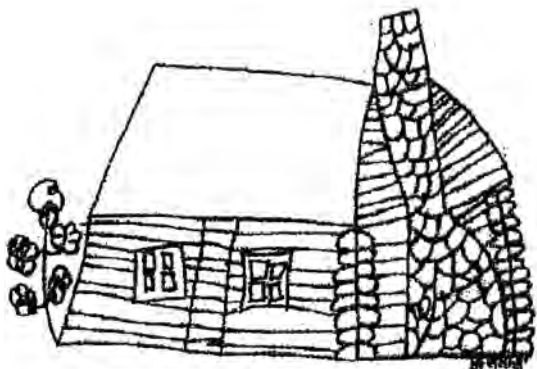
at King's Path Homeschool Academy. You can also call or text 507-421-7148 to find out more information or schedule a tour. We look forward to meeting you!

Harvest Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: October 3, 10, 17, 24

Sundays: October 4, 11, 18, 25

Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.



Place:

Lori & Darwin Amy

2290 County 49 Blvd. Dennison, MN 55018

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Email: cabincrew@frontiernet.net



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Hosted by the Zumbro Falls Lionesses/Lions Chapter

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- **Entry Deadline:** Friday, October 30, 2026, by 8 PM
- **Winners Announced:** Halloween Day, immediately following the Trunk-or-Treat event!

JOIN THE FUN IN 2 EASY STEPS

1. **Decorate:** Paint, accessorize, or safely carve your pumpkin—creative styles of all kinds are welcome!
2. **Snap & Tag:** Take a photo of your creation and post it on Facebook.
 - **Be sure to tag the Zumbro Falls Lioness/Lions Chapter so your pumpkin is entered!**

A PLACE FOR EVERY CREATOR

Little Sprouts: Ages 4 & under
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 Teen Creators: Ages 13-20
 Master Makers: Ages 21 & up

FUN PRIZES
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Bring your imagination—everyone is invited to create.

NEED A PUMPKIN?

Pick out the perfect pumpkin to get started at **Albers Acres**, 60647 413th Ave, Zumbro Falls, MN 55991 — find plenty of fall décor while you're there!



Questions? Send us a message on Facebook

ZUMBRO FALLS LIONESSE TRUNK-OR-TREAT

Costumes, candy, and community fun for all ages!

October 31st • 5-7 PM

Across from the Zumbro Falls Fire Hall

Small participation prize for everyone who attends!

Dress up, bring a treat bag, and join in the local fun for a festive Halloween evening!

Wabasha County
Public Health Spotlight
**Did you know that
October is
Pregnancy, Infant,
and Child Loss
Awareness Month?**

By Sara Resop, RN, BSN,
PHN, IBCLC

In 1988, President Ronald Reagan recognized the profound impact that pregnancy, infant, and child loss has on families and our nation and declared October a month of awareness and remembrance.

Approximately 1 in 4 pregnancies end in miscarriage (Pregnancy Loss Support, 2026). Nearly 20,000 babies are born still each year, with as many as 25% of those stillbirths being preventable (March of Dimes, 2026). In 2024, there were approximately 3,500 sudden unexpected infant deaths (SUIDs) in the United States (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2026).

Unfortunately, many families suffer in silence after experiencing the loss of a pregnancy, infant, or child. These losses have significant public health consequences that extend beyond individual grieving families, affecting communities, healthcare systems, and society as a whole.

Families who experience the sudden and traumatic loss of a pregnancy, infant, or child have profound distress that can lead to depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Bereaved mothers have been found to experience four times greater odds of depression compared with non-bereaved mothers (Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health, 2026).

Grief after the loss of a baby or child is lifelong. It can also carry a painful stigma involving guilt, self-blame, and shame.

One of the most important ways communities can support bereaved families and help break the silence surrounding pregnancy and infant loss is to acknowledge their grief. By doing so, we create a culture where remem-

brance, open communication, compassion, and sharing are welcomed.

This October, take a moment to honor the babies and children who have died before

birth or after birth. Remember their lives, acknowledge the grief of their families, and show compassion, support, and love to bereaved parents.

**Wabasha County Opioid Epidemic Response
Request for Proposal 2027**

On August 20, 2021, the Minnesota Attorney General's Office joined the historic \$26 billion multi-state settlement agreements with pharmaceutical distributors McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen, and opioid manufacturer Johnson & Johnson. In December 2022, the Attorney General's Office joined five additional multistate settlements worth \$20.4 billion with major opioid manufacturers Teva Pharmaceuticals and Allergan, and three of the nation's largest retail pharmacy chains: Walmart, CVS, and Walgreens. Wabasha County's expected portion of the settlement is approximately \$1,180,000 over an 18-year period.

Purpose of the RFP

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to identify qualified organizations to respond to the opioid crisis through opioid epidemic response strategies, including prevention, treatment and recovery, criminal justice interventions, and harm reduction. The goal of this approach is to fund projects in Wabasha County that will have high impact, particularly for Wabasha County communities most disproportionately impacted by the opioid crisis.

Multiple applicants may be selected for funding contracts. Through this process, up to \$180,000.00 could be awarded with individual projects receiving funding. Each applicant must address one category. The categories are prevention, treatment and recovery, criminal justice interventions, and harm reduction. Applicants may apply for multiple sub-categories and abatement strategies within a category.

Applications can be found on The Wabasha County Public Health Webpage or by request @ 651-565-5200.

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Request for Proposal
2027 Wabasha County Opioid Settlement Funding

This RFP aims to offer grant funds to projects in Wabasha County that will have a high impact, particularly for the Wabasha County communities most disproportionately impacted by the opioid crisis.

To apply: Complete application and upload requested documents to Tammy Fiedler, Public Health Director, at tfiedler@co.wabasha.mn.us.

Key Dates for Applicants
Applications Open Now
Applications Due: Friday, October 16, 2026 at 4:30pm
Grant term begins: January 1, 2027

Project Funding Details:	Grantee Funding Requirements:
• There are no minimum or maximum grant limits per grant request. • Funding will be allocated through a competitive process. • No matching funds are required. • Reimbursement paid quarterly, by invoice, based on budgeted and actual expenses incurred. • Multiple applicants may be selected for funding contracts. • Successful organizations/projects may be invited back to apply for future funding. • Upon signed contact, Wabasha County will reimburse grantees for prior-authorized, rendered services only.	• Create new services/resources or expand existing ones (opioid settlement funds cannot be used to replace funding for existing services/resources). • Spend settlement funds on effective, evidence-based interventions (funds can be allocated to evaluate effectiveness). • Sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Wabasha County. • Submit brief quarterly reports to Wabasha County Opioid Settlement Advisory Council. • Present to the Opioid Settlement Advisory Council annually and/or prior to funding. • Complete an annual Project Summary Report with a description of outcomes.

Questions? Contact Tammy Fiedler, Public Health Director at tfiedler@co.wabasha.mn.us or call 651-565-5200

**Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com
or call Terry at 507-951-7417**

Regular Meeting of the
Mazeppa City Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 9th, 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 Jason Lorenzen, MLS Manager Todd Ihrke, Charlotte Muenzenberger from News-Record, City Attorney Luke Lamprecht, Andrew Forliti from Cohn Reznick, MFD Assistant Chief Brandon Goranson, Jeremy Tri, Marie Josselyn, Edward Heppelmann, James Heppelmann, John Clemens, Deputy Clerk-Erica Young, and City Administrator-Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

Present via electronic meeting: Luke Lunde from WSB.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hughley to approve the agenda with adjustments to public hearing start times. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Hammes to approve the regular Council meeting minutes for August 12th, 2026. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to close regular meeting and open public hearing for Ordinance 2026-01 Moratorium on Land Use for Data Centers. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Explanation was presented that a moratorium gives the City time to review zoning ordinances and make changes needed to tailor zoning use for an industry that is new.

Not having the proper zoning designation has created issues in other communities.

The City has not been approached for any projects of this type.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to close public hearing and open regular council meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Andrew Forliti presented 2025 Audit Summary.

Wabasha County Sherriff Jason Lorenzen presented the ICR for the month of July.

Public Works Director Scott Ellingson pre-

sented the Public Works report.

MFD Assistant Chief Brandon Goranson presented the Fire Department report and Fire Relief By-Law change summary.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to close regular meeting and open public hearing for Variance Request for 585 3rd Ave NE. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

The variance was requested as a part of a street vacation for Beech St. NE. Since a street vacation had not been petitioned, it was put forth that a variance was the incorrect procedure to address the issue. Options that were discussed included filing a petition for vacating a portion of Beech St., an encroachment agreement with the City, or ongoing legal action.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to close public hearing and open regular council meeting. 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 Liffrig to approve WWTP Contractor Pay Application #22 for \$510,280.64 contingent upon approval by Rural Development. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch to approve Street Utility Contractor Pay Application #10 for \$5,465.54. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Luke Lunde from WSB presented update on Zumbro Riverbank Project Phase 2.

Administrator-Clerk Karl Nahrgang presented the City Hall report.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hughley to approve Resolution 2026-01 Moratorium on Land Use for Data Centers. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch to authorize Matt Mohs from Bolton & Menk to source information and quotes on data center study. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Liffrig to accept withdrawal of Variance request for 585 3rd Ave NE. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to

approve Resolution 2026-37 Accepting Donation from Mazeppa Lions Club in the amount of \$2000 for Mazeppa Daze related expenses. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2026-38 Closing City Portions of 2nd Ave. SE, 3rd Ave. SE, Summit St., South St., and Cedar St. for the Mazeppa Monster Dash. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to approve Resolution 2026-39 approving Temporary Offsite Liquor License for MMLS at MCC, September 12th, 2026. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch to approve Snow Hauling contract with Turbo Enterprises for 2026-2027 winter season. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch

to approve Plowing and Hauling contract for Wabasha County for 2026-27 winter season in the amount of \$3265.51. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Liffrig to approve 2027 Preliminary Budget and Tax Levy. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Hammes to approve Resolution 2026-40 to submit grant application and accept 2 (two) Radar Feedback Signs from the MNDOT. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Deputy Clerk

Zumbro Falls City Council Minutes - August 19th, 2026

Zumbro Falls City Council met at City Hall on Wednesday at 6PM. The meeting was called to order by the mayor. All council members and Fire Chief Conrad were present.

Clerk read the minutes from the July meeting which were accepted as read with a motion from Anderson, seconded Winters, all in favor, carried.

Treasurer’s report followed and accepted with a motion from Winters, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried. The Fire Department received a donation from Dori Klein which was accepted by a motion from Anderson, seconded Winters.

Phil Dennison joined the council to discuss plans to create a native garden in the city greenspace. This space will be used to promote education along with other benefits to the local environment. Options were proposed and we look forward to more details to come.

Mayor Updates included: Road construction has begun on Water St. The Lift Station pumps are up and running. Further pump work continues, which will include rebuilding of the backup pumps and installation of a failure indicator light visible on the outside of the liftstation. The city is also working with our insurance company on a claim for this event.

City Council will be sending out weed and vehicle registration ordinance violation notices to the property located at 327 Dreamwald Blvd.

Council would like to again recognize the success of the town’s Nation Night Out gathering. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success and to all those who attended.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM with the clerk to pay bills presented by a motion from Anderson, seconded Winters, all in favor, carried.

The next council meeting will take place at 6pm, September 9th at City Hall.

Submitted by,
Blake Hanson, Clerk

✂

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Etiquette. For 11 years, I have been submitting “Clerk Chatter” to the Messenger for publication. Upon review of some archived thoughts for these pieces, I found over half of submissions to the Messenger came down to etiquette as the theme. Etiquette is unwritten and written guidelines that encourage fair interactions with others. Many of our ordinances are in place to reinforce this concept because people do forget that letting your pet run-at-large, not picking up after your pet at the park, damaging park land, not following established parking procedures, and flushing/draining items into the sewer system that do not belong there affect other people or put additional cost on operating the City’s systems. Many times, we may not think of the consequences that our actions or inactions place on others. Ordinance is a reminder to think about the consequences of your actions.

The reason I was reviewing some old “Clerk Chatter” material is because Deputy Clerk Erica Young and I had a conversation about a new perspective on the items that City Hall shares in these articles. So, Ms. Young will be crafting these City Hall communications for the Messenger beginning next month. I am certain that her submissions will be thoughtful and informative.

One last item: The wastewater treatment facility project is close to finished. The new facility has been “seeded”, and half of our wastewater flow is diverted to fill it to operational level. When the new facility is adjusted to ensure that it is emitting clean post-treatment water, the old facility will be removed. There will be one more phase of sewer lining and manhole rehabilitation beginning in spring of 2027.

CLERK

CHATTER

By Karl Nahrgang
Administrator Clerk,
City of Mazeppa

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