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NOVEMBER 4, 2026 Volume 20 • Issue II

Announcements



• The Mazeppa Area Historical Society sends out a "HUGE THANK YOU" TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED the Fall Supper! The crowd came HUNGRY & LEFT HAPPY! Thanks for your support! Looking forward to the Soup & Chili Luncheon with Santa on Dec. 12th!

• Zumbrota Area Historical Society's Holiday Open House Saturday, November 21, 2026 from 10am-2pm. Early 20th Century Quilt Show featuring the heirloom collections of: Jen Goodman, Gail Berg, Brenda Wiech, along with ZAHS archives. Please plan to enjoy refreshments with us! 55 East 4th St, Zumbrota.

• 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.

(continued on page 2)

Klein Trucking expands in Mazeppa

Klein Trucking recently purchased Turbo's Repair in Mazeppa. Corey Klein bought the business in June of 2026 from his brother when Jason decided to sell and invest his time in Axle Surgeons/Xpress lane that he also owned in downtown Mazeppa. Jason Klein started Turbo's Repair in this location in Oct 2004.

Corey Klein started trucking in 2015 and continues to grow the business every year. He grew up on the farm working with his dad and riding in the trucks and it became a passion of his. He started driving semi and expanded to owner/operators and company drivers, when Jason decided to sell Turbo's Repair he made the decision to purchase the



business and expand from trucking to trucking and repair. Cory has maintained the same staff, adding a Receptionist/bookkeeper to the team. Klein Trucking and repair is offering the same services with more services being added.

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Pine Island Data Center Settlement

(ABC 6 News) — A settlement has been reached in the Pine Island data center lawsuit case, according to a joint release from the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Google, and Ryan Companies.

The agreement comes after the MCEA filed the lawsuit, arguing a more thorough environmental review needed to be conducted on the project.

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Platinum Tractor Expands Business



Twenty-nine year old Nolan Diller is the owner of a tractor sales and equipment rental business in Rural Goodhue County. He grew up on a dairy farm in Missouri with eight brothers. His dad bought and sold equipment on the side to supplement farm income.

Because of that, Nolan quickly took an interest in mechanics and agricultural equipment. He came to the Goodhue County area because of a job offered at local mechanic shop and really like the area and decided to stay.

(continued on page 9)

From Cows to Couples

Barn weddings example of how shifting agribusiness options keep farms thriving



BELLECHESTER - In the 1800s when settlers moved west to claim land in the Midwest, they poured their hearts and souls into their new homes and the farmland they were built on.

(continued on page 5)





Announcements

• **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 Tuesday, November 10, 10 am at the Goodhue County History Center, 1166 Oak St., Red Wing.** Cousins, Kay Schwartau and Janet Daley will talk about revising the "Schwartau Family Chronicle" originally published in 1976. The updated book contains 37 life stories with photos and a kinship report. Learn about new research discoveries they found while working on the project. Your first meeting is complimentary.

• **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

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This Love Breaks the Rules



By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

I went to a church conference once to hear one of our Wesleyan Pastors from Celebrate Church in Sioux Falls SD and one thing he said from one of his messages was that Celebrate Church was willing to do anything short of sin to reach the lost! That has always stuck with me. It impressed me at the time because I was just starting out and had read a bunch of leadership books and 'how to be a pastor books' and now this guy is basically lifting all the 'traditional rules and thoughts to a place that I hadn't considered yet- to do 'anything' short of sin to reach people that needed to know Jesus.

Sadly, when many people think of 'the church' they don't automatically think of how loving the people are. They miss how generous and kind and caring the church has been and still is.

Jesus said it plainly: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

According to Jesus, love isn't optional. Love is evidence that we are His disciples. Love is proof that we are His followers. Love is the proof that we know Jesus. When we read the Gospels—One thing becomes unmistakably clear. Jesus was drawn to people that the religious leaders avoided. God is pleased when his church looks like his Son. Because Jesus didn't just say He loved people; He showed it.

In Mark chapter 4 Jesus is back in Capernaum. Some time has passed since the last time he was here. As he settled in for a time of rest and to minister in a familiar town, word traveled fast. People wanted to hear Him speak and people were hoping to experience or witness the miracles that Jesus was known for. The house where he was at filled up quickly. (a problem most pastors would love to have!)

And within that context, a crowded, crowded home, (standing room only) people listening and watching and waiting- Jesus reaching out to his old stomping grounds and that's when LOVE shows up—This the true account of a miracle of healing and the miracle of salvation.

Jesus is home and the house packed. There is no space anywhere! Everyone keeps crowding in shoulder to shoulder and everyone wants something from Him. It's crazy- and could make someone feel pretty claustrophobic! Look at verse 3. "Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them."

Because these four friends loved their friend; they didn't just watch from the sidelines. The love they had for their friend is the kind of love that carries the burden. They got involved and put some sweat equity into the miracle. A loving church carries burdens. They carried their friend to the house where Jesus was and discovered there was no way to get him through the door to Jesus.

(continued on page 3)

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.

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

Pioneer and Perfecter of Faith

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. — Hebrews 12:1-2

Our reading today invites us to reflect on the life of faith as a race marked out for us.

And who has gone before us to mark it out? Jesus, the pioneer (or trailblazer) of faith.

He did it all, providing this great gift for us. He paved the way when we were so lost in our sin that we were like dead people walking in darkness (Isaiah 9:2; Ephesians 2:1-5). He made us alive to faith. He justified us, he sanctified us, and he sustains us through every trial. Jesus lights the way for us, and he will bring us safely through to where he is. As the apostle Paul describes it in Philippians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

Some Bible translations describe Jesus' role here as the "author and finisher" of faith, and that reminds me of some treasured gifts that grace our family's home. My mother-inlaw and late sister-in-law gifted us with beautiful, handmade quilts. They "authored" these treasures, designing them on graph paper, choosing colors, cutting pieces of fabric, and quilting them together. They also "finished" these artworks beautifully, down to the last binding stitch. I benefit from these gifts of grace, resting under someone else's finished work.

In our life of faith, we depend on Jesus' accomplished work. From start to finish, we can fix our eyes on him, following his lead and relying on his guidance and finished work every step of the way.

Pioneer and Perfecter of faith, where would we be without you? Lead and guide us, Lord, and may we rest in you. 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

Community Help Network Seeks Volunteers and Donations for Holiday Meals

Community Help Network is seeking volunteers and donations for its fourth year of providing Thanksgiving baskets to neighbors in the Goodhue and Mazeppa areas.

The nonprofit organization, run entirely by volunteers, typically prepares 100 baskets to help local households enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

The Goodhue and Mazeppa Lions Clubs and Kohlnhofer Farms have stepped up to support this year's Thanksgiving baskets. Thanks to additional support from Kohlnhofer Farms, Community Help Network will also be able to provide a Christmas dinner this year.

Thanksgiving baskets will be prepared at St. Peter's in Goodhue on November 21 and distributed that same day. Christmas dinners will be prepared at St. Peter's in Goodhue on December 19 and distributed that same day. Volunteers should arrive at 8 a.m. on both dates.

More donations are needed to complete the holiday meals, including the extra fixings—and, of course, the pie. Volunteers are also needed to help with the effort.

Community Help Network helps local residents meet their needs, with 100% of donations spent helping someone in the donor's community.

Thank you to everyone coming together to help neighbors enjoy a holiday meal. Your time, donations and support make this effort possible.

To volunteer, contribute or learn more, call Nancy at 715-216-6058.



This Love Breaks the Rules

(continued from page 1)

What to do? There decision seems creative and heroic to us, but in those days- they were could be making some enemies- disrupting the rabbi's teaching, tearing apart someone's roof and possible livelihood as well as making some people pretty disgruntled having dirt, grass and roof material falling on their heads. But they kept going. They went to the roof- despite all the possible problems because they loved their friend very much!

The love that these 4 people had for the friend wasn't just a love that pointed people to Jesus it, this love CARRIED THEM to Jesus! This love made a statement- not only to the guy on the mat, but to all that attended that house that day. And this kind of love continues to speak to us as we read and recognize the sacrifice, the faithfulness and the love of these friends. It's been said: People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.

Love proves you care when you pick up the burden. When you go the extra mile, when you give without asking for anything in return. Love proves you care when listening and being available, despite your busy schedule. Sometimes love is seen doing the big things and other times love is revealed in the small things. Love is always personal. When people experience the love of God. Lives are changed.

Love breaks the rules. Love chooses to serve people and to save people. Love goes past the unseen boundaries to do what can't be done.

The crazy thing during this whole event was that Jesus didn't stop them. Jesus didn't rebuke them. Jesus didn't say, make sure you pay the homeowner and clean this mess up. Jesus didn't tell them to wait outside- he saw their faith and loved them! Jesus understood breaking the rules for love too. Jesus had eaten with sinners and the Pharisees hated that. He forgave prostitutes- scandalous! He touched the lepers and loved the tax collectors. All taboos in His culture of the time! In Mark's story, Mark writes that Jesus saw something. Not just the roof caving in. Jesus didn't notice their manners Jesus didn't focus on their theology. … Jesus saw their faith. How do you see faith? Jesus saw their faith through their actions, expressed through love.

When we love like Jesus—People experience God. When people experience God—Lives are changed.

So, let me ask you—Who do you know? Who is God asking you to carry? Who needs the love of Jesus through your life? Go out this week and love like Jesus!

Halloween at South Troy Church



2nd Annual Monster Dash Fundraiser a Success

Submitted

The Mazeppa Community Trail is celebrating the success of its second annual Monster Dash fundraiser that was held on October 11th.

The weather was wonderful, the monsters were chilling and fun was had by all who attended. Activities included a costume contest, food provided by the Mazeppa Lions, face painting by local artists, hair spraying in many funky colors, pumpkin decorating and games for folks of all ages.

The trail committee wished to extend a special thank you to all their very generous sponsors, without their support this event would not be possible. Also, to the families that came out and supported the event–with the Vikings and Green Bay playing that same afternoon, choices were not easy!

What's next for the trail–the Mazeppa Community Calendar will be available for purchase in early November. The calendar will reflect Mazeppa past and present, interesting tidbits with pictures provided by local artists.

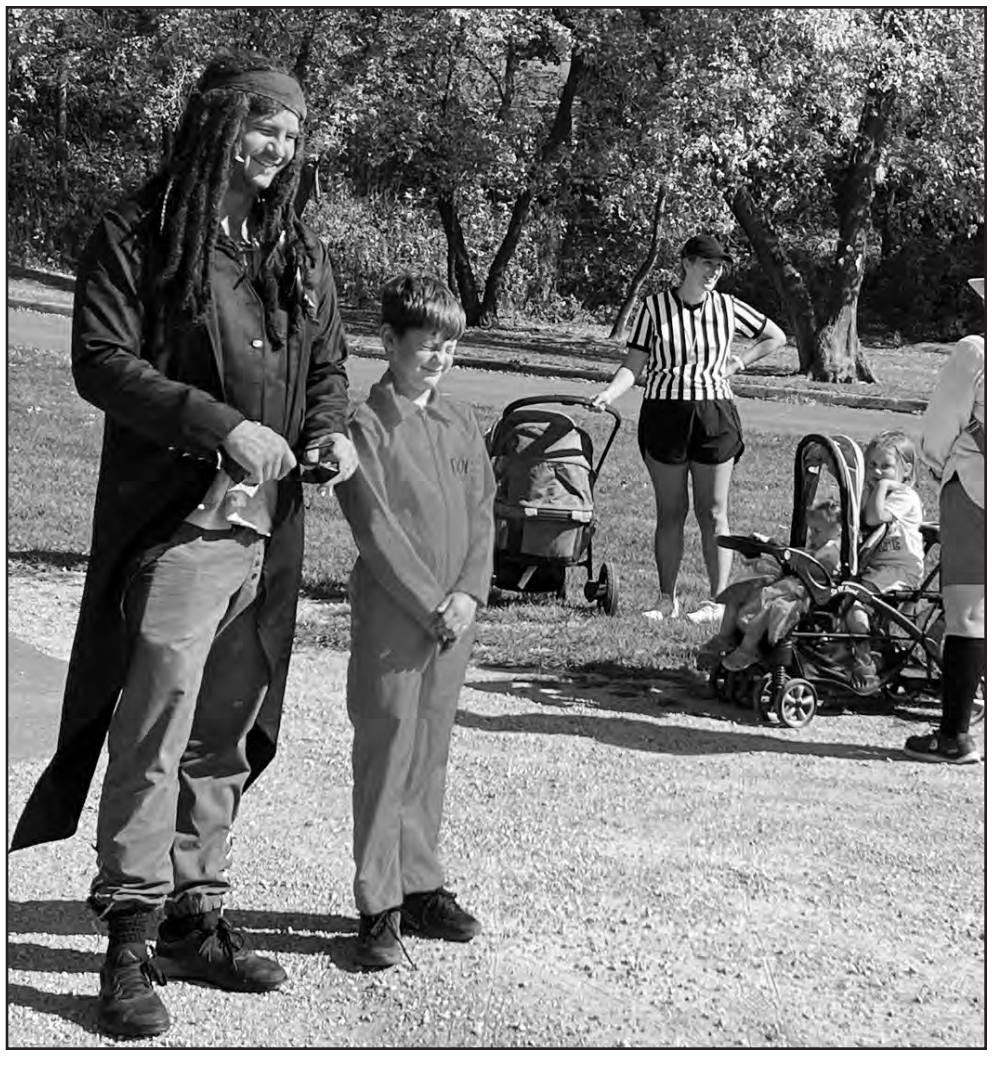
Plus, the 2nd Annual Porch Pot Event which will be held on November 21st at the Mazeppa Muni is now open for registration. Details can be found on the website. mazeppalocaltrailconnections.com.













From Cows to Couples

(continued from page 1)

The farming industry has changed significantly over the decades since these homesteads were established.

Now, in the 21st century, the families who are fortunate enough to still own their ancestor's farms are adapting to new ways of thriving. Pizza farms, micro gardens, pop-up shops, and other creative uses for family farms are becoming more visible as agriculture trends shift. One particularly intriguing use for old barns is offering them as wedding venues.

The Calvin Strauss family farm in Wabasha County has one of those barns. Built in 1869, Cal has spent the past few years transforming their barn from being used as a home for dairy cattle into a charming and welcoming site for couples to say their "I dos" as Red Silo Events.



Just as the original Strauss family members did when they homesteaded this land, Cal and his family have spent countless hours planning the improvements and then tearing out livestock equipment, sawing, sanding, painting, building, decorating and doing everything needed to see this transformation evolve. "Turning this old barn into a place for weddings has been a labor of love," Strauss said. His background in construction and farming work ethic have been instrumental in seeing these changes occur. "Friends and family members have helped build benches, paint signs, create a Facebook page and website and take care of so many details that have made this dream possible," he added.





In 2025, the family dedicated to Red Silo Events officially expanded with Cal's marriage to Tracy which, of course, took place at Red Silo Events. He said, "Moving forward together, we've been able to start hosting weddings." By touring Red Silo Events, it's easy to see why this charming and historic wedding venue is a comfortable and quaint setting for a bride and groom to gather their families and friends to celebrate their big day.

When asked about the name of this unique wedding venue, Strauss pointed out the original red brick silo attached to the barn as one of the only remaining like it still standing in the area. Although couples can plan an outdoor ceremony under an ivy-covered arbor with rolling hills in the background or an indoor ceremony surrounded by warm glowing lights and barnwood, the red brick silo offers a picturesque back-drop. According to Strauss, "We wanted to create an affordable place where people could come to celebrate events and make new memories."

Red Silo Events is also available for hosting family gatherings, proms and corporate events. More information can be found at redsiloeventsmn.com.



State Horse and Dog Shows Results

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

State Horse Show Results

Congratulations to our horse participants who competed at the State Horse Show September 18th-21st. Charli Gjemse (Zumbrota) competed in Barrels, Jumping Figure 8 and Key Race. Jaeda Johnson (Cannon Falls) competed in Hunt Seat Pleasure, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Showmanship and Western Pleasure. Audrina Meyer (Lake City) competed in Hunt Seat Pleasure, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Showmanship, Trail, Western Pleasure and Western Horsemanship. Tenley Lexvold (Zumbrota) participated in Horseless Horse and the Horse Training Project. Kinsley Ronningen (Rochester) competed in Hunt Seat Pleasure, Hunt Seat Equitation, Western Showmanship, Western Pleasure and Western Horsemanship. Carlee Vath (Zumbrota) participated in Ranch Pleasure, Poles, Barrels, Jumping Figure 8 and Key Race. What a great effort ladies!

State Dog Show Results

Every September, 4-H'ers and their dogs compete in agility, obedience, showmanship and rally. This two-day event takes place at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. This year the dog show took place on September 26th and 27th 2026. Goodhue County had 5 youth representatives at the event this year! Youth trained with their dogs all summer and earned their advancement at the Goodhue County Dog Show held at the Cannon Valley Fairgrounds in July. Adelaide Anderson (Cannon Falls) competed in Agility and Jumpers, earning a Champion in Agility. Amelia Kispert (Kenyon) competed in Jumpers, Agility, Obedience, Rally and Showmanship, earning a Champion in Agility, Rally and Showmanship. Cody Roschen (Red Wing) participated in Showmanship. Willow Whalen (Red Wing) participated in Agility, Jumpers, Obedience and Rally. Lilith White (Red Wing) participated in Rally. Congratulations to these youth on their accomplishments!



Jaeda Johnson



Kinsley Ronningen



Cody Roschen



Amelia Kispert



Lilith White

Harvey Oliver & Opsahl

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Goodhue County 4-H Members Participate in State Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational

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

Goodhue County 4-H Members Participate in State Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational.

The Minnesota 4-H State Shooting Sports & Wildlife Invitational was held in Alexandria September 11-13, 2026. 734 youth from 58 counties participated in the following events with 1,971 entries:

Archery
3-D Archery
BB gun
Standard Air Rifle
3 Position Air Rifle
Air Pistol
.22 Rifle
Muzzleloading
Trap
Silhouette
Wildlife Calling
Skillathon
Cast Iron Cooking

Youth had the opportunity to showcase the skills they learned throughout the past year, having spent a minimum of 15 hours working with a trained instructor in their discipline of interest and 8 hours of wildlife education. Each county also planned and implemented a conservation project at the local level. These projects were brought to the event and judged as a group.

The Minnesota 4-H Shooting Sports & Wildlife Program began in the 1980s and has grown to more than 5,000 youth members and over 1,000 adult leaders. Adults can become certified discipline instructors by attending a weekend workshop and instructing youth in their local community.

This year Goodhue County had 20 youth attend. Participants included:
Haley Betcher - Zumbrota Busy Bees
Amalia Dicke - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors
Malory Dicke - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors
Weston Dicke - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors
Sawyer Gesme - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors
Amber Hackert - Goodhue Gesundheits
Caleb Hackert - Goodhue Gesundheits
Natalie Hackert - Goodhue Gesundheits
Reed Holz - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors
Reese Holz - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors
Lucas Poylio - Burnside Pluckies
Karsten Romfo - Goodhue Gesundheits
Callie Schmidt - Burnside Pluckies
Rilynn Smith - Burnside Pluckies
Blake Stark - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors
Charlie Thoms - Goodhue Gesundheits
Etta Thoms - Goodhue Gesundheits
Patrick Thoms - Goodhue Gesundheits
Abigail Tipton - Belle Creek Peppy Peppers
Colton Winsor - Spring Garden Jolly Juniors



Abby



Reed



Reese



Rilynn



Karsten and Patrick



Campfire cooking

Thank You!
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We know you have choices aplenty, and we thank you for supporting us this year.
Happy Thanksgiving!
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Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger

Farm Girl Chatter

Fall Harvest: The Season of Thankfulness

By McKell Lemmerman





The month of gratitude, the beauty of the changing seasons, and the reminder to appreciate the little things in life.

The time when slowing down doesn't mean just sitting back and relaxing but recognizing the equipment on the roads. To take your time when you get "stuck" behind them and can't hurry around. Remember that is someone's loved one driving that machinery.

There is something special about being in a combine when it works its way through a field at sunset. The corn stands tall before it, and behind it lies a clean path of harvested rows. Dust hangs in the air, catching the last golden rays of sunlight. The tractor pulling the grain cart follows close behind, ready to catch every bushel before the combine tank fills. It is like a coordinated dance with perfect timing, trust, and with every person knowing their part.

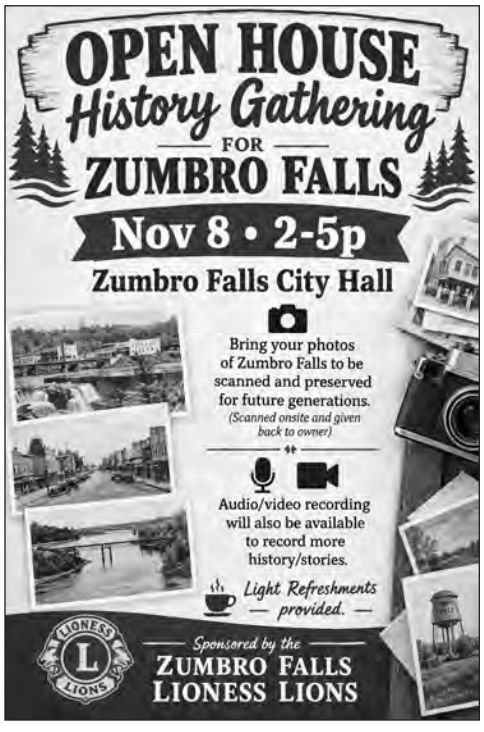
Harvest does not always follow a convenient schedule. Sometimes supper is brought to the field, sometimes sleep gets pushed back, and sometimes the only time to rest is when the machinery needs fixing or Mother Nature starts the sprinkler system.

I find myself looking toward the fields. The bright lights of tractors and combines shine across the dark countryside like a football stadium in the middle of nowhere.

Maybe this is what thankfulness looks like in the farming world. It is not always sitting quietly with a list of things to be grateful for. It is standing along a gravel road, watching the lights move through a field long after dark. It is bringing a meal or a nice cold beverage to someone who has been working since sunrise. It is appreciating a good crop, a dependable machine, a helping hand, or another beautiful sunset at the end of a long day.

It is simply remembering the people behind it all.

Thank you, farmers!



ZUMBRO FALLS EVENTS

Event	DATE/TIME	LOCATION	INFO
Turkey Drawing	Purchase drink Nov 4,11and/or 18th	Neptune	With drink purchase entered in turkey giveaway. 1 entry per listed day per person. 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
Veterans Supper	Nov 11th	Zumbro Falls VFW	Invite only. Contact Colin Atkinson for invite thru **ZUMBRO FALLS SPORTSMANS CLUB** on **FACEBOOK by Nov 1st.**
Veteran Presentation	Nov 11th 6-7:30p	South Troy Church	Veterans will give presentation and be presented THANK YOUS Contact South Troy for more info
Sip & Shop	Nov 14th 11am	Buckwild	ZF Lioness will provide Baked Goods! See **BUCKWILD** on **FACEBOOK** for more info
Newlywed Game	Nov 14 1st show 1p 2nd show after	Neptune	See how well couples know each other, See **NEPTUNE** on **FACEBOOK** for more info
Deer Hunters Breakfast	Nov 7 and 21st 9am	Neptune	$15.00 all you can eat buffet catered by Delila See **NEPTUNE** on **FACEBOOK** for more info
Purse Bingo	Nov 21 11am	Buckwild	See **BUCKWILD** on **FACEBOOK** for more info
Thanksgiving Dinner	Nov 26 9am til gone	Neptune	$20.00 all you can eat buffet catered by Delila. See **NEPTUNE** on **FACEBOOK** for more info
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Dec 24 4 and 5:30p	South Troy Church	Contact South Troy Church 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
ZV Snowmobile Assoc. Raffle	Drawing Feb 2. 2027	Zumbro Valley Snowmobile Assoc	500 tickets to be sold. $50.00/ticket. 20 prizes including $$ and various items.Purchase tickets from club members. See **ZUMBRO VALLEY SNOWMOBILERS ASSOC** on **FACEBOOK**
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**
Kids Connection	Every Weds 6-7:30p	South Troy Church	Ages 4-5th grade.Contact South Troy Church with any questions
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 Winter meetings held at Dana Oelkers residence	Everyone welcome. Food provided to anyone attending meetings. See **ZUMBRO FALLS SPORTSMANS CLUB** on **FACEBOOK** for upcoming events
All Events			Check ZUMBRO FALLS, MINNESOTA on FACEBOOK or Website:zumbrofallsmn.org



Platinum Tractor Expands Business

(continued from page 1)

In 2022, started his own business of buying and selling tractors out of a rented farm shop close to Mazeppa. The business slowly grew from there, and they are still full-time buying and selling tractors under the business name Platinum Tractor LLC.

In October 2024, he married to Michelle and in 2026 They had their first little son, Kaden. They were able to purchase their property and shop here in October 2025. This enables him to work right beside his home while they raise a family!

Platinum Tractor LLC ships tractors as far as California, Pennsylvania, Texas, and everywhere in between. They even shipped one piece of equipment to the country of Egypt. Tractor sales were slow in 2024 so in 2025 he launched a sideline business named Diamond Rental LLC. Both businesses are run out of the same shop. This has proved to be a very successful decision and he is enjoying connecting with and serving the local community.

Nolan mostly work by himself, but recently hired a young man who is working part-time. His name is Gareth. The rental equipment consists of a broad range of common equipment. Mini excavators, track, skid loaders, Scissor Lifts, towable boom lifts, stump grinder, mini skid loaders, a full row of attachments for skid loaders, including



trenchers and Post hole augers, trailers, and more. They are continually adding equipment as customers ask for items.

The website for the Tractor sales is platinumtractor.com. They are planning to launch a website in 2027 for the Rental business under diamondrentalmn.com. The rates for manlifts range from $200-$300 a day depending what size you rent and skid loaders range from $220-$350 per day depend depending on the size. Nolan sums up his business motto stating, " I believe that God has blessed us very much over the years and I want to extend that blessing to our local community by offering equipment at reasonable prices for years to come! My business motto is 'serving God by serving others'."

Mazeppa Historical Society Fundraiser

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

THANK YOU for donating!



Historical Happenings

Compiled by Helen Reiland

THE MAZEPPA JOURNAL
Editor and Publisher: Barbara and Reider Tommeraas

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1956
Obituaries
SEWARD K. PENCILLE

A lifetime South Troy resident, Seward K. Pencille, 61, died early Tuesday at Lake City hospital after a lengthy illness.

Born Sept. 29, 1895 at South Troy, he worked for oil companies in Rochester for 13 years and then for the Zumbro Falls Creamery.

Survivors include his mother,Mrs. W.D. Pencille of South Troy, sister, Mrs. Henry Hermann, Mrs. Alfred Hermann, Mrs. Claude Mulholland all of Zumbro Falls, and brothers William of Redway, Calif., and Donald of Wabasha.

Funeral services will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday at the South Troy Wesleyan Methodist church with burial in Farm Hill Cemetery.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1956
OBITUARY
MATHIAS J. HART FUNERAL HELD LAST FRIDAY

Potential Requiem High Mass was celebrated for Mathias J. Hart, longtime Mazeppa businessman, Friday morning at SS. Peter & Paul Catholic church by his brother-in-law, Msgr. John N. Bartholome of Wabasha.

The Rev. Francis Felten was deacon and Rev. Anthony Louis of Bellechester sub-deacon.

Bishop Peter Bartholome of St. Cloud, brother-in-law of Mr. Hart, gave the sermon, absolution and burial at church and at the interment at St. Mary's cemetery, Bellechester.

Christmas Party – FREE BEER- Sat. Eve., Dec. 22 – 8 p.m. at Jim & Willie's Place. EVERYONE INVITED.

Historical Happenings are taken directly from the archives of the original papers as printed. ny discrepancies need to be taken up the Editor and Publisher of the said papers, who are deceased.

Rudolph Grossbachs Note Golden Wedding



The above picture of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Grossbach was taken at their home, Tuesday, December 18 during observance of their 50th wedding anniversary. It was quietly observed with members of the family and a few friends present for the occasion.

A much-loved Mazeppa couple, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Grossbach observed their 50th wedding anniversary quietly at their home Tuesday, Dec. 18. The couple received many gifts and cards, and enjoyed a beautiful cake baked by Mrs. Vernie Grossbach and Mrs. Norbert Grossbach.

Rudolph Grossbach and the former, Lily were married Dec. 18, 1906, on her home farm. Attendants were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Grossbach.

They farmed south of town until retiring and moving to Mazeppa several years ago.

They have three sons, Bernard, Norbert, and Vernie and six grandchildren.

Klein Trucking expands in Mazeppa

(continued from page 1)

Klein Trucking hauls locally and regionally. They have flatbed trailers: hauling wood, metal, shingles and more. Currently they have 15 trucks on the road, and are hiring company and owner operators.

Klein Trucking is not just trucking; they are a full diesel repair shop, with mobile service as well. General Diesel repair shop specializing in heavy duty truck and semis, from oil changes, brakes, clutches, hoses, DOT inspections, alternators, motors: and everything in between. The shop employs 4 full-time employees (our shop staff has not changed, we just added a Receptionist/bookkeeper) and 1 part-time high school student. They also have owner operators and company drivers.

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Pine Island Data Center Settlement

(continued from page 1)

The city of Pine Island held a closed meeting on Wednesday, to discuss what was pending litigation. In that meeting Aubree Derksen, a resident of Pine Island said an attorney speak on behalf of the residents opposed to the data center to ensure their calls were heard during the closed session.

"Because we had representation we had a seat at the table," Derksen said. "We were in the room when these conversations were happening and we got to shape what it looked like."

Back in May, a Goodhue County judge issued a temporary restraining order to prevent construction on the project.

According to the release, as part of the settlement, the proposed data center will be the first in Minnesota to undergo a new state environmental review process.

Under the agreement, MCEA will dismiss the lawsuit, and Google and Ryan Companies will undergo a new Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). That worksheet will be submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for review.

The parties have agreed to propose that the MPCA's study will cover a detailed analysis of how the data center proposal would affect a wide range of environmental and community concerns, including water and energy impacts, noise, and light pollution.

Ryan and Google have also agreed to develop a plan to mitigate those effects, which will be presented to the MPCA and the City of Pine Island.

Pine Island residents, other government agencies, and all Minnesotans will have a chance to review and comment on the new study and mitigation during a proposed extended 60-day comment period.

If the MPCA decides that the EAW and mitigation plan are adequate, they will be returned to the Pine Island City Council, which will then gather final public comments and vote on the proposed mitigation plan.

There can be no construction on project until the MPCA and city approve of the plan.

MCEA CEO Kathryn Hoffman released the following statement on the settlement:

"For too long, AI data center proposals in Minnesota have been shrouded in secrecy. This settlement brings transparency, democracy, and proper oversight back into the process, and provides Pine Island residents with critical information about how this proposal stands to impact their community and our shared natural resources," said Kathryn Hoffman, CEO of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (MCEA), the plaintiff in the case. "Going forward, we will continue to monitor the process and review the information as it's released."

Pine Island resident Aubree Derksen, a member of the Stop the Pine Island Data Center group also released a statement:

"My neighbors and I deserve to have a say in something that could completely transform our community and way of life, but so far we've been denied that at every turn of this process," said Pine Island resident and Stop the Pine Island Data Center member Aubree Derksen. "Today, we take a long overdue first step toward righting that wrong."

Peter Fitzgerald, the senior vice president of Ryan Companies, released the following statement:

"Ryan Companies is pleased the lawsuit has been settled. Over the last three years, Ryan has built lasting relationships with the Pine Island community to deliver clear community benefits alongside a project that meets and exceeds the state's highest standards.

"The settlement confirms that previous city approvals remain valid and we welcome the additional review by the MPCA. We believe this is a best-in-class project that has the potential to become the national standard for responsible data center development. In addition to the commitments made to the community and school, the project is investing in Minnesota's grid with a historic clean energy investment. We are also limiting water use with a closed loop system that protects our water resources. We are now adding enhanced review and municipal protections with this agreement."

Luke Hellier, the public affairs manager for Google, also released a statement on the settlement:

"Google is pleased to reach a constructive resolution that allows Project Skyway to move forward in Pine Island," said Luke Hellier, Public Affairs Manager, Google. "The goal has always been to build world-class infrastructure while serving as a responsible neighbor and resource steward. This agreement ensures the project meets robust environmental standards while delivering local economic benefits. Google appreciates the collaborative work with Ryan Companies, the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, and the City of Pine Island to secure a sustainable path forward."

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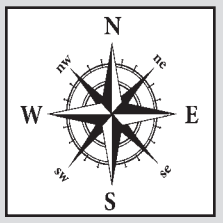
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Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Caterpillars, Cables and Days Gone By



By Terry Campbell

This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell. Here he relates his adventures and recollections including relocating to the state of Tennessee after he turned sixty years old.

As I was digging a plot of land this spring for planting, I turned up a large heavy-duty cable looped and both ends. It was about six feet long, made from ½" steel wire rope and had two clamps on each end with a metal thimble protecting the loop. It was quite rusty but I had no doubt what it was for. I remembered it even thought it had been buried for over sixty years. That is one of the advantages of still living on the farm one was born on. The mere sight of an item can rekindle a memory long thought forgotten. And this cable was a connecting link to times in the early 1960's.

It was a cable that my dad made for pulling things with his Caterpillar. I still have the heavy duty vise my dad used to secure the clamps to the cable when it was made in his shop. It probably slipped off the dozer when he was operating it. And laid in the soil until I unearthed it sixty years later.

As a kid I lived and breathed anything that took place on the farm. Equipment held a sacred place in my mind. It was the backbone of the farm. Enabled a mere man to perform tasks impossible to a human on their own. That was the D2 Caterpillar. A marvel of machinery in my mind. My young mind absorbed all the information my dad related to me about the attributes of this wonderful crawler. I can still feel what that black seat felt like and see the steering levers and hear the pony motor fire to life when he pulled the rope which had to be wound around the engine pully.

The Caterpillar D2 was built from 1938 until 1957. It was the smallest tracked tractor the company built. A 33 horsepower, four-cylinder diesel engine, with five forward speeds and one reverse gear. It had a gasoline pony motor to start it. Weighing in at 8,000 pounds with 12" wide tracks it could outpull a tractor. Many of these were sold for farming applications and my dad used it to pull a three bottom molboard plow.



He also had a blade mounted on the dozer and used it to move lots of dirt around the farm. There is still an earthen dam he built to catch runoff from the barnyard. It has long since filled in with silt but I recall who built it every time I see the square plateau that did what the designer built it for many years ago. He widened out the cartway which gave us access down the limestone bluff at the backside of the farm.

My neighbor told me one time that he was helping his dad take down a silo by their barn on a Sunday morning. A common way of removing a concrete stave silo is to break out the staves at the bottom of the silo on the side you want it to fall. When enough staves are gone it should fall in that direction. In their case it fell in the wrong way and blocked the entrance of the barn so the dairy cows couldn't get back in. He was only fifteen years old but he had worked for my dad and grandfather, and knew how to run the dozer. My dad was gone that day, and over the protestation of his father, he started the Caterpillar and brought it over to move the concrete debris away from the barn and save the day.

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A Minnesotan:

Deer Season



By RosaLin Alcoser



Growing up in rural Minnesota fall always brought around many a man's favorite time of the year. Hunting season.

November usually brought around my lest favorite time of the year as a child. Firearm season. Which was my least favorite because my mother would keep us inside for nearly an entire month because of it. As an adult who's handled a firearm I get it, as a child I understood the why of it all but I didn't like it.

Now I have never actually hunted. However, as a teenager and young adult I did participate in part of hunting season. Mainly because grandpa used me as a spare deer and turkey scout at times or on occasion took me to follow a blood trail during bow season. Outside of that and the rare occurrence of helping of cleaning a deer I've never hunted.

Although I did get an eight point buck back in the Fall of 2019 when it ran in front of my Subaru.

I was driving home in rural Minnesota late at night when I had just turned onto the road from the main county highway when I saw the car in the other lane flash their headlights at me. Which made me wonder if my high beams were on, they were not. What they were trying to warn me about was that they had seen the doe run across the road and a buck was likely behind it.

Thankfully I was going under 40 miles per hour — so I came out of this fine— because all of a sudden a 300 lbs monster of a buck was smashing in the front end of my car. It was the end of both the buck and of my Subaru.

That deer was made into jerked afterwards and I was told he was not delicious.

So while I have never and probably will never actually hunt I have gotten a deer. And quite an impressive one at that.

Wabasha County Public Health Spotlight

The Quiet Work of Love: Honoring Caregivers in Wabasha County

By Tammy Fiedler, Wabasha County Public Health Director

Before the sun comes up, a caregiver may already be awake, checking on a loved one, preparing breakfast, organizing medications or making sure an appointment is not forgotten. At the end of the day, there may still be one more phone call, one more meal to prepare or one more reassuring conversation. This is caregiving.

Throughout Wabasha County, countless family members, friends and neighbors quietly provide this kind of care every day. They may be caring for an aging parent, a spouse, a grandparent, a sibling or a friend. Often, they do not consider themselves caregivers at all. They simply say, "I am taking care of someone I love."

November, recognized as National Family Caregivers Month, is a time to pause and recognize these individuals and the important role they play in our families and communities. Caregiving is an act of love, but it is not always easy. It can mean rearranging work schedules, missing sleep, putting personal plans on hold and learning how to navigate medical, financial and emotional challenges. It can also bring moments of laughter, closeness and memories that caregivers treasure.

Just as importantly, caregivers need care, too. Fortunately, caregivers in Wabasha County do not have to navigate the journey alone. Three Rivers Community Action's Age Well Connections helps older adults and caregivers connect with services and supports, including information about respite care, meals, transportation and other community resources. The Wabasha office can be reached at (507) 316-0610 or (800) 277-8418.

Elder Network also offers caregiver support, education and respite services for families in Wabasha County. Caregiver support groups provide a safe place to discuss and share whatever is going on in your life and in the lives of those you love. The group meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Faith Lutheran Church, 905 Hiawatha Drive East, Wabasha, Minnesota 55981. Caregivers are encouraged to contact Bonnie at Elder Network at (651) 565-3237 or bonnies@eldernetwork.org to let her know they will be attending. These services can provide caregivers with information, encouragement and something every caregiver occasionally needs: a chance to take a breath.

Emplify Health by Gundersen Wabasha Hospital and Clinic also offers Home Health services to help older adults remain safe and supported in their homes. These services can assist with homemaking, meal preparation, personal care and other daily needs that can make it easier to stay independent at home. To learn more about their offerings, call Tina at (651) 565-5577.

Another effort is helping older adults remain safe and independent in their own homes. Wabasha County first piloted in-home safety checks with Wabasha Ambulance in 2018. Although the program was later paused because of staffing challenges, the idea gained new momentum after Wabasha County joined age-friendly efforts in 2023. Home safety and access to health services were identified as important community priorities, leading local partners to work toward incorporating HomeFit assessments, education and referrals into routine home visits.

The Wabasha Kellogg Age Friendly Collaborative was awarded a $2,500 AARP Community Challenge Capacity Building Microgrant in June 2026 to support this work. The funds are being used for practical safety items such as night lights, nonslip strips, task lighting, flashlights, door alarms, reachers, car door assist handles, grab bars and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Through partnerships with Three Rivers Community Action, Wabasha County Public Health and Wabasha Ambulance, HomeFit assessments can be offered during regular home visits, including meal deliveries. Bringing these resources directly into the home can help older adults who might not otherwise seek assistance remain safe, confident and independent.

The project runs through December 2026, with local partners looking toward expanded home repair collaboration in the future. For residents in the Wabasha Kellogg area who would like more information about receiving a HomeFit assessment or learning more about the Wabasha Kellogg Age Friendly Collaborative, contact Jodi Johnson at Wabasha County Public Health at (651) 565-5200.

For additional assistance, Minnesota Aging Pathways connects older adults and family caregivers with resources throughout the state at (800) 333-2433.

This National Family Caregivers Month, take a moment to notice the caregiver in your family or neighborhood. Thank them. Offer to sit with their loved one for an hour, bring them a meal, run an errand or simply listen. Sometimes the greatest gift is letting a caregiver know they are seen.

Because behind every caregiver is a story of devotion, and throughout Wabasha County, those stories are helping families stay connected, supported and together.

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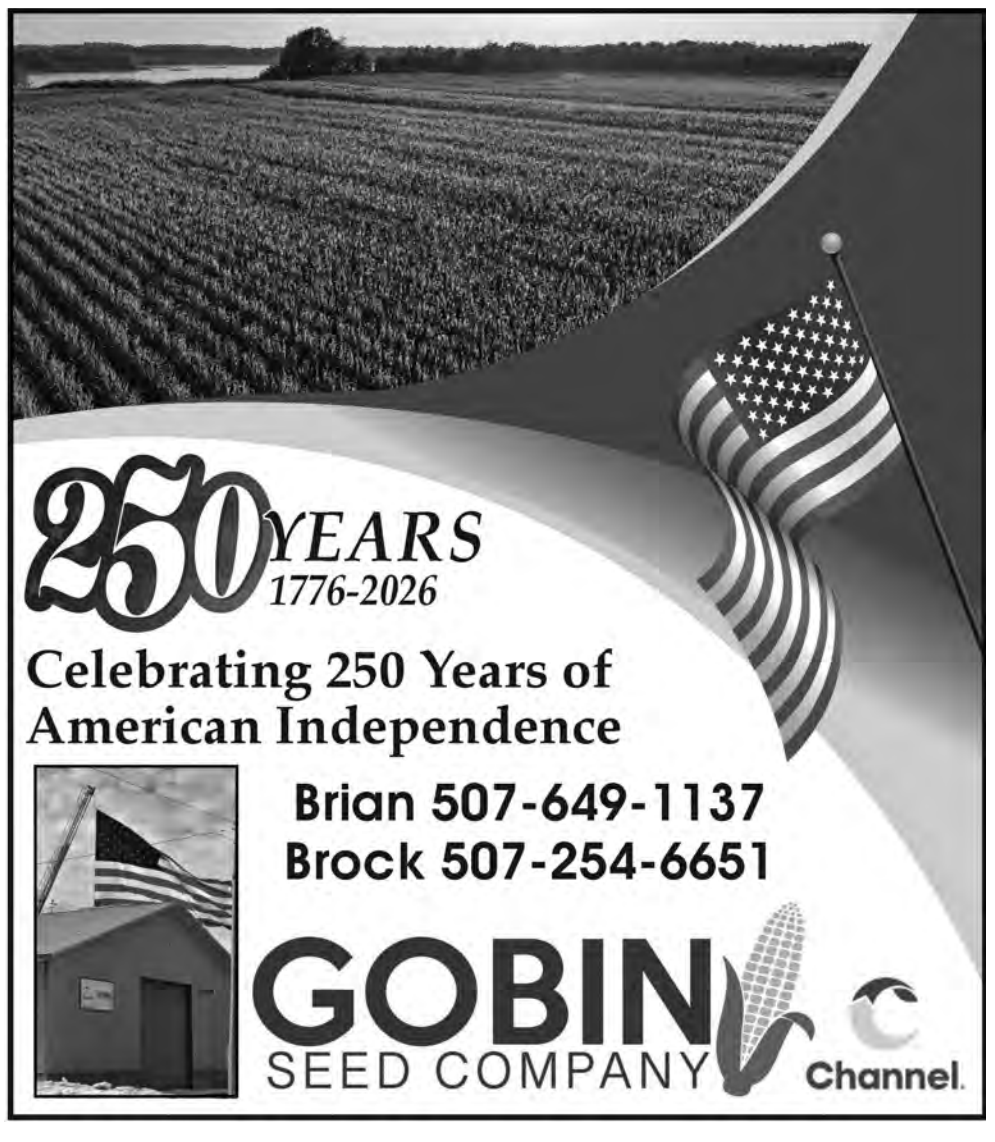
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Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger



Why Our Forefathers Were Much Healthier



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

For most of human history, people didn't have to think much about staying healthy. Good health was simply a byproduct of how they lived. Our ancestors ate nutrient-dense whole foods, moved their bodies all day long, and lived in step with the natural world around them. There were no calorie counters, step trackers, or shelves of supplements, because their surroundings gave their bodies what they needed. Today, many of us struggle with low energy, sluggish metabolism, and chronic conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and obesity, even with more health information at our fingertips than ever before. Looking back at how past generations lived can give us a practical roadmap for feeling better now.

Traditional diets looked very different from what fills most grocery carts today. Families valued the whole animal, not just lean cuts like chicken breasts or tenderloins. Organ meats were common in cookbooks from the 1700s through the early 1900s, and bones were simmered into broths rich in collagen and amino acids that support the gut, joints, and skin. Saturated fats from butter and animal sources were welcomed rather than feared, and some researchers now question the mid-century push to replace them with seed oils. Carbohydrates were part of the picture too, but they came from root vegetables, seasonal fruits, and whole grains that were soaked or fermented for easier digestion. Vegetables were usually roasted, steamed, or stewed, and meals followed a simple rhythm of three nourishing plates a day, all made from scratch. Industrialization changed that, bringing refined sugars, seed oils, and packaged convenience foods that are high in calories but low in real nutrition.

Movement was also built into everyday life. Farming, construction, and manufacturing demanded hours of physical effort, and that steady activity helped keep metabolism humming. Research shows that Americans' resting metabolic rate has dropped about 6% since 1820, and the energy demands of the average job have fallen by roughly 25% since 1870. Desk jobs and labor-saving devices have shifted us toward long hours of sitting, which takes a toll on metabolic health, posture, and mobility. We've also lost much of our time outdoors, which once helped people make plenty of vitamin D and gave the immune system a boost. Studies link time in green spaces to lower inflammation and stronger immune activity.

Our ancestors also lived without the steady stream of synthetic chemicals we face today. Their food wasn't sprayed with modern pesticides, their water didn't carry microplastics or pharmaceutical residues, and their homes weren't filled with plastics and chemical-laden products. Today, compounds like BPA, phthalates, and PFAS are nearly impossible to avoid, and they have been linked to metabolic, reproductive, and developmental concerns. Some researchers also raise questions about certain food additives, noting that excess iron from fortified processed foods may contribute to iron overload and that high fluoride exposure has been studied for possible effects on the thyroid and nervous system. Cutting back on unnecessary toxins where you can is a simple, meaningful step toward lightening your body's load.

Finally, sleep once followed the sun. Morning daylight helped people wake up naturally, and as evening fell, warm firelight and candlelight let melatonin rise so the body could rest and repair. Full-spectrum sunlight, including near-infrared light, also supported healthy mitochondria, the tiny energy producers inside your cells. Now, blue light from screens and bright indoor lighting keeps us wired late into the night, throwing off our internal clocks and hormone balance. Some research suggests that constant exposure to electromagnetic fields from phones and Wi-Fi may also interfere with deep sleep. The goal isn't to live in the past. It's to borrow these time-tested habits, like getting morning sunlight, eating real food, moving more, and winding down when it gets dark, so you and your family can rebuild the energy and resilience that used to be normal.

Microplastics showing up in birds lungs! Microplastics are tiny bits of plastic smaller than 5 millimeters, and they really are everywhere. They're in the water we drink, the food we eat and the air we breathe. Because they're so small, they can slip past the body's natural defenses and settle into our tissues, including our lungs. A 2025 study made this crystal clear. Researchers examined the lungs of 56 birds from 51 different species and found plastic particles in every single sample, averaging about 221 particles per species. Birds are often an early warning sign for problems in our environment, so these findings strongly suggest that we're breathing in the same contamination. In fact, earlier research has already found microplastics in human lung tissue, including particles from common plastics like polypropylene and PET, the material used in many drink bottles.

What concerns me most is what happens once these particles get inside us. Microplastics and the chemicals they carry have been linked to hormone disruption, which can affect metabolism, fertility, mood and thyroid function. Your immune system also treats these particles as invaders, which can lead to chronic inflammation. They've been tied to oxidative stress, which damages cells and drains energy, and to gut damage that weakens digestion and immune balance. Even more troubling, the smallest particles, called nanoplastics, have been shown to cross the placenta and the blood-brain barrier. That means they can reach a developing baby and the brain itself. If you're pregnant, trying to conceive or raising little ones, this is worth paying close attention to. The good news is that a few simple changes at home can make a real difference over time. Start by switching to reusable cloth or canvas bags instead of plastic ones. Store your food in glass or stainless steel containers, especially anything you plan to heat. Cut back on single-use plastics like straws, plastic cutlery and disposable water bottles. When it's time to replace things around the house, choose natural materials like wood, bamboo, cotton, wool or ceramic. Finally, improve your indoor air by opening windows, dusting and vacuuming often, and running an air purifier with a HEPA filter. You don't have to do it all at once. Every small step helps lower your plastic load and supports a healthier body for you and your family.

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







Regular Meeting of the Mazeppa City Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 14th, 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, and Crystal Hughley.

Others Present: City Engineer Matt Mohs from Bolton & Menk, Wabasha County Deputy Sherriff Paul Kruger, MLS Manager Todd Ihrke, Pete Grimsrud from News-Record, City Attorney Luke Lamprecht, Andrew Miller on behalf of Mazeppa Trail Committee, Angie Grossbach, Ellen Lexvold, Jessica Schumacher, Public Works Director Scott Ellingson, Streets Department Dan Nelson, Deputy Clerk-Erica Young, and City Administrator-Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

Present via electronic meeting: None.

Absent: Council Person Steve Liffrig.

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

Motion by Hammes, second by Wiebusch to approve the regular Council meeting minutes for September 9th, 2026. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hughley to close regular meeting and open public hearing for Ordinance 2026-02 amending Ordinance 23-1 Flood Plains. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

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

Wabasha County Sherriff Paul Kruger presented the ICR for the month of September.

Public Works Director Scott Ellingson presented the Public Works report.

City Administrator-Clerk Karl Nahrgang presented the Fire Department report.

Fire Relief By-laws topic tabled until next regular council meeting.

Municipal Liquor Store Manager Todd Ihrke presented the Municipal Liquor Store report. Several employees presented a letter of support for MMLS expansion and in support of manager Todd Ihrke.

City Engineer Matt Mohs presented the Engineering update.

Andrew Miller presented an opportunity for Trail Phase 2 grant assistance and support.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hughley to approve pursuit of Trail Phase 2 grant planning assistance and infrastructure grant application. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hughley to approve WWTP Contractor Pay Application #23 for $122,883.03. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hughley to approve Street Utility Project Change Order #4 in the amount of $-16,446.87. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hughley to approve Resolution 2026-42 deeming Street Utility Project complete. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Data Moratorium Task Order #11 tabled until next regular council meeting.

Administrator-Clerk Karl Nahrgang presented the City Hall report.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hughley to approve building permits 26-18-0021 and 26-18-0022. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch to approve 2025 Audit. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch to approve Ordinance 2026-02 amending Flood Plain ordinance 23-1. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch to approve Resolution 2026-43 Approving Summary Publication of Ordinance 2026-02. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hughley to set Truth in Taxation hearing for December 9th, 2026, at 6pm. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch to approve Resolution 2026-44 accepting donation toward Mazeppa Daze related costs in the amount of $40,000.00 from the Mazeppa Fire Relief Association. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch to approve Resolution 2026-44 from the Mazeppa Lions for $1,000 toward the Cemetery Association. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hughley, second by Wiebusch to approve Resolution 2026-45 Approving Gambling Permit for the Mazeppa American Legion Post 588. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

_____
Deputy Clerk

Zumbro Falls City Council Minutes - September 9th, 2026

The Zumbro Falls City Council met at City Hall at 6PM. Present at the meeting were all council members and Fire Chief, Chris Conrad.

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

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

Chris informed the council that the fire department is looking to recruit up to 4 new members. ZFFD will be present at several events in the upcoming month including Bluff Valley Fest and the Truck Show.

It was agreed that the City would prepay for 3000 gallons of LP with Lawler Gas Co. A motion of approval was made by Winters, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Mayor Heitmann gave an update on the waterstreet road construction and bids to install an alarm on the lift station. Road repairs on Appledale Dr. are needed and the city is considering short and long term options.

After additional discussion on the budget, it was decided to raise the Levy by 5% to cover inflation costs and continued road construction projects. A motion to move forward with this increase and approve the General City budget along with the Sewer and Water budget was made by Benson, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

The meeting then adjourned around 7:30 PM with all bills presented to be paid by a motion from Anderson, seconded Benson, all in favor, carried.

Submitted by,
Blake Hanson, Clerk

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Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger



Happy Fall, Mazeppa! As previously mentioned, I will be taking over Clerk Chatter and hope to share some thoughts on city happenings from a different perspective. As Deputy Clerk in the office, I can tell you we have already started planning and prepping for the winter months that are just around the corner. Plowing is always a hot topic around town. City Staff prioritize your safety and access when it comes to clearing the roads. We clear roadways emergency vehicles may need to use first and foremost, with lesser used paths coming secondary. Keep in mind that the people operating the plows have limited vision and maneuverability; give them space and time to work. Sidewalks are also another item that seems to pop up every winter. Mazeppa residents are responsible for clearing the sidewalks that border their property. Winter parking ordinance takes effect on November 1st. There is no parking allowed on city streets from 1am-6am until April 1st. Hopefully the snow is gone by then…

Last but not least - as a daughter of a USMC veteran, I'd like to say THANK YOU to all our veterans. We have many brave men and women who served for our country in Mazeppa so please don't forget to thank them on Veterans Day this month. The city offices will be closed and our regular council meeting rescheduled in observance of this holiday.

Have a happy and safe Thanksgiving! -Erica

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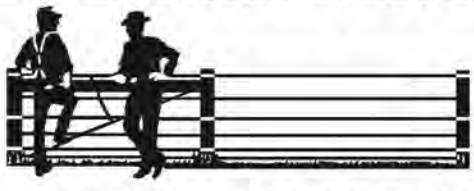
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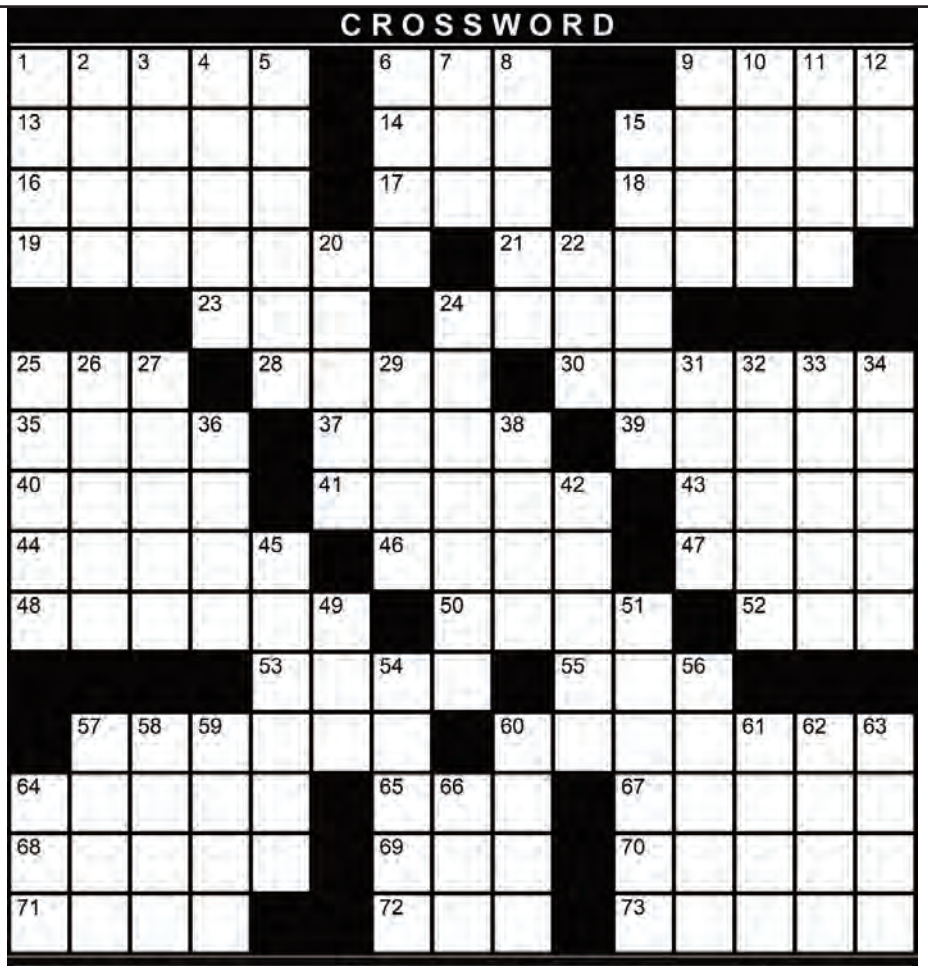
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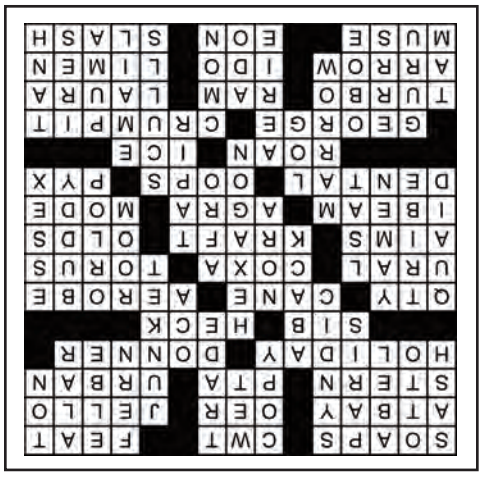
THEME: HOLIDAY MOVIES

ACROSS
1. "As the World Turns" and such
6. Hundredweight, acr.
9. Notable achievement
13. Keep a threat ____ ____, or away
14. Across, in verse
15. Jiggly dessert
16. Opposite of bow
17. Sch. grp.
18. Kidman's ex
19. *HomeExchange story, with The
21. *Rudolph's father
23. *Kevin to Buzz in "Home Alone"
24. "Dickens!"
25. Quantity, acr.
28. *"Candy ____ Lane" starring Eddie Murphy
30. Opposite of anaerobe
35. Russian mountain range
37. Coxae, sing.
39. Tori, sing.
40. Goals
41. Famous Mac & Cheese manufacturer
43. One of auto pioneers
44. Letter-shaped girder
46. Home to Taj Mahal
47. A la _____, with ice cream
48. Relating to teeth
50. "My bad"
52. Eucharist vessel
53. Multicolored horse
55. NHL court
57. *Bailey of Bedford Falls
60. *Mount ____, Grinch's home
64. Supercharger
65. Ewe's mate
67. Alice Halsey on "Little House on the Prairie"
68. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
69. Knot-tying vow (2 words)
70. Sensory threshold, in psychology
71. Artist's inspiration
72. Bajillion years
73. Guns N' Roses lead guitarist

DOWN
1. "Away to the window I flew like a flash, ... and threw up the ____"
2. "Beetle Bailey" pooch
3. Cain's brother
4. *The McCallisters' travel destination
5. Trustee
6. Printer button
7. *Harry and Marv, a.k.a. the ____ Bandits
8. Pro move
9. Shade-loving plant
10. Hamburg river
11. Winglike
12. Freight weight
15. Official work trip
20. Taken where?
22. South American tuber
24. Six-sided polygon
25. *Cousin Eddie actor
26. Human social group
27. Mandarin's headquarters
29. *Luther Krank's wife
31. Living space
32. Lowest deck
33. *Will Ferrell's famous holiday role
34. English county
36. Future J.D.'s hurdle
38. Like Bob Ross' do
42. Short-trunked ungulate
45. Bone filler
49. Yule treat
51. Type of racing boat, pl.
54. Nest for an eagle
56. Not your grandmother's mail?
57. Spiritual leader
58. Makes a mistake
59. Double reed woodwind
60. Slangy "Follow me!"
61. Cat on a shoe
62. Wraths
63. Hyperbolic tangent
64. _____ o' shanter
66. Fuss, to Shakespeare

SUDOKU ANSWERS

4	3	8	6	7	2	1	5	9
5	7	6	4	8	2	1	9	3
9	1	2	8	5	3	7	4	6
5	7	6	1	4	9	2	3	8
8	2	3	4	6	9	5	1	7
6	8	9	5	2	1	4	7	3
1	2	3	4	9	7	6	8	5
2	6	7	9	1	5	3	8	4
3	9	1	2	6	4	7	5	2



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4			6					9
			1	4		2		
	1	2		5				
					1		6	3
	2		4		8		9	
6	8		3					
				3		9	1	
		7		1	5			
3					4			5

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Warm Wishes at Thanksgiving



The holiday season is here, and we can't think of a better time to share our warmest wishes to all of our friends and neighbors who make this community a wonderful place.

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