



MAZEPPA and ZUMBRO FALLS

# Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger™

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FEBRUARY, 2021

Volume 15 • Issue 7

## Announcements

• **With COVID-19** challenging all of us in one way or another, we know there are individuals and families in need of help.

Several organizations in the Zumbro Valley Area (around Hammond, Zumbro Falls, Mazeppa area) are here to offer assistance and/or resources for you.

If you or someone you know is in need, please reach out at ZumbroValleyHelps@gmail.com.

We will send your email to the appropriate organization or send you information on helpful resources. We will get through this together! Be safe, stay healthy and if you can, stay home!

• **The Mazeppa Area Historical Society sends out a Huge Thank You for your support & look forward to a Great 2021!** Continue to support the local businesses & keep Mazeppa strong!

• **The Mazeppa Senior citizens meet on the first Friday of each month.** A catered lunch is served followed by a meeting and bingo. All senior citizens 55 and older are invited to join. We meet at the Mazeppa Community Center.

• **The Mazeppa Area Food Shelf, serving Mazeppa, Bellechester, and Zumbro Falls Area is open the second Thursday of the month from 9:30-11 am and 3:30 - 5:30pm, and the fourth Thursday from 3:30 - 5:30pm.** Food drop off locations are First State Bank of Red Wing, Mazeppa Branch, and Entry way to Mazeppa City Hall.

• **The Zumbro Valley Food Shelf is located at South Troy Wesleyan Church, 56817 Hwy 63, Zumbro Falls, MN.** The hours will be 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.

Do you have an announcement?  
Email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

## Zumbrota-Mazeppa School Board Meeting

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Vocational class construction on a house at 450 Lancaster Blvd in Zumbrota is nearing completion. The house is built with class participation and bids will be accepted February 19th at 10am at the school office in Mazeppa. This home is a 2,008 square ft home with three bedrooms, two baths and a three car garage. The minimum asking price was increased from \$299,000 to \$327,900 at the last school board meeting to reflect the increase in construction materials and the addition of in floor heat in the garage and a fireplace in the living area.

The Z-M school will be hiring an additional second grade teacher to accommodate the increase in students. There will now be six sections of second graders until the end of the school year. The superintendent also commented on his frustration of the lack of Covid vaccine for Z-M teachers.

The board also previewed a new window and door graphic product that will be applied to the elementary school entrance.



It will have the school colors and logo and allows those inside to see out but not anyone outside to see in to the building.

The school board approved a new bid for the roofing in the middle and high school building. The original bid was retracted last month due to an error on the part of the contractor. The new bid came in at \$675,000.

The 2021-22 school year calendar was

approved and school will start September 7th 2021 and end on June 2, 2022 with 173 student days.

## Wabasha County to Begin Vaccinating Adults 65+

Wabasha County Public Health continues to vaccinate our remaining health care personnel from the Phase 1a Priority Three group. We anticipate completion of this phase on Friday February 5th. We will begin to vaccinate Adults 65+ next. We are not currently accepting registrations or creating a waitlist. As more vaccine becomes available and we are able to move to the next priority group, we will communicate further instructions regarding who can be vaccinated and how to register for an appointment on our Facebook page, and the Wabasha County website.

In order to register you must have an email address. Please prepare in advance and have an email address created, or make a plan with a family member to help you register using their email address.

It is very important that the link not be shared or used by anyone outside of the priority list. Be prepared to bring a photo id that shows you are a Wabasha County resident, and confirms that you are a member of the priority group. You may be turned away if you can't provide the requested information.

(continued on page 3)

## Mazeppa Fire Department Makes Donation to City

The Mazeppa Fire Department Relief Association made a donation to the city in the amount of \$100,000. This is substantially higher than past years where the average has been between \$30,000 and \$45,000. This money comes from the sale of pull tabs. The funds will be added to the city reserve fund and used for public safety.

Zack Hofius spoke with the council about an Eagle Scout project for improvement at the Walking Bridge Park. The scouts would remove the under growth and railroad tie steps and plant perennials with a cost of \$400 to \$600.

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**MAZEPPA LION'S GAMBLING FUN DAY**  
Saturday, February 6th at 4:00pm  
★ PULL TABS! E-TABS! HORSE & DOG RACING! ★

**LEO'S SPORTS BAR**  
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**SUPERBOWL PARTY**  
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## Love Potion #1



By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

There's a 50's song that has the lyrics: "I took my troubles down to Madame Rue, you know that gypsy with the gold-capped tooth? She's got a pad on Thirty-Fourth and Vine selling' little bottles of Love Potion Number Nine. I told her that I was a flop with chicks I've been this way since 1956, She looked at my palm and she made a magic sign, she said "what you need is Love Potion Number Nine" According to Madame Rue- you drink this potion and you won't be without a date on Friday night!

Diana Ross sang a song that had a chorus about love too, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of. What the world needs now is love, sweet love; no not just for some but for everyone." Our world does need love- I don't think a magic potion will do it. Our world has tried so many different ways to find love and happiness- yet many of us have missed it. We aren't happy, we feel alone and unlovable. While Love potion #9 isn't the answer- I would like to share the true 'Love potion #1' available to each of us.

John wrote in his little letter of 1st John these words, "Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. . . <sup>10</sup> This is real love—not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins." John writes that true love- real, lasting, forever love comes from God. God showed His love for us when He sent His Son to take our place on the cross. He loved us so much that He gave His one and only Son for you and me, and for all people for all time. The world does need more love. It is something that there is too little of. We

need to learn to show and practice it with the people we pass each day. (as Diana Ross sang)

As John continued, he said, "<sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us." Since God loves us that much; enough to send His One and only Son to die for us, we should love each other.

God loves me so much- and because of His love for me I should be loving others with the same grace and patience He has had for me. When I think of all the times that I have hurt Jesus... the times I said something spiteful, or the times when I hurt someone with a cruel word, or when I used to treat my parents disrespectfully or party so much I don't remember my drive home, and all the times when God was only 2nd thought or no thought at all in my day; I am so profoundly grateful and humbled that He loves me now and He loved me then! I am undeserving of His Love. All He has desired for me, for all humankind, is to be in a relationship with Him- but in those days, before I really knew Him, I just blew Him off. Yet His love was there all along.

As I became an adult I discovered His love through the eyes of my Grandparents, my daughter, my son, the Pastor, and the people at the church I began to attend. I hadn't experienced that kind of love before- acceptance and totally unconditional love. They showed me God's love for me- and it blew me away! I had finally discovered true love- love that wasn't based on what I did or didn't do or based on my looks- thank goodness!- or based on some distorted pay back system. God's love was and is unconditional.

When we become of a follower of Jesus we discover that God is love. He is the essence of what love is and without Him Love wouldn't even exist. When we accept the truth of the gospel- that we are sinners and that Jesus Christ is God's Son; He lived, died, and rose again to set us free- then we are His followers; and His love lives in us. There are times when it is tough to love someone. There are people that may be very annoying, or mean, or hateful to us or to the people we love, but Christ reminds us that He loves them too. He loved us before we were very lovable. And because His love lives in us, we can extend that same love to others. Is it easy? Nope! It can be downright difficult and feel impossible- yet we are called to love them like Jesus does. That's a tall order- we can only do that when we are filled with His Love.

As we love God, we are more able to love people that are created in His image. I like how John spells it out at the end of verse 20, "If we don't love people we can see, how can we love God whom we cannot see?" If we can't love those people we see- people we rub shoulders with: maybe people we don't always agree with, or people that are different; in how they talk, or dress or look, how can we truly love the God that created them? Verse 21 leaves no mistake in interpretation this Valentines Month: Those who love God MUST also love their fellow believers! We are called to Love God and to Love People. As we celebrate the month of "love" may we learn to extend the same love that God has displayed towards us to all the people that He created and for whom He died for. Love one another as Jesus love you. Happy Valentines Day!

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222 1st Ave S., Mazeppa  
843-3885  
Sunday Mass 10:00 a.m.  
Friday Mass Adoration 8:00a.m.  
Mass 9:00a.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)

7134 Highway 246 NE, Elgin, MN  
Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m.  
(Bible class at 8:30 during the school year)

#### NOTICE

Due to COVID-19 check your church website or Facebook page for updates.

### AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

#### Who Then Can Be Saved?

Scripture Reading — Mark 10:17-31  
The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" — Mark 10:26

In reading stories about people like the man in this episode, people who don't really understand Jesus, I'm tempted to look down on them. The man appears to have been wealthy, and he had a high opinion of how well he kept the law. But he seems to have had no idea that Jesus was simply calling him to give his whole life to God—or maybe he just didn't want to do that. I think to myself, "I guess he just doesn't get what it means to follow Jesus."

And yet I often respond to Jesus in the same way that man did. Often I don't catch what Jesus is about, or understand what he has just said, or realize what he expects of me.

But in this story, Jesus doesn't look down on the man. Jesus looks at him and loves him, the Bible says.

I am so thankful that—even though the man had it all wrong—Jesus didn't just dismiss him or condemn him. Instead, Jesus loved him and invited the man to follow him.

Right there is something wonderful I can learn from Jesus. When I don't understand his teachings, or when I misunderstand the truth about Jesus and his kingdom, there is still a loving invitation from Jesus to follow him and keep learning.

Whatever else Jesus says to the man in the story, it's in the context of Jesus' love for a person who doesn't fully get it. That is reassuring to me!

Prayer  
Thank you, Jesus, for looking at me with love even when I have it all wrong. Instead of seeing what I have done, show me what you have done for me. Amen.

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

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

#### 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  
Sundays 10:30am in-person & livestream  
Worship on Wednesdays 6:30pm  
Wednesday evenings: youth service and adult service

#### ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



### Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger

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## Kenneth A. Cook

Kenneth A. Cook, 83, formally of Pine Island, died of complications from the Covid-19 virus on Monday (January 4, 2021) in Sebring, Florida.



Kenneth Alan Cook was born April 16, 1937, in Cortland, NY. He grew up in central New York State, graduated from Homer (NY) High School in 1954 and attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (NY). On June 23, 1955, he married Charlotte Sutton in Preble, NY. They lived in Glen Aubrey, NY, until moving to Pine Island in 1962. They were married 52 years when Charlotte passed away in 2007. In June 2011, Ken married Nancy Rhodes in Sebring, Florida. They lived seasonally in Minnesota and in Florida.

For 35 years, Ken worked as a technician and mechanical engineer at IBM in Endicott (NY) and Rochester, MN. He then owned a home improvement business for a number of years. He was a member of the Oasis Church in Rochester, where he had been a Deacon, boys youth leader, and member of the choir. He was involved in the Pine Island Lion's Club, was active on the camp board and in volunteering at Camp Victory in Zumbro Falls. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, volunteering for many construction activities and piloting his Cessna.

Survivors include his wife, Nancy; sister Janet Pfeifer (Dwight) of New Era, MI; four sons, Wesley (Elizabeth) of

Stewartville, Wilson (Debra) of Cannon Falls, Walter (Jane) of Lake George, MN and Warren (Melanie) of Sidney, Ohio; 14 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren; and the Rhodes family: Susan of Tampa, FL, Brian (Sandra) of Tampa, FL, Scott (Wendy) of Woodruff, SC, Jonathon (Sonal) of Naperville, IL; 12 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Charlotte.

Private burial was at the Pine Island Cemetery. A memorial service will be planned later this year, once the Covid situation allows.

Memorials are suggested to Camp Victory, Oasis Church or Maranatha Manor (Sebring, FL)

## Sherry Lee Jackson

Sherry Lee Jackson, 61, of Zumbro Falls, passed away Friday morning, January 15, 2021 at Mayo Clinic Hospital – Rochester, Saint Marys Campus.



She was born December 14, 1959 in Winona to Franklin and Lavonne (Schmidt) Huntley. Sherry graduated from Mazeppa High School in 1978.

Sherry worked for many years at Delila's in Zumbro Falls. She was a very hard worker and worked as a bartender, bar-manager, cook, and housekeeper during her working years.

In the summers, Sherry found great joy in her vegetable and flower gardens, snap dragons being her favorite flower. She

much enjoyed watching the cooking channels and preparing meals in her kitchen while her faithful dog Jake kept watch.

She especially loved people and made many relationships through her work over the years.

Sherry is survived by her life partner, Dana Oelkers of Zumbro Falls; her children, Krista Bulow of Mantorville, Joshua Jackson of Le Claire, IA, Deanna Oelkers and David Oelkers both of Lake City; five grandchildren, Halley, Madelyne, Braeden, Kendra, and Mercie; her father, Franklin Huntley of Texas; and her stepfather, Keith

Reeve of Weaver; two sisters, Sandy (Todd) Pruisman and Shelly Lemmerman both of Rochester.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Bonnie, brother, Scott, and sister, Susan.

A walk-through visitation was held on Tuesday, January 19, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Schleicher Funeral Homes, Lake City Chapel. A private family service was held on Wednesday, January 20, at Schleicher Funeral Homes with burial following in the Millville Cemetery.

Masks were required and social distancing was practiced.

## Wabasha County to Begin Vaccinating Adults 65+

(continued from page 1)

Wabasha County Public Health stresses the importance of following social distancing and guidelines for being near other people even if you have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

- Wear masks when in public.
- Avoid enclosed spaces with groups of people, where the virus can linger in the air for long periods.
- Get tested if you have cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Stay six feet away from others.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow, sleeve or a tissue. Throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands afterward.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom or before eating. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at



least 60% alcohol.

- Avoid touching your face – especially your eyes, nose, and mouth – with unwashed hands.

More information about Coronavirus is available at [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us) or you can call the Minnesota Helpline: 651-297-1304 or 1-800-657-3504 Monday-Friday: 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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## Better Business Bureau Warns Not to Show Vaccination Cards on Social Media

The Better Business Bureau is warning everyone not to show their vaccination card on social media. The official COVID-19 vaccination card has your full name and birthday on it, as well as information about where you got your vaccine. If your social media privacy settings aren't set high, you may be giving valuable information away for anyone to use.

Not only is privacy an issue, but scammers in Great Britain were caught selling fake vaccination cards on eBay and TikTok. The Better Business Bureau fears it's only a matter of time before similar cons come to the United States and Canada. Posting photos of your card can help provide scammers with information they can use to create and sell phony ones.

In order to protect yourself and others, here are some helpful tips on how to share safely on social media:

Share your vaccine sticker or use a profile frame instead. If you want to post about your vaccine, there are safer ways to do it. You can share a photo of your vaccine sticker or set a frame around your profile picture.

Review your security settings. Check your security settings on all social media platforms to see what you are sharing and with whom. If you only want friends and family to see your posts, be sure that's how your privacy settings are configured.

Be wary of answering popular social media prompts. Sharing your vaccine photo is just the latest social trend. Think twice before participating in other viral personal posts, such as listing all the cars you've owned (including makes/model years), favorite songs, and top 10 TV shows. Some of these "favorite things" are commonly used passwords or security questions.

The bottom line is to play it safe. Unless it's from a group you know and trust, you should really scrutinize each and every time you post to social media and be well aware of your security settings.



## New Scholarships Available to Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certified Farmers

*Funding will support those in the Farm Business Management Program*

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering a new scholarship for farmers to learn business management strategies that will lead to profitable and competitive farming operations. The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) Farm Business Management Scholarship provides tuition money for the Farm Business Management Program.

This program started in 1952 and now serves over 5,000 farm families annually in Minnesota. It is offered at eight Minnesota State colleges throughout the state.

The Farm Business Management Program is a one-on-one, student-led program designed to provide education to farm owners and operators. The program helps students to meet their business and personal goals and focuses on using quality records and sound business decisions with tools and other resources.

"Our goal of offering this scholarship to the Farm Business Management Program is to assure our farmers are on better financial footing through good education," said MDA Assistant Commissioner Whitney Place. "We already know, thanks to a study by AgCentric and the Agricultural Centers of Excellence, that ag water quality certified farms have a 26% higher net income than non-certified farms, so it will be an added benefit to equip them with the resources of the Farm Business Management Program."

"Minnesota Farm Business Management faculty are excited to enroll farmers who are water quality certified," said Keith Olander, Director of AgCentric and the Central Lakes College Ag & Energy Center. "The ability to compare financial data to environmental practices on the farm offers a new management tool for producers who desire to change farming methods while

maintaining profitability."

The MAWQCP Farm Business Management Scholarship will award \$140 per credit (approximately 75% of the cost of tuition) for new Farm Business Management students in their first and/or second semester of the program and \$90 per credit (approximately 50% the cost of tuition) for returning students in their third semester or beyond. Students must enroll in a minimum of two credits per semester, or four per academic year, with a maximum of 10 credits per year.

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must be water quality certified in the MAWQCP. To apply, contact a Farm Business Management instructor. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. The deadline for spring semester 2021 is March 1.

Farmers and landowners interested in

becoming water quality certified can contact their local Soil and Water Conservation District or visit MyLandMyLegacy.com.

### About the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and agricultural landowners to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water. Those who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty for a period of ten years. The program is available to farmers and landowners statewide. To date, over 990 farmers have enrolled 695,000 acres in MAWQCP. In December 2020, Governor Tim Walz announced a goal of enrolling one million acres in the program by the end of 2022.

## Minnesota Farm Bureau Sesquicentennial Farm Applications Due March 1

Minnesota Farm Bureau's Sesquicentennial Farm program will honor Minnesota families who have owned their farms for at least 150 years. Since the Sesquicentennial Farm program began in 2008, over 400 farms have been recognized. Applications are due March 1. The Sesquicentennial Farm program recognizes family farms according to the following qualifications:

1) The farm must be at least 150 years old this year (2021) according to the abstract of title, land patent, original deed, county land records, court file in registration proceedings or other authentic land records. Please do not send originals or copies of records.

2) Your family must have owned the farm for 150 years or more. "Family" is defined as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, first cousins and direct in-laws (father, mother, brother, sister, daughter, son-in-law).

3) Continuous residence on farm is not required, but ownership must be continuous.

4) The farm should consist of 50 or more acres and currently be involved in agricultural production.

A commemorative certificate signed by Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation President Kevin Paap, Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen and Governor Tim Walz will be awarded to qualifying families, along with an outdoor sign signifying Sesquicentennial Farm recognition.

Applications are available by writing Sesquicentennial Farms, Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, P.O. Box 64370, St. Paul, MN 55164; emailing [info@fbmn.org](mailto:info@fbmn.org); or calling 651-768-2100. Applications are also available on our website,



[www.fbmn.org](http://www.fbmn.org). Deadline for application is March 1. Previously recognized families should not reapply.

Century Farms are not automatically recognized as Sesquicentennial Farms. Families must apply to receive Sesquicentennial Farm recognition. County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to work with county agriculture societies and county fair boards on local recognition of recipients. Recipients will be announced at the beginning of April.

To see a list of previously recognized Sesquicentennial Farms in Minnesota, visit [fbmn.org/pages/farm-recognition](http://fbmn.org/pages/farm-recognition).

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## MISSY'S MESSAGE

Hard to believe it's February already! I don't know about you, but this definitely feels like the longest year of my life. We are thankful and blessed to have had so many great things happen this past year! We were looking at some old pictures when Monty was a baby. I remember it like it was yesterday, and now he is 19 years old! I never want to wish time to pass by, but I know this too shall pass.

I decided to try something new this year, online yoga classes called Bulldog Yoga. Most of the classes are prerecorded, but they also have some live Zoom classes also. They have a free trial period, so I figured now's the best time for me to try it out. I enjoy it, and yoga is just what I needed to add to my exercise routine. They have all sorts of types of classes from high intensity interval training, sculpt/strength to relaxation yoga. I needed something different to help me relax.

I'm still working on increasing my water intake and healthier eating. It will come with time. I have nothing new to report on my job situation, but next month I should know my final outcome I have been waiting all these months for. Having patience is hard sometimes. Maybe that is why yoga is going so well for me.

*Memo from MotoProz...*

February is Mike Papenfus's birthday Month! Don't forget to HONK when you drive by MotoProz! Let's see if he will notice!?! Happy birthday Mike!

Missy and her husband Mike own MotoProz in Mazeppa.



## Critically-Needed Blood Donations

The American Red Cross estimates that someone needs a blood transfusion approximately every two seconds. Claudia Cohn, MD, PhD, a pathologist with the University of Minnesota Medical School and M Health Fairview and the chief medical officer for the American Association of Blood Banks, explains why donating blood today is needed now more than ever and how choosing to give could equip those donors with new information about their exposure to COVID-19.

*Q: What are some of the causes of low blood donation levels right now, and how does that affect someone's health?*

Dr. Cohn: The blood supply is typically lower during the winter months, since blood donations often decrease because of the holidays, travel schedules, inclement weather and illness. That is severely compounded this year with the raging COVID-19 pandemic, which has overwhelmed hospitals and did cancel numerous blood drives earlier in the year. But, the need for blood still exists, despite the virus — victims of car accidents still arrive in emergency departments, cancer patients still require chemotherapy, all of which use life-saving blood transfusions.

*Q: What are some of the new benefits related to COVID-19 when giving blood?*

Dr. Cohn: If you've ever been curious about whether or not you recently had the novel coronavirus, many blood centers will now test for COVID-19 antibody levels when you donate blood. In fact, if your levels are high, they will send you a letter requesting an appointment for you to donate convalescent plasma, which received FDA emergency use authorization for use in treating hospitalized patients with COVID-19. There is starting to be a nationwide shortage of convalescent plasma, so if you know you have had COVID-19, please contact your local blood center to learn how to donate convalescent plasma.

*Q: How could getting the COVID-19 vaccine impact someone's ability to donate blood or convalescent plasma?*

Dr. Cohn: The FDA does not require a deferral on blood donations after a COVID-19 vaccine, however, some blood centers might implement a short-term (less than two-week) deferral after someone has been vaccinated, as some people feel mildly ill after their shot. The FDA does, however, defer COVID-19 convalescent plasma donations if you never had COVID-19 and received one of the COVID-19 vaccines.

*Q: Are blood donation centers safe right now?*

Dr. Cohn: Blood donation sites are taking measures to ensure donor safety. They have staggered donation appointments to avoid groups of people standing in line, and they have made sure all donation stations maintain social distancing. All surfaces are wiped down and all personnel are masked. It is probably safer to donate blood than it is to go to a crowded supermarket. If you

are interested in donating, find and contact your local blood center.

*Q: What are you doing in this area to advance public knowledge about the need for blood donations?*

Dr. Cohn: The American Association of Blood Banks works with blood centers, hospitals and the wider community to advance public knowledge about the need for blood donations. This work ranges from educational webinars to public service announcements when the blood supply is low. In my role at the AABB as chief medical officer, I have interacted with multiple media outlets to get the word out about the need for more blood.

*Dr. Claudia Cohn is an associate professor of laboratory medicine and pathology in the University of Minnesota Medical School. She is medical director of the M Health Fairview Blood Bank and leads the American Association of Blood Banks as chief medical officer. She conducts research in the field of transfusion medicine and focuses her efforts in two areas: patient blood management and platelet storage and utilization.*



**Upcoming Blood Donation Opportunity**  
**Wabasha County**  
**Plainview**  
**2/10/2021: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.,**  
**Plainview Area Youth Community**  
**Center, 346 W. Broadway**

## FEMA is Now Accepting Applications for the Youth Preparedness Council

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is committed to actively involving youth in preparedness-related activities through the Youth Preparedness Council (YPC) and is seeking applicants for 2021.

YPC members are students in grades 8 through 11 who are selected to support disaster preparedness and make a positive impact on their communities. The 2021 YPC is now open for applications. The YPC is an opportunity for young leaders to engage with FEMA and provide their perspectives, feedback, and opinions related to preparedness, to grow their leadership skills, and to support the resilience of their communities.

YPC members are selected for two-year terms and are chosen based on their passion for preparedness and helping others, their involvement in their community, and their aptitude for working in a team and as a leader.

Students from Region 5 states who apply for the National Youth Preparedness Council will also be considered for a place on the Region 5 Youth Preparedness Council (Region 5 YPC). The Region 5 YPC is an additional service and leadership opportunity for high school students living in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

"FEMA's Youth Preparedness Council empowers young people to not only participate in disaster readiness within their families and communities but also be the leaders to affect positive change," said Kevin M. Sligh, acting regional administrator, FEMA Region 5. "By applying to and joining the council, youth will have the opportunity to build preparedness and become change agents in their community."

The online application opened on January 18, 2021, and students must complete their applications by March 7, 2021, 11:59 p.m. PST to be considered. Selected candidates will be notified in May 2021. Interested students can apply online at <https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/apply-to-ypc>.

For more information about the Youth Preparedness Council or other youth-focused preparedness initiatives contact us at [FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-Prepare@fema.dhs.gov).

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## Take Your Attitude On A Positive Spin



By Harvey Mackay

One day a professor announced a surprise test. He distributed a paper to each student with the front side face down. Then he asked the class to turn over the page and start the test, but there were no questions on the paper – just a black dot in the center of the page.

“I want you to write a few lines about what you see on the paper,” the professor said.

Puzzled, the students started the test. Once everyone finished, the professor collected all the tests and started reading the answers out loud. Without exception, all the students had written about the black dot, mentioning its position, size and so on.

The teacher told the students: “None of you will be graded on this test. I just wanted you to ponder over something. All of you wrote about the black dot. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. The same thing happens in our lives. We all have a white paper to observe and learn from, yet we always focus on the dark spots. We have so many reasons to celebrate, our parents, co-workers, friends, good health, a good job, the miracles we witness every day, for example.

“However, we often limit our horizons by focusing on just the dark spots – our disappointments, our frustrations, our fears and anxieties. In our day-to-day lives, we tend to take so many good things for granted and focus our energy on insignificant failure and disappointments.

“Take your eyes away from the black dots of your life. Try and focus on the brighter side of life and let positivity govern your thoughts.”

I consider Norman Vincent Peale’s book, “The Power of Positive Thinking,” one of the best motivational books ever written. A positive mind anticipates happiness, joy, health and success. Whatever the mind expects, it finds.

I frequently promote this book in my speeches and writings, because even though it was published in 1952, the advice is timeless. Positivity is one of those attitudes that never changes.

One of my favorite aphorisms goes like this: Watch your thoughts; they become

words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.

If you think positively, you will be more inclined to speak positively. Your positive words will spur you to positive actions. If you get used to behaving in a positive way, you will form good habits. And your habits will help define the kind of person you are. That will lead you to your destiny: what you will eventually become as a person.

Positive thinking has no negatives. Both personal and professional relationships benefit from a positive approach. By all means, surround yourself with positive people; support each other when the urge to be negative threatens.

Sometimes that’s not so easy to do in a professional setting. Difficult customers or co-workers can drag you down. Direct your efforts toward diffusing difficult situations or refusing to fall into their trap. Successful businesses thrive on customer satisfaction, not hostility.

Would you rather do business with a positive person or someone who finds fault at every turn? Conversely, do your customers find your dealings rewarding or tedious? Nothing chases business out the door faster than a contentious encounter.

If you can’t say yes to a deal, find a positive way to say no. “I’m sorry we can’t accommodate your request, but I’m going to call a friend who may be able to help.” You

aren’t turning away business; you are leaving a future customer with positive thoughts

about your practices. And they appreciate being treated with that kind of respect.

Here’s an extra benefit: Treating others well does wonders for your own self-respect. Sounds like a winning formula all around.

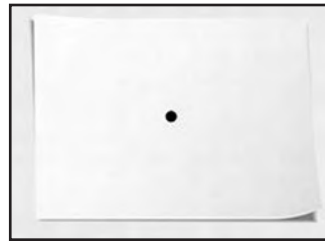
Let’s circle back to the black dot story. I am fascinated with the ingenuity of the professor. Such a simple exercise is easily translated to so many life situations. We all have challenges that tempt us to focus on our own “black dots.” Try hard not to let them pepper your outlook. Consider this age-old story about finding the positive in the face of adversity.

Everyone advised David to forget about confronting the enormous giant Goliath, saying, “He’s so big, there’s no way you can win.”

David replied, “He’s so big, there’s no way I can miss.”

Mackay’s Moral: A positive approach rises above reproach.

*Reprinted with permission from nationally syndicated columnist Harvey Mackay, author of the New York Times #1 bestseller "Swim With The Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive."*



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## Collaboration is Our Way Forward



**Tim Penny**  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

When I served in Congress, I was dedicated to representing my southern Minnesota district. I was not there to simply vote the party line; I did my best to take into consideration the differing political ideologies that existed at the time among my constituents. As a legislator, I made it a priority to develop partnerships with other legislators – in both parties – to find common ground and to influence legislation to the benefit of the communities I served.

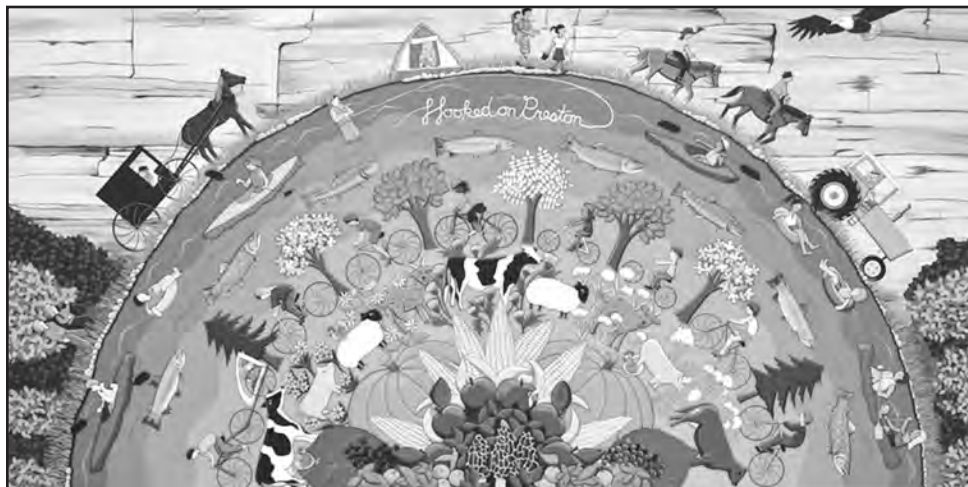
As divisions in our country and state have become amplified in recent years, I believe it is important to emphasize that collaboration is central to how we will be able to

move forward. Here at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), collaboration is a key value and a guiding force in how we do our work.

SMIF's vision is that southern Minnesota will be a prosperous and growing region with vibrant communities, innovative and successful economies and engaged and valued citizens. As we celebrate SMIF's 35th anniversary this year, and more than \$121 million invested in our 20-county region during that time, we know that we would not have been able to make progress on this vision without the many partners that have supported our efforts over the past three and a half decades.

Partnerships have made it possible for SMIF to award 4,300 grants since our inception. For example, we work with Ace Hardware and Arrow Hardware & Paint, to distribute paint to communities for projects like murals through our Paint the Town Grants. We partner with publishers ABDO and Capstone to distribute thousands of books to children birth through age five through our Early Literacy Grants (and many more thousands of books get distributed through our Early Childhood programming). We recently partnered with Region Nine Development Commission and SE MN Together to launch a special Inclusive and Equitable Communities Grant program, awarding \$160,000 to organizations that are increasing equity and inclusion within communities and supporting entrepreneurs of diverse backgrounds.

Since 1986 we have been able to support



more than 700 businesses through our lending program because of our partnerships with financial institutions and economic development agencies. We have also partnered with our 30 Community Foundations by providing \$823,000 in matching grants over the years, offering direct support to their communities.

Our commitment to collaboration made it possible for us to distribute \$12.1 million in COVID-19 response dollars. SMIF partnered with the State of Minnesota throughout 2020 to distribute grants and loans to support children, childcare providers, entrepreneurs and communities in our region during this crisis. Most recently we partnered with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to distribute \$10.2 million in Small Business Relief Grants, helping keep more

than 1,000 southern Minnesota businesses afloat. We also worked with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to award \$180,000 in Early Care and Wrap Around Grants to fund early care and education wrap around services for children birth to age eight from underserved populations impacted by the pandemic.

It is impossible to name every partner that has made a difference in SMIF's work, but we are appreciative of each and every one of them. Without this culture of collaboration, we would have a vision for our region's prosperity without the means to execute that vision. Likewise, Minnesota – and our country – will make progress when we all work together.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me at [timp@smifoundation.org](mailto:timp@smifoundation.org) or 507-455-3215.

# NEPTUNE

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# Local Government & Historical Happenings

Page 8

- MAZEPPA-ZUMBRO FALLS MESSENGER -

February, 2021

## Zumbro Falls City Council Minutes December 9, 2020

The Meeting was called to order at 7PM by the mayor. Jason Faas, Treasurer, was absent from the meeting.

Clerk read the minutes of the November council meeting. It was noted by the mayor that the Diversion project is not yet completed as stated in the minutes. Clerk will correct the minutes which then were accepted by a motion from Anderson, seconded Bankers, all in favor, carried.

Clerk also reported to the council the financial report for the month of November. This was accepted by a motion from Dennison, seconded Anderson, all in favor, Carried.

Clerk asked the council for a motion to

forward the Levy payment for TIF to Daren Hofschulte in the amount of \$31,500.00. Motion to pay this was made by Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Resolution No. 20-10 was put in place by a motion from Anderson, seconded Dennison, all in favor carried. This resolution declares the Auditor/Treasurer of Wabasha County, Located at 625 Jefferson Ave, Wabasha, Minnesota as the polling place for the City of Zumbro Falls for the year 2021.

Clerk will purchase a CD for the Fire Department Truck Fund in the amount of \$40,000.00.

A check was presented to council for acceptance from Emery Bremer in the amount of \$200.00 for the Fire Department.

A motion to accept was made by Dennison, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Motion to adjourn the meeting and the Clerk to pay all bills presented was made by Bankers, seconded Dennison, all in favor, carried.

Submitted by,  
Susan Eischens, Clerk

## RESOLUTION NO. 20-10 CITY OF ZUMBRO FALLS Resolution Designating Annual Polling Place

WHEREAS, it is important that citizens exercise their right to vote at their local polling place.

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 204B.16 requires the town board to designate its local polling

place for elections annually.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the city council of the City of Zumbro Falls, Wabasha County, Minnesota does hereby designate the Auditor/Treasurer's Office at 625 Jefferson Ave., Wabasha, Minnesota, in Wabasha County as its polling place for 2021.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the City will notify residents of this designation by the requirements of Minn. Stat. 205.16.

ADOPTED THIS 9TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2020 BY THE COUNCIL

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk

# Historical Happenings

Compiled by  
Helen Reiland

THE MAZEPPA JOURNAL, Editor and Publisher: Barbara and Reider Tommeraas  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1950

## Weddings

### TIEDEMANN-KOENIG

Grace Lutheran church of Oronoco was the scene Sunday afternoon, of the marriage of Miss Joan Myra Koenig, daughter of August Koenig of Douglas, and Walter Tiedemann of Zumbrota.

Mrs. Frank Wise of Douglas, sister of the bride, was matron of honor, Miss Lois Whipple, cousin of the bridegroom was bridesmaid, Judy Whipple of Zumbro Falls, and niece of the bride was the flower girl.

Merral Tiedemann of Zumbrota attended the bridegroom as best man and the other attendant was Frank Wise, brother-in-law of the bride. The ushers were Floyd Schriever and Allen Whipple.

## KILLING FROST COMES EARLY THIS YEAR

In keeping with the coolest summer in many years—the first killing frost his Mazeppa last Saturday night.

This was the earliest such frost in seven years.

Many farmers suffered quite a loss on their corn crops, which are not mature. Much of it will have to be cut for silage and feed.

## Local News

Johnny Reiland moved Wednesday of last week from Bellechester to the Hartz farm, south of Mazeppa.

Mrs. Bert Arendt, Mrs. Eugene Tri, and Louie and Gervas Jostock visited Mrs. Jostock at St. John's hospital, Red Wing, Monday evening.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1950

### Municipal Building Plans Set

Plans to go ahead with the new, estimated \$75,000, municipal building were completed Saturday when the village council purchased the Colling building and land, located across the street, north, from Schmitt's garage. The site was purchase for \$3100 from Donald Morrell of Pine Island.

The new building will house the fire department, liquor store, and suite of three rooms, all on the ground floor. A meeting room, clerks and kitchen will comprise the second floor.

The new building will solve many problems that were in drastic need of attention at this time.

## Obituaries

### FLOYD FORD

Floyd Ford, second son of Orton and Adelia Ford, was born in Zumbrota Aug. 28, 1874. He moved with his parents to Mazeppa and spent his boyhood and early manhood here. He was in railroad service for 33 years, retiring 12 years ago at retirement age.

Surviving are a daughter, Miss Marian Ford of Stevens Point, Wis., and four nieces, Mrs. John Searles and Mrs. Frank Almeter of Mazeppa, Dr. Frances Ford of Winchester, Va., and Mrs. Olive Gerhart of Yakima, Wash.

### MRS. FERDINAND H. LOHMAN

Mrs. Lohman died of a heart attack at St. Mary's hospital, Rochester, Sept. 28, at the age of 77.

Bertha Lothar, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lothar Sr., was born May 1, 1873 in Germany. She came to the United States with her parents at the age of eight. She was married March 28, 1894 in Zumbrota Township and lived on the present farm north of town for 44 years.

Surviving are her husband; three sons, Milton at home, Arthur of Goodhue and Vernie of Mazeppa and three daughters, Mrs. Carl Betcher of Mazeppa, Mrs. Harvey Thompson of Red Wing, and Mrs. Leonard Nelson of Zumbrota.

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1950

### M.J. Hart & Son Get Full Chev. Dealership

M.J. Hart & Son announced this week they have obtained a full Chevrolet dealership for cars and trucks, effective Nov. 1.

They have had a sub-dealership under Nerhaugen's Garage, Zumbrota, since 1930.

## Obituaries

### MRS. EVERETT FORD

Mrs. Ford died Thursday in Minneapolis, at the age of 82. Surviving are two daughters, Dr. Frances a. Ford of Applegate, Mich., and Mrs. H. N. (Olive) Gerhardt of Yakima, Wash.; four granddaughters; and a sister, Mrs. Carrie Hagmin of Cannon Falls. Mrs. John Searles and Mrs. Frank Almeter of Mazeppa are nieces.

### FRANK X. TRI

Mr. Tri died suddenly of a heart attack at his farm home at 2:30 p.m., Thursday, following an illness of five years.

He was born January 19, 1869 in Alsace-Lorraine, France, the son of Peter and Elizabeth Tri. In 1892 he was married to Selma Holmgren at Bellechester who preceded him in death, July 30, 1949.

Pallbearers were four grandsons, Duane Reding, Kenneth Tri, Clarence Schafer and William Witts and two nephews, Bernard Hofschulte and Louis Tri.

### JEANETTE KUEHN, CALVIN BUCK HONORED SUNDAY

Miss Jeanette Kuehn of Minneapolis and Calvin Buck of Goodhue, who will be married October 27, were honored at a pre-nuptial shower, Sunday at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Kuehn.

## LOCAL NEWS

Donald Sommerfield has bought the Mrs. Anna Scott farm.

Mrs. Joe Sibley made daily trips to Lake City last week for medical treatment for an eye infection.

## LIVESTOCK HAULING

### Also Have Taken Over

### DRAY HAULING

### Phone 30- BERT ARENDT

*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.*



## Mazeppa City Council Special Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 6, 2021

Mayor Elect Chris Hagfors and Councilpersons Elect Steve Liffriq and Erica Young were sworn in at 5:45 PM by City Administrator Karl Nahrgang.

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

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Present: Mayor Chris Hagfors, Council Persons: Mike Hammes, Erica Young and Steve Liffriq.

Others Present: City Attorney Luke Lamprecht, Elizabeth Deming from Lamprecht Law Office, City Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang, Larry Liffriq, Joe Sand John Betcher and Adeline Betcher.

Attending via electronic meeting:

John Clemens and Helen Reiland.

Absent: Councilperson Jeff Nelson.

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

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss Parcel R23.00235.00 that Independent School District 2805 is conveying to the City of Mazeppa.

City Attorney Luke Lamprecht stated that the title for this land is not marketable in current form. The School District will make the necessary title corrections. As to not delay conveyance of the portion of block 8 from the City to the School District, the City and School District can enter into an Escrow Holdback agreement, assuring the City that the necessary legal work for R23.00235.00 will be done to complete the conveyance of that parcel to the City.

Motion by Hammes, second by Young to

enter into the Escrow Holdback agreement with Independent School District 2805 on parcel R23.00235.00. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, Second by Liffriq to recess meeting until the next regular City Council meeting at 6:00 PM, Wednesday, January 13, 2021. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Meeting recessed at 6:25 PM.

Administrator-Clerk

## Mazeppa Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

### Wednesday, January 13, 2021

The regular City Council meeting of the Mazeppa City Council was called to order at 6:02 PM by Mayor Chris Hagfors.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Present: Mayor Chris Hagfors, Council Persons Steve Liffriq, Mike Hammes, Jeff Nelson and Erica Young.

Others Present: City Attorney Luke Lamprecht, City Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang, Matt Mohs from Bolton and Menk, Elizabeth Deming from Lamprecht Law Office, Zach Hofius, Wabasha County Sherriff's Deputy John Coons and Public Works Director Scott Ellingson.

Attending via electronic meeting:

Bob Josselyn, John Clemens, Holly Galbus from the News-Record and Luke Lunde from WSB associates.

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

Motion by Nelson, second by Young to approve the December 9, 2020 regular City Council meeting and the January 6, 2021 special council meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Wabasha County Sherriff's Deputy John Coons presented the monthly Incident Command Report. Council question on progress of cleanup at property ticketed for nuisance violations.

Motion by Nelson, second by Liffriq to recognize progress at cited property and not reissue second citation so long as cleanup is still progressing. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Public Works Director Scott Ellingson reported on Public Works activities.

Fire Department report was read by Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

Municipal Liquor Store report was read by Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

Motion by Hammes, second by Nelson to approve the Mazeppa Municipal Liquor

Store hiring of Karen Berg, Angie Grossbach, Matthew Kruger, Emily McAdams, Joe Sorenson, Olivia Stahler, and Cassie Tiedemann. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Young to accept the resignations of Samantha Clemenson and Michelle Luhmann as Mazeppa Municipal Liquor Store staff. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Luke Lunde of WSB updated the Council on the SE Riverbank stabilization project. The D.N.R. initially did not choose the project for grant funding. However, after working with the D.N.R. officials and making suggested changes to the plan, the D.N.R. would grant an expanded project and allow the City's cost for engineering work already done on the project to be counted as in-kind matching funds for the grant. The next step for grant request to FEMA has also been submitted.

Motion by Nelson, second by Hammes to approve expanding the scope of the SE Riverbank stabilization project to include riverbank and habitat along the west edge of Herb Vik park. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Matt Mohs of Bolton & Menk updated the Council on the wastewater treatment plant pre-engineering report, sewer collection system issues and the proposed sanitary sewer district discussions by several area communities.

Motion by Nelson, second by Young to approve building permits: MZ20-47, setting a manufactured home in the manufactured home par for Sveen Properties. MZ20-40, installation of new deck railings for Darik Rude. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Zachary Hofius proposed a volunteer project in Walking Bridge Park for hillside landscaping. He will present final plans at a later meeting for Council approval.

Motion by Hammes, second by Nelson to approve transfer of additional \$125,228.47 to City reserves. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Young to approve Resolution 21-01 approving 2021 City appointments. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Young to approve Resolution 21-02 establishing signatories for the City of Mazeppa. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Young to

approve Resolution 21-03 removing signing authority from term expired officials. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Young to approve to accept the resignation of Marie Josselyn from the Planning and Zoning committee. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Hammes to appoint Bob Josselyn and Dustin Wiebusch to the Planning and Zoning Committee. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Nelson to approve raising hourly pay at Mazeppa Municipal Liquor Store from \$10.00 per hour to \$10.08 per hour to comply with 2021 Minnesota minimum wage. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Hammes to join quiet title action with Ind. School District 2805 on parcel R23.00235.00. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Young to approve Resolution 21-04 thanking the Mazeppa Fire Relief for its generous donation to the City of Mazeppa. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Young to approve Resolution 21-05 closing a portion of Cherry St. for the Mazeppa Municipal Liquor Store annual customer appreciation celebration. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Liffriq to approve to approve Hawkins and Ash auditor engagement letter for the 2020 fiscal audit. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

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

City Attorney stated that with any pay changes the State of MN wage theft law requires a letter be sent regarding any pay rate changes.

Councilperson Jeff Nelson congratulated the new Mayor and welcomed the new Council members.

Councilperson Mike Hammes said he would keep monitoring the cited property for cleanup progress.

Motion by Hammes, Second by Liffriq to recess until 6:00 PM, February 3, 2021 for a Council working session. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Meeting recessed at 8:26 PM.

Administrator-Clerk


## Mazeppa Fire Department Makes Donation to City

(continued from page 1)

The city council was informed that the grant request for the Zumbro River Stream restoration had been denied. It was suggested that if the project was expanded to include more habitat restoration a grant would likely be approved. This would create a woody habitat structure, three instream rock structures and a restoration of the riffle structure. It is believed that the improvement would attract more fishermen to the area.

You may have noticed the flourish of activity along the riverbank north of the Maple St. bridge. This Wabasha County Soil and Water Conservation District project started in its concept phase several years ago. The purpose of the project is to stabilize the riverbank and improve aquatic habitat. The construction crews will be staging material and equipment in 2 areas. Area 1 is north and west of the Maple St. Bridge and the other will be between Maple St. and the observation deck next to Leo's Sports Bar & Grill. This area is being used for equipment and material to remove more of the old dam footing improve stream structure in the stream channel. The public should stay clear of these areas. Heavy equipment will be in use. Construction may make some construction areas temporarily unstable.

**Please be safe and respect the contractors working on this project, and landowners whose property border this project.**



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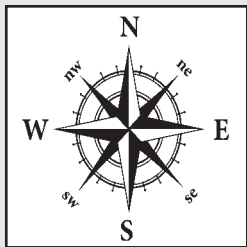
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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Soft Spoken Sweet Southern Sunshine



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.*

There is a language all of its own in the south, and a curious delivery by the natives who have coined the expressions. Sometimes you get the idea and other times you haven't a clue.

My first exposure was the kindly looking lady working at the local landfill. You were to pull onto the scale to declare what you

were hauling but you didn't have to weigh leaving after unloading. So, I pull up with my truck and trailer and got too far on the scale. After asking what I was delivering, she smiled and sweetly said, "Honey, you pulled up too far on the scale. If you do it next time I am going to have to come out there and kill you."

You get used to terms of endearment. The ladies are effusive in buttery words. It is "how you doin' love, what can I get you darlin', what'll you have dear, how are you honey." Don't think that you are special because they say it to everyone. You will sit down at the booth in the diner with your wife and the young waitress steps up to take your order, looks you right in the eye and calls you sweetie. Whoa girl, we kind of reserve those words for the special lady we are with where I came from. One day while paying for my lunch at the local café, one of the elderly matrons walked through the door, looked straight at the cashier and said "how are you beautiful?"

Well, you get used to it. And you actually start to really enjoy it. A kind word and a pleasant demeanor brightens up the day. But don't start thinking that those southern belles are pushovers. I still remember the first summer we were in Tennessee, and a little old lady was describing encountering a copperhead in her yard. She said, "I emptied my .380 on him and then came back out with the 12 gauge and blew his head off.

## A Minnesotan in the North: Snow Boots



By RosaLin Alcoser

In Minnesota it is a fairly common practice, as in I have seen a lot of people do this over the years, for people to wear their snow boots and carry their dress shoes when it is snowing and they have to go somewhere where they will need their dress shoes. Then change shoes when they get there.

This is just a practical practice that many Minnesotans have adopted over time to keep their feet warm and dry... unless you're a pastor from the Caribbean and have lived in Minnesota

for 20 years.

One Sunday morning when we had about three or so inches of snow come down before the night before my mother and I both did this as we got ready to go to the church. My father on the other hand did not.

Since it was not spouse to snow there was a chance being way up north like we are that the church parking lot would not be plowed when we got there; after all the pastor always has to get there first. So I reminded my father that he should wear his boots to which he replied that he would not need them.

Except the parking lot had not been plowed out yet and he decided to shovel paths in the parking lot so that people would not have to walk in the snow.

After people got to church he was telling them all about how he had to shovel the parking lot and how his feet were now cold. I could hear all of this from where I was in the sound booth.

So into the social hall I popped saying, "don't take pity on him. He was told to wear his snow boots and bring his shoes so that if he had to shovel his feet wouldn't be cold and he told me, 'no, I don't need my boots.' So don't take any pity on the pastor because he was told." Then back to my sound booth I went while people laughed at him.

# THE SAVVY SENIOR



By Jim Miller

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Dear Savvy Senior,

**What are some financial factors to consider when retiring abroad? My husband and I will be retiring in a few years and are interested in living in a foreign country that's cheaper than the U.S.**  
—Frugal Couple

Dear Frugal,

Retiring abroad has become a growing trend for millions of U.S. retirees who are looking to stretch their retirement savings. Here are some tips and resources to consider that can help you prepare.

### Researching Tools

For starters, you can find lots of information and articles on the countries and cities you're interested in retiring to at websites like InternationalLiving.com and EscapeArtist.com.

Another good tip is to talk or network with some expatriates who have already made the move you're thinking about making. They can give you tips and suggestions on many issues, as well as the advantages and disadvantages and day-to-day reality of living in a particular country. Some popular sites for finding expat resources are ExpatExchange.com and ExpatForum.com.

But before committing to location, most experts recommend that you visit multiple times during different seasons to see whether you can envision yourself living there and not just exploring the place as a tourist. Also, consider these financial factors:

**Cost of living:** Retiring abroad used to be seen as a surefire way to live beyond your means, and for some countries it still is. But the U.S. dollar isn't what it used to be, so your money may not stretch as far as you think. See Numbeo.com for a country-by-country cost of living comparison.

**Taxes:** No matter what foreign country you decide to retire in, as long as you're a U.S. citizen you must file an annual tax return reporting all income above certain minimums, not matter where it's earned. For details see the IRS publication 54, "Tax Guide for U.S. Citizens and Resident Aliens Abroad."

**Health care:** Most U.S. health insurance companies do not provide coverage outside the U.S., nor does Medicare. Check with the embassy of your destination country to see how you can be covered as a foreign resident. Many countries provide government-sponsored health care that's inexpensive, accessible and just as good as what you get in the states, or you may want to buy a policy through Medibroker or Bupa Global.

Also know that most people who retire abroad eventually return to the U.S., so you should consider paying your Medicare Part B premiums. If you drop and resume Part B, or delay initial enrollment, you'll pay a 10 percent premium penalty for every 12-month period in which you could have been enrolled.

**Banking:** Opening or maintaining a bank account abroad has become more difficult because of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act, a U.S. law designed to prevent Americans from hiding assets abroad. So, you may have to establish a savings and checking account with an institution that has international reach like Citibank. And/or consider maintaining your U.S. bank account that you can access online, and get U.S. credit and debit cards that don't charge foreign transaction fees.

**Rent versus buy:** Buying a home in a foreign country can be complicated, so it's usually cheaper and simpler to rent, unless you know you're going to live there for a long time.

**Social Security:** You can receive your monthly Social Security benefits almost anywhere you live around the world (see SSA.gov/international/payments.html). Your benefits can be deposited into your bank account either in the U.S. or in your new home country, but there are some exceptions.

The U.S. State Department offers a handy checklist that can help you think through all the issues on retiring abroad.

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## CROSSWORD

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

- THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY
- ACROSS
1. "You're the \_\_\_\_!"
  5. Horse color
  8. Interesting person, acr.
  11. \*Feeling of the heart
  12. Nevada city
  13. City in Belgium
  15. Use a whisk
  16. Greek H's
  17. \*Popular Valentine's Day delivery, pl.
  18. \*\*"Love means never having to say you're sorry" movie
  20. Ballpark calls
  21. Strong adhesive
  22. Greek letter N, pl.
  23. Lord's subordinate
  26. Given to drinking
  30. Ovine mom
  31. Old storage medium
  34. Fairy-tale beginning
  35. Politician Pelosi
  37. Tokyo, once
  38. Bone hollows
  39. Sky bear
  40. Fitted with a name tag, e.g.
  42. "Ever" to a poet
  43. With more seeds
  45. Attic
  47. Summer sandwich?
  48. Fraternity letter
  50. Medieval headdress
  52. \*Only day more popular than Valentine's for card giving
  56. Like blue sky
  57. Walk the Pacific Crest Trail, e.g.
  58. Samoan money
  59. \*Dionysus' pipe-playing companion
  60. Affirm
  61. Give off
  62. Plays for pay
  63. \*Color of Valentine's Day
  64. \*Lovers' reunion
- DOWN
1. Cry like a baby
  2. Canyon sound
  3. Convict's weapon
  4. Conical dwellings
  5. Get on juice diet, e.g.
  6. Opposite of binary
  7. Like a gossipmonger
  8. Exterminator's target
  9. Change for a five
  10. Part of T.G.I.F.
  12. Like an abridged classic
  13. Tiler's paste
  14. \*\*\*"I Will Always Love You" singer
  19. Stupefied
  22. Us, in Mexico
  23. \*Cupid's mother
  24. In the know
  25. Common thing?
  26. Smoke plus fog
  27. Lay to rest
  28. Rocks at mountain base
  29. \*Symbol of Valentine's Day
  32. Infantry's last row
  33. Roulette bet
  36. \*Chocolatier, pioneer of the heart-shaped box
  38. \_\_\_\_ apple
  40. Risk something
  41. Between eggy and eggier
  44. Feeling worse than before
  46. Gave away
  48. Thin piece
  49. Annoyed
  50. Russia's alternative to caesar
  51. Aries or Taurus, e.g.
  52. Burn to a crisp
  53. MADD member, colloquially
  54. Climbed down, as from a carriage
  55. Fill beyond full
  56. Pharaoh's cobra



## School Districts Across Minnesota to Celebrate School Bus Drivers Feb. 22-16

Thousands of hardworking school bus drivers across the state are going above and beyond their duties during the COVID-19 pandemic as essential school district employees. To recognize this important profession, Governor Tim Walz has proclaimed Feb. 22-26 as School Bus Driver Appreciation Week in the state of Minnesota.

The Minnesota School Bus Operators Association and Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation first teamed up in 2017 to create School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in Minnesota to encourage school leaders, parents and students to celebrate the often-overlooked profession. This year's recognition has been expanded to a weeklong, virtual event. Content celebrating Minnesota's school bus drivers will be unveiled on dedicated Facebook and Twitter pages throughout the week.

"Minnesota school bus drivers are going above and beyond their typical duties to serve students and communities during this

unprecedented school year," said MSBOA President Garrett Regan. "We are thankful that Governor Walz has declared February 22-26 as School Bus Driver Appreciation Week in Minnesota to help give school bus drivers the recognition they deserve."

Minnesota school bus drivers have taken on new essential roles during the COVID-19 pandemic to serve their communities, such as delivering meals and distance learning supplies to families, providing Wi-Fi connections, and transporting the children of first responders and healthcare workers to and from daycare. School bus drivers have also followed new, rigorous health and safety protocols to transport students to and from school safely during the pandemic.

"Not only do Minnesota school bus drivers play a crucial role in our school systems, but they have a positive impact on students," said MAPT President John Thomas. "The pandemic has reinforced how caring and dedicated school bus drivers are. Many drivers have participated in activities like birthday parades and graduation ceremonies, showing how much they care about the students they serve."

School districts across Minnesota will celebrate School Bus Driver Appreciation Week in special ways, such as by passing out student-made thank you cards and providing food and beverages to bus drivers. The I-35W bridge in Minneapolis will also be lit yellow in recognition of School Bus Driver Appreciation Week on the evening of

Feb. 21 and into the morning of Feb. 22.

### About the Minnesota School Bus Operators Association

The Minnesota School Bus Operators Association (MSBOA) represents Minnesota's privately-owned school bus contractors who provide more than 60 percent of the school buses used to transport Minnesota children to and from school and school-related activities. Its members represent an average of more than 45 years of experience in the industry and are responsible for more than 400,000 students transported 233,000 miles per day.

### About the Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation

Founded in 1975, the Minnesota Association for Pupil Transportation (MAPT) is a nonprofit association of school transportation professionals and industry leaders who promote safe and efficient student transportation within the state of Minnesota. MAPT encourages active participation by anyone interested in the safe and efficient transportation of Minnesota students and is a resource for all school districts throughout Minnesota.

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