



MAZEPPA and ZUMBRO FALLS

# Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger™

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NOVEMBER, 2021

Volume 16 • Issue 4

## Announcements

• **MAHS - Come & check out our amazing history building by giving us a call.** Helen @ 507-250-6021, Jim Siems @ 507-696-3506 or Diane Gilsdorf @ 507-843-4013. Thank you for your support! The Mazeppa Area Historical Society continues to do research into our rich history for the future. Check your attic's, in need of the 1940's and 1950's Mazeppa Journals.

• **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

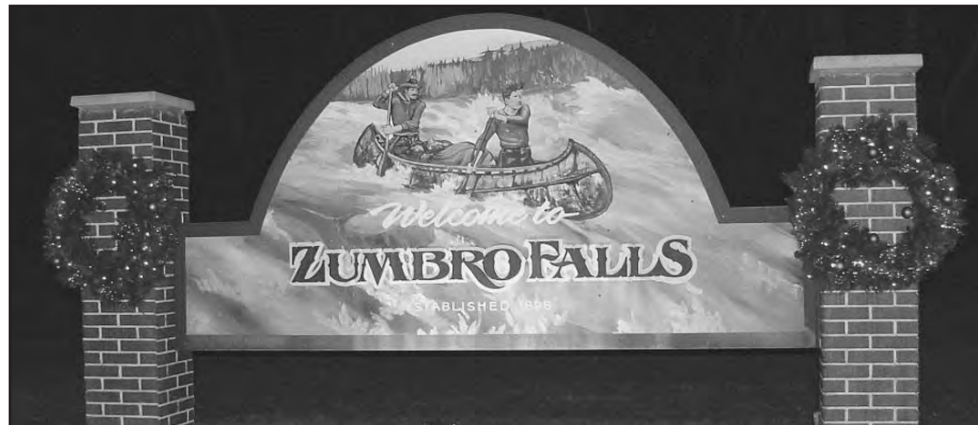


## Christmas in Zumbro Falls, December 11

The annual Christmas in Zumbro Falls event is drawing near. Volunteers are needed on the Christmas committee and to help with event activities. Vendors welcome, tables available. Zumbro Falls invites Businesses, Volunteers and Vendors from the City of Zumbro Falls AND the surrounding area, to participate. Persons interested in serving on the Christmas committee or Volunteering and Vendors can contact Sue now at 507-753-2131.

Celebrate with Zumbro Falls during the 2021 holiday season. The more, the Merrier!

*photo courtesy of City of Zumbro Falls*



## Trunk or Treat at South Troy Church



(additional pictures on page 3)

## Thank You

We want to Thank You for your continued support of the Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger, especially this past year!

In an era of online everything, your monthly newspaper, continues with an unwavering goal to bring hometown news to you.

Thanks to local advertisers and your voluntary subscriptions, we are in your mail box each month.

Without this support, we would not be here.

We hope you continue to see value in the Messenger. While there are plenty of social media sources and on line sites out there, most don't deliver the hometown news and message like we try to do here.

Every year, many newspapers have consolidated or gone out of business. We have watched this happen many times in recent years in small rural communities, and especially this past year during the covid situation.

(continued on page 10)

**Mazeppa Lions Club  
BAR BINGO**  
Every  
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at 7:00pm

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11:30a.m. Friday-Sunday

Watch Vikings games here!  
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VIKINGS TOUCHDOWNS



## Thanksgiving & Generosity



By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

A woman drove up and paid for her own iced coffee at 7 a.m. Wednesday at a St. Petersburg store, and also asked to pay for a caramel macchiato for the driver behind her, who then did the same for the next customer. After a few people continued the chain, the employees started keeping a tally on a piece of paper by the window. By 1:30 p.m., 260 people had now paid it forward, according to the Tampa Bay Times, ordering their own drinks and paying for one for the stranger behind them. After people ordered their drinks and drove up to the window, barista Vu Nguyen explained that the drink had already been paid for and asked if they'd like to return the favor. In total, 378 people agreed to keep it going! That's amazing!

Have you ever been the recipient of someone paying it forward? Gary and I have had our meal paid for a few times at different restaurants. As a single mom living near Millville- I experienced the generosity of this

wonderful community. I had a baby on Thanksgiving Day- Nov. 22 (42 years ago) and when people found out our neighbors responded! We received a gift bag from Millville; and when Jeannie was a little older, we needed a sand box and one morning I looked out on our lawn and there was a large tractor tire for me to put sand in. When I needed an oil change and couldn't change the oil filter- I called Steve's Standard in Zumbro Falls and he told me to bring it down and he changed it at no charge! People were wonderfully generous and giving to a young single mom here in this community.

I'm still very thankful for the support and help of our South Troy community. Many community members have served at our food shelf, given to the food shelf, and given to the church. We've been the recipient of time and labor from our neighbors- like our snow getting plowed, the extra gravel in our parking lot, the plants in our landscaping. We've discovered that when we are thankful and when we give back- it is often multiplied in return. Thanksgiving and generosity go hand in hand. When we are thankful, we want to pay it forward- to share and be generous with what we have. I think of a couple of examples in scripture.

First, I thought of Zacchaeus. Zacchaeus was so thankful for Jesus coming to his home and for the salvation he received that he wanted to give back- to return anything he had cheated people of and he decided to give 1/2 of his wealth to the poor! That's a huge character switch. That's thanksgiving for what Jesus had done in his life—and in turn he wanted to be generous with what he

had to help someone else. Next, I want to contrast Zacchaeus thankfulness with another rich man, who had the opportunity to receive salvation- but his response was quite different.

As we read God's word, we see many examples of people being filled with joy as they are filled with thanksgiving- a thankful heart. There was the Samaritan leper that was healed and returned to thank Jesus while the other 9 kept going. Mary, Lazarus sister expressed her love and thankful heart by pouring oil over Jesus feet, David was thankful that God had brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem, that he celebrated with a parade and gave food to every person that attended the celebration. The new believers after Pentecost (you can find the story in Acts 4) were so thankful for their salvation that they shared everything they had with everyone.

There wasn't welfare or any other social services during the Roman Empire- if you were poor, or lost your job, or a widow, or an orphan- you were on your own. As people became believers, they were so thankful- so filled with the love of Jesus that they wanted to share what they had to provide for those in need. Many sold their homes and land to help provide for the ministry of the early church! They were willing to sacrifice their own possessions to provide for others. That's a high calling. They recognized that God had given them everything.

James wrote in 1:17, "Every good gift, every perfect gift, comes from above. These gifts come down from the Father, the creator of the heavenly lights, in whose character there is no change at all" CEB. A few

verses (first verse fades out) later in the same chapter James describes what pure religion really is, "Pure and genuine religion in the sight of God the Father means caring for orphans and widows in their distress and refusing to let the world corrupt you." We are called to care for widows and orphans and for the poor.

This is the heart of the matter. We love because He first loved us and gave himself for us.

Here's one thing I can promise you: Giving is the most fun you'll ever have with money. It's addictive—in the best way possible. So, go out and give a little until you can give a lot. I promise you it will be worth it. Thanksgiving and Generosity go Hand in Hand. When we are thankful for what we have generosity flows naturally from our hearts. Begin each day with a thankful heart.



**South Troy Church**  
56817 Hwy 63 Zumbro Falls,  
Is offering Celebrate Recovery  
Saturday evenings at 6pm  
starting December 11

A fellowship meal will be served at 6pm.  
Childcare is provided.  
Great worship & Break-out sessions.  
Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered, 12 step recovery program for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind.  
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Pastor Dan Reich  
507-753-2576 • 35933 Cty. Rd. 17, Lake City, MN  
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### ST. PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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843-3885  
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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)



### AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY Family Connections

Scripture Reading — Ruth 4:18-22  
Perez was the father of Hezron . . . Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David.

— Ruth 4:18-22

The first mention of David in the Bible comes in the book of Ruth. David's story was part of God's much bigger story. Through the lives of David and many others, God was shaping and molding a people for himself. God called men and women into a relationship of grace, responsibility, and adventure.

The story of Ruth included disappointment, death, and discouragement. But as God worked in the lives of Ruth and Boaz, encouragement, joy, and hope began to shine through. Ruth and Boaz became ancestors of David.

Family connections anchored David's life, making his family story an important part of his identity. As Eugene Peterson noted, "The genealogy shows that the story of Ruth and Boaz wasn't simply a small love story into which they had accidentally fallen, rather it was a sprawling love story of epic proportions. For through the union of Ruth and Boaz came David" (Conversations).

Genealogies show us, in part, how God works in the world. Jesse told his children the stories of Perez, Hezron, Ram . . . Ruth and Boaz, and Obed as reminders of God's faithfulness throughout the generations. And the thread of those stories went farther back to a couple named Abraham and Sarah, whom God had called into a relationship with himself (Genesis 12). This was part of the inheritance David had even before he was born.

#### Prayer

Lord and God, thank you for your faithfulness and for calling me into a relationship with you as part of your story of life for us all. 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  
Wednesdays we're back to the church and we begin with Supper at 6pm.  
We have a small group Bible Study meeting on Monday nights at 7:30pm at the church  
Sundays 10:30am in-person & livestream

### 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.



## Trunk or Treat at South Troy Church



## Rolland "Rollie" Brown

Rolland "Rollie" Brown, 81, of Lake City, passed away at his home in Lake City on Thursday, October 28, 2021 surrounded by his family. Rollie was born on September 19, 1940, to Russell and Selma (Stensrud) Brown in Kasson, MN. After graduation from West Concord High School, Rollie served 4 years in the Marine Corps and then 18 years in the National Guard. He worked on the family farm for a few years before Rollie married Mary Lou Buck on August 5, 1967, in Zumbro Falls. They lived and worked in Lake City. Rollie worked at Federal Mogul for 36 years and retired in 2001. He moved to Claremont in September 2006. Rollie sat on the City Council in Claremont from 2010-2014. He returned to Lake City in 2014 and worked part-time at the grocery store. Rollie was a bowler and served as the State Bowling Director for many years. He was very involved



with his grandchildren and their activities, sports, plays, etc. Rollie loved camping and watching his nephew race stockcars.

Rollie is survived by his children, Dana (Tom) Quade of MO, Allen (Andrea) of Jacksonville, IL, Danny (Heather) of Lake City, Gary (Laura) of Hudson, WI, and Lisa (Nathan) Anderson of Lake City; 23 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; brother, Russell (Linda) of New Ulm, MN; two sisters, Pat (Jim) Worple of Alma, IA and Lois Alden of Charles City, IA.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Lou; son, Keith Brown; his parents; his brothers, Ricky and Sam; special friend, Dorothy Jones; granddaughter, Tiffany Brown; and brother-in-law, Darwin Alden.

Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 4, 2021, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Lake City with Reverend Steven Frentz officiating. Visitation will be from 4 until 7 p.m. on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at the Mahn Family Funeral Home, Anderson-Peterson Chapel and one hour prior to the service at the church on Thursday. Burial will be at St. John's Lutheran Cemetery in Lake City with full military honors. Pallbearers will be Terry Worple, John Alden, Kevin Huffman, Larry Friedhoff, Rick Brown, and Troy Brown. Honorary pallbearers will be Neil Eckhart and Nathaniel Jasso. Online condolences can be sent to [www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com).

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## Chronic Wasting Disease Testing is Mandatory for Deer Opener in CWD Zones

By Minnesota DNR

*Deer hunters are encouraged to visit the DNR website to make a plan for their season*

Minnesota deer hunters in several parts of the state must bring their harvested deer to sampling stations to be tested for chronic wasting disease during the opening weekends of firearms seasons.

Mandatory testing applies to opening weekend of the statewide A season (Saturday, Nov. 6 – Sunday, Nov. 7) and opening weekend of the southeast-only B season (Saturday, Nov. 20-Sunday, Nov. 21). It is part of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources approach designed to limit the spread of the disease and keep Minnesota's wild deer healthy.

"Protecting our wild deer is a shared responsibility. Thank you to hunters who help combat CWD by submitting samples," said Barbara Keller, big game program leader. "These samples provide data that help us better understand the prevalence of the disease in wild deer."

Hunters only need to know the number of the deer permit area (DPA) where they will be hunting to determine if CWD sampling is required. By visiting [mndnr.gov/deerhunt](http://mndnr.gov/deerhunt) (link is external) and locating the grouping containing their DPA, hunters can access comprehensive information and resources for planning a successful deer hunt.

Beyond mandatory testing, hunters also need to consider where and how their harvested deer will be processed and whether a field-dressed animal can be legally transported from the deer permit area where it is harvested.

### Testing details

The DNR conducts testing in areas where CWD has been discovered in wild or captive white-tailed deer. Depending on its proximity to known cases of CWD and whether CWD has been found in wild deer, a DPA can be designated a management, control or surveil-

lance zone.

During opening weekends of the A and B deer seasons, any deer 1 year or older that is harvested from a DPA designated as a CWD zone must be submitted for testing. The only exceptions are DPAs 213 and 273, where DNR is in the second year of evaluating a risk-based surveillance strategy and testing is voluntary. In DPAs 213 and 273, the DNR is collecting samples at self-service stations throughout all deer seasons.

The mandatory sampling requirements mean that after field dressing their deer, hunters in CWD zones need to take them to a sampling station. The DNR will staff sampling stations during mandatory weekends. DNR staff will remove lymph nodes, and the DNR will submit the tissue for laboratory testing. Self-service sampling station options also will be available for hunters who would prefer to drop off their deer heads rather than having staff take the samples at stations. DNR staff will retrieve the heads, remove the lymph nodes and submit the tissue for sampling. Sampling stations are listed on the CWD page (link is external).

There are options for hunters who want to have their deer mounted by a taxidermist to get the deer sampled without ruining the cape of the deer. Hunters should check the CWD page (link is external) for a list of cooperating taxidermists that will sample the deer for the DNR. Hunters can also cape the head themselves prior to bringing it to the sampling location, and a video showing how to cape a deer is on the DNR website (link is external).

*(continued on page 5)*



## Missy's Managing the Manor

*A monthly read with tips and tricks (that work for me) on my quest to becoming more organized while decluttering.*

### Seasonal Decorations

Today is October 15. The 15th of each month is my cue to start thinking about topics for my articles for the next month. The middle of October, and I have not yet gotten my fall/Halloween decorations out. We've been busy, busy as usual, so to keep things easy, I am going to leave the Halloween stuff in the tote. We are having Thanksgiving at our house as we usually do, which means I HAVE to get the fall decorations out. You can't have Christmas decorations up for Thanksgiving dinner! I try to not have too many decorations, because I always complain about changing out the seasonal stuff.




By Missy Papenfus

I try to keep the Halloween/Fall decorations to one tote. Christmas, I have more totes. There are some decorations I don't ever put out, but I can't part with them because they were given to me by family. I try to put them in one spot, so I don't have to move them.

I have a hard time tossing decorations, so I bring the decorations I do not want at home to MotoProz. Jenny Schumacher (of Jenny's Greenhouse) always decorates at MotoProz, so she gets to make the call to toss the stuff, put it out, and put it away! We are so lucky to have Jenny here at MotoProz. She doesn't have down time, her slower time, is our busy time.

A couple months back, I wrote about tackling our catch-all spare room. I got rid of a bunch of items that take up a lot of room, and we do not use. I got to work and straightened up the rest of the room earlier this week. I spent 20 minutes. Really, 20 minutes was all. Why did I wait so long? It is not going to get done itself. I tossed a bunch of boxes and a bag of junk. That is the nice thing about having a dumpster. It's a lot easier to toss stuff. On the one hand I feel wasteful, but on the other, I will be thanking myself for getting rid of some stuff now.

Stay tuned for next month's topic: Stop and think (before buying) There's so much to do, so little time. Bye for now!



## Thank You

The Mazeppa Lions would like to Thank everyone that purchased a Chicken meal and made a donation on October 3rd. What great support from the community. We would also like to Thank Hy-Vee North for donating materials.

Many Thanks  
from the Mazeppa Lions

## Stressed about HOLIDAY BAKING??

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- \* Cheesecakes



*Orders taken until Noon, November 20th for Wednesday, November 24th pickup.*  
Call or text 507-824-CAKE (2253)  
237 Main St, Wanamingo



## Chronic Wasting Disease Testing is Mandatory for Deer Opener in CWD Zones

(continued from page 4)

Hunters must register their deer within 48 hours of harvest and before the deer is processed— whether by phone, internet or in person. Harvest registration will not be available at CWD sampling stations.

Hunters can check for their CWD test results online at [mndnr.gov/cwdcheck](http://mndnr.gov/cwdcheck) (link is external) by entering their nine-digit MDNR number found on licenses and site tags.

### Voluntary CWD testing

Outside of opening weekends of firearms deer seasons, voluntary submissions for deer harvested in any CWD management or control zone are being accepted at self-service stations through archery deer season, which is

open through Dec. 31. Deer harvested in the surveillance zone can be sampled voluntarily by making appointments at area wildlife offices.

Hunters not in a CWD zone can collect their own lymph node sample and submit it for testing to the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (link is external) at the University of Minnesota for a fee. A DNR video showing how to collect a lymph node sample is available on the DNR website (link is external).

### Mandatory carcass movement restrictions

Mandatory carcass movement restrictions are in effect for the CWD management and control zones.

Whole carcasses cannot leave these zones until a “not detected” test result is received. Hunters who debone or quarter their deer can transport their harvest immediately before receiving their test result; the DNR will have dumpsters and quartering stations available in the management and control zones to help with disposal of parts that cannot be transported. No carcass movement restrictions are in place in the CWD surveillance zone, where the disease has not been discovered in wild deer.

### More information

The DNR is committed to maintaining a healthy deer herd and is taking three primary management actions to control the disease in areas where CWD was detected in wild deer: reducing deer densities; using feeding and attractant bans to reduce contact between deer; and restricting carcass movement. Keeping the deer population healthy supports hunting opportunities for current and future deer

hunters.

For more information on CWD, the DNR’s continued efforts to manage the disease and how to help, visit the DNR’s chronic wasting disease management page. Hunters can also find hunting regulations and information about chronic wasting disease regulations and sampling in the 2021 Minnesota Hunting and Trapping Regulations book.

## A Monthly Moment at MotoProz

By Missy Papenfus

You never know what will happen at MotoProz from day to day, hour to hour...

It’s MotoPhest time! Time to get our yearly family picture taken. Last year we had Christian Monsrud come and take our picture in front of the new updated store front. A couple a day later, and bam the proofs are back. He takes the best pictures! This year he took our photo, and he must have come back later when it was dark to get a very neat shot of the front of MotoProz with the street lights on. What a cool surprise! We come up with a different idea each year. I think my favorite year was when we stood in front of someone in town’s motorhome, a stranger may I add, with a Griswold theme in mind. The heading said “Take the Holiday Road to MotoProz”! Another year, we also dressed up with our own spin on the Wizzard of Oz. This year, we used Monty’s old snowmobile, a 2018 El Tigre which is a classic black/green Arctic Cat looking snowmobile in front of MotoProz.



## MISSY'S MESSAGE



MISSY PAPERFUS

### MISSY'S MESSAGE

Missy’s message is about my opinion and sharing my experiences with health and wellness. A big part of wellness is a person’s mental health. Everyone has got to be appreciative and thankful for something in their lives. We get so busy, we don’t stop and think how much there is to be thankful for. With Thanksgiving this month, it’s the perfect time to list my blessings and think about yours.

My number one blessing is my husband and my son. I get to work with them almost every day. Who gets that? And they are both the hardest workers I know. I am so grateful for Monty. When Mike is too busy, I can always ask Monty and he has glad to help.

Number two is our health. I have been at the point in my life a few times where I can’t exercise for one reason or another, and it stinks. Hopefully, that is all behind me.

Number three is family, friends, and customers. I am thankful for being able to hang out with family, friends, and customers. To have family and friends help us out when we need it and for us to be able to help them out in return. We have spent a lot of extra time with our parents and siblings during the pandemic. Our families live very close together, and it is nice to hang out when we can. It was also nice to have more time to interact with customers now that I am at MotoProz every day instead of just part-time.

### Memo from MotoProz...

Save the date! MotoPhest at MotoProz is Friday, November 26 through Saturday, December 4. Our 7 days of sales always starts the day after Thanksgiving and runs through the following Saturday!

Missy and her husband Mike own MotoProz in Mazeppa.

# Motophest

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26 – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4



During the seven days of MotoPhest, MotoProz gave to me...

- 7 Days of Sales • 6 Bucks Off Oil
- 5 Dollar MotoProz Tee’s • 4 Christmas Gifts
- 3 Free Pens • To get some Moto Munchies &
- A discount on all in-store clothing!

Celebrating MotoPhest with Mike, Missy and Monty.



Sincerely,

Missy Papenfus

Missy Papenfus

339 1st Ave. N. • Mazeppa, MN • 507-843-2855 • [www.MotoProz.com](http://www.MotoProz.com)





## Building a Foundation for Southern Minnesota's Future



**Tim Penny**  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

For me, autumn always signals a natural time to slow down and contemplate the past year as we bundle up and move indoors. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), we use this time each year to reflect on the partnerships that have resulted in a brighter future for southern Minnesota. We do

this by celebrating a handful of these partnerships in our annual Impact Report.

In the first story, Beth Fynbo shares her entrepreneurial journey as the founder and CEO of Busy Baby in Oronoco. When she became a parent, she had an idea for a placemat that suctioned to surfaces and allows caregivers to connect babies' toys to a tether system so they can no longer be dropped and thrown. As she turned this idea into a successful business, SMIF supported her through three loans. She has also participated in SMIF's CEO Peer Network to connect with other entrepreneurs who helped her pivot during the pandemic. Since she first reached out to SMIF three years ago, Beth has grown to a seven-figure business and even made an appearance on ABC's Shark Tank.

Another entrepreneur, Angel Uribe, shares her story about starting Stages of Change Center, a business which empowers individuals to rethink their relationship with alcohol or drugs. Her business, based in Eagle Lake, began in 2011 with no financing or support. In 2016, she joined SMIF's Prosperity Initiative program which provides business coaching to entrepreneurs who identify as Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC). This program helped her to develop business competencies and strategies that are still helping her navigate her business with greater confidence today. During the pandemic, she has remained engaged with SMIF through a Prosperity Initiative Peer Network and by partic-

ipating in business trainings. Angel is currently a SMIF Board of Trustee member.

In the Early Childhood space, we spoke with Jenny Carrier who is the community education director at Kasson-Mantorville Public Schools. As one of SMIF's 25 Early Childhood Initiatives, which are collaborative efforts that address important needs for children and families in their communities, they have a long history with SMIF. One month prior to the first shut down brought on by the pandemic, they received a Child Care Expansion Grant from SMIF, which filled a critical need of providing onsite child care for ages six to 12 years. During the past year they received two more SMIF grants to support improvements in their building and expansions in their programming, resulting in 12 new jobs.

Finally, the leaders of one of SMIF's 30 Community Foundations shared their story. Mick McGuire, president of Montgomery Community Foundation (MCF) wanted to start a Community Foundation for people to give back to their hometown. Since beginning in 2018, they have supported many local projects, including the restoration of a mural and an historic log cabin. Liz Krocak, vice president of MCF, shares about MCF's COVID-19 response efforts, which included grants to the food shelf and to the Montgomery Economic Development Authority. SMIF provided matching grants for these efforts, in addition to a Small Town Grant



which they used to distribute "Monty Bucks" to people in need to spend at local businesses.

The voices that are highlighted in this year's impact report capture the ongoing growth, community togetherness and innovative spirit of our region that is always there, regardless of what is happening in the world. While SMIF played a significant role in helping individuals and communities throughout the pandemic, one detail that shines through each of these stories is that SMIF was there for these folks long before it began, building a foundation of support and trust over many years.

I invite you to read the stories from our 2021 Impact Report by visiting [smifoundation.org/impactreport](http://smifoundation.org/impactreport). It is through partnerships like the ones highlighted in this report that we can make an impact on southern Minnesota's future.

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

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## Teachers Make a Difference



By Harvey Mackay

Years ago a John Hopkin's professor gave a group of graduate students this assignment: Go to the poorest sections of the city. Take 200 boys, between the ages of 12 and 16, and investigate their background and environment. Then predict their future outcomes.

After consulting social statistics, talking to the boys, and compiling much data, the students concluded that 90 percent of the boys would spend some time in jail.

Twenty-five years later another group of graduate students was given the job of testing the prediction. They went back to the same areas. Some of the boys – by then men – were still there, a few had died, some had moved away, but they got in touch with 180 of the original 200. They found that only four of the group had ever been sent to jail.

Why was it that these men with many dis-

advantages had such a surprisingly good record? The researchers were continually told: "Well, there was this teacher."

They pressed further and found that in 75 percent of the cases it was the same woman. The researchers went to this teacher, long since retired. How had she exerted this remarkable influence over that group of children? Could she give them any reason why these boys should have remembered her?

"No," she said, "I really couldn't." And then, thinking back over the years, she said musingly, more to herself than to her questioners, "I loved those boys."

Teachers hold a special place in our lives. As we start another school year, it's a perfect time to salute and applaud the people who helped mold us into who we became.

October 5 was World Teachers' Day, so let's celebrate the important role teachers play in all our lives. I learned many life lessons from my teachers that had a significant bearing on my life.

There is no magic formula for being a success. Sure, natural talent can make a big difference. It takes iron determination and lots of hard, hard work. The harder you work, the luckier you get. Success only comes before work in the dictionary. My mentor Curt Carlson, founder of one of the world's largest privately owned companies, used to say, "You work five days a week to keep pace with the competition. You work Saturday to get ahead."

**Stay focused.** The person who is everywhere is nowhere. If you have the ability to focus fully on the task at hand, and shut out

everything else, you can accomplish amazing things.

Respect has to be given to be received. Respect people for what they are and for what they stand for – even if you don't agree. Be respectful or be regretful.

**Dream big.** I was taught to aim high and to have dreams that inspire me to go beyond my limits. Show me someone who doesn't dream about the future and I'll show you someone who doesn't know where he or she is going. If you can dream it, you can become it.

**Never be afraid to make mistakes.** You're bound to fail at some things. Learn what you can and move on instead of beating yourself up. Embrace mistakes as opportunities to grow. If you're not making mistakes, you're not taking any risks. And that could mean you're not making progress.

**Remain trustworthy.** Trust is the most important word in business, as well as life in general. Trust is central to doing business with anyone. Without it, you have another word that begins with T: Trouble. It takes years to build trust, but only seconds to destroy it.

There are consequences for bad decisions. Bad decisions are quite different from mistakes, as any teacher can tell you. Deciding to take shortcuts instead of doing the job right, making promises you can't keep – there are consequences that are often difficult



to overcome which could be avoided by starting off on the right path.

**Make the best of your opportunities.** Look for occasions to display your talents and see where it leads you. There's an old saying that you make your own opportunities. Don't sell yourself short.

**You can make a difference.** Sometimes all a person needs to hear is that they matter. Great teachers inspire that confidence, no matter what the grade or age level. They also set wonderful examples of making a difference in their students' lives, like the teacher who showed all those boys that they had tremendous potential for success.

**Mackay's Moral: The best teachers share lessons not found in books.**

*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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## Regular City Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, October 13, 2021

The regular City Council 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: Erica Young, Jeff Nelson, Mike Hammes, and Steve Liffrig.

Others Present: City Attorney Luke Lamprecht, City Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang, City Engineer Matt Mohs, Elizabeth Deming from Lamprecht Law Office,

Wabasha County Patrol Sargent Keith Fratzke and officer Brittany Wener, and John Clemens.

Attending via electronic meeting: Bob Joselyn and Holly Galbus from the News Record.

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

Motion by Hammes, second by Young to approve the September 8, 2021 Regular City Council meeting minutes, the September 15, 2021 Public Hearing meeting minutes, and the September 15, 2021 reconvened meeting minutes. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Wabasha County Patrol Sargent Keith Fratzke gave the Incident Command Report for September and introduced new Sheriff's patrol officer Brittany Wener. He asked the Council off-road motorcycle and ATV nuisances had slowed. Council replied that dangerous behavior by some off-road motorcycle riders has been observed in the community.

A report on Public Works activity was presented by Public Works Director Scott Ellingson.

The Fire Department report was read by Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang

Mr. Nahrgang also gave the Mazeppa Municipal Liquor Store report.

City Engineer Matt Mohs gave a presentation on frequently asked questions about the wastewater treatment plant project, asked that funds be allocated for soil borings, and to schedule a working session meeting to present the Comprehensive Plan draft. Answers to the frequently asked questions about the wastewater treatment project will be posted on the City's website.

Motion by Young, second by Nelson to approve the sum of \$13,638 to American Engineering to perform soil sampling for the wastewater treatment plant. All in favor, none

opposed. Carried.

Council was presented a written request for an annexation of 3.2 acres for Phil Olson.

Motion by Young, second by Nelson to set a public hearing on annexation for December 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Nelson to approve building permits: MZ21-20, Raymond Jackson -re-side. MZ21-21 Andrew Miller – furnace and A/C unit. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Second Reading of Ordinance 2021-03 repealing current Land Management Ordinance and approving updated Land Management Ordinance.

Motion by Nelson, second by Liffrig to approve Ordinance 2021-03 repealing current Land Management Ordinance and approving updated Land Management Ordinance. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Nelson to approve Summary Publication of Ordinance 2021-03. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2021-26 adopting the findings of fact and reasons for approval of

variance application for Dustin and Lindsay Wiebusch at 387 Cherry St. E. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Young to approve Resolution 2021-27 accepting donations to the City. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Donation accepted with thanks to the Mazeppa Fire Relief and Mazeppa Lion's Club.

Motion by Hammes, second by Young to schedule a Council working session for October 21, 2021 to hear a draft of the Comprehensive plan update. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Young to approve Resolution 2021-28 accepting a donation to the City of Mazeppa. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2021-29 designating annual polling place for 2022. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2021-30 entering into agreement with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation to pay up to

(continued on page 13)

## Historical Happenings

Compiled by  
Helen Reiland

THE MAZEPPA JOURNAL, Editor and Publisher: Barbara and Reider Tommeraa

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1953

### LIGHT BULBS TAKEN AT RINK

Donald Webster, caretaker of local skating rink, reports that light bulbs from there have been disappearing quite regularly during the past several weeks. He asks that this practice be stopped or use of the rink will have to be prohibited until guilty parties are apprehended.

### WEDDINGS

#### BERGSTRAHL-SIEMS

Mary M. Siems, daughter of Mrs. Clara Huberty of Chatfield and John E. Bergstrahl of Mazeppa were unit in marriage at Fort Dodge, Iowa, Jan. 8.

The couple is at home at Mazeppa. Mr. Bergstrahl is engaged in farming and Mrs. Bergstrahl has been assistant cashier for the past two year at People' State Bank.

### NEW STOVE PURCHASED FOR COMMUNITY ROOMS

A four-burner gas stove has been purchased for the community room's kitchen. Contributions were received from various organizations and the city will pay the balance.

Contributions included \$15.00 from the Woman' Improvement club; \$10.00 from the Mazeppa Farm Bureau; \$25.00 from the Mazeppa Fire department; and \$15.00 from the Mazeppa Commercial club.

### Local News

Victor Nehring is employed at the Botsford Lumber Company.

Henry Prigge is employed the Botsford Lumber Co. during the illness of Vern Adkins.

Lullus Darcy has been employed by Schmitt's Garage, effective this Thursday.

John Gruhlke, Jr. has been ill this week with chicken pox.

WANTED- Lonesome girl to accompany eligible bachelor to March of Dimes ball Sunday, Jan. 25. Willing to share expenses. Phone 27.

Wedding picture: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Oelkers (in the newspaper)

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1953

#### NICK REILAND SELLS LIVESTOCK TRUCKING ROUTE

Nick Reiland recently sold his livestock trucking route to Richard Tri, who will do the same type of hauling.

Mr. Reiland, who has been in the trucking business for 15 years from Mazeppa, is now hauling milk from Welsh to Plainview.

#### Consolidation Figures Discussed Here

Consolidation and estimated figures on cost were presented at a joint meeting of local and rural school board members at the Mazeppa School last Thursday evening. Due to inclement weather, several rural members were unable to attend.

Max Maas acting chairman opened the meeting and called on V.C. Sand, who explained to the group estimated figures on the cost of proposed consolidation. He stated that all figures (which are also listed below) were based on present state aids, with transportation and capital outlay not included.

Districts----13, 14, 50, 51, 54, 66, 73, 76, 91, 100, 105, 109

### Local News

Pfc. Kermit Siems, stationed with the U.S. army near Stuttgart, Germany, called his wife via overseas telephone, Saturday.

### CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank all those who visited us and sent cards and gifts during our stay at the hospital. *Mrs. Kermit Siems and Jeffrey William*

### CARD OF THANKS

Having sold our livestock trucking route to Richard Tri, we wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the people of Mazeppa and surrounding area for their past business.

It is our hope that your cooperation and past business will be tendered the new owner, Mr. Tri, who will endeavor to give you the same high quality of service that has always been our aim. Anyone having listings should contact Mrs. Nick Reiland as before.

MR. AND MRS. NICK REILAND

Wedding picture: Mr. and Mrs. Floyd VonBargen (in the newspaper)

*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.*



(continued from page 12)

\$18,277.92 for projects benefiting the City to be completed during the Highway 60 project. 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 asked the Council to set a

Public Hearing on the Ordinance renewing the franchise agreement with Nuvera as the cable television provider for the City of Mazeppa. He also asked if the Council wanted the outside attorney that negotiated the agreement to be available to ask questions.

Motion by Nelson, second by Young to

schedule a Public Hearing on November 10, 2021 at 6:00 PM for Ordinance 2021-04 renewing the franchise agreement with Nuvera to provide cable television for the City of Mazeppa. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Hammes to invite attorney Brian Grogan, who negotiated

the franchise agreement with Nuvera to the Public Hearing on November 10, 2021. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Young to recess the meeting until October 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Meeting recessed at 7:42 PM.  
Administrator-Clerk

## Zumbro Falls City Council Minutes - September 8, 2021

The Zumbro Falls City Council met at City Hall on September 8, 2021. Council person Phil Dennison was absent. Treasurer was present by speaker phone. The mayor called the meeting to order at 7PM. Clerk read to council the minutes of the August meeting with acceptance from a motion from Anderson, seconded Bankers, all in favor, carried. Clerk gave the Treasurer's financial report that was accepted with a motion from Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Resolution No. 21-05 was put in place which is the contract agreement with the City of Zumbro Falls and Matt Kehren for snow removal during the 2021-2022 snow season. Motion made by Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Meeting time was changed back to 6PM starting in October with a motion from Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Donation from Rachel Burns was accepted by council in the amount of \$100.00 with a motion from Anderson, seconded Bankers, all in favor, carried. This donation is for the Fire Department to be used for Fire Equipment. Also received is a grant from Bayer Fund for the Department in the amount of \$2,500.00 to also be used for Fire Equipment. Both accepted with the above motion.

Proposal for the Sewer and Water Budget accepted with a motion from Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor carried.

Proposal for the City of Zumbro Falls General Budget accepted with a motion from Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried. Council agreed on a 5% levy increase due to rising costs.

Meeting to adjourn and clerk to pay bills presented by a motion from Anderson, seconded Bankers, all in favor, carried.

Submitted by,  
Susan Eischens, Clerk

### Resolution No. 21-05

This agreement made this 8<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021, by and between the council for the City of Zumbro Falls, and Matt Kehren of Lake City, Mn.

**WHEREAS**, Contractor has submitted a bid for a contract with the City of Zumbro Falls to remove snow from City Streets and the entrance to city ponds commencing with the first snowfall of the 2021-2022 winter, which bid has been accepted by the council.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements of the parties hereto to be by them respectively kept and performed as hereinafter set forth, it is agreed as follows:

- Contractor is required to haul and dump snow from trunk highway 60 from the intersection of Appledale Drive and Hwy 60 & Junction T.H. 63 which amounts to .22 miles as required by the State of Minnesota.
- Contractor is required to plow and sand all city streets in a timely manner to ensure residents safety. Priority is to be on resident hills and opening access to city businesses along highway 60.
- Contractor to be notified by City Wastewater contractor when access is needed to check the City water ponds.
- Contractor agrees to bill City monthly.
- Contractor agrees that its equipment shall be used and operated only by licensed, experienced, competent and careful operators and that the equipment with all appropriate lighting, sound and other safety equipment required by law to prevent injury to persons or property.
- Contractor agrees to hold the City of Zumbro Falls harmless against any and all loss, damage or claim for damages, including costs and attorney fees, arising out of placement, operation, use and/or maintenance of the Contractor's personnel and equipment while performing its duties under this Agreement and agrees to furnish on a continuing basis proof of insurance coverage or a protective liability, naming the City of Zumbro Falls as an additional insured, for \$2,000,000.00 personal injury and \$2,000,000.00 property damage. Said insurance coverage shall be endorsed to include contractual liability insurance for this Agreement to hold harmless, indemnity and name the City of Zumbro Falls as additionally insured.
- Contractor shall restore, at his expense, and public or private property damaged or injured in consequence of any act or omission similar and equal to that existing before such damage or injury was done. If the contractor neglects to repair or make restorations, the City of Zumbro Falls may after 48 hours of notice to the contractor, proceed to make such repairs or restorations and will deduct the cost thereof from monies that are or may become due to the contractor.

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Once in a while, almost everyone misses a payment. The City sees this every month when we create our water/sewer bills. Most of the time, the payment and bill cross in the mail, or someone misplaced, or did not receive their bill card, and it is not a big deal. The big deal comes when a customer goes to 60 days delinquent, and in excess of a pre-set dollar amount that triggers warning letters. Most people pay after they have received a warning. For some, the City Council goes to the next step of certifying the past due balances to be assessed to taxes.

I know there are hardships people face that can affect their ability to pay, but this just costs more because a penalty goes into effect after 60 days. Sending the extra notices, and tracking the warning and assessment determination takes staff hours that could be spent on other City business. Making better use of our technology, we have streamlined our process, but it still takes time to pursue delinquent accounts. About 6% of our billing hits delinquent status. Less than 1% is assessed, so most people do pay their bills, when reminded. Time spent creating and tracking warnings, and creating certification documents is paid time to staff. So receiving payments on-time would save money. A few hours per month saved, is not a big dollar amount, but it does add up. Every dollar that can be saved and used in maintenance, as opposed to collecting a past due bill, keeps future costs lower. So please, pay your water-sewer utility in a timely fashion.

CLERK

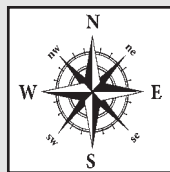
CHATTER

By  
Karl Nahrgang  
Administrator Clerk,  
City of Mazeppa





## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes One for the Old Times



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.*

Coming back to Minnesota this spring we had made the decision to sell the house that my grandparents had lived in. As a rental it was becoming more of a problem to us. That meant a renovation, so we started working. Then things began to change. After stripping it down and cleaning it up, we noticed the charm hidden underneath.

The house was built out of fir. Not pine. Fir gets harder as it ages. You have to drill

eighty-year old fir floor joists. It will bend a nail right over. This was a home to my grand-parents. Two of the nicest people you would ever meet. I knew my grandmother for over forty-years, but my grandfather died the year I was born. My memories of my grandfather Otis, came from some of my neighbors.

Lester Derby was one of my neighbors who lived in the valley next to us when I was growing up. Lester and Lillian were great friends of our family. I remember Lester telling me about my grandfather about forty-years ago. Lester and his wife had moved onto their farm and had three children. Their house had a porch on the front where Lillian did the laundry. One day Otis was visiting Lester and asked how Lillian would do the laundry when the winter came and it would be too cold outside. Lester commented that he would like to enclose the porch, but farming in the 1950's did not look like the money would be available. The next day, Otis stopped down and handed Lester \$500. He said, "fix the porch for your family, pay me back when you are able."

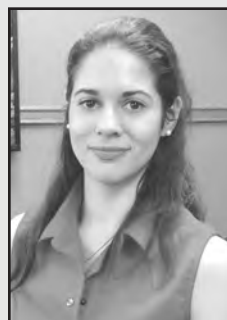
My neighbor Jim Buehler told me about my grandfather Otis. Otis had arthritis quite bad and got around on crutches in his last years. Jim had watched my grandfather cultivating corn and the grass would plug up

the cultivator shovels. Most people would get frustrated and raise the cultivator and pop the clutch to bounce the sod balls of the shovels. But not my grandfather. Jim said he watched him raise the front mounted cultivator, back up and then dismount from the tractor and slowly make his way around the front and push the dirt and grass off the shovels with one crutch. Calmly and patiently, each time with the demeanor of a man who was unflap-

pable.

As I stripped the house down to the sub-floor and bare studs, I realized that I was looking at a house no one had seen since my grandfather built it, over eighty years ago. The memory of a simple farmer who lived the righteous way seemed worthy to preserve. My wife and I decided we would move into it and keep it for our summer home.

## A Minnesotan: Thanksgiving



By RosaLin Alcoser

Thanksgiving 1999 was my family's first Thanksgiving in Minnesota, which is also the first time I can remember seeing snow. However, it is the Thanksgiving of 2019 that sticks in my mind this year.

Thanksgiving 2019 was my first year back in Minnesota from Missouri. Don't get me wrong I loved Thanksgiving in Missouri, spending it with my older sister and getting Chinese food out so that we did not have to cook a large meal for two. Which made 2019 the first more traditional Thanksgiving I had had in a couple of years.

My family has the tradition of getting up watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade every year and making a big meal. The thing that stands out to me the most about that's year's Thanksgiving is cooking that meal.

The reason that cooking this meal stands out to me is because my mother's oven would not stay shut on it's own. Meaning that it was my job that day to keep the oven door shut; so I sat with my back against the oven door to hold it shut for a better part of the day so that the Thanksgiving meal could bake.

# Happy Thanksgiving

## Thank You

(continued from page 1)

With our small staff of 2.5, we understand this challenge first hand here at the Messenger, which is why we publish the Messenger in its monthly format.

Our goal with the Messenger is to help insure our home towns, still have a community voice of its own, direct mailing to all residents in the zip code. This format allows the community to maintain a local monthly paper, and better connect local residents, businesses and the community. We also understand the need for

more timely information within the month, so we look forward to expanding our digital and online offerings in the coming months, while still maintaining our dedication to our hometowns!

We remain a small family owned business with a goal of supporting our rural communities and businesses.



We are proud to continue to offer you this local hometown paper, in your mail box each month. Our future success depends on the support of our local community, and we thank you in advance for your continued support of The Messenger!

# Holly Thyme Craft Show

Saturdays: November 27 & December 4, 11  
Sundays: November 28 & December 5, 12  
Hours: 10:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.

Take a drive in the country and shop in our log cabin filled with crafts and antiques!

COVID 19 Plan: People should follow the 6 foot Social Distancing Guidelines.  
We prefer people wear a face mask while inside buildings.  
\* If you prefer to set up a private time to shop in our cabin, please call.

DIRECTIONS FROM KENYON: Go north on Hwy. 56 for 7 miles, then turn west on County 49 Blvd. Go 1/2 mile. Our cabin is right before Vang Lutheran Church.

FROM NORTHFIELD: Go east on Hwy. 246 to Dennison, continue east out of Dennison 3 miles, take a right on Hwy. 56 south for 2 long miles. Take a right heading west on Cty. 49 Blvd., go 1/2 mile. Our cabin is right before Vang Lutheran Church.

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## Anhydrous Safety Should be Top Concern This Fall

*The MDA offers safety tips for those maintaining equipment and applying and transporting NH3*

Many farmers and applicators will soon apply anhydrous ammonia (NH3) after harvest. Even with a rush against time and the weather, safety should never be compromised. Recent accidents involving anhydrous ammonia have proven how dangerous and deadly the chemical can be when not handled properly.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is providing the following tips to farmers and applicators so they can safely apply anhydrous ammonia.

Always wear appropriate goggles and gloves. Never wear contact lenses.

Be sure to have a clean, adequate emergency water supply of at least 5 gallons.

Exercise caution when making connections and disconnections as if lines contain anhydrous ammonia.

Stand upwind when connecting, disconnecting, bleeding lines, or transferring NH3. Also, close, bleed, disconnect, and secure valves and transfer lines when taking breaks or disconnecting lines, and be sure to handle hose end valves by the valve body.

Position equipment away and downwind from homes, people, and livestock.

Safety is also key to those maintaining anhydrous ammonia equipment. Never assume NH3 lines are empty, always wear proper protective equipment, and have access to safety water.

When towing a nurse tank down the road, drive sensibly. Do not go any faster than 30 miles per hour, display a slow-moving vehicle (SVM) emblem visible from the rear, and be sure the tank is secured to the tractor or truck with two separate, independent chains that supplement the hitch pin/clip.

If an accident or spill occurs, immediately call 911 and then the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798 or 651-649-5451.

You can find more safety, storage, and transportation information on the MDA's website at [www.mda.state.mn.us/nh3](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/nh3).

As a reminder, fall application of anhydrous ammonia should happen after average soil temperatures reach 50 degrees F or cooler to help prevent nitrogen loss, protects water quality, and ensures more nitrogen will be available for next season's crop.

View the MDA's interactive map to find the current 6-inch soil temperature and the past week's history.

Under the MDA's Groundwater Protection Rule, fall nitrogen fertilizer application is prohibited in vulnerable areas of Minnesota due to environmental concerns or risks. View a map of the vulnerable regions of the state.

## MDA Now Accepting Applications for Noxious Weed/Invasive Plant Grants

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for the 2022 Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant. Counties, municipalities, tribal governments, and weed management entities (including weed management areas) may apply for grants to mitigate noxious weeds around the state. Grants for fiscal year 2022 will be funded up to \$5,000. The awards are intended to support local projects.

Since 2018, the MDA Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Grant has awarded over \$1 million to fund a variety of activities such as purchasing equipment and supplies, conducting mapping and outreach activities, and hiring private applicators to manage noxious weeds. One hundred nineteen projects were awarded averaging \$9,000.

Review the request for proposals (RFP) and find the application on the MDA website. Applications are due no later than 3 p.m. on December 3, 2021. Questions can be directed to Emilie Justen, MDA Noxious Weed Law Coordinator, at [emilie.justen@state.mn.us](mailto:emilie.justen@state.mn.us).

The grant program is funded by the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).



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By Jim Miller

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## How to Write an Online Will

*Dear Savvy Senior*

*Writing a will has never been a high priority to me but this lingering coronavirus crisis has changed my thinking. Can you recommend some good do-it-yourself resources to help me write a simple will?  
--Getting Older*

Dear Getting:

The coronavirus crisis has changed the way a lot of people look at things, including wills. Currently, fewer than half of American adults have prepared a will. But having a last will and testament is important because it ensures that your money and property will be distributed to the people you want to receive it after your death. If you die without a will, your estate will be settled in accordance with state law. Details vary by state, but assets typically are distributed using a hierarchy of survivors. Assets go to first to a spouse, then to children, then your siblings, and so on.

You also need to be aware that certain accounts take precedence over a will. If you jointly own a home or a bank account, for example, the house, and the funds in the account, will go to the joint holder, even if your will directs otherwise.

Similarly, retirement accounts and life insurance policies are distributed to the beneficiaries you designate, so it is important to keep them up to date too.

**Online Will Makers**

If you have a simple, straightforward estate and an uncomplicated family situation, writing your own will – with the help of a good online will making program – is a viable alternative to hiring an attorney and much cheaper. Like tax software, these online tools will guide you through a series of questions and will insert your answers into a will for you, and it usually takes less than 20 minutes from start to finish. Three top-rated do-it-yourself options include the Quicken WillMaker & Trust 2021 downloadable software (available at [nolo.com](http://nolo.com)) that costs \$100 and works with Windows and Macs and is valid in every state except Louisiana; LegalZoom ([legalzoom.com](http://legalzoom.com)), which offers basic wills for \$89 or \$99 if you'd like assistance from an independent attorney; and Trust & Will ([trustandwill.com](http://trustandwill.com)) which charges \$89 for a basic will. If that's more than you're willing to pay, consider FreeWill ([freewill.com](http://freewill.com)), which is a completely free will making resource made possible with the support of nonprofit organizations.

**When to Hire a Lawyer**

If you have considerable financial assets or a complex family situation, like a blended family or child with special needs, it would be smart for you to seek professional advice. An experienced lawyer can make sure you cover all your bases, which can help avoid family confusion and squabbles after you're gone. The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys ([naela.org](http://naela.org)) and the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils ([naepc.org](http://naepc.org)) websites are good resources that have directories to help you find someone in your area. Costs will vary depending on your location and the complexity of your situation, but you can expect to pay somewhere between \$200 and \$1,000 to get your will made. To help you save, shop around and get price quotes from several different firms. And before you meet with an attorney, make a detailed list of your assets and accounts to help make your visit more efficient.

**Make it Valid**

Be aware that to make your will valid, you must sign and date it and have it witnessed according to the laws of your state. Most states require two witnesses who are not listed as beneficiaries in your will to watch you sign it. Some states also require that a notary witness the signing as well. [Nationalnotary.org](http://Nationalnotary.org) can tell you if a notary is needed to legalize a will in your state, if remote notary services are available, and how to access such online services to execute your will if you are sheltering at home during the pandemic.