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## The Messenger Recipe Contest



Share your favorite recipe with other readers and you can win a free dinner out on us. Just e-mail your favorite recipe to us. Each month we will feature 2 recipes. If we use your recipe and print it, you will receive a free certificate.

(see ad on page 16)

## Former Zumbro Falls Fire Chief Honored at Retirement Party

On Saturday January 22nd the Zumbro Falls Fire Dept threw an open house retirement party for former Fire Chief Bruce Heitmann. There were about two hundred attending the event. Bruce retired on 12-31-21 and served the local communities of Zumbro Falls, Hammond, Millville and the surrounding areas for over 43 years holding office in every rank on the department including serving two separate times as Fire Chief.

After a day in 1984 when the Zumbro Falls Fire Department was paged to multiple accidents, Bruce was instrumental in working with the Lake City Ambulance Service to get fire department members certified as first responders. Today the department has twenty-one members are all but a couple new ones are certified First Responders.



Members of the ZFFD honoring retiring Fire Chief Bruce Heitman

## Announcements

• The Mazeppa Area Historical Society is closed at this time but can call anytime for information: Helen Reiland @ 507-250-6021. Looking forward to another great year!

• Did you hear? Every home in the U.S. can order free COVID-19 test kits through the following website: <https://www.covidtests.gov/>

The limit per each household is FOUR test kits. These test kits will be completely free through the Federal Government. You will not be asked to enter a credit card number.

• 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.

Do you have an announcement?

Email: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)

## January Mazeppa City Council meeting

ARPA relief funds were distributed to Mazeppa businesses to compensate for closures caused by the Covid pandemic

Eight businesses qualified for the funds. These were; Leo's Sports Bar for \$4,264, Mazeppa Liquor Store for \$3,176, Mazeppa BP for \$2,263, Mazeppa Workout Center for \$417, Rhonda's Hair Care for \$1,000, Little Creations for \$960, Turbo's Repair for \$480 and Losure Construction for \$200.

The EDA will be hosting a job fair on April 18 from 1-6 p.m. at the community center. Businesses that would like to participate in the job fair should call 507-843-3685 or email [deputyclerk@nutelecom.net](mailto:deputyclerk@nutelecom.net) to reserve space.

The council approved donating a fire fund surplus in the fire department fund for the amount of \$10,796 to the Mazeppa Fire Relief retirement account. They also approved a donation to the city in the amount of \$55,000 from the Mazeppa Fire Relief. These will be used to purchase public safety equipment.

Another notable event was in September of 1995 when Bruce assisted in the birth of child on the grass of a home in Zumbro Falls. Again in January of 1996, he was called to a home to deliver a baby due to a winter storm blocking the roads. Bruce never saw either of the children after the delivery and mentioned how neat it would have been to have a photo with them. The crew at ZFFD decided to track them down, invite them to the retirement open house and ceremony, and make that happen.

Bruce still works at K-S Heating in Rochester and is currently the mayor of Zumbro Falls.

(additional picture on page 4)

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## Christ our Ultimate Conqueror!



By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

From 1961- 1994, there was a physical partition between East and West Germany- right in the heart of Berlin. The wall virtually went up overnight! Berliners woke up to find a barrier made up of coiled barbed wires and concrete blocks. The wall was 96 miles (154.5 km) long stood and stood between 115 and 15 feet (4.57 meters) tall. There were actually 2 walls built with a 160-foot death strip between them. There were 302 watchtowers, 20 bunkers, 55,000 land mines, 259 dog runs, and machine guns that were activated by trip-wires.

The wall was built to keep the East Berliners from going into West Berlin to work- it was built to keep people in- Walls separate- As we conclude chapter 8 Paul writes, “And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love.” Paul says- I am convinced! It isn’t a thought, or just a consideration, or a possibility- he is convinced- completely certain about something or firm in one’s belief with regard to a particular cause or issue. He wrote, I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s Love. He is completely certain that there is nothing- not a thing · not a single thing · not anything · nothing at all · nil · zero · naught. Not one thing can ever—there is no time; past present or future- separate us- Keep us from- make a wall, between us and God’s love. That’s powerful! There’s hope in that verse- there’s a huge reminder that I have done nothing that will totally destroy Jesus’ love for me. There’s nothing he will not forgive, there’s nothing that can get in the way of His love for me. Let that soak in- when we’re in

love we fill that way about that special person- we say our vows- until death do us part- saying that there is nothing that will get in-between our love for one another- yet, divorce is all around us- Unrealistic expectations make our marriages a war zone with walls separating one another. But Paul says, I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love.” God loves us. God loves His creation. God loves us so much that He gave His one and only Son-so that we may have life with Him forever. That’s love- undeserved and selfless. That’s God’s love.

Paul elaborates: “Neither death nor life,” Death doesn’t even separate us from God’s love. Even when death takes us- God is there- His desire is that we go with Him in death- his heart grieves for those that choose eternal death without Him. Life as well can’t separate His love from us- we can choose to accept it or not- but He has already given it through His Son.

Then, neither angels nor demons” no matter the power of the spiritual world- neither the angels or demons can get between God’s love for us. The powers of the evil will try- but they are no match for His Love. Martin Luther King, Jr.said, “Returning hate for hate multiplies hate, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” The powers of darkness will try to get the best of us- But Jesus is love and He is more powerful than the darkest night or the blackest evil of a person’s heart.

This one hits home a bit more, “neither our fears for today nor our worries about to-

morrow” Can separate us from God’s love. We all have our fears and worries don’t we? Yet, even if we are afraid or worrying about tomorrow- He still loves us and is patient with us. He knows us- He desires that we remember His promises: “That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life— whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? 27 Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

28 “And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, 29 yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. 30 And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

31 “So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ 32 These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. 33 Seek the Kingdom of God[e] above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

34 “So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” Matthew 6:25-34. Jesus said- don’t worry- me and my Father got this! Even our fears over tomorrow- can’t separate us from His

love!

And we’re to also remember, that “not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Nothing in ALL Creation will EVER be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed to us in Jesus Christ!!! I have to say- I really love these verses! These verses fill me with hope, when I’m tempted to despair, they fill me with courage, when I am afraid, and trusting in this kind of love definitely leaves me feeling like a conqueror! As a believer- you can have this same confidence. You can trust in the Lord Jesus Christ- Our ultimate conqueror-

## Thank You

Your words have comforted us, your support has strengthened us and your love has sustained us. We extend our sincere thanks to you for your kindness and your gifts of food, cards, memorials and money during our greatest sadness.

We appreciate it more than words can express and it will always be remembered. And in keeping with the spirit of Duane,  
“ have a nice day.”

The Family of Duane Klein

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### AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY Learning Together

Scripture Reading — Luke 24:13-19  
As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. — Luke 24:15

Social media does not provide a healthy setting for Christian debate on controversial issues. It’s too easy for users to sound off with hurtful words over people’s interpretations of Scripture, judging them to be dead wrong or even devil-led.

Imagine such an online debate between people who believed in Christ’s resurrection and those who considered it fake news. Thankfully, the calm, respectful discussion we find on the road to Emmaus invites a genuine discovery of the truth. Where these two gathered, Jesus showed up and was there with them (see Matthew 18:20; 28:20).

God designed that his people would live, learn, and grow together in community. None of us has perfect knowledge of God’s Word, but we gain insight by studying it with others. “As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another” (Proverbs 27:17).

I have participated in many small groups in which we studied the Bible, which is “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16), and applied it to life situations. As a pastor, I do not have all of the answers, but I have found that when we communally seek to know him better, Jesus joins us and we sense his presence.

As Christ-followers, we can scare people away with our insistence on being right, or we can attract people with our invitation to walk and learn together with Jesus as our guide.

Prayer  
Thank you, Lord, for being with us in our life of faith, and for guiding us to search for truth together. Amen.

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Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the  
Mazeppa Zumbro Falls Messenger at:  
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## Dale Ferber

Dale Ferber, 79, of Mazeppa, Minnesota, passed away on January 17th, in his home, surrounded by his family.



Dale was born on February 16th, 1942, to Louis C. and Emma L. Ferber of Mazeppa. After graduating from Mazeppa High School in 1960, he met the love of his life, Sherrie Ferber, on the steps of W.D.'s in Mazeppa. Dale worked for the City of Rochester at the Water Reclamation plant between 1963, and 2007. At the time of his retirement, Dale was the longest serving City employee, a record he was quite proud of. After retiring, Dale got his real estate license, and created Ferber Realty.

Dale and Sherrie started their family in Rochester, and later moved to Byron, where they lived for many years. In 1992, they moved to their lake home on Lake Zumbro, not far from Dale's family farm, where they remained until his passing.

Dale was selfless and hard-working; he never tired of putting the needs or wants of others before his own. When he wasn't outside doing chores, cutting wood, or mowing the golf course-sized lawn, he was cooking, baking brownies, or whipping up a batch of his famous Saturday Morning Pancakes, a tradition his grandson Dalen has come to mas-

ter.

When he wasn't busy working, baking, or cooking, Dale loved to spend time with his family and the dogs out on the lake or camping in Wabasha.

He was a proud father, who gladly attended anything his sons participated in, be it sporting events or piano recitals. He loved all animals, and the farm became an unofficial nature preserve, where hunting was strictly forbidden. He fed deer out of the palm of his hands, pulled the tails of unsuspecting squirrels, and fostered baby rabbits.

He is survived by four sons: Daniel of Byron, Dean (Diana) of Rochester, Duey (Amy) of New Richland, and Dana of Berlin, Germany. His eight grandchildren: Jacob, Dalen, Joseph, Evan, Katherine, Kellen, Nolan, and Mason.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents, his brothers, Arnold (Fern) Ferber and Jim (Marlys) Ferber, and his wife, Sherrie.

Visitation was at Mahn Funeral home in Rochester on Thursday, January 20th, between 5pm and 8pm.

The funeral took place Friday, January 21st at St. John the Evangelist in Rochester at 10:30am with a visitation at 9:30am.

## Barbara Jean (Mulholland) Madsen

Barbara Jean (Mulholland) Madsen passed away on Thursday, January 20, 2022 at Willows & Waters Senior Living in Rochester, MN. She was 91 years old.

Barbara was born on May 17, 1930 to Claude and Annie (Pencil) Mulholland, in Mazeppa Township, Wabasha County, MN. She graduated from Mazeppa High School in 1947. On September 9, 1950, Barbara married William C. Madsen of New Ulm, MN, at Woodville Chapel, near Zumbro Falls, MN. Barbara loved reading. She worked as a children's librarian at the Rochester Public Library for 25 years, retiring in 1994. Barbara had the heart of a naturalist and loved the outdoors. She enjoyed observing nature and had a special fondness for rocks, wildflowers, cloud formations, and



birds.

Barbara is preceded in death by her parents; husband, William; son, Dale; brothers, Dennis, Kenneth, Curtis, Grant, Stanley, Duane; sisters, Pauline Tallman and Janet Penz. Barbara is survived by her children, Duane (Beverly) Madsen of Rochester, DeAnne (Steven) Holm of St. Charles; brothers, Maurice (Wanda) Mulholland of Rochester, Glenn (Nancy) Mulholland of Rochester; sisters-in-law, Audrey Mulholland of Rochester, Maxine Mulholland of Hinkley; daughter-in-law, Darla Madsen of Jordan; four grandchildren, Daniel (Kristina) Madsen, David (Jessica) Madsen, Meghan Holm, Catelyn Holm; step-grandson, Nik Hopkins; two great-grandchildren, Tygh Madsen and Eleanor Madsen. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Private funeral services were held for immediate family with burial at Oakwood East Cemetery in Rochester, MN. A celebration of life will be held in the spring for family and friends.

It was Barbara's wish that any remembrances be made in the form of charitable donations to Quarry Hill Nature Center, Safe Haven Pet Rescue, Friends of the Rochester Public Library, and the Rochester Public Library children's department.

Ranfranz and Vine Funeral Home is honored to be serving the Madsen family; to share a special memory or condolence please visit [www.ranfranzandvinefh.com](http://www.ranfranzandvinefh.com)

## Delores "Doty" Ilene (Leonard) Klein

Delores "Doty" Ilene (Leonard) Klein of Rochester, MN passed away peacefully on January 24, 2022 just shy of her 76th birthday surrounded by loved ones in her home. Doty was diagnosed with Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, a rare neurological disorder, in January 2022.

The progression of the disease was faster than expected and leaving behind broken hearts, but so many great memories, she departed this world.

Survived by husband of 15 yrs Hank Klein;



son, Mike (Gloria) Magruder; grandchildren, Abby, Melissa, and Zack (Zumbro Falls, MN); son, Brian Magruder (Minneapolis, MN); granddaughter, Briana Magruder (Glendale, Arizona); daughter, Christi (Scott Williams); grandchildren, Lauren and Nolan Williams (Shoreview, MN); sister and brother-in-law, Anna Mae and Merl Norman (Zumbro Falls, MN); sister and brother-in-law, Katie and Dick Roberts (Aurora, CO); step-children, Tom and Helen Klein (South St. Paul, MN), Cindy and Tony Williams (Cottage Grove, MN), Tim Klein and Jeanette Muzio (Boulder, CO), Ted and Kathryn Klein (Hudson, WI), Christine and Matt Lindeman (Inver Grove Heights, MN), Kris Lindstrom (Lakeville, MN), Carla and Tom Waite (Apple Valley, MN), Connie and Dale Doocy (Shoreview, MN); and 18 Klein grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Preceded in death by father, Carroll Leonard; mother, Virginia Leonard; brothers, Kenny and Gene Leonard; sister, Ann Zarbock (Leonard); and brother in law, Allen Zarbock; nephew, Allen Zarbock Jr; and niece, Patty Ann Zarbock; step-daughter, Carrie (Klein) Lindstrom; step great-granddaughter, Kaylan Klein.

Doty was born February 1, of 1946 in Loomis Nebraska where she attended a one-room schoolhouse until her family moved to the Fort Morgan, Colorado area. Doty relocated to Minnesota in 1965 and made Rochester her home. In the early years in Minnesota, Doty helped neighborhood families by running a daycare, she completed a dental hygienist program and worked in that field before starting a home cleaning business that she ran for a number of years. Doty then worked with Mayo Clinic for 22 yrs until her retirement in April 2013. At Mayo, Doty shined her bright light on co-workers and patients she befriended over her many years of service where she often brought in feasts of home cooked gourmet food, fresh bread, and anything else she thought would help someone have a better day. Doty was known for bringing home Mayo patients she got to know. If Doty became aware that someone was in town alone, they were brought to her house for home cooking and sometimes even a place to stay. Doty fulfilled her dream of seeing the world and enjoyed traveling to see her children while they served in the Peace Corps in Honduras and Poland. Doty also traveled Europe, South America, New Zealand, and she treated herself for her 60th birthday with a solo back packing trip to Africa. Doty was an inspiration to everyone that was fortunate enough to cross paths with her.

Doty met the love of her life, Hank Klein, in 2001 and they married in 2007. These two peas in a pod got more projects done in their 21 years than most couples do in a lifetime. Hank and Doty were all about family and spent all their time with family and close friends.

Please join the family in a Celebration of Life at Mahn Family Funeral Home, 1624 37th St. NW, Rochester, MN 55901 on Friday, February 18, 2022 from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.

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## Former Zumbro Falls Fire Chief Honored at Retirement Party



Jim Hoffman, Bruce Heitman & Alexis Johnson. Bruce delivered both of these as infants in Zumbro Falls



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## 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.*

### Laundry Routine

Has it ever looked like your clothes dryer blew up, because there are clean clothes everywhere? That happens at our house every so often. When we are doing a lot of laundry and it is still a little damp, we lay it everywhere in the living room. When I was writing my articles last month, I had one of those days, and thought it would be a good idea to write about our laundry routine.

I try to do a load of laundry most days of the week. It works best if I put in a load before I exercise in the morning, and then get it to the dryer when I am done. Then there's a clean basket of laundry to fold. Mike folds a lot of the laundry while we are watching TV. I usually fill baskets of the clean folded laundry and get them to everyone's room. If Mike is making supper, I fold some laundry. Monty is pretty good about loading his own laundry into the washer. It doesn't seem so bad when everyone pitches in.

Just like at my house when I grew up, everyone is responsible for putting their own clean clothes away, and getting their dirty clothes to the laundry room. We all help each other out, and grab some dirty laundry to fill up a load. My best laundry trick, we bought a new washer and dryer from Busby's in Zumbrota a couple years ago. Our washer died. We got a Maytag 50th Anniversary washer. I loved it so much, I ordered the matching dryer a week later. I do not mind doing laundry anymore. They hold way more laundry than our last washer and dryer. The washer is a top load, easy to use and nothing fancy. I also do a load of laundry a weekend at our cabin. No hauling laundry back and forth, and I keep the old stackable washer and dryer at the cabin in use.

**Stay tuned for next month's topic: Tax prep!**  
*There's so much to do, so little time. Bye for now!*



By  
**Missy Papenfus**

## Hubbell House to Re-open with New Owners

After 75 years of ownership by the Pappas family, the Hubbell House in Mantorville has been sold to Powers Ventures of Rochester. They are a family owned restaurant and catering business with over 159 employees. They started the Canadian Honker in 1984, The Rochester International Event Center in 2006 and Pinnacle Catering in 2013. Thee Hubbell House will be closed until April for an extensive kitchen remodel project.

The Hubbell House was built by John Hubbell in 1854, first as a 16' x 24' log cabin and then in 1856 the current three story structure, one the first of its kind in Minnesota, was built out of Limestone block out of the local quarry. The building was to become a famous stagecoach stop, saloon and café in the mid-

19th century history of Dodge County. The Hubbell House had fallen onto hard times by 1930 and Walt Stussy purchased the building for housing quarry workers during the Great Depression. Paul Pappas married Walt Stussy's daughter, Irene in 1942 and they opened the Hubbell House as a restaurant on June 29, 1946. On the first day of business they served twenty-four customers with only three employees.

By 1959 on Mother's Day they served 1,500 customers with fifty employees. Don Pappas took over the reins of the Hubbell House from his father Paul, and Don's daughter Alaina became general manager in 2015.

The Hubbell House has been a favorite with many residents of Dodge County over the last seventy-five years as well as many state and national figures, including United States presidents, athletes and actors. Most of us who have dined there have read the names of past and present famous people on the placemat while waiting for our meal. Another interesting artifact at the Hubbell is the large painting on the wall just in front of the Senator Ramsey Room. It was painted by Albert Lea artist Sue Geiken and it features 99 famous Minnesotans from the mid 1800's to the late



1970's. Many times I have tested my high school history knowledge to identify those faces.

The new owners have expressed commit-

ment to continuing the high level of quality that the Hubbell House has been known for. Keep an eye out for the grand re-opening of the Hubbell House this spring.

## A Monthly Moment at MotoProz

By Missy Papenfus

January started off EXTRA cold. We've been selling a lot of batteries here at MotoProz. A battery can fail any time of year. Winter typically gets a bad rap for killing batteries, but that's only part of it. Temperature extremes work against your battery. We check batteries with a digital load tester to know for certain health and charge rate of a battery.



Hubbell House 1857

Happy Birthday

Mike!

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## MISSY'S MESSAGE

### GOALS, GOALS, GOALS



MISSY PAPPENFUS

January has come and gone, but you can still start working on your goals now. Take time to brainstorm any goals you may want to work on for the year. Break them down what to work on first, and what steps you need to tackle to get you there. Start small. I've been participating in a group with a coach specifically for goal setting. The object is to pick a goal, work toward it, no need to be perfect, just to be consistent and keep working. Figure out your "Why".

Try to think outside the box of ways to help you reach your goal easier. If you have trouble getting up to exercise in the morning, for example, don't commit to every day of the week. Break the time down, so you are doing something rather than nothing. Set out your workout clothes the night before. Set a realistic goal. Don't say you are going to work out 7 days a week, if you know you won't do it.

Drinking more water is another one of my goals. When I drink a couple glasses right away in the morning, reaching my goal of 7.5 glasses a day seems much easier. Also, I try to keep a water bottle with me all the time.

Tracking food intake. I hate tracking, but it really helps eat better foods. I started tracking in the morning what I think I will be having for the day. I can change it as the day goes on, or if it is close, it is good enough. Progress not perfection!

*Memo from MotoProz...*

Plan ahead...Will you be needing a mower this spring? We have a few used ones to choose from and new ones on the way. But as with vehicles and powersports toys, we anticipate the inventory of mowers will be less than in previous years. So start thinking spring, and decide if buying a mower is in your future. Start looking now, before they are sold out. Check out our inventory online at [www.MotoProz.com](http://www.MotoProz.com).

Missy and her husband Mike own MotoProz in Mazeppa.

## Community Child Care Solutions



**Tim Penny**  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

It is no secret that our child care system is strained. Even before the pandemic, rural Minnesota was struggling with a child care shortage. For parents, this has made it challenging to enter or stay in the workforce. For communities, the challenge is attracting and retaining residents if they do not have enough care available in town. Fortunately, at Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) we have seen some real progress through our work addressing this challenge.

One of the ways we have helped develop solutions to the child care shortage is by offering complimentary consulting services. Jeff Andrews, SMIF's early childhood business consultant, provides direct support to family providers, owners/operators of child care centers and communities.

SMIF is currently working with multiple communities as they approach ways to support child care locally. One thing that is clear is that there is not a one-size-fits-all answer, which is why SMIF helps communities develop solutions that are unique to them. One example of this is Jeff's work in Northfield. Under his guidance, Three Rivers Community Action and Healthy Community Initiative created a plan to open a new family child care owner initiative at the Northfield Community Resource Center. Using this partnership model, they will be able to provide classroom space and business support to individuals who are looking to start a new career or relocate their current family child care business.

When a major business closed a few years ago in Waseca, community partners came together to reimagine how to use the large, vacant building that was left behind. SMIF has worked alongside partners from the City, Chamber, EDA, County and School District to create a plan for this building which will include a traditional child care center as well as spaces for family care. Additionally, with Jeff's guidance, the partners will also be focused on supporting existing providers in town through trainings and other initiatives.

Supporting existing providers is another critical tool in addressing the child care shortage. Providers are often stretched thin in a very demanding job which can lead to burnout and, ultimately, leaving the industry. Additionally, the needs of families are changing and evolving due to how the pandemic



has impacted people's work lives and personal lives. Providers are finding themselves at a crossroads and realizing that the way they have always done things isn't working any more. Because of this, SMIF offers consultation services that help providers create a more sustainable business model that also aligns with their own personal goals.

One of the most recent success stories in this space is a partnership between SMIF and Families First of Minnesota that has been a joint effort to get more providers into Parent Aware, Minnesota's quality rating program. All 17 participating providers, from across SMIF's 20-county region, have had an opportunity to work directly with Jeff to discuss changing their business models to adapt to the current climate and reimagine their future, all the while providing the same quality care for families and kids.

Finally, the owners and operators of child care centers are a third area where SMIF's consulting services are available. Jeff's approach with centers, whether new or existing, is more in-depth and complex to help owners understand the nuances of the child care center business. Recently, through Jeff's support, a new preschool opened in Caledonia and a new child care center opened in Lake Crystal. The preschool at the Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro has also been expanded. Additionally, a new child care center, Leo Augusta Children's Academy, will be opening soon in Blooming Prairie.

The availability of quality child care undoubtedly plays a critical role in our communities. In 2022 I encourage community partners, providers and center owner/operators to reach out to SMIF for our complimentary consultation services. We are ready to help you reimagine your future.

The best way to start is by filling out a form on our website at [smifoundation.org/early-childhood](http://smifoundation.org/early-childhood) or by contacting Jeff at 507-214-7056 or [jeffa@smifoundation.org](mailto:jeffa@smifoundation.org).

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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By Jim Miller

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### How to Write a Loved Ones Obituary

*Dear Savvy Senior,*

***Can you provide any tips on how to write an obituary? My dad, who has terminal cancer, has asked me to write his obituary, which will be published in the funeral program and run in our local newspaper.***

***-- Not a Writer***

Dear Not a Writer,

I'm very sorry to hear about your dad's prognosis. Writing your dad's obituary would be a nice way for you to honor him and sum up his life, not to mention avoiding any possible mistakes that sometimes occur when obituaries are hurriedly written at the time of death. Here's what you should know, along with some tips and tools to help you write it.

#### Contact the Newspaper

Before you start writing your dad's obituary, your first step is to check with the newspaper you want it to run in. Some newspapers have specific style guidelines or restrictions on length, some only accept obituaries directly from funeral homes, and some only publish obituaries written by newspaper staff members.

If your newspaper accepts family-written obits, find out if they have a template to guide you, or check with your dad's chosen funeral provider. Most funeral homes provide forms for basic information and will write the full obituary for you as part of the services they provide.

You also need to be aware that most newspapers charge by the word, line or column inch to publish an obituary, so your cost will vary depending on your newspaper's rate and the length of your obit - most range between 200 and 600 words.

Also note that many newspapers offer free public service death listings too, which only include the name of the person who died along with the date and location of death and brief details about the funeral or memorial service.

#### Obituary Contents

Depending on how detailed you want to be, the most basic information in an obituary usually would include your dad's full name (and nickname if relevant), age, date of birth, date of death, where he was living when he died, significant other (alive or dead), and details of the funeral service (public or private). If public, include the date, time, and location of service.

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Sat., April 30, 2022 • 9:30 A.M.  
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Owatonna, MN

Sat., June 18, 2022 • 9:30 A.M.  
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## AUCTION CALENDAR

**February 6, 2022**  
Bidding Begins: ...Jan. 28, 2022  
Starts Closing.....Feb. 6, 2022  
Kenyon, MN  
ONLINE ONLY 600+ LOTS COLLECTOR TOY & MEMORABILIA AUCTION  
600+ Lots of Collector Farm Toys, Ertl, Spec Cast, Precision, Collector Edition, All Brands, Semi's, International, Farmall & CH Memorabilia

**February 20, 2022**  
Bidding Begins: ...Feb. 12, 2022  
Starts Closing.....Feb. 20, 2022  
Kenyon, MN  
ONLINE ONLY LIFETIME VINTAGE TOY COLLECTION AUCTION  
600+ Lots of 1920's - 1960's Buddy L, Steel Craft, Wyandotte, Marx, Structo, Tonka, Smith Miller, Model, Heiliner Press Steel Toys, Tin Windups, Tru-Scale, Lumar, Advertising Semi's, Salt Glazed Crocks, Cylinder Phonographs, Lionel Trains

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Live and Online Area Farmers Consignment Auction, Tractors, Combines, Semi's, Trailers, Construction Equipment, Planters & Tillage Equipment, Livestock Equipment, Pickups, Cars, ATVs and Farm Support Items

**March 17, 2022**  
Bidding Begins: ... Mar. 7, 2022  
Starts Closing.....Mar. 17, 2022  
Afton, MN  
TIMED ONLINE ONLY CLEAN FARM RETIREMENT AUCTION FOR RANDY & JULIE NELSON  
John Deere 4440, 4040, & 2510 Dsl Power Shift Tractors, John Deere 9410 Combine, 918 & 643 Heads, JD 1750 Planter, 8200 Drill, JD 722 Soil Finisher, New Westfield Auger, Freightliner Tri Axle Grain Truck Auto, 16,000 Bushel Grain Bin, Farm Support Items

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## Don't Be Afraid to be Courageous



By Harvey Mackay

In his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Profiles of Courage," U.S. President John F. Kennedy, wrote eloquently about courage:

"Courage, the universal virtue, is comprehended by us all. For without belittling the courage with which men have died, we should not forget those acts of courage with which men have lived.

"The courage of life is often a less dramatic spectacle than the courage of a final moment; but it is no less a magnificent mixture of triumph and tragedy."

Courage is regarded as one of the major human virtues. Courage is bravery, valor, standing up to danger, guts and nerves all rolled into one. It's easy to be ordinary. Courage is what sets people apart from the

crowd.

Those stories of heroism are inspiring, but few of us will ever find ourselves in the kind of extraordinary situations that are the stuff of legend.

Consider the words of American poet Maya Angelou: "Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently."

The good news is that courage is available to everyone. There are plenty of ways to be courageous in our lives. Doing something for the first time is often a demonstration of courage. Is there someone you know who is being picked on where you can defend that person?

Maybe it's just standing up for yourself or speaking up. How about asking for a raise or a promotion at work or leaving a job you don't like and becoming an entrepreneur?

Maybe it's simply having the courage to take responsibility for your actions – or having the courage to be who you are and to be authentic.

It takes courage to persevere in difficulties when we are tempted to give up. I have never met a successful person who hasn't had to overcome a little or a lot of adversity. Trying times are no time to quit trying.

One of the greatest challenges in life is doing what people say you can't. When things seem most bleak, you must have the courage to carry on to success.

The line between failure and success is so fine that we scarcely know when we pass it; so fine that we are often on the line and do not know it. How many people have given up



too soon?

More than 5,200 senior managers were asked by Santa Clara University and the Tom Peters Group/Learning Systems to describe the characteristics they most admire in a leader. The top 10 characteristics, as reported in "Management Review" magazine were: honest, competent, forward-looking, inspiring, intelligent, fair-minded, broad-minded, courageous, straightforward and imaginative.

Anyone who has started a business or managed an organization understands the courage required to make decisions and take risks. Taking the easy way out is not an option.

In business, prospects may seem darkest when actually they are about to turn. A little more perseverance, a little more effort, and what seemed a hopeless failure may turn into

a glorious success.

But it also takes courage to know when to admit failure and move on to more productive ideas. Walking away from an investment of time and money is a decision many businesses have had to make. That's not cowardice, it's courage borne out of wisdom.

Working up the courage to learn how to say that two-letter word – No – can be daunting at first. Do not feel guilty when you need to say no respectfully.

Some people feel like they have to say yes to almost anything they are asked to do. Others just want everyone to like them. They're afraid if they say no they might cause the person making the request to reject them.

I'm offering a challenge for the New Year: Be the courageous person that you know you can be. I think you'll discover that demonstrating courage in small acts will enable you to trust your instincts when more difficult situations arise. Make courage an everyday thing, not something reserved for special occasions.

An unlikely hero was being hailed for standing up to an attacker twice his size and asked how he could be so brave.





"I was too scared to run," he said, "and too dumb to think of anything else."

But his friends said, "No, you didn't have time to think. Courage is a natural instinct if you have it."


**Mackay's Moral: If a thing is worth having, it's worth fighting for.**

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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## Tax Tips: Know the Difference Between Standard and Itemized Deductions

By IRS

Taxpayers have two options when completing a tax return, take the standard deduction or itemize their deductions. Most taxpayers use the option that gives them the lowest overall tax.

Due to all the tax law changes in the recent years, including increases to the standard de-

duction, people who itemized in the past might want to switch to the standard deduction.

Here are some details about the two options.

### Standard deduction

The standard deduction amount increases slightly every year and varies by filing status. The standard deduction amount depends on the taxpayer's filing status, whether they are 65 or older or blind, and whether another taxpayer can claim them as a dependent. Taxpayers who are age 65 or older on the last day of the year and don't itemize deductions are entitled to a higher standard deduction.

Most filers who use Form 1040 can find their standard deduction on the first page of the form. The standard deduction for most filers of Form 1040-SR, U.S. Tax Return for

Seniors, is on page 4 of that form.

Not all taxpayers can take a standard deduction, which is discussed in the Instructions for Forms 1040 and 1040-SR. Those taxpayers include:

A married individual filing as married filing separately whose spouse itemizes deductions—if one spouse itemizes on a separate return, both must itemize.

An individual who files a tax return for a period of less than 12 months. This is uncommon and could be due to a change in their annual accounting period.

An individual who was a nonresident alien or a dual-status alien during the year. However, nonresident aliens who are married to a U.S. citizen or resident alien can take the standard deduction in certain situations.

### Itemized deductions

Taxpayers choose to itemize deductions by filing Schedule A, Form 1040, Itemized Deductions. Itemized deductions that taxpayers may claim include:

State and local income or sales taxes

Real estate and personal property taxes

Home mortgage interest

Mortgage insurance premiums on a home mortgage

Personal casualty and theft losses from a federally declared disaster

Gifts to a qualified charity

Unreimbursed medical and dental expenses that exceed 7.5% of adjusted gross income

Some itemized deductions, such as the deduction for taxes, may be limited. Taxpayers should review the instructions for Schedule A Form 1040 for more information on limitations.

## Historical Happenings

Compiled by  
Helen Reiland

**THE MAZEPPA JOURNAL, Editor and Publisher: Barbara and Reider Tommeraas**

**Friday, February 26, 1954**

### **Hartz Estate Case Settled**

Anna Hoff, Mazeppa area resident who was bequeathed the bulk of the much disputed \$100,000 gross estate left by the late Henry Hartz, Mazeppa farmer who died December 31, 1950, has been assessed an inheritance tax totaling \$4068.34 by Al G. Rehder, Goodhue county probate judge, it was announced today.

Although the estate originally grossed \$100,000, that amount was cut down to a net of \$54,655.57, as a result of expenses incurred by appealing the case to the state Supreme Court and fees paid to attorneys.

Of the \$54,655.57 net estate Anna Hoff received \$42,155.57.

### **LEO MAJERUS PURCHASES L.H. MEYER STATION**

Leo Majerus recently purchased the filling station owned by L.H. Meyer at Hart's Garage.

Mr. Meyer came to Mazeppa from Hammond in 1934 and opened a Webb gas station at the present Walt Reiland site.

In 1942, he moved to Hart's Garage. Mr. Meyer plans to remain in Mazeppa.

Mr. Majerus was discharged from the army recently after serving in Germany.

### **FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1954**

#### **"Gram Jones Has 95th Birthday**

Her family and hosts of friends turned out over the week-end to pay homage to Mrs. Sarah ("Gram") Jones on her 95th birthday.

Her birth date is Feb. 27, but her birthday party took place in three parts---Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with a cake on each day.

Five generations were represented at the birthday celebrations, and a picture was taken of Mrs. Jones, daughter, granddaughter, great granddaughter and great-great granddaughter.

Mrs. Jones has three daughters, Mrs. French, Mrs. W.P. Theisen of Zumbro Falls and Mrs. Nile Redding of Rochester. She also has one sister, Mrs. Georgia Duncan of Mazeppa. There are 16 grandchildren, 31 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild.

"Gram" is in wonderful health, does all her own housework and most of the outside work. In fact, her health and mental sharpness is the envy of those many years her junior.

She is a lifetime resident of this area and has lived in town for 35 years.

### **Weddings**

#### **SOMMERFIELD-GARDNER**

St. John's church in Mazeppa was the scene Saturday, February 27 of the private wedding of Miss Lucille Sommerfield, daughter of Mr. and Henry W. Sommerfield of Mazeppa and Martin Gardner of St. Paul, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Gardner of Warroad.

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1954**

#### **JAMES CARLONS', PATSY KILLED IN AUTO CRASH; COMBINES FUNERAL SERVICES HERE THURSDAY**

It was a stunned community that learned of the tragic deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Carlon and their 16 year-old daughter, Patsy, following a head-on collision near Martin, S.D., early Saturday morning on US. Highway 18.

Mr. Carlon and his daughter were killed in the collision, and Mrs. Carlon died early Monday morning at a hospital.

A second daughter, Judy 8, was not injured seriously. However, Mrs. Albert Betcher of Zumbro Falls, a former Mazeppa resident, was seriously injured after being pinned under the car for several hours. Judy was found wandering around, apparently looking for help. She suffered a broken arm, had lost her shoes and was suffering from exposure.

\*\*\*\*\*CARLON OBITUARIES IN THIS NEWSPAPER\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Creamery Building Here Remodeled**

In compliance with state laws passed in 1948, Mazeppa Farmers' Cooperative Dairy Association has completed an extensive remodeling operation begun this winter.

The lower floor of the building has been separated into three rooms facing the street which include from east to west, receiving room, processing room and hallway leading in office. Separating the receiving room from the processing is a partition made of glazed ceramic tile including glass blocks which give equal light to both sides.

The old entrance has been closed and a new installed farther west on the building and this leads into a hallway adjoin office and processing room.

Perhaps the biggest job was in moving all plumbing and pasteurizers, plus the installation of a new heating system for the office. The latter also received an improvement by the addition of a roomy clothes locker.

The cooperative had an excellent year for 1953 with total sales of \$607,000. Butter manufactured was 643,000 pounds.

#### **JUSTICE COURT NOTES**

Lloyd Moldenbauer, driver for Haustien Transfer Company appeared last Thursday, before Justice of the Peace, Richard Hammes and on two overloading weights, wrong registration and wrong license plates, paid fines of \$30.00 and costs. The two latter with fines of \$10.00 on each count, were suspended. Charges were brought by the State Highway Patrol.

#### **RED CROSS REPORT**

J.S. Wild, chairman, announced this week that Red Cross collections in the village totaled \$225.60.

## Regular City Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 12, 2022

The regular City Council meeting of the Mazeppa City Council was called to order at 6:03 PM by Mayor Chris Hagfors.

Pledge of allegiance was said.

Present: Mayor Chris Hagfors. Councilpersons: Erica Young, Jeff Nelson, Mike Hammes, and Steve Liffri.

Others Present: City Attorney Luke Lamprecht, City Engineer Matt Mohs, Elizabeth Deming from Lamprecht Law Office, Adeline Betcher, John Betcher, and Fire Chief Bryce Dohrn.

Attending via electronic meeting: Wabasha County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Jim Warren, Bob Josselyn, John Clemens, Dustin Wiebusch, City Administrator Karl Nahrgang, 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 Young, second by Nelson to approve the December 8, 2021 Regular City Council meeting minutes, the December 8, 2021 reconvened meeting minutes, the December 22, 2021 Council working session minutes and the continued recess due to lack of a quorum at the December 28, 2021 Park & Rec observation meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Wabasha County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Jim Warren presented the Incident Command Report for December to the Council. Chief Deputy Warren also gave local statistics on accidents caused by texting and driving. City Administrator Nahrgang let Warren know of complaints about speeding on 4th Ave. NE and about an out-of-town resident looking for help with aggressive dogs.

Mazeppa Public Works Report was read by Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

Mazeppa Volunteer Fire Department report was presented by Fire Chief Bryce Dohrn. Dohrn also asked City Attorney Lamprecht if there is a mechanism for a former fire fighter to be able to operate fire equipment on an as needed basis for daytime emergency calls.

City Hall activities report was given by City Administrator Karl Nahrgang.

Motion by Young, second by Nelson to approve deny hearing a minor subdivision request from Phil Olson until the annexation on the adjacent land is finalized by the Minnesota Administrative Law judge. This action to be recognized as Resolution 2022-07. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Nelson to approve building permits MZ21-26, 1021 River Bluff Rd. SE - Losure Construction to replace deck. MZ21-27, 1535 Cherry St. E - Bigelow Homes, new house. close the Regular City Council meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

City Engineer Matt Mohs gave an engineering update including meeting with USDA Rural Development on the pre-engineering report for the WWTP project. EPA program that may supply find to replace lead water service lines in the community.

Second reading Ordinance 2021-05 Annexing land into the City.

Motion by Nelson, second by Liffri to approve Ordinance 2021-05 annexing land into the City and paying Mazeppa Township 2 installments of \$4.35 in lost tax revenue on the land annexed into the City. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Liffri to approve changes in yearend transfers to reserves. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Hammes to approve Economic Development Authority business grant program to fund 40% of pandemic related business losses. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Young to approve Resolution 2022-04 transferring \$12,760.80 of American Recovery Plan Funds to the Economic Development Authority to fund business grant program. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Elizabeth Deming from Lamprecht Law reported that the sale of Parcel R23.00160.03 to 2nd Oldest Arctic Cat dba/Moto Proz was complete and the check to the City was sent.

Motion by Hammes, second by Nelson to approve auditor engagement letter for 2021 City financial audit. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Liffri to approve Resolution 2022-01 naming City appointments for 2022. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Liffri to approve Resolution 2022-02 accepting a donation from Mazeppa Fire Relief. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Young to contract snow hauling with Turbo's Repair. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Nelson to approve Resolution 2022-03 transferring Fire fund surplus to Mazeppa Fire Relief retirement account. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

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

Councilperson Jeff Nelson announced that the February 9, 2022 meeting would be his last because he is moving out of the City of Mazeppa. He thanked the people of the City for the opportunity to serve on the Council.

Council and staff thanked Mr. Nelson for his years of service to the City.

Councilperson Erica Young announced the Parks and Recreation skating party at the ice rink on January 29, 2022 from 1 PM - 3 PM. Refreshments are available. She also thanked rink volunteers Andrew Piva and Dan Nelson for their hard work on this project.

Councilperson Steve Liffri suggested that Public Works purchase a battery jump pack

in case one of the generators does not start during a power outage.

Motion by Nelson, second by Young to close the regular meeting in accordance with 13D-05 Subdivision 3, (C) 3 to develop/consider purchase of property. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Meeting closed at 7:35 PM.

Motion by Nelson, second by Liffri to end closed meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Young to open the regular meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Meeting re-opened at 8:00 PM.

Motion by Young, second by Nelson to deny proposal for City to purchase the southern portion of parcel R23.00249.00. Action to be recognized as Resolution 2022-08. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Hammes to deny petition to lift prescriptive easement on the portion of roadway across parcel R23.00249.00 connecting 4th Ave. NE to Chestnut St. Action to be recognized as Resolution 2022-06. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

City Attorney Luke Lamprecht advised City staff should create and publish policy on getting items on the agenda earlier, so Council can have more time to study information on actionable items.

Motion by Nelson, second by Liffri to recess until the January 29, 2022 Parks and Recreation skating party. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Meeting recessed at 8:11 PM.

Administrator-Clerk

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

The council meeting was called to order by the Mayor at 6PM. All council members present except Treasurer, Jason Faas. Kelly Preble attended the meeting.

Clerk's minutes from the November read and accepted with a motion from Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Clerk reported to the council all financials for November business. This accepted with a motion from Dennison, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Kelly Preble updated the council on the Christmas Festival to be held on December 11th. The committee has collected \$847.92 in donations for expenses incurred. The council agreed to use City Funds budgeted for the overflow costs. A donation was also accepted from the VFW Post 1802 in the amount of \$1,000.00 to be used for costs of the Festival by a motion from Bankers, seconded Dennison, all in favor, carried. Also accepted with this motion was a donation from the VFW Post 1802 in the amount of \$9,210.00 for the Memorial.

Clerk asked the council to approve paying the TIF portion of the Levy to Darin Hofshulte. Approval made by a motion from Dennison, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

A CD in the amount of \$35,000.00 was purchased with a term of 11 months at .25% with Minnwest Bank. This is for the Fire Department Truck Fund Reserve.

Sewer Ponds were inspected and passed with suggestion to clear some brush and vines on the property.

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

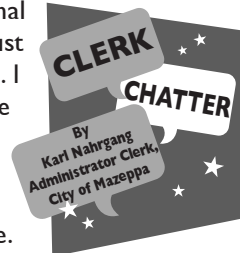
Submitted by,  
Susan Eischens, Clerk

Minnesota winters provide great recreational opportunities. The Mazeppa Parks and Recreation just hosted a skating party at the ice rink in Herb Vik Field. I watched some video and saw people enjoying the sledding hill in the background also. The recent snowfall and cold weather has provided an opportunity to enjoy these facilities. As with many things, that which brings us joy comes with a downside. Snow is great on a sliding hill, but not on City sidewalks. Cold keeps the ice at the rink ready for skating, but can freeze up City water infrastructure.

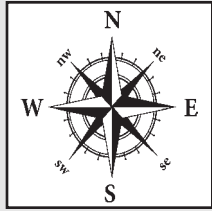
If the cold water from your tap runs at a temperature below 39 degrees Fahrenheit, please dribble a tap in your home to keep your service line, or the main from freezing. Remember to note on your water bill that you are running water to reduce the chance for a freeze up. City Hall will be sure to use your water average instead of the increased usage.

Snow on City sidewalks is to be removed by the property owner.

If you live along 1st Ave., Chestnut St., or Walnut St. the sidewalks running in front of your house need to be kept clear. If it is not cleared within 16 hours of a snow event, the City can shovel the walk, but you would be billed \$100 each time the City has to clear that walk. So please remember if snow falls on the walk or is drifted in, the safety of pedestrians using the walk depends upon it being cleared and walkable.



## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes River Boats



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.*

One thing that always fascinates me are the barges moving up and down the Cumberland River near where we live in Tennessee. They seem huge, especially when you pass them on the river in small runabout.

They call them pusher boats or tow boats and they are about fifty feet long with a 4,000 horsepower diesel engine powering them. The towboats on the Cumberland River are limited to a tow of 15 barges lashed three wide and five long because of the locks at the dams and the channel of the river. On the Mississippi River, south of St. Louis the tows can be three times that size with a pusher boat with an 11,000 horsepower diesel engine.

Each barge is 195 feet long and 35 feet wide. It can carry 1,500 tons, which is 15 times the capacity of a rail car and sixty times the capacity of a semi-trailer. They carry 20% of the nation's coal and that is the standard



load that goes up the Cumberland River to the power plant at Cumberland City. This payload can take up to half a mile to stop, so boats on the river are supposed to give the barges a wide berth. The barges have a draft of 9 feet when fully loaded but the hull is designed so they don't create a large wake. With the number of small fishing and pleasure crafts on the river this is an important feature.

Crews on the towboats work thirty day shifts with a month off in between. There are

six to eight guys living on the towboat and one of them is a full time cook to keep the crew fed. They like the schedule because it allows them a free month to hunt and fish.

The towboats have the most modern navigational systems to keep them on course and a large screen GPS that shows where the boat will be 90 seconds ahead. There are many turns in the river and the captain has to keep that long barge in the center of the channel.

Another challenge is looking out for stalled fishing or leisure crafts in front of the barge. In the event of a boat dead in the water ahead of them, the crew will sprint to the front of the barge to try and push the helpless boat aside. The tow boat uses all the power it has to push the loaded barges up river, but coming back with a tow of empty barges it hardly works at all.

## A Minnesotan: Ice Fishing



By RosaLin Alcoser

Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes and as Minnesotans we spend a good chunk of our lives at the lake. We spend the late spring and summer out on the lake as well as the fall and the winter out on the lake. Basically Minnesotans spend our free time on the lake.

While the summer months have boating and playing on the lake all the seasons have one lake actively in common. Fishing. No matter what there seems to be some point in every season when Minnesotan's fish weather that be from the shore, a boat, or by walking out into the middle of the frozen lake drilling a hole in

the ice and fishing through that.

Now my Southern family is not from up here, but I did spend most of my childhood in Minnesota and well now... I'm still in Minnesota. So, I have been ice fishing, once as a child and was so annoying that I never got taken again.

Which I was fine with at the time and am still fine with now. While my older sister enjoyed ice fishing when we were kids I did not mostly because I didn't care for the cold, fishing or walking out onto the frozen lake.

You might be asking exactly how seven-year-old RosaLin got herself banned, by Grandpa, from ice fishing for life. Well as I have already mentioned it was for being annoying but it was how I was annoying that got me banned.

At the time I was very into Lilo and Stitch on Disney and as a result at the time I knew a couple of Elvis songs. Which I sang down the fishing hole the one time I was taken ice fishing. I must say the fish of the mid-2000's were not big Elvis fans and we did not catch much that day- the guy on the other side of the lake who never caught anything did, but we didn't nor did others around us.

I honestly think that's a good enough reason to never take me again and I'm ok with that.

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- THEME: VALENTINE'S DAY
- ACROSS
1. Fantasy sports data
  6. Accounting acronym
  9. Stark daughter on "Game of Thrones"
  13. Branch of economics
  14. All talk, no action type of service
  15. Relating to symmetry, in geometry
  16. Base-8 numeral system
  17. "\_\_\_ the land of the free..."
  18. Lots and lots
  19. \*Actor Ryan of "Blue Valentine"
  21. \*Desdemona's suspicious husband
  23. Big fuss
  24. Nose-in-the-air type
  25. Uber alternative
  28. One on a pedestal
  30. Moderately wide
  35. Eye layer
  37. Twelfth month of Jewish year
  39. Cheese-covered chip
  40. Popped relief?
  41. \*"Love, \_\_\_" movie
  43. Splints site
  44. Muhammad's teachings
  46. Orchestra instrument
  47. Past of heave
  48. Avoids work, in British slang
  50. Give off
  52. Dose of sunshine
  53. Back seat
  55. Hair-raising product
  57. \* \_\_\_ valentine, an opposite of love note
  61. English author perhaps best known for "The Canterbury Tales"
  65. Like Mary-Kate and Ashley
  66. Pooh's "wise" friend
  68. Bring to an end
  69. Potassium nitrate
  70. Farm sound
  71. Arm bones
  72. Back talk
  73. Uniting conjunction
  74. Imposter
- DOWN
1. Smoke plus fog
  2. Comes in hard or soft shell
  3. Parts of a play
  4. \_\_\_-\_\_\_-la
  5. Plural of solidus
  6. Heidi's shoe
  7. \*Sweetie follower
  8. Cook's cover
  9. Wheel holder
  10. Cambodian money
  11. Two-masted vessel
  12. "The Sun \_\_\_ Rises"
  15. Trash can for fireplace (2 words)
  20. Source of lymphocytes, pl.
  22. Pull along
  24. Dormant state
  25. \*Famous archer
  26. Dispatch boat
  27. " \_\_\_ and whistles"
  29. Hodgepodge
  31. Mr. and Mrs. Incredible's son
  32. Blood of the gods, Greek mythology
  33. Seven days postmortem
  34. \*Hive-related endearment
  36. Unfortunately, exclamation
  38. Rumpelstiltskin machine
  42. Stallion's cry
  45. Business combination
  49. Old Man's turf, according to Hemingway
  51. Darjeeling server
  54. Smell, usually pleasant
  56. Calms
  57. Ford Transit and such
  58. Pelvic parts
  59. Lice eggs
  60. Augments
  61. Oaf
  62. Scoop holder
  63. Biblical twin
  64. Donna or Lou
  67. Got a blue ribbon



# Recipe Contest

Show your friends and neighbors as well as all the readers your culinary expertise!

Just send us your recipe with the ingredient list and preparation instructions and we will draw 2 recipes each month to run in the Messenger with your name as the submitter.

**E-mail your recipe to [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)**

**If we use your recipe and print it, you will receive a free certificate. Be sure to include your name and address so we can mail you a gift card if your entry is the winner.**

## *The original Minnesota Tater Tot Hot Dish*

We'll walk you through how to make this classic tater tot casserole recipe. There are lots of variations on the hotdish, but this easy recipe is a good place to start. You'll need:

- 3/4 to 1 pound ground beef
- 1 small onion, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen tater tots
- 1 package (16 ounces) frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 can (10-3/4 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 2/3 cup 2% milk
- 1 cup shredded cheese

To start, break out your favorite large skillet—cast iron works great here! Heat it over medium heat, then add the ground beef and onion. Season with salt and pepper and cook until the meat is cooked through. Drain any excess grease.

Transfer the ground beef and onion mixture to a greased, two-quart baking dish. Top with the frozen tater tots.

In mixing bowl, whisk together the milk and condensed soup and then pour it over the potatoes. Top with shredded cheese—use whatever cheese you like best.

All that's left is to pop this hotdish into a 350°F oven and bake uncovered for 30 to 40 minutes, or until heated through.

Serve this up with a quick side salad and some homemade rolls and you've got dinner! If you really want a full Midwestern experience, try these dessert recipes right from the heartland. They're just the way to finish off this hearty meal don'tcha know!



## *Crock Pot Chicken Wild Rice Soup*

### Ingredients

- 2 lbs skinless boneless chicken
- 1/2 cup diced onion
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon dried or fresh rosemary
- 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
- 32 oz carton low sodium chicken broth (4 cups)
- 2/3 cups wild rice
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream half and half or milk (I used heavy cream)
- 3 tablespoons cool water
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch

### Instructions

Place the boneless chicken breasts or thighs in the crock pot. Add the diced onions, minced garlic, spices, and chicken broth in the crock pot.

Cover and cook on high for 2 hours remove the cooked chicken from the crock pot and place in a bowl.

Using two forks pull the chicken meat apart. Add the shredded chicken back into the crock pot.

Add the butter, wild rice, and heavy cream to the crock pot and stir to combine.

In a small bowl mix the cornstarch and cool water. Pour the slurry into the crock pot and mix in.

Cover the crock pot and cook on high for 1 hour or low for two hours. Or continue cooking until the rice is cooked to your liking. Makes 3 quarts of Crock Pot Chicken Wild Rice Soup or 6 - 8 servings.

