



MAZEPPA and ZUMBRO FALLS

# Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger™

JANUARY 10, 2024

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## Announcements

• The City of Mazeppa will be collecting discarded natural Christmas Trees January 10th – 12th, 2024. Please set them curbside. City personnel will collect them for proper disposal.

• The Mazeppa Area Historical Society sends out a "Huge Thank You" for your support in 2023! Looking forward to expansion & having a home for the "Two-Man Hose Cart & 1954 Fire Truck" ! Preserving our history for the present & future!

• Three Rivers Community Action is currently accepting new Meals On Wheels clients in the communities of Zumbrota, Mazeppa, Goodhue, Pine Island, Kenyon and Wanamingo. Receive a hot meal delivered to your home by a volunteer at lunch time up to 5 days per week. To qualify you must be 60 or older, live within city limits, have limited mobility and/or are unable to prepare nutritious meals. The suggested donation is \$4.50 per meal. For more information on how to sign up for meals or to be a volunteer driver, please contact Dana Bergner at 507-421-6067 or dbergner@threeriverscap.org

• Celebrate Recovery meetings every Sunday night at 5pm at South Troy Church, 56817 Highway 63 Zumbro Falls, MN 55991. Email for questions is: celebratercovery@southtroy@gmail.com

• The Zumbro Valley Food Shelf is located at South Troy Wesleyan Church, 56817 Hwy 63, Zumbro Falls, MN. The hours are Tuesdays 11:00am-5:00pm and Thursdays 11:00am-6:00pm. Donations and volunteers are greatly appreciated. For more information contact Pastor Colleen Hoeft at 507-259-1442 or choeft52@gmail.com.

• 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.

## Zumbro Valley Life Events Organization Helps People in Need

By Beth Brekke

Zumbro Valley Life Events is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people in need due to life-changing events. The group organized in May of 2020 to provide help with expenses that most insurance does not cover.

At some point in life, most people will experience a hardship. Zumbro Valley Life Events (ZVLE) was created to raise money

for people going through cancer, home/farm accidents, house fires, floods, or any other life-changing event. Originating during COVID, the group first took private donations and started helping a small number of people.

(continued on page 5)

**Pictured to the right: Zumbro Valley Life Events organization committee members are (L-R), Tammy Aarsvold, Emily Aarsvold, Kim Gilsdorf, Kristine Mischke, Roger Whipple, Mona Whipple and Kyle Blattner.**



## Happy New Year!

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

Your hometown newspaper continues with an unwavering goal to bring the local and area news to you.

In addition, in an effort to deliver the news and information more timely between print issues, last year we launched our on-line edition of the Messenger. (continued on page 12)

## Mazeppa City Council Approves 3% Levy Increase

At the December council meeting the members approved the 2024 levy of \$405,045, which is an increase of nearly \$12,000 over 2023. Some of the items creating the budget increase are the cost of county sheriff patrol, cost of living and wage increases for city employees and an increase in parks and street maintenance.

Water and sewer rates increase from 2023 effective on the first of the year. The new rates will be a \$19.00 base fee for water with a .0035 per gallon. The sewer rate is a \$36.00 base fee and .00755 per gallon. (continued on page 12)



## Zumbro Falls Lioness/Lions finish a busy month of December!

Submitted by Lori Windhorst

The Zumbro Falls chapter squeezed in several activities in a busy month! A bake sale and raffle was held during Christmas in Zumbro Falls to raise money for activities in the community.

(continued on page 4)

**Pictured to the left: Member Madison Deoblad works on filling bags to get delivered.**

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## Learn from the Wise Men:



By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

The Three Wise Men, also known as the Magi or the Three Kings, were visitors who traveled to Bethlehem to pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews, Jesus Christ. The Bible does not specify the number of wise men; the idea that there were three comes from the mention of three gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They came from the East- possibly Persia, more likely from Arabia. But again, we don't really know- Scripture doesn't tell us- probably in the fact that it doesn't tell us, means that it really doesn't matter where they were from or how many there were. The importance of their homage was the reason why they came. Verse 2 shows us their mission. "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him." They had seen the star and had traveled to where they believed the star led- Jerusalem- (where else would a king of Judah be born?) and had come to worship Him.

So, what is worship? For many Christians, worship is what we do on Sunday morning. Singing a few songs, listening to a teaching, sharing communion, and doing whatever else is scheduled for the Sunday morning meeting time. But worship is so much more than Sunday morning singing time. True worship is really about what we give. Not what we receive. Worship is anything you and I do to esteem and magnify the worship of God.

Worship isn't a suggestion, it's a com-

mand—and it's essential if we are to live an obedient and surrendered life as a follower of Jesus. Everything we do is to serve as an act of worship. "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31. Paul said, whatever you do.... Whatever you do... milk cows, plow fields, type computer programs, wash dishes, clean up after children, serve in a hospital or work in a dump, all you do can be done for God's glory, becoming worship unto Jesus.

While gratitude is thanking God for what He's done, praise and worship is adoring Him for Who He is. Here are seven reasons worship is essential to the Christian life:

- Worship focuses our minds—and hearts—on eternity. The wise men were astrologers. They believed him to be a God King- someone that was worthy of their worship. Worshipping this King was to a begin far beyond the place of their origin.

Worship the Lord, please Him, and He'll keep you in constant touch with your purpose for being here and will give you joy and peace while you remain obedient to Him.

2. Worship keeps you focused on God, not yourself. We can so easily be all about ourselves. Our self-love mentality can make us believe we exist for ourselves. Yet we exist to glorify God. To focus on God's worship is to get ourselves out of the picture and let Him take the spotlight.

3. Worship prioritizes our hearts and lives. Another aspect of worship is giving of your time, talents, and treasure. That prioritizes our life as we give our time and money to what is most important to us. In Matthew

6:19-20, "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal

4. Worship slows us down and reminds us of what matters most. One of my favorite worship activities is my daily time walking our dogs up and down the gravel road. The next best time for me is to go outside early in the morning or in the evening and just look up at the stars- God's handiwork and worship the one that created all things! I can't help but recognize and adore God when I'm outside among the beauty of His creation—away from technology, mobile devices, and anything with a screen or "signal."

5. Worship is a witness to the world of our love of Jesus. We all worship (or serve) something. Money. Fame. Possessions. People. Social Status. Substances. Self. The wise men had come to worship the new King- Jesus- God's Son. They had a desire, an inner urging to leave their country and travel many miles, perhaps years, to give their worship to this new king.

6. Worship readies us for what's to come. It is essential that we be in worship shape when we enter eternity. None of us knows exactly when our time on earth will expire. Therefore, we want to be in worship shape by the time we enter God's presence, not wishing we'd spent more earthly hours preparing for our heavenly home.

And that's where corporate worship comes in. While we can worship individually (our heart connecting with God's), there's also a

dynamic and necessary component of worshipping with other believers. Corporate worship includes accountability, encouragement, and the lifting up of one another as we grow together in unity. Jesus said our unity, and united worship, with other believers would be evidence of our love for Him. There's a reason the world looks at "the church" differently. Be a part of a local, growing, thriving body of Christ. It is essential to grow spiritually and mature in your faith and unity with other believers.

7. Worship feeds our souls. Have you noticed it's sometimes difficult to find anything to be grateful for if you are not regularly in His Word and being reminded that everything you have has been given to you? Do you ever lack spiritual energy and focus? That's because just like the human body needs food, water, and sleep, the soul needs worship to be refreshed, refueled, and re-energized. Give worship to the One who deserves it all. It's the only way you'll grow in obedience and intimacy with Him.

The wise men traveled many miles to worship the newborn king. That's commitment. That's dedication! They sacrificed their time, and they gave gifts to the Christ child. They understood the importance of giving of themselves back to God. They understood the importance of true worship and truly worshipping the holy God of the universe.

True worship is being ready to be in the presence of God. Whether you travel thousands of miles to experience it, like the wise men- or begin praising God as you get out of bed in the morning- begin 2024 with a new resolve truly worship HIM.

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When the Israelites, under Moses, set up a tabernacle (a portable temple) in the wilderness, a cloud of glory signaled the presence of God. God was there in the midst of his people. Later, when they built a temple, under Solomon, the cloud of glory filled it to overflowing. God was enthroned in the temple as Israel's true King.

Many years later, the prophet Ezekiel saw God's throne leave the temple—and the cloud of glory with it (Ezekiel 10). Soon the temple itself lay in ruins, destroyed by Babylon. Later the people of Israel returned from exile and built another temple. But this time there was no cloud of glory, no sign that God had come to live in the new temple.

Many more years later, Mary and Joseph came to the temple carrying Jesus. And the Lord, Israel's true King, was in the midst of his people once again. What kind of king will he be? And what kind of kingdom will he bring?

We are faced with those questions to this day. How will we welcome King Jesus and his kingdom? With humility? With joy? With thanksgiving? With hope? With holy obedience? The answer is in our lives and in the life of the church.

Jesus, you came to live among us for a while. And you will come again. We want to welcome you wherever you appear. And wherever you are, your kingdom is. Amen.

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### ZUMBRO COMMUNITY CHURCH

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### SOUTH TROY WESLEYAN CHURCH

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Wednesday Kids and Teen worship at 6pm - meal at 6, followed by worship and small groups.

### ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Mazeppa Zumbro Falls Messenger at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com



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## Doris Isolene Gary

Doris Isolene Gary, 93, of Zumbro Falls, passed away on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at Green Prairie Rehabilitation Center in Plainview. She was born March 12, 1930, in Oronoco, MN to Floyd and Tressa (Brower) Williamson. On April 30, 1946, she married Reuben Gary in Pine Island.

Doris lived most of her lifetime in the Hammond area. She was employed by Neisner's at Miracle Mile in Rochester and then at Telex until her retirement. In 1989 Reuben and Doris opened and operated the Hammond Community Center until 2007 as a non-profit organization. Doris enjoyed going fishing, traveling, and spending time watching wrestling. Her greatest enjoyment was spending time with her family and just enjoying life.

Doris is survived by her children, Virginia (Greg) Stevens of Grand Meadow, Donna Rose Siefert of East Palatka, FL, Bonnie Gary and her husband Daniel Klann of Hammond, and Elmer "Fudd" (Cindy) Gary of Plainview; and six grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brothers, Cecil Williamson, Paul Williamson, and an infant brother, sisters, Mable Cain and Dorothy Morrill, one daughter, Jean Schwartz, two granddaughters, and son-in-law Ray Schwartz.



The funeral service was held on Friday, December 8, at 12 noon at Schleicher Funeral Homes, Plainview Chapel. Burial followed the service at Oronoco Cemetery in Oronoco. Friends and family visited on Thursday, December 7, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at Schleicher Funeral Homes, Plainview Chapel, and one hour prior to the service on Friday.

## Linda Susan Avery

Linda Susan Avery, age 67 of Mazeppa passed away on Thursday December 28 after a long battle with cancer. Linda passed away peacefully at Rochester Methodist Hospital. Linda was born on April 26, 1956 in Lake City, MN to Jerry and Clara Turner. Linda grew up in the Lake City area, moved to Michigan for years and then back to this area. Linda was always a very hard worker. She worked at Lakeside Canning, Greenway in Mazeppa and Oronoco Gas & Go.

Linda loved spending her time fishing, thrift shopping, painting and creating things with her rocks, gardening, canning, digging up flowers in the ditches around the area and transplanting them in her yard. She had the biggest heart and was certainly known as a funny, crazy character.

Linda is survived by her beloved dog Munchie, her aunts Dorothy Turner of Michigan, Elvina Groth of Goodhue, many other



relatives, cousins and friends who loved and helped her over the years. A special thank you to Jim Marx for his home, continued kindness and for taking in her dog Munchie.

Linda is preceded in death by her son David Trost, her parents, sister Sherri Turner, uncles Vernon (Smokey) Turner, Lloyd Turner and aunt Marion Jorgenson.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 on Saturday, January 13th at South Troy Church with Pastor Colleen Hoeft officiating, with lunch to follow. She will be buried later at Lakewood Cemetery, Lake City MN.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the First State Bank Mazeppa for donations to local charities.

## Neil Allen Gullickson

Neil Allen Gullickson, 69, of Wanamingo, passed away at his home on Thursday, January 4, 2024. He was born in Zumbrota on August 31, 1954, to Wilbur and Inez (Reiersen) Gullickson. He graduated from Wanamingo High School in 1973. He worked at Maple Island for many years, in addition to the City of Wanamingo and the City of Cannon Falls in maintenance. Most recently, he drove truck for the Ag Partners Soil Center in Wanamingo. Neil was a lifelong member of Wanamingo Lutheran Church. He loved to be social and never met a stranger in his life. He enjoyed visiting with his neighbors and friends around town. He had a knack for fixing things and restored a 1967 Ford Falcon. He loved classic cars and his Harley-Davidson.



He is survived by his two daughters, Tracy (Chris) Graham and Anna (Sam) Edmunds; seven grandchildren, Rayhan, Marelo, Isla, Hadley, Enzo, Cary, and Palmer; brother, David (Alice) Gullickson; sister-in-law, Barb Gullickson; and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Eugene and James Gullickson; and nephews, William and John Gullickson.

Funeral service will be at 1 p.m. on Friday, January 12, 2024, at Wanamingo Lutheran Church. Visitation will be for two hours prior

to the service at the church. Burial will follow in the church cemetery. Arrangements made by Mahn Family Funeral Home, Larson Chapel in Zumbrota.

## Erling Robert Lee

Erling Robert Lee, 91, of Zumbro Falls, died Monday, January 8, 2024, at his home. He was born on June 14, 1932, in Hayfield, Minnesota to Jerald and Ruby (Lee) Lee. He attended rural schools near Sargeant, Minnesota. He worked for Kennard Edgar and also hauled milk



for the Vernon Creamery. On October 17, 1959, he was united in marriage to Barbara Jane Moore at the Evunger Lutheran Church near Sargent where he was also baptized and confirmed. They farmed near Hayfield and later Zumbro Falls area. Barbara died in 1976. On July 29, 1978, he was united in marriage to Lucille Henslin. She preceded him in death in 2022. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Lake City. He enjoyed traveling around the country side, being around his family and attending family functions.

Erling is survived by his five children, Monica (Dan) Lee-Hall of Rochester, Gwen Lee of Stewartville, Jeff (Ruth) Lee of Lake City, Mike Lee of Zumbro Falls and Alex (Karin) Lee of Minneapolis; three step children, Gina Henslin, David (DeDe) Henslin and Darrell (Colleen) Henslin all of Rochester; several grandchildren and great grandchildren, along with nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wives, Barbara and Lucille; three sisters; four brothers and one great granddaughter.

Memorial service will be 2 p.m. Thursday, January 18, 2024, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lake City with Reverend Nathan Cordes officiating. Burial will be at the St. John's Cemetery. Visitation will be for one-hour prior to the service at the church. Online condolences may be sent to [www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com](http://www.mahnfamilyfuneralhome.com). Arrangements are by the Mahn Family Funeral Home, Anderson-Peterson Chapel.

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## Zumbro Falls Lioness/Lions finish a busy month of December!

(continued from page 1)

The members also participated with buying gifts for the angel tree for local children to receive Christmas gifts. Goodie bags were filled to deliver to adults/families as a thinking of you gift for some who have an illness or lost a loved one. A Christmas party was held with a potluck and gift exchange. 3 new members were also installed and welcomed to the club with loud roars!

We look forward to serving the community in the new year and certainly welcome new faces to join us. You can reach out to Lori at 843-5340 with any questions.



Current members of the Zumbro Falls Lioness/Lions



New member Tamara Lewey with sponsor Darla Oelkers, sponsor Linda Arendt with new member Shirley Lehmann, new member Angie Lehmann whose sponsor is Shirley Lehmann and club president Lori Windhorst

**WE'RE ONLINE!**  
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 at  
[www.mazeppamn.com](http://www.mazeppamn.com)  
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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.

### Freezer reset!

One of my least favorite tasks is cleaning the freezer. Why is it so hard? I should just toss a couple things when we are looking for something to eat, but No, I never do that. That would be too easy.

We have an old fridge/freezer at MotoProz. Almost every day we bring our lunch to work. We only have a 30 minute lunch. We are pressed for time and mostly eat leftovers. Many leftovers end up going to the freezer and never get eaten. A couple weeks ago, the freezer got left open and frosted over. I tossed almost everything! It wasn't thawed, but come on, we didn't even know what was in there. We are pretty good about eating leftovers, but not so good about taking leftovers out of the freezer to eat. This was the perfect opportunity to clean house (or freezer rather).

I like to clean the freezer in the winter, rather than summer so the food doesn't thaw out when it gets tossed. Time to commit to spending 15 minutes on the other freezers at home. Take inventory of what we got, sort, organize and plan some meals.

Stay tuned for next month's topic: Two days of organizing!  
There's so much to do, so little time. Bye for now!



By Missy Papenfus



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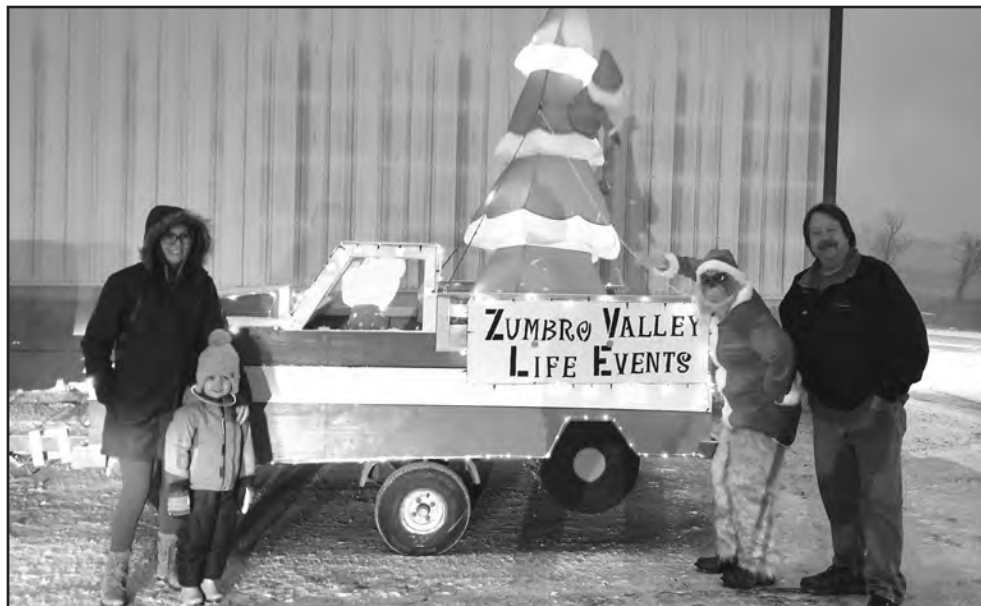
## Zumbro Valley Life Events Organization Helps People in Need

(continued from page 1)

The non-profit now hosts two yearly fundraisers, one in the Spring and one in the Fall. In their short existence, the group has raised tens of thousands of dollars with all proceeds benefitting people in need. Beneficiaries are local folks living in areas

between Rochester and Bellechester including Plainview, Oronoco, Hammond, Millville, Elgin, Zumbro Falls, Mazeppa and Bellechester. With a passion for helping those who are struggling, ZVLE has also started to donate to Toys for Tots, food shelves, and disadvantaged families at Christmas.

Those involved with organizing and operating ZVLE are Roger and Mona Whipple, Kristine Mischke, Kim Gilsdorf, Kyle Blatner, Emily Aarsvold, and Tammy Aarsvold. You can connect with them and see upcoming events on the Zumbro Valley Life Events Facebook page. Tax deductible donations can be sent to Roger Whipple, 7301 North Broadway Avenue, Rochester, MN. For more information, contact Roger at 507-312-4664 or Mona Whipple at 507-312-4663.



A Grinch in costume but not in spirit, Kristine Mischke is supported by friends and fellow non-profit representative, Roger Whipple (far right) during the Bellechester lighted Christmas parade. Mischke is the secretary for the Zumbro Valley Life Events organization which offers monetary support for people going through life-changing events. This is the first year the non-profit has had an entry in both the Bellechester and Zumbro Falls parades.

## A Monthly Moment at MotoProz

### \*Youth Snowmobile Training in Zumbro Falls\*

Zumbro Valley Snowmobilers snowmobile course will be offered Sunday, January 14, 2024 in Zumbro Falls at the VFW. Registration at noon, Class is from 1 to 3 p.m. approximately.

This is an online course. Online training needs to be completed prior to January 14 and you must bring your online certificate to class and a copy of your birth certificate to participate.

#### ONLINE COURSE

- Youth ages 11-15
- Complete online course: snowmobilecourse.com (fee for the course is \$24.95) or
- Student attends a one day class room review and riding performance course\*
- Lead by trained volunteer instructors
- Certificate becomes valid at age 12

Call MotoProz to register at 507-843-2855 or email info@motoproz.com

#### Memo from MotoProz

Ready for snow? Check out our new and used snowmobiles at MotoProz in Mazeppa or online at www.MotoProz.com. Get em' while we got em'! We still have a handful of 2024 Arctic Cat snowmobiles available at MotoProz! New snowmobile financing is available for 6.99%. Inventory changes daily, so check out our website for the most up-to-date inventory along with our new and used side by sides. Save BIG on in-store Arctic Cat coats, bibs, and helmets are 30% off!

## Share Your Good News!

Submit your engagement, wedding or birth announcement.

Email us at: hometownmessenger@gmail.com



## MISSY'S MESSAGE

### NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS



MISSY PAPERFUS

I've been waking up at 5AM one day a week to participate in a zoom exercise class I enjoy online. 5AM is early, but I truly enjoy the class. I feel great when I'm done, and I definitely sleep extra good that night. I decided to give a new sport a try. I have been hearing a lot about pickleball lately, so I asked for a pickleball set for Christmas, and my son Monty delivered. I haven't had a chance to use it yet but can't wait to test it out! I told Monty he needs to make me a pickle ball court at his house.

I'll report back how that goes!

I'm sick of making new year's resolutions. Life is all about making a plan, sticking to it, and looking ahead to lifestyle changes and getting in steps when you can. Walking with Maisy, Monty's dog to get a cup of Jo down the street in Mazeppa is my favorite way to get in more steps!

Missy and her husband Mike own MotoProz in Mazeppa.

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## Minnesota's New Flag

The Minnesota state legislature has plans to approve the new design for the state flag and seal of Minnesota on May 11, 2024. It is a radical departure from the existing flag which was adopted in 1893. There were a few small changes over the years. In 1957 the design was tweaked in anticipation of the statehood centennial the next year. The nineteen stars, signifying the 19th state of the Union, were moved inside the emblem and the red sash removed from the bottom of the design. Again in 1983 the color of the flag was changed from royal blue to medium blue. In 1989, Lee Herold, of Rochester designed and proposed a new design he called the North Star flag, but the legislators declined to act on it.

In the current design of the Minnesota state seal and flag a Native American rides on horseback in the background, symbolizing Minnesota's Native American heritage, while a pioneer uses a plow in the foreground. There is a sunset on the western horizon. The straight horizon line reflects the plains covering much of Minnesota. The Native American is riding southward. The native's horse and spear and the pioneer's ax, rifle, and plow represent tools of daily life. The only interaction between the figures is one observing the other. The tools used by the Native American



and the farmer represent the tools used for labor and hunting, while the stump symbolizes the taming of the land and the importance of the lumber industry to Minnesota in 1858. The Mississippi River and St. Anthony Falls are depicted in the revised seal to note the importance of these resources in transportation, industry, and the settling of the state. The furrowing of the ground by the plow represents the submission of the land to the pioneer. The plow also symbolizes agriculture's importance to Minnesota and its future. The waterfalls are not on the original state seal. Beyond the falls on the seal are three pine trees representing the state tree (the Norway pine) and the three pine regions of the state: the St. Croix, Mississippi, and Lake Superior.

Certain individuals take issue with the current flag over social complaints. Some believe a flag should be very basic and easy to read design. Others feel that the existing design is fine and not to be messed with. Feel free to contact us and express your opinions on the subject.



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NEW FLAG



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NEW SEAL

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## Growing Your Business with a Mentor

By SCORE



January is National Mentoring Month, so it is the perfect time to find a mentor for your business. See why other business owners choose to work with SCORE mentors and why you should start working with one today. You can search #MentoringMonth on social media to see more.

If you already work with a mentor, please take a moment to thank them for the time and effort they give to support you in your business journey.

### The Benefits of Virtual Mentoring for Small Businesses

Find out how working with a mentor virtually might be the best choice for you and for your business.

Through virtual mentoring, entrepreneurs can connect online with someone who can help guide them in their business journey. Let's explore the big benefits for entrepreneurs.

neers.

### What is Virtual Mentoring?

Mentoring is a program that brings people with a common background together in a formal or informal partnership where one receives guidance and coaching from experienced professionals to help pursue their goals. Virtual mentoring is typically done via phone, video conferencing or email.

With many professionals working remotely, virtual mentoring creates an accessible space where entrepreneurs can receive strategic support and valuable guidance from business mentors regardless of location.

Knowledge transfer is a great way to pass on valuable strategies, skills and ideas to the next generation of entrepreneurs.

A well-organized virtual program serves to benefit both mentees and mentors by empowering them with resources such as forums, mind-mapping techniques, plan templates, online courses and an accessible platform to reach out to mentors situated anywhere in the country.

For instance, you might have heard inspiring success stories of other small business owners and want to follow in their footsteps. Take Damian Sanchez, for example, who started up the D.C. Mosquito Squad as a part-time venture. He then grew the business exponentially and now has over 40 employees, serving 3,500 customers across the city. This doesn't mean you must drop everything, move to D.C., and start your mosquito-treatment home service agency. You can learn from the experiences of small business owners

and entrepreneurs like Damian by signing up for a mentoring program.

### Benefits of Virtual Mentoring

Setting up a business can be an isolating experience where you might feel like a lone sailor on a treacherous expedition. A business mentor can help empower you in your entrepreneurial journey. And the mentor doesn't even need to meet you in person. There are many benefits to getting guidance virtually.

#### Flexibility and Convenience

Thanks to video conferencing technology, you can meet business mentors at a time convenient to everyone involved. This is an excellent benefit for startup business owners who may also be juggling another job or family caretaking responsibilities.

A tremendous upside of virtual mentoring is that it is not restricted to a specific location. Many people have relocated from urban cities to the suburbs or rural communities in the past few years. If you are one of them, virtual mentoring can provide greater flexibility in accessing leadership and business-building advice, making location no longer a factor.

#### Accessibility to More Mentors

Virtual mentoring also encourages more mentors to sign up for business mentoring programs. That's because while mentoring requires a commitment of time and energy, business experts who are still working professionals or busy in retirement can better manage their time with a flexible virtual program.

More mentors mean more experts for you to work with.

You may have several mentors. Perhaps you work with one mentor on starting your business and general business questions. You may also want to work with an expert in your particular industry, one who knows the licenses you need or effective marketing campaigns for your type of business.

#### Builds Relationships and Networks

A remote setting provides a sanctuary to participants that helps foster quality relationships, underscoring honesty and trust. This inspires authentic relationships between mentors and mentees, creating an environment conducive to open communication and building mutual trust.

Mentors have often amassed a network of essential business connections--investors, suppliers, industry experts--who can help open doors for you. Build a relationship with your mentor, and you could be introduced to their network of movers and shakers in the business world.

#### Solves Traditional Challenges

The nature of products or services might have changed, but the path to business ownership has some of the same challenges from decades ago:

- What goes into a business plan?
- How should I attract investors?
- How do I set up a sales pipeline?
- How do I perform a vendor review?
- What are effective PR tactics for a startup?

Consulting with a business mentor can be an effective way to learn tried and tested strategies to resolve these traditional challenges of becoming an entrepreneur. It's easy to get caught up in your head. A business mentor helps you get out of the rut and gain a fresh perspective by being a sounding board for ideas, questions, doubts and concerns.

#### Free or Low Cost

Through many local communities and leadership organizations, like SCORE, business mentorship services are usually free, so cost is not usually a barrier.

Virtual mentors can be a valuable part of your support system--whenever and wherever you need them. Whether you're just starting, growing or ready to exit a small business, explore SCORE's mentor program today.

## Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson of the Minnesota State Patrol



*Question: I am applying for a new job that will have questions about my driving record. Can I visit with someone from Law Enforcement to get a copy of that?*

*Answer: No, this is not something that Law Enforcement agencies can provide.*

If you want to know what employers and insurers see, the Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) division has made it easier than ever to get a copy of either your certified or noncertified record. A certified driving record includes your entire driving history in Minnesota. A noncertified record shows a five-year history of driver convictions. You can now use the online record request to get your records.

Here's how it works:

- Visit [drive.mn.gov](http://drive.mn.gov) and select Sign Up in the login panel to create a MyDVS account.
- You'll need to request a MyDVS Registration Letter to create your account. This letter is mailed to the address on file with DVS and contains the unique Letter ID you'll need to create your account.
- Once you receive the Registration Letter, complete the sign up to create your MyDVS login.
- After you login, you can purchase your Driving History Record through the MyDVS portal.

What you need:

- Your Minnesota driver's license number.
- Your Social Security Number.
- Checking or savings bank account to submit payment.
- A printer if you'd like a paper copy of the record.
- If your driving privileges are not valid, you will need to use the Driver's License Status Lookup at [drive.mn.gov](http://drive.mn.gov) to view reinstatement requirements.

You cannot get a copy of someone else's driving record online, only your own. Customers who want a copy of someone else's record and are legally entitled to the information, need to complete a DVS Records Request form, available at DVS Documents, Manuals and Forms and either mail it to DVS or visit the DVS office in downtown St. Paul.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, [Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us](mailto:Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us))

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## Happy New Year!

By Wabasha County Public Health

Many people start the new year with resolutions like eating healthier, losing weight or crushing bad habits, but one area all Minnesotans could try to improve is our driving. What if we all made New Year's resolutions to drive safer this year? It could save a life!

### \*For New Year's resolution #1, resolve to:

Put your phone down and reduce other distractions while driving such as eating messy foods or adjusting mirrors, music and other controls.

Watch your speed to give yourself more time to safely react to traffic, potential hazards or changing road conditions.

Always buckle up! It's your best defense in case of a crash.

### \*New Year's resolution #2:

Sign up to receive winter driving condition updates via email or text. You will receive a short message regarding the warning, along with links to the National Weather Service and 511. Go here and click "winter driving alerts." In the pull down menu, choose whether you want to receive the message via email or text. It's another tool to help you make smart driving decisions and stay safe on the roads we all share.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and safe new year filled with laughter, joy and success!



# Growth Continues for Minnesota FFA

By Minnesota FFA



The Minnesota FFA Foundation continues the important work supporting the development of young people through Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources (AFNR) programs and the

FFA.

Minnesota FFA continues to grow both in the number of schools offering AFNR/FFA programs and the number of students enrolled. Thirty new programs have been added in the past four years, bringing the number of Minnesota schools that offer AFNR/FFA programs to more than 220. The growth doesn't stop there, as numerous schools are actively

engaged in the chartering process to add an AFNR/FFA program for the upcoming school year.

"We invite individuals and businesses to make a start-of-the-year donation for 2024, supporting the development of students through the Minnesota FFA Foundation. Donors play an important role, in removing barriers so that the more than 40,000 Minnesota students enrolled in AFNR classes have the opportunity to prepare for careers in agriculture and develop the skills to be leaders for their local community," shares Val Aarsvold, executive director, the Minnesota FFA Foundation.

Support provided to the Minnesota FFA Foundation is directed toward four main areas, including Youth Leadership, Teacher Preparation, Scholarships, and the Minnesota FFA State Convention.

One-time gifts, as well as ongoing and planned gifts, are welcome. If you would like to discuss giving options, contact Val Aarsvold at 507-259-3586 or visit [www.mnfoundation.org](http://www.mnfoundation.org).



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## Vitamin D more effective than flu shot!



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

11% of U.S. Children are diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). ADHD is characterized by patterns of inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity that interferes with daily living and learning. Recent research has shown that aromatherapy may be a potential helpful tool for children with ADHD. The essential oil vetiver shows the most promise as it showed changes in brain activity when inhaled. Children who inhaled vetiver three times day for 30 days showed improved brain wave patterns and behavior and did better in school. When the oil is inhaled, microdroplets are carried to an area of the brain that is the center for reason, emotion and smell. The droplets also make their way to the lungs where they enter the

circulatory system. Brain activity improvements were measured via EEG (electro-encephalograph) scans.

Studies are showing the link between refined sugar intake and cancer risk. All dietary carbohydrates are digested into sugars called glucose. Compared to natural sugars, the fructose found in fruits and honey, refined sugars and many carbohydrate starches cause an issue in the gut where an endotoxin is produced. The endotoxin destroys mitochondrial cell function which then results in cancer metabolism. This backs up the claim that cancer cells feed on sugar. But, now we know not all sugars, just the refined ones. These are the sugars that are added to foods. For example, candy, chocolate, ice cream, soft drinks, etc. A study published in 2014 showed that cancer patients that drank two or more servings of sugar-sweetened soft drinks had a 67% chance of cancer recurrence and death compared to those who drank less than two servings per month. All cancer patients should avoid all refined sugars and only satisfy their sweet tooth with fruits and honey.

A consistent review of past and current research is providing evidence that vitamin D deficiency may actually be a cause of colds and flu. Science is now confirming that vitamin D optimization boosts immunity and cuts the rate of colds and flu. Vitamin D supplementation is actually more effective than the flu shot. Studies show that if a person is severely vitamin D deficient (if you are never exposed to sunshine and you do not take a vitamin D supplement, you more than likely are), vitamin D supplementation is 10

times more effective than a flu vaccine. A recent scientific review of randomized clinical controlled studies confirmed that vitamin D supplementation boosts immune system function and cuts rates of cold and flu. People who took vitamin D daily were less likely to report acute respiratory infections like influenza or the common cold.

Chiropractic for kids! Chiropractic care is a 100% all natural approach to building and maintaining your child's health from birth to adulthood. Here are just a few reasons why chiropractic care makes perfect sense for kids. The number one reason is immune system health. Periodic spinal check-ups remove neural impulse blockages that come from fixated or stuck spinal bones. This decrease in nerve impulses inhibits function and performance of the immune system. Many studies show that spinal alignment issues contribute neural factors that influence immune system function. The number two reason is spinal curvature problems. As a small toddler learning to walk, many bumps and falls are taken. These bumps and falls can

cause spinal bones to become fixated in the wrong position. Once the spinal bones are not aligned properly and the child continues to grow or has growth spurts, the spine can grow crooked which causes a curvature issue like scoliosis. Once children become older and even more active (think sports, bike riding, skateboarding etc.), alignment issues from these activities are even more common. In today's society, what child does not spend a lot of time on their phone, tablet or video games? This forward slumped posture not only causes postural issues, but tension on the spinal muscles which then causes misalignment leading to further curvature problems, not to mention neck and back discomfort or headaches.

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About the Minnesota Country Salute CD Project:  
A decade ago while sitting on his porch, Neil Freeman came up with the idea of tying together two groups that BOB FM supports. The Homegrown artists of Minnesota and the military member support organizations. By creating a compilation CD to sell across Minnesota, he nailed it. With the help of many sponsors and listeners who went out and purchased these CDs over the years, BOB FM has donated over \$235,000 to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation, Minnesota Wheels of Honor, and Tribute to the Troops. If you or your business would like to help further this mission, or help distribute the CD, please contact Neil Freeman, [neil@mybobcountry.com](mailto:neil@mybobcountry.com).

## Healthy Sugar?



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS  
Licensed Nutritionist

In this past season you probably noticed that “sweet tooth” become extra active. The holiday season is filled with opportunity for sweets of all different kinds. For many the holiday would not be complete without a particular candy or cookie or dessert being pres-

ent. Now as the new year takes hold many resolve to do a better job of self-discipline in choosing what to eat. Let me suggest you direct your effort to improve the quality and decrease the quantity of sugar you consume this year.

There is no question that sugar has a strong hold on our community. From government data we can find that the average American consumed less than 10 pounds of sugar a year back in 1880. More than 100 years later, the average American consumes about 2 pounds of sugar each week. Not only has the quantity increased more than 10-fold, but this sugar is processed to the point of pure energy with no additional mineral or vitamin content attached to it.

Go back to 1959 and less than one percent of the American population was diabetic. Today more than 30 percent of the American population is identified as pre-diabetic or diabetic. The greatest increase in diabetes is occurring among the young Americans.

Those managing diabetes will have more significant medication costs, more doctor visits, and twice as long hospital stays. New medications are coming out promising to control the downward spiral of disease, but the cost of these medicines continues to increase.

There is a better solution. You can choose healthy sugars to replace the pure energy of the white sugar and corn syrup you currently have in the cupboard. As you start this new direction, I encourage you to throw out the white sugar and corn syrup and select healthy sugars that contain minerals and enzymes that will aid digestion and help to keep your health.

These healthy sugars have a variety of flavors. You are familiar with them, but probably have not used them as well as they can be used. So let’s review some of these options:

**Whole Fruit** – a piece of whole fruit at the end of a meal, or as part of a meal is an excellent way to satisfy the sweet tooth and get vitamins and minerals as well. In a previous article, I spoke on the benefit of an apple each day. Make whole fruit a priority in your meal planning and you will be healthier for it.

**Raw Honey** – organic raw honey contains enzymes that will help aid digestion and additional nutrients that benefit health. Raw honey will contain active enzymes and unfiltered honey will contain additional bee propolis and pollen that can help reduce some allergies and improve digestion. Less honey will be required in recipes because it tastes sweeter than sugar.

**Black Strap molasses** – molasses is a by-product of the sugar refining process. Molasses contains all minerals that are removed

from refined sugar. Rich in iron, calcium, potassium, and copper, this addition to recipes is always noticed. Often associated with gingerbread flavors, but molasses can also be used in many other recipes.

**Maple Syrup** – the sap of the maple tree collected in early spring contains minerals and nutrients essential for the new life of the spring leaves. Grade C maple syrup contains the most vitamins and minerals and is the strongest flavor. Grade A maple syrup also contains minerals and is a good substitute for white sugar in any recipe.

**Rapadura or Sucanat** – these two products are made from sugar cane juice. The juice does not go through the extensive processing required for white sugar. Therefore, there is still some mineral content remaining with these sweet products. There is a slight molasses or caramel flavor that is pleasant to taste.

Make your health a priority in 2024. There will be change that is required. Little changes can make a big difference over time. Changing your sugar choices can be one of those little changes. If you would like to reverse diabetes or prevent diabetes, I can help you start a plan.

Contact me to discuss your health goals for 2024. I can help you reach those health goals with whole food plans customized to your specific needs. You can contact me at nutritionproportion@gmail.com, or check out my website at www.nutritionproportion.net Start this year with a new plan. Foundation to Thrive is a 16 week lifestyle transformation to help you reach your health goals in 2024.

**The City of Mazeppa  
will be collecting discarded  
natural Christmas Trees  
January 10th – 12th, 2024.**

Please set them curbside.  
City personnel will collect them for  
proper disposal.



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## Happy New Year

(continued from page 1)

Check it out if you havent already, There is additional bonus content on the site as well that is not in the print edition.

Thanks to local advertisers and your voluntary subscriptions, we are in your mailbox each month. Enclosed in this month's issue is a subscription envelope. We hope you will consider renewing your voluntary subscription. It insures the paper will continue here in your hometown.

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 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 the past several years.

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 and update you as needed throughout the month on our web site.

Our goal with the Messenger is to help in-

sure our home towns still have a community voice of its own, direct mailing to all residents in the zip code as well as many out of town subscribers. This format allows your hometown 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 check out the web site for important news that happens between print issues.

We continue to expand our digital and online offerings 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. As always, if you have news, information or story ideas, please reach out to us. Again, Thank you for your readership and support.

### Mazeppa City Council Approves 3% Levy Increase

(continued from page 1)

The cost for bulk water will increase to \$25.00 per thousand gallons for 2024.

The Mazeppa Fire Relief Association presented a donation of \$30,519 from the 2023 Mazeppa Daze raffle.

## Historical Happenings

Compiled by  
Helen Reiland

THE MAZEPPA JOURNAL, Editor and Publisher: Barbara and Reider Tommeraas  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1955

### Obituaries

#### MRS. JOHN LARSON

Mrs. John Larson of Colorado Springs, Colo., passed away at 4 a.m. Monday, following an illness of several years from cancer. She was 73 years of age.

Ella Busse, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Busse, Sr., was born Oct. 9, 1882, in Mazeppa Township. She attended country school and Mazeppa high school. She was married to John Larson at her home March 19, 1901. Her husband preceded her in death.

They resided here for two years, before moving to Colorado Springs, where she resided for the past 52 years.

Surviving are one son, Merle, and two brothers, Fred and Leon Busse.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Friday from the Leon Busse residence at 1:30 p.m. at the Mazeppa Methodist church. Pallbearers will be Hubert Busse, Norman Busse, Carl Busse, Manley Busse, Roger Larson and Joe Ferber.

Interment will be in the Mazeppa cemetery. Robinson's Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Larson is very well known here, as she always had a keen interest in Mazeppa and made almost annual visits here.

#### RUDOLPH H. DAHLING

Rudolph H. Dahling, 61-year old Goodhue farmer was killed instantly in a car-truck collision four miles east of Goodhue Friday evening. His truck collided with a car driven by Wayne Damman, 16, rural Goodhue at an intersection of Goodhue County Highway 9 and a township road about 5:45 p.m. The latter was hospitalized in St. Joseph's hospital at Red Wing.

Mr. Dahling was born May 26, 1894 in Hay Creek Township, and was married to Emma Siems of Mazeppa, October 14, 1927. He resided on a farm about two miles from Goodhue.

Surviving are his wife: two daughters, Joanne and Mrs. Laverne Windhorst and one son, Melfred: two sisters, Mrs. Henry Tomfohrde and Mrs. Leonard Tackmann of Lake City, and one brother Edward of Belvidere.

Funeral services were held Monday at St. John's Evangelical church at Goodhue.

#### VANDALS BREAK INTO SCHOOL

One window was broken and various articles strewn around at the schoolhouse, last Friday evening. No loss was reported.

#### Annual Village Election And Filing Notice

Citizens of the Village of Mazeppa, in the County of Wabasha and State of Minnesota, who are qualified to vote at general elections, are hereby notified that the annual election for said Village of Mazeppa, will be held at Community Rooms, municipal building on Main street in said village on Tuesday, the 6th day of December, A.D., 1955, between the hours of 9:00 o'clock in the forenoon and 5:00 o'clock in the afternoon of the same day for the following purposes, viz:

To elect one Village Mayor for the term of two (2) years; one councilman for the term of three (3) years; one Village Treasurer for the term of two (2) years; one Justice of the Peace for the term of two (2) years; one constable for the term of two (2) years.

Candidates for offices shall file with the Village Clerk, an application to be place on the ballot, together with a fee of One Dollar (\$1.), at least two weeks before said election, (the last day for filing November 23) or five voters may file the application on behalf of the candidate of their choice, in which case, service of a copy of the application must be upon such candidate and proof of service endorsed on the application before filing with a fee of One Dollar (\$1.00).

Given under my hand this 17th day of November, A.D., 1955

W.F. Tri Clerk

#### MAZEPPA CHRISTMAS PARTY SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 22

At a regular meeting of the Mazeppa Commercial Club, held Monday evening at the Community Rooms, plans were drafter for the annual Christmas party, which will be held December 22 at High School gymnasium.

#### PANCAKE SUPPER

The senior class will have a pancake Supper, December 1, at the Catholic Church hall. The price will be \$.60 for adults and \$.35 for children in and below the sixth grade. They will begin to serve at 5:00 p.m. and continue until 8:30 p.m. or until everyone is served.

The purpose is to raise money for their Senior Trip. You can eat all the pancakes you want so come one, come all!

#### West Concord Man Pinned Under Truck

Above is a picture of the dump truck under which Verne Allen of West Concord, a member of the ditch-digging crew here, was pinned for 20 minutes Tuesday morning. He was driving south from the Tilden Larson farm just east of town when he hit ice, turned completely around and went over the embankment on the culvert between Larson's and Percy Wobschall place. Tilden Larson and others were unable to free him, and Hart's wrecker had to be called to do the job. Dr. Oliver E.H. Larson of Zumbrota was called, and Mr. Allen was taken to Zumbrota by ambulance. He suffered internal injuries.

Proud Announcement: The Journal is happy to announce it has purchased a Polaroid camera. It has long been our feeling that one good picture is worth two or three stories, so we made the plunge. Before the time the picture has been developed and the engraving made it was two weeks old.

We hope our Polaroid will make a livelier and more interesting paper for all.

## Regular Meeting of the Mazeppa City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present: Mayor Chris Hagfors, Council Persons Michael Hammes, Steve Liffriq, Dustin

Wiebusch, and Erica Young.

Others Present: City Attorney Luke Lamprecht, City Engineer Matt Mohs, Municipal Liquor

Manager Todd Ihrke, Wabasha County Sheriff's Deputy Curt Struwe, Mat Sveen, Barb Sveen, and Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

Present via electronic meeting: Holly Galbus from the News Record.

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

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffriq to approve the November 8, 2023 regular City Council meeting minutes and the November 29, 2023 Council working session minutes. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to close the regular City Council meeting and open the Truth-in-Taxation hearing. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Regular City Council meeting closed at 6:03 PM and Truth-in-Taxation hearing opened at 6:03 PM.

Budget fund comparisons from 2023 to 2024 were read and year-over-year budget increases explained. There will be a 3% levy increase from \$393,248 to \$405,045. About 1/3 of the increase will be offset by new housing coming onto tax rolls in 2024.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffriq to approve close the Truth-in-Taxation hearing and open the Public Hearing on changes to Land Management Ordinance. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Truth-in-Taxation Hearing closed, and Public Hearing was opened at 6:16 PM.

A brief explanation of the change in language in Land Management Ordinance by Ordinance 2023-05 to allow fences to be built to property borders was given. No comments were offered.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to

close the public hearing and to re-open regular Council meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Public Hearing was closed, and regular Council Meeting was re-opened at 6:23 PM. Wabasha County Sheriff's Deputy Curt Struwe gave the monthly Incident Command Report.

Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang gave the Public Works report.

Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang gave the Fire Department report and read the list of Fire Department Officers for 2024.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to approve the 2024 Fire Department Officers. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Municipal Liquor Manager Todd Ihrke gave the liquor store report.

City Engineer Matt Mohs gave an engineering update.

Karl Nahrgang gave a City Hall activities report.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffriq to approve building permits; Building Permits: MZ23-21, 1183 Cherry St. E – re-roof. MZ23-22, 483 2nd Ave. NE – wood stove install. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffriq to approve the budget for the City of Mazeppa. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to certify the 2023 Levy to be collected in 2024. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

2nd Reading of Ordinance 45-1.24 establishing fees for the City of Mazeppa for 2024.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffriq to approve Ordinance 45-1.24 Establishing 2024 fees for the City of Mazeppa. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

The policing contract with Wabasha County Sheriff's Office has been sent to Wabasha County for approval and signatures. Has not been sent back to the City as of this time.

Personnel policy with updated ESST has been distributed to employees of the City, some of the signature sheets have been signed and returned.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffriq to approve Resolution 2023-46 approving Wabasha County culvert lining project 079-030-008 withing Corporate Limits of the City of Mazeppa. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

1st Reading of Ordinance 2023-05 changing Land Management Ordinance Article IV, Section 13 to allow fences to be erected at property borders.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to table changes to water & sewer policy and procedure. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

City appointments cannot be considered until beginning of fiscal year. Discussion of changes of appointment duties.

Motion by Young, second by Liffriq to approve Resolution 2023-48 Reimbursing SEMMCHRA from grant funds for Small Cities Development Program projects. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to approve Resolution 2023-49 Accepting a donation to the City. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Hammes, second by Liffriq to approve Resolution 2023-47 Transferring funds from General Obligation Loan to the City general operating fund. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to approve the Attorney Retainer agreement for 2024 with Lamprecht Law, LLC. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve transferring \$10,000.00 from MMLS operating fund to City Operating fund and \$4700.00 to MMLS savings (maintenance fund). All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Matt Sveen of M.B. Sveen properties presented the Council with a rough draft of plans for more capacity at the manufactured home park. His plan showed an additional 4 lots immediately south of the current last row of manufactured homes. His plan showed the removal of the portion of the curve in 4th Ave. that lies on M.B. Sveen properties' parcel. He shows a private road serving these lots coming from the original driveway portion of the disputed 4th Ave. area. The private road would be squared off and would not be connected to 4th Ave. NE right-of-way.

The Council would like to keep connection to 4th Ave. NE from Chestnut Street. Council asked the City Administrator Clerk to talk

to emergency services to find out if response time would be diminished if connection to Chestnut St. was severed.

Council asked Mr. Sveen what his runoff plan would include. A natural waterway exists across the property and further development would need to have a plan for runoff management. Mr. Sveen stated the current plan would not change the current waterway at the moment, but the City would be required to do some ditch work along 4th Ave. to make sure the water will flow to the Elm St. and 4th Ave. area. The City Engineer also said that it would take a small amount of excavating to keep the waterway the low point as it moved across the ditch along the proposed private road to the Elm Street portion of the watershed.

Mayor Hagfors told Mr. Sveen that it was not advisable to move forward with the project until these questions had been answered. Mayor Hagfors also asked if it would be possible to join the proposed road to 4th Ave. and grant an easement for a period of time until 4th Ave. was completed.

City Administrator Nahrgang said that he had talked to an excavator about adding on to 4th Ave. and putting it within the right-of-way and making sure the drainage ditch was consistent to keep runoff flow moving. He had not received a dollar figure but would get in touch with the excavator again to see if he had that quote available.

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

Motion by Liffriq, second by Hammes to have City Attorney Lamprecht contact Mr. Sveen's attorney to propose an easement on the proposed new private road. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

There were no Council comments, but City Engineer Matt Mohs briefly talked about the Active Transportation Grant for the proposed walking trail that he skipped during his regular report.

Motion by Hammes, second by Liffriq to adjourn the meeting until 6:00 PM, January 10, 2024. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Meeting recessed at 8:30 PM. Administrator-Clerk

## Zumbro Falls City Council Minutes - November 8, 2023

The Zumbro Falls City Council met at 6PM at City Hall. All members present except council person, Bob Benson and Fire Chief, Scott Kennedy.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and the Clerk read the October meeting minutes to council with acceptance as read by a motion from Anderson, seconded Bankers, all in favor, carried. Clerk also gave the financial reports which were accepted with a motion from Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor, Carried.

Mike Morris from MMS Environmental attended the meeting and discussed various things concerning the City Sewer Ponds, Lift Station, etc.

Fire Department donations are as follows, Emery Bremer for \$200.00, Roger and Linda Pettis for \$100.00, and Ellen Stelling for \$20.00 all to go to the Fire Department general Fund. Donations accepted with a motion from Anderson, seconded Bankers, all in favor, carried.

Council agreed to sponsor and pay for the Christmas Lighting contest winners totaling \$500.00. Clerk will pay each winner and have the winners posted on the website and posting places. This agreed with a motion from Anderson seconded Bankers, all in favor, carried.

Resolution No. 23-03 was put in place with a motion from Bankers, seconded Heitmann, all in favor, carried, for filing of water and sewer delinquent customers at the County for taxes collected in 2024.

The meeting then to adjourn and the clerk to pay all bills presented followed by a motion from Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

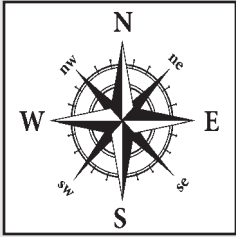
Submitted by,  
Susan Eischens, Clerk

Civic duty, volunteerism, serving others. These traits are essential for survival of a small community. A handful of people can make a big difference. Those that run for election, to bring ideas to direct the City into the future, the election judges that keep elections free, fair, and orderly are people who choose to make the community a better place to live. In this community, organizations such as the Lion's Club, the American Legion, and the volunteer Fire Department are actively fundraising and donating to projects to improve the quality of life within our community. Donations of time are even more essential. Mazeppa Daze, the ice rink, park clean-up would not happen or would have a higher cost if not for volunteers.

Life has always been busy. Each generation's volunteerism has meant giving up time to perform these needed functions within the community. These organization are always in need of the new people to keep these organizations vibrant and alive. The next voice on the City Council, the next Mazeppa Daze event idea, the next project to sponsor, may come from you. Get involved and watch what you can accomplish to make Mazeppa a better place to live.

**CLERK CHATTER**  
By Karl Nahrgang  
Administrator Clerk,  
City of Mazeppa

## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Back Home on the River



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.*

This is a picture of the Paris Landing bridge. It connects the Land between the Lakes area with the western part of the state of Tennessee. The bridge spans a mile over the Tennessee River and the widest point of Kentucky Lake. It is beautiful on a sunny day and so impressive to see all that water in both directions. This is where we live in Tennessee. Every time I come home down here, I love to look out over the bridge and take in the sight.

One afternoon as we were driving home over the bridge we saw something startling appear beside our car. A Blackhawk helicopter began rising above the bridge to our left. There were two military UH-60's flying at water level beside the bridge. We watched as they landed in an open field in Paris Landing state park. Being curious we turned in and parked in the lot. It was some kind of family of servicemen gathering and lots of kids were waiting to see their dads get out. Fort Campbell, home of the 101st Airborne is only thirty-miles away.

The bridge has quite a rise to accommodate the daily barge traffic and the kid in me couldn't resist the urge to accelerate the Corvette every time we approached the bridge. If you exceed 100 mph it feels like you are in a plane taking off when you reach the top of the bridge. I must not have been the only one doing that because one day I saw a Tennessee Highway Patrol parked by the marina side of the bridge. Nothing like the sight of a squad car to slow you down.

About ten miles upstream is the Danville transfer elevator. We enjoy boating to the site

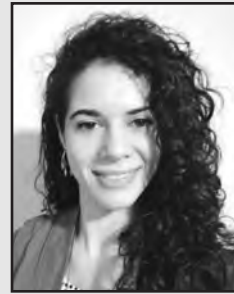
and the bridge can still be seen in the distance for almost the entire trip. The Danville elevator was a five-story concrete structure that transferred cargo from rail car to paddle wheelers over a century ago. When the lake was formed by the construction of the dam in 1941, the elevator was abandoned and left to stand in the middle of the lake. The arial lift bridge was also removed at that time and a ferry provides passage for automobile traffic across the river there for one dollar per trip.

Twenty-four hours each day barges travel under the bridge as they haul grain, coal and gravel up and down the river. One learns to stay between the green and red buoys on the river, just like the barges do. The dam controls the water level and at winter pool it is six feet lower than summer pool. Unsuspecting boaters during the cold months can suddenly find the bottom of the river in the middle of the lake, and run aground if not careful. We had that happen one fine afternoon last winter as we were exploring the cove near Cypress Bay Marina. We were at least 200 feet from shore as we came around the bend and suddenly we were looking at the rocky floor of Kentucky Lake. I hit the trim and raised the prop out of the water and after further investigation reversed the boat and backed out to deeper water.

The wind coming off the nearly two-mile wide lake can create some substantial waves crashing into the bridge pilings and there is a breakwater at the entrance of the Paris Landing marina to calm the waters. On a windy day there will be over two-foot swells to contend with heading into the marina. The first day we used the boat launch there we encountered quite rough water returning to dock. I rode a wave in looking at the trough and thinking it could easily swamp us. While I tried to keep the bow straight, I could hear my wife yelling "Woo Hoo". She was enjoying the adventure much more than I was. After that we started using Gray's Landing on the other side of the Lake where the water was much calmer.

When we first moved here the Paris Landing Lodge was being demolished to make way for a new facility. The locals were up in arms because the 70 year-old lodge and restaurant was a sentimental place in their hearts. It took about five years to complete the new one but it is a beautiful resort on the lake with a restaurant which is our favorite place to eat and just down the road from our home.

## A Minnesotan: Epiphany



By RosaLin Alcoser

And once again it's a new year. I could talk about something along the lines of it being New Year's, however, I did that last year. Instead let me tell you all about the much more existing holiday that comes right after the New Year which would be Epiphany otherwise known as Kings Day or the 12th day of Christmas.

As I've mentioned before my transplanted hispanic family from the south celebrates Christmas from start to finish. Meaning that starting on Christmas day we celebrate the 12 days of Christmas until January 6th when we celebrate the Epiphany.

Epiphany is when the three kings, or three wisemen, arrive to see baby Jesus and present him with the gifts.

Growing up this meant that my family spent those 12 days playing games and enjoying a much needed break after the rush of getting everything ready for Christmas Eve services, and some years Christmas Day services, in addition to all of the extra things at the church leading up to Christmas.

In my Belizean father's traditions Christmas is when the big Christmas dinner is had and stockings appear, however, presents don't appear until Epiphany when the three kings bring them.

When my older sister and I were children we would often get some presents on Christmas Day and the rest on Epiphany. Or in years where our parents worked a lot on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day nearly everything would be saved for Epiphany.

For us this was also a day for spiced cookies in the shape of a star, to represent the star that guided the Three Kings to Bethlehem. We didn't make them every year and often we would make a pan of ginger bread instead. However, I remember these cookies being a type of crisp ginger cookie.

Now that we're adults and our family is spread out we don't celebrate in the same way as when we were children. However, we do still celebrate the 12 days of Christmas and always make sure to do something individually while wishing one another a Happy Epiphany.

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Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls  
**Messenger**



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THEME: WINTER FUN

ACROSS

1. Mulligatawny and gazpacho, e.g.
6. Half of NFL
9. "Oscar" of sports
13. Relating to sight
14. Sargasso \_\_\_\_
15. Dugout glider
16. Not fresh
17. First H in HRH
18. Face-to-face exams
19. \*Ice fishing shelter
21. \*\*\*Polar\*\* activity
23. \*Type of Christmas tree
24. Diagonal
25. Tax return professional, acr.
28. Kind of cola
30. Diaphragm spasm
35. Scepters' partners
37. Of two minds
39. \_\_\_\_ Jean Baker
40. \*Rabbit's winter one is white
41. Sheik's bevy?
43. Type of dam
44. Butcher's refuse
46. Etna's emission
47. Secret disclosure
48. Stellar
50. Chap or fella
52. Diabetic ketoacidosis, acr.
53. A or O, to blood
55. Unit of electrical resistance
57. \*Finger warmers
60. \*Certain sleigh ride
63. Courtroom excuse
64. Gobbled up
66. Train runners
68. Land of taekwondo
69. "Caroline in the City" Thompson
70. Relating to Scandinavia
71. Not home
72. \*Last winter mo.
73. Klondike river

DOWN

1. Acronym in a bottle
2. Chooses
3. Colorado's neighbor
4. a.k.a. pilau
5. Like a longer route?
6. Grayish
7. ATM extra
8. Carpus, pl.
9. Bring home the bacon
10. Unforeseen obstacle
11. \*Skier's aid
12. Da or oui
15. Jenny McCarthy to Melissa McCarthy
20. Engagement, archaic
22. \_\_\_\_-di-dah
24. Onslaught
25. \*Warming drink
26. Faculty members, for short
27. Behind a stern
29. \*Frosty's eyes
31. Type of hood
32. Apollo of "Rocky"
33. Inuit skin boat
34. \*a.k.a. anorak
36. \*Betelgeuse, e.g.
38. \*Snow, in Italy
42. Lord's estate
45. Lithuania's neighbor
49. NaOH
51. Like a rosebush
54. Church song
56. Meow, alt. sp.
57. \_\_\_\_-in-the-dark
58. Milano moolah
59. Toe the line
60. Product of lacrimation
61. Michael Douglas' dad
62. "The Sun \_\_\_\_ Rises"
63. \*What clues #4 and #34 Down have in common
65. High affair
67. Barack Obama, pre-pres.

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

## A Few of My Favorite Things from 2023



**Tim Penny**  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

As the holiday season winds down and we start to look ahead to the new year, I always like to take this time to reflect on, and celebrate, the accomplishments from this past year. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), this means thinking back on the ways that our partners helped to build a stronger southern Minnesota. In no particular order, here are my top ten favorite things that happened in 2023:

**1. Small towns were inventive:** SMIF's Small Town Grant program surpassed a milestone this year by awarding our 113th project since the program began six years ago. From a National Ruby-Throated Hummingbird Center in Henderson, to an Oktoberfest event in Dundas, the small towns in our region are always coming up with innovative ways to enhance community vitality.

**2. Solutions to the child care challenge moved the needle:** Through SMIF's technical assistance, we have been able to grow and retain child care options in the region. In St. Peter, a new nonprofit community coalition that includes a child care program is opening. In Northfield, a new business model allowed two new family child care providers to open their businesses in a city-owned building. Additionally, SMIF launched a new "whole community" approach to child care which will provide a network of support for up to four communities as they develop solutions to child care challenges this next year.

**3. The regional foods system was strengthened:** This year we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace, an event held in Rochester for the public to shop from vendors based in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. More than 1,400 people attended this year's event – the largest on record. The marketplace has had such an impact on the region that Kim Norton, mayor of Rochester, declared the first Saturday in November as Local Foods Day in Rochester.

**4. Local wealth was retained:** We were delighted to welcome our 32nd Community Foundation under SMIF's umbrella. Southland Community Foundation supports several small towns in Mower County – Adams, Rose Creek, Elkton, Dexter, Taopi and Johnsburg. They have joined a strong cohort of Community Foundations run by volunteer boards that have granted out more than \$7 million to benefit the future of their communities.

**5. Early childhood professionals received**

**continuing education:** More than 1,100 early childhood professionals attended the trainings that SMIF offered this year. Topics that are geared toward educators and child care providers focused on the social emotional development of young children and tips on how to grow a child care business. The support we can provide to early childhood professionals creates a better future for southern Minnesota's children and families.

**6. Rural communities committed to economic growth:** Six communities were recently selected for the 2024 -2026 Rural Entrepreneurial Ventures (REV) cohort: Caledonia, Kasson, Plainview and collectively the communities of Gibbon, Fairfax and Winthrop. REV is a long-term program that focuses on economic growth in small towns by providing planning, coaching, resources and connections.

**7. Paint contributed to community vitality:** More than 260 gallons of paint were awarded to communities across the region through SMIF's Paint the Town Grant. Since the grant was awarded in May, it has been exciting to see these projects come to life across the region – from a Main Street mural in Elgin, to a paint refresh on historic buildings in Mantorville.

**8. Books supported literacy in young children:** This year marked 230,000 books that have been distributed across the region through grants and programming over the past 15 years. We were honored to support 53 organizations through SMIF's Early Literacy Grant, which provides children birth to age eight with books.

**9. Entrepreneurs flourished:** Between providing loans to businesses and working with entrepreneurs directly on growing their businesses, we were excited about the economic activity that we saw this past year. Additionally we were excited to see some of our partners receive awards including West Oakland Auto, a loan client, who was named SBA's Minnesota Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year. The owners of Angie's BOOMCHICKAPOP, another loan client, who were honored by the SBA as a legacy business. They were not the only loan clients with good news. Beth Fynbo, owner of Busy Baby, was written about in a book about successful women inventors, and one of her products was named a Good Housekeeping 2023 Best Parent Award Winner. The Greensted became GAP Certified so that they can distribute their microgreens and salad greens wholesale.

**10. Partnerships grew:** None of the above accomplishments would have happened without our partners. Some of these collaborations have been around for many years, such as the books that local publishers Capstone and ABDO provide for the Early Literacy Grant program. Other partnerships stem from a history of collaboration that are growing in new, exciting directions, such as Compeer Financial's commitment to supporting and expanding SMIF's REV program. And we are grateful for the new partnerships that will strengthen our programming, such as Glen Taylor's recent announcement about leaving a legacy for southern Minnesota.

I can't talk about my favorite things from the year without mentioning how grateful I am to our donors and staff. Without their support, we would not be able to make an im-



pact on southern Minnesota's future. We look forward to working with our regional partners again in 2024 to continue investing in the vitality of our region.

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

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