



MAZEPPA and ZUMBRO FALLS

# Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger™

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## Announcements

• **THE MAZEPPA AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS LOOKING FORWARD TO A SUCCESSFUL 2024 with hopes in adding another building.** All donations will be grateful, small or large!

• **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: celebraterecoveryouthtroy@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.

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

## Z-M Elementary Teacher Nominated for Award



Lidia Wallerich

On Tuesday, January 9, nine south-east Minnesota educators were nominated for the 2023-2024 Outstanding Educator Award hosted by STEM Forward (formerly RAMSP) which recognizes K-12 professionals who strive toward the highest levels of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) excellence within their schools and community, with a focus on initiative and continuous improvement in every aspect of their work.

Outstanding Educator recipients foster high K-12 student achievement, exhibit leadership and support for continuous improvement, promote STEM careers, and demonstrate collaboration among K-12 schools, businesses, and post-secondary education.

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Elementary School teacher Lidia Wallerich is one of this year's nominees. Wallerich teaches grades 3-6 Ignite, a STEM-focused class where students engage in collaborative challenges utilizing the engineering design process. Students work together to solve problems utilizing coding, robots, 3-D printers, and more current technologies. Wallerich also started a fifth and sixth grade coding league at ZM Elementary School during the 2022-23 school year. That year she had thirteen participants in grades five and six. The teams competed nationally

through the Youth Coding League organization. One of the sixth-grade teams she coached took first place in the nation in their category in their first year. This year, sixteen students participated with one team placing second in the nation for their group project. These students learn many basics of coding through the Ignite class Wallerich teaches, and they are able to expand upon and apply that learning through the coding team experience.

## A Monthly Moment at MotoProz

The 5th Annual Drunken Dozen started January 1. Get a stamp at all 12 bars and receive a free shirt! Participating bars are Bellchester Tavern, Mac's, Rock Bottom, Uncle John's, Elgin Black Top and Out of Bounds, Mazeppa Liquor Store and Rumors, Millville Stumble Inn and Whiskey Dick's, Zumbro Falls Buck Wild and Neptune. Must be 21 years old to participate. One card/stamp per person per visit. You must have a purchase of \$3 to receive a stamp. They will continue until the shirts are gone. You don't need to do it all in a day; we are halfway through and still working on it!

## Puzzle Contest Rolls Into The Depot

By Beth Brekke

It's Winter in Minnesota, what is there to do? This season's lack of cold and snow might allow some to enjoy trail walking or biking. Others might be completely bored not being able to ski, snowmobile or go ice fishing. Love it or hate it, short daylight hours and fewer social events drive people indoors looking for something fun to do. It may come as no surprise that Minnesota is a leader in one activity that is gaining in popularity—speed puzzling.

(continued on page 3)



Jessica Hoehne, William McCurdy, Laura McCurdy and Katherine Stock pose with their completed puzzle after winning the speed competition.

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## The Life Your Stuck With



By Pastor Colleen Hoefl

2024 is almost a month old! Did you take some time to reflect on 2023? Or did you just try to bury it and all its memories? Do you have 'regrets' things you wish you would have done or people you wish you would have spent more time with? Were there opportunities missed? I'm sure most of us would have to answer yes to at least a couple of those questions.

Perhaps you took some time to hope and think about this year- what you want it to look like this time next year. What are some things you want to see happen this year? What are some things you want to be different this year? Maybe your plans include people you want to spend time with and relationships you want to invest more in.

Sometimes, when it comes to the new year we have grand ideas, but terribly short attention spans. And like our culture our stick-to-it-ness continues to deteriorate. We jump ship the moment we're not happy anymore. We jump ship the moment we're not ecstatic anymore. And we don't stay with stuff long enough to really see significant impact.

We overestimate what we can do in the short-term. And we underestimate what we could do in the long-term and we get stuck! We figure, what's the use, this is the life I'm

stuck with! Instead we need to ask ourselves the question: Who could I be by 2029? If I give it all I got, if I trust the God who made the Heaven and the earth, and who is for me and not against me, who gave me His Son, who gave me His Spirit, who could I be 60 months from now?

To explain what I mean-I went to Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 13, from the paraphrase "The Message." "But make sure that you don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day-by-day obligations that you lose track of the time and doze off, oblivious to God. The night is about over, dawn is about to break. Be up and awake to what God is doing! God is putting the finishing touches on the salvation work he began when we first believed. We can't afford to waste a minute, must not squander these precious daylight hours in frivolity and indulgence, in sleeping around and dissipation, in bickering and grabbing everything in sight. Get out of bed and get dressed! Don't loiter and linger, waiting until the very last minute. Dress yourselves in Christ, and be up and about!" Romans 13:11-14

The word picture in just the first few verses is something many if not all of us can identify with: 'don't get so absorbed and exhausted in taking care of all your day by day obligations- We get so caught up in the day to day, in work, in going to bed and getting up, in doing the same ole thing each day- that we get exhausted and tired- we just don't feel like doing it anymore, but we don't know what else we can do. We feel stuck.

Having the long view- 5 years instead of

just one- helps us to plan and to discover the direction that God is taking you. If we're always busy doing, we can't hear God. If we're always exhausted and feeling wrung out- we can't focus on the destination- only the work at hand. God wants us to be looking forward- to be ready for the end of the journey.

Paul wrote, 'Our time is about over'- the night is almost over- dawn is about to break. We don't know how long we have. We don't know if we'll be here tomorrow let along 5 years from now- so how are you going to use the time you have- in the next 5 years?

Three things I see and that we can apply from this text:

- Time is not on your side. Paul brought this concept of time up. He said that he doesn't want us to lose track of the time. He wants us to be aware of the time. Your life seems so real right now, doesn't it? You're buying things. You're going. You're driving your F-150 around. You're double-clicking stuff on Instagram. But before you know it, it's all going to vanish into thin air. You will not be on this earth anymore. Time is not on your side. I like how Aristotle put it. He said, "We should measure time in heart throbs," meaning every time your heart beats, it's a gift. And you're not guaranteed it's going to happen again.

- Future you is simply an exaggerated version of current you. If there's a critical nature to you, if you have a wounded spirit, if you're rushing around to cast judgment on the people around you, well, Jesus put it best. That kind of critical spirit, it will boomerang back on you. You are what you eat. You become like what you watch. And

you reap what you sow. So future you? It's not so mysterious. It's current you, exaggerated. But you don't have to stay stuck that way!

- The good news is, if you don't like what you're getting, you can change what you're doing. Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun." If you don't like what you've been getting, you need to change what you're doing. You need to make some different decisions. You need to value some different things. What needs to change?

- Ongoing consistency is much more important than short-term intensity. An ongoing consistency, every time, trumps short-term, flared up intensity. Ongoing, steady, slow, measured consistency allows you to tap into what has been called the most powerful force in the universe, and that is compound interest. Albert Einstein said "Compound interest is the eighth wonder of the world. He who understands it, earns it ... he who doesn't ... pays it." It's like a snowball- they begin small, but as you roll them they grow and they grow and they grow. We need to take the first step to change- and continue to add another to get to where we want to go and who we want to become.

Who do you want to be in 5 years? What do you want to accomplish? In your faith? Your finances? Your family, your calling? Are you willing to work? Are you willing to put in the time and effort?

The life you get stuck with is the life you make. So, make it a good one.

**Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger**

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**AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY**  
**Greeting**

*John, to the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.*  
— Revelation 1:4-5

John is writing a letter, so he begins here with a greeting. Though he is writing to seven churches in the Roman province of Asia (present-day Turkey), this letter is not limited to those seven churches. Written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit of God, this letter is meant for the entire church of Jesus Christ. The church is made aware of God's grace in Christ to strengthen its faith in times of challenge and hardship, including physical persecution that will come its way. God has provided Jesus as the Savior, "the ruler of the kings of the earth." Knowing this helps us to put all things into perspective as history unfolds. John greets his readers with grace and peace from the God who is, was, and always will be—in the name of Jesus, the Christ (Messiah). Jesus is the faithful witness to all that God provides for the church. Jesus alone is the "firstborn from the dead," and he is the exalted King over all kings (see also Colossians 1:15-20; Psalm 89:27), whether they be emperors, monarchs, presidents, prime ministers, CEOs, or chairs of the board. To Jesus, "who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood," belong all glory, power, and praise forever!

*Lord and God, thank you for helping us know you as our Savior and King. May we rest in you alone and honor you each day. Amen.*

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Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

*Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the Mazeppa Zumbro Falls Messenger at: [hometownmessenger@gmail.com](mailto:hometownmessenger@gmail.com)*

## Puzzle Contest Rolls Into The Depot

(continued from page 1)

The first known Speed puzzling contests began in the early 1980's. There are speed puzzling Facebook groups and online contests. Avid participants can even earn a Black Belt in puzzling, no athletic skill required. Recently, contests have been popping up at local restaurants and are a great way to improve mood and mental health, connect with others in the community, maybe win prizes and mainly have fun. Players compete solo or on teams to complete identical puzzles in the least amount of time. Contest information and dozens of tips can be found on [www.speedpuzzling.com](http://www.speedpuzzling.com) but the best way to prepare for a contest is to practice.

Dissectologist is a term used to describe a person who has a passion for jigsaw puzzles and the process of completing one. Some jigsaw puzzle solvers consider themselves hobbyists or enthusiasts, but some are actual professional puzzlers. Sarah Schuler of St. Paul left her IT position in 2021 for a full-time job revolving around puzzles. She consults with different companies, helps connect them with influencers and creates content for their social media accounts. She has competed in speed puzzling contests for over a decade including at the Minnesota Winter Carnival and the World Jigsaw Championship in Val-

ladolid, Spain where her team placed second in 2023.

310 Teams, totaling more than 1,200 participants, competed in the St. Paul Winter Carnival's annual puzzle contest at Landmark Center. The winning team was from Minnesota but others came from as far away as California. All the puzzles used in the Winter Carnival competition were donated by PuzzleTwist, a company that works predominantly with local artists to design puzzles. The "twist" is that each puzzle is slightly different than the picture on the box, which adds another layer of challenge.

Laura McCurdy and her nine-year-old son, William of the Red Wing/Goodhue area competed in the family category at the Winter Carnival. Laura, William and relatives Jessica Hoehne and her daughter Katherine Stock (age 10) of Pine Island have been practicing and recently won the contests at Bridget's Café in Zumbrota and The Depot in Goodhue. They say they go in with a strategy and a plan and completed the 300 piece puzzle at The Depot in about 40 minutes.

Looking for places to practice, Hoehne and McCurdy approached The Depot owners, Jeff and Carolyn Ryan about hosting a puzzle contest. The Ryan's followed through by ordering five different puzzle designs from Portrait Puzzles ( [www.portraitpuzzles.com](http://www.portraitpuzzles.com) ), a company in LaCrosse, WI owned by Goodhue native, Jay McNamara. The first design shows The Depot and a train, a gravel foreground and white sky with "The Goodhue Depot" written across the top. The puzzle is now available to purchase in the gift shop with the other designs reserved for future



The Depot reached a maximum capacity of 10 teams for their first speed puzzling competition held on National puzzle day, January 29th.



Julie Thermos, Carol Voth, Norrie Voth, and Sally Hadler work as a team to complete their puzzle during competition at The Depot.

contests.

Goodhue's first jigsaw competition came to The Depot on National Puzzle Day, Monday, January 29th. Ten teams consisting of four players each, filled tables across the venue. The \$25.00 entry fee entitled each person to

Italian appetizers, beverages and a chance for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams to win a prize. The next competition is scheduled for February 26th. Watch their Facebook page for updates and come in the shop to register.

## OBITUARY

### Roger Lee Luhmann

Roger Lee Luhmann, 65, of Mazeppa, passed away on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at Mayo Clinic – Rochester, Saint Marys Campus. He was born on April 22, 1958, in Lake City to Elmer and Sherry (Rahrman) Luhmann. Roger attended school in Zumbro Falls and Lincoln High School in Lake City.



Roger was a foreman at Zumbro Falls Sand and Gravel for 40 years, he also farmed for many years and had a strong passion for animals. He enjoyed going deer hunting, gardening, and canning his own produce. Roger loved to take road trips just to check on the area crops, he like to shop, and cut wood. If you ever asked Roger what his hobbies were, he would reply, "work", he truly enjoyed every day at work.

Roger is survived by his mother, Sherry Miller of Mazeppa, three sisters, Debra Duncan of Zumbro Falls, Brenda Darcy of Rochester, and Julie Luhmann of Pine Island, two brothers, Steven (Krista) Luhmann of Mazeppa, and Todd (Shelly) Luhmann of Pine Island. He was preceded in death by his father and stepfather.

A memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 20, at the Zumbro Community Church in rural Zumbro Falls. Pastor David Mohler officiated. Friends and family visited one hour prior to the service at the church.

Arrangements by Schleicher Funeral Homes, Lake City Chapel. Guest register may be signed at [www.schleicherfuneralhomes.com](http://www.schleicherfuneralhomes.com).

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## ZM wins the Zumbrota Duals!

Submitted by Chad Otterness

Zumbrota-Mazeppa Quad

January 13, 2024

Place in the Mazeppa Messenger

**Zumbrota-Mazeppa 57 Centennial 6**

- 107 — Sam Moore (ZM) maj. dec. Ian Sheistad 14-1
- 114 — Jent Beyer (ZM) pinned Leeton Guggenberger 1:32
- 121 — Noah Schaeffer (ZM) pinned Logan Fu
- 127 — Ryan Stimets (ZM) pinned Parker Lefter 1:13
- 133 — Jack Krier (ZM) maj. dec. Jaden Lilly 16-6
- 139 — Miles Ramer (ZM) pinned Ben Johnson 1:44
- 145 — Ben Murray (ZM) maj. dec. Grant Moffat 16-4
- 152 — Laiken Copeman (ZM) won by forfeit
- 160 — Kaleb Lochner (ZM) pinned Andrew Person 2:56
- 172 — Carter Annen (ZM) dec. Luke Metcalf 15-13
- 189 — Tyler Cook (C) dec. Owen Lexvold 5-0
- 215 — Marcus Whiting (C) dec. Christian Holm 4-2
- 285 — Tucker Buck (ZM) pinned Aiden Ford

**Zumbrota-Mazeppa 51 Owatonna 10**

- 107 — Kaden Lindquist (O) maj. dec. Sam Moore 11-2
- 114 — Jent Beyer (ZM) maj. dec. Jacob Wilson 17-9
- 121 — Noah Schaefer (ZM) maj. dec. 9-1
- 127 — Ryan Stimets (ZM) pinned Lane Karsten 2:37
- 133 — Jack Krier (ZM) pinned Justin Gonli 0:56
- 139 — Miles Ramer (ZM) tech. fall Parker Casas 16-0, 3:03
- 145 — Trey Hiatt (O) dec. Ben Murray 5-4
- 152 — Laiken Copeman (ZM) pinned Payton Glessing 3:51
- 160 — Kaleb Lochner (ZM) tech. fall Carter Flatland 16-1, 5:37
- 172 — Wilson Nordquist (ZM) pinned RJ Reinardy 1:33
- 189 — Wyatt Mulder (ZM) dec. Max Flemke 9-2
- 215 — Blake Fitcher (O) dec. Christian Holm 5-0
- 285 — Tucker Buck (ZM) won by forfeit

**Zumbrota-Mazeppa 43 Kenyon-Wanamingo 10**

- 107 — Sam Moore (ZM) dec. Liam Sommer 8-3
- 114 — Bryan Jacobson (KW) dec. Jent Beyer 5-0
- 121 — Noah Schaefer (ZM) dec. Ryan LaCanne 7-1
- 127 — Ryan Stimets (ZM) maj. dec. Reed Sommer 9-0
- 133 — Jack Krier (ZM) pinned Luke Johnson 0:47
- 139 — Miles Ramer (ZM) dec. Mason Hanson 7-4
- 145 — Gaven Johnson (KW) dec. Ben Murray 9-5
- 152 — Laiken Copeman (ZM) maj. dec. Dillon Bartel 11-0
- 160 — Cain Lexvold (ZM) maj. dec. Reuban Johnson 13-0
- 172 — Kaleb Lochner (ZM) pinned Ryan Rechtzigel 1:15
- 189 — Wilson Nordquist (ZM) maj. dec. Aiden Lindell 12-2
- 215 — Will Van Epps (KW) maj. dec. Wyatt Mulder 13-5
- 285 — Tucker Buck (ZM) pinned Charlie Koncur 5:44

**Kenyon-Wanamingo 36 Owatonna 25**

- 107 — Kaden Lindquist (O) maj. dec. Liam Sommer 12-4
- 114 — Bryan Jacobson (KW) maj. dec. Jacob Wilson 12-1
- 121 — Ryan LaCanne (KW) dec. Donovan Sorenson 5-2
- 127 — Lane Karsten (O) dec. Reed Soomer 9-2
- 133 — Mason Hanson (KW) pinned Justin Gronli 4:46
- 139 — Trent Foss (KW) maj. dec. Parker Casas 10-2

- 145 — Gaven Johnson (KW) dec. Trey Hiatt 4-1
- 152 — Dillon Bartel (KW) pinned Riley Krueger 0:49
- 160 — Carter Flatland (O) dec. Reuban Johnson 4-1
- 172 — RJ Reinardy (O) pinned Ryan Rechtzigel 0:37
- 189 — Kiefer Olson (KW) pinned Logan Risser 1:38
- 215 — Will Van Epps (KW) maj. dec. Max Flemke 16-3
- 285 — Blake Fitcher (O) dec. Charlie Koncur 6-2

**Kenyon-Wanamingo 58 Centennial 4**

- 107 — Liam Sommer (KW) maj. dec. Ian Shelstad 12-4
- 114 — Bryan Jacobson (KW) pinned Leeton Guggenberger 0:42
- 121 — Bryan LaCanne (KW) pinned Ryan Hansen 3:34
- 127 — Reed Soomer (KW) pinned Parker Lester 3:05
- 133 — Masyn Hanson (KW) dec. Jaden Lilly 3-2
- 139 — Trent Foss (KW) dec. Ben Johnson 2-1
- 145 — Brennan Flatterud (KW) dec. Grant Moffat 2-1
- 152 — Gaven Johnson (KW) won by forfeit
- 160 — Dillon Bartel (KW) pinned Andrew Person 1:10
- 172 — Ryan Rechtzigel (KW) won by forfeit
- 189 — Keifer Olson (KW) dec. Tyler Cook 2-0
- 215 — Will Van Epps (KW) pinned Aidan Ford 2:44
- 285 — Marcus Whiting (C) maj. dec. Charlie Koncur 12-1

**Owatonna 36 Centennial 25**

- 107 Kaden Lindquist (O) fall Ian Shelstad 1:03
- 114 Jacob Wilson (O) over Leeton Guggenberger 9-4
- 121 Logan Fu (C) fall Donovan Sorenson 4:45
- 127 Lane Karsten (O) fall Ryan Hansen 3:41
- 133 Parker Lerter (C) over Justin Gronli 6-5
- 139 Jaden Lilly (C) over Parker Casas 13-4
- 145 Trey Hiatt (O) fall Ben Johnson 1:10
- 152 Riley Krueger (O) fall Grant Moffat 1:18
- 160 Andrew Person (C) over Carter Flatland 5-3
- 172 Logan Risser (O) won by forfeit
- 189 Tyler Cook (C) fall RJ Reinardy 3:34
- 215 Max Flemke (O) over Ardan Ford 6-4
- 285 Marcus Whiting (C) over Blake Fitcher 5-3

**WE'RE ONLINE!**


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[www.zumbrofallsmn.com](http://www.zumbrofallsmn.com)



## MISSY'S MESSAGE





**MISSY PAPERFUS**

**COLD!**

What to do for exercise when it's so cold out?!? My walking partner Jenny and I knew it was going to be too cold to walk outside the week of January 14th, so we decided to take the week off and not walk outside. My favorite coffee trailer down the street was also closed because of the cold. I still walked our son Monty's dog Maisy, but went for much shorter walks, and I wore my long underwear. Tuesday evening, I participated in an online Zumba class via Zoom which you can get in lots of steps with Zumba. I signed up for a couple yoga classes this cold week also. I walked a lot around MotoProz and chased the dog inside (no one saw me that I know of except the MotoProz family who are used to it). When Maisy gets bored and I'm working on my computer, she comes over and bumps me. That means it's time to chase her around the store! I get a lot of extra steps chasing her around the store. It was so cold, I did not want to get up and exercise in the morning and opted to sleep in, which meant I had to commit to exercising at night to make up for it. Nothing wrong with exercising at night, as long as you do it!

*Memo from MotoProz...*

It's time to order the 2025 Arctic Cat snowmobiles; the all-new 858 motor in the Arctic Cat Catalyst that everyone has been waiting for!

Missy and her husband Mike own MotoProz in Mazeppa.



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## MDA Now Accepting Applications for 2024 Beginning Farmer Tax Credit

*Eligible parties are encouraged to apply early for funding*

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Rural Finance Authority (RFA) is now accepting applications for the 2024 Beginning Farmer Tax Credit, an annual program available to landlords and sellers (asset owners) who rent or sell farmland, equipment, livestock, and other agricultural assets to beginning farmers.

Total funding available for the 2024 Beginning Farmer Tax Credit program is \$4 million. The credits are funded in a first-come, first-served manner, so applicants are highly

encouraged to apply early in the year before the stated deadlines. Both the asset owners and beginning farmers must submit applications with lease and/or sale documents to be eligible for funding and to hold their place in line. They may apply before sales close, if needed.

Qualifying asset owners can include individuals, trusts, or qualified pass-through entities renting or selling land, livestock, facilities, buildings, or machinery used for farming in Minnesota to a beginning farmer. Through changes made to the program during the 2023 legislative session, parents, grandparents, and siblings are now eligible for the tax credit if they sell farmland to a direct family member. However, this does not apply to leases or non-land sales (e.g., livestock, vehicles).

A beginning farmer is defined as a Minnesota resident with the desire to start farming or who began farming within the past 10 years. They must provide positive projected

Asset owners can claim credits in one of the following categories in a given tax year for each beginning farmer they lease/sell to:

|   | Tax Credit Amount   | Maximum Tax Credit | Application Due Date |
|---|---|--------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Cash Rentals</b>                                 | 10% of annual rental income                               | \$7,000            | July 17, 2024        |
| <b>Share Crop Rentals</b>                           | 15% of annual rental income                               | \$10,000           | July 17, 2024        |
| <b>Farmland Sales</b>                               | 8% of sale price (12% if the buyer is an emerging farmer) | \$50,000           | November 1, 2024     |
| <b>All other sales (equipment, livestock, etc.)</b> | 5% of sale price  | \$32,000           | November 1, 2024     |

earnings statements, have a net worth less than \$979,000, and enroll in, or have completed, an approved farm business management (FBM) program.

Beginning farmers are also eligible for a nonrefundable Minnesota tax credit equal to the amount paid for FBM tuition, up to a

maximum of \$1,500. This tax credit is available for up to three years.

Full eligibility requirements and application materials can be found on the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit web page. Questions may be directed to Jenny Heck at [Jenny.Heck@state.mn.us](mailto:Jenny.Heck@state.mn.us) or 651-201-6316.

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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.*



By Missy Papenfus

### Two days of organizing!

Mike and Monty were supposed to be gone on their yearly snowmobile trip to Michigan, but mother nature did not cooperate. They headed up to our cabin for a weekend with friends, while I had already scheduled my friend Tricia who owns Tidy Solutions to come and help me do some more organizing and decluttering. Tricia helped me for two days last year while they were away. We accomplished so much work last year, this year I wanted to concentrate on our storage room, my closet, and have her look over the organizing we did last year.

Sunday morning, we started out in my closet, and paired down clothes I no longer need or wear including a bunch of sweaters and cardigans, shoes, and purses. Tricia takes away the donation pile for you. By noon, we were on our way to organize the basement. We went through decorations, winter boots and coats, some of Monty's old toys, you know normal stuff that is kept in a storage room. When all-of-a-sudden, a mouse popped out! I could probably write a whole story about the minor mouse situation, but I'll keep it short. My dad came over to our rescue.

Monday, we finished up the storage room and moved on to the kitchen pantry, where my mouse friend decided to have a spaghetti party (they opened a new bag of spaghetti to nibble on). They obviously started out in the pantry and headed to the basement. I was grumbling the whole time, but thanks to Tricia, she kept me focused. Everything was back to normal, and we were done working by noon. I had made a list of little projects I would still like to complete, broken down into smaller, more manageable tasks.

Stay tuned for next month's topic: My favorite storage/organizing items  
There's so much to do, so little time. Bye for now!



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## Everything You Wanted to Know About Caucuses but Were Too Uninterested to Ask

By Roberta Kurth, Elgin, caucus attendee for 46 years

**What important event is taking place on February 27, 2024?**

**Minnesota precinct caucuses at 7:00 PM. How often do they occur?**

Caucuses occur every 2 years in an even year. The date is set by the major party chairs and reported to Secretary of State. Sometimes they are in March.

**What is this event?**

The precinct caucus system is the first step in the process that adapts the principles of a political party, selects party officers, endorses candidates for state and national offices, and selects delegates to the state and the national conventions. It is also the first meeting many new activists attend. The precinct caucus should be conducted to allow ample opportunity for discussion. The atmosphere should encourage and exchange ideas, like at neighborhood meetings. The rights of all participants should be treated with fairness and respect.

**Why should I attend?**

You don't want to be left out of being informed. Precinct officers, who are the first people candidates contact when they come to

your town, will be elected to serve a 2 year term, delegates will be elected to attend the annual Basic Political Organization Unit (BPOU) convention for the next 2 years. This is usually held in each county but is sometimes organized differently in other parts of the state. Attendees may participate in a gubernatorial straw poll, election judges (a paid position), poll challengers and other volunteers will be recruited. Additions and changes to party principles will be discussed. The most fun part is the presentation of resolutions by the attendees. It is fun to follow the resolutions to see how far they go in the political process. Sometimes they are identified at the national conventions.

**Where do I attend?**

All precinct locations will be published in the local newspapers. You may call the county auditor or go to [www.caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.caucusfinder.sos.state.mn.us) to ask for information.

**How do I know what precinct I am in?**

Go to <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us> to find your precinct.

**What party caucus do I attend?**

If you are in major agreement with the principles of a particular party and you have either voted or affiliated with the party in the last general election or you intend to vote with the party in the next election, then, that is your party. This year Minnesota recognizes the caucuses of the 2 major parties, Republican Party of Minnesota and Minnesota DFL.

**Who will be there?**

Attendees will be neighbors who live in your precinct, candidates seeking your vote, students fulfilling class social study projects.

**What do I bring?**

Bring a notebook and pen. Have resolutions written down to transfer onto the official resolution forms, which if passed, go to the BPOU level or the district level or even the state level. Prepare to state your resolution and defend it. A pan of bars and cookies is a nice neighborhood gesture but not required.

**How important is the event?**

Only 3% of people attend a caucus and make important decisions for the entire state. When you see the election hoopla on TV remember that a small amount of people made those decisions for you. Also, you earn the right to talk politics and actually sound credible.

**What time do they begin?**

All caucuses begin at 7:00 PM and must stay open for at least one hour. Lively discussions keep them open till much later.

**Will I be busy that night?**

No, you will have time on your hands. Minnesota statute states all government sponsored events have to end by 6:00 PM, therefore, no city council meetings, no school board meetings, no firemen drills, no sports events.

**How can I help out at my caucus?**

The convener, already chosen, will offer you opportunities to help. You can take official notes, tally ballots, be a greeter, help set up the room. Don't forget to submit your name for delegate or alternate to future county, district and state conventions.

**Who can participate?**

People who live in the precinct, eligible to vote, are 18 or older at the time of the general election- November 5, 2024, must not have participated in another party's caucus that evening, and signed in on an official regis-

tration form my participate. Anyone can attend and be an observer.

**Will there be a straw ballot?**

Not officially. There is a Presidential Primary on March 5, 2024. Your caucus may do their own straw ballot.

**What is a resolution?**

It is a suggestion of something you would like to see changed. If passed by the caucus attendees your resolution is forwarded to the resolutions committee of the county(BPOU) convention or your legislative district convention which are both held in the spring time. If it is adapted there, the same process is repeated at the state convention. Resolutions presented at the precinct level can become part of your party's state platform.

**Can I get involved in certain campaigns?**

Yes, the opportunity is there to volunteer to help with a favorite candidate's campaign. There will be sign up sheets for campaigns and literature to convince you to help certain people.

**When does Minnesota have a primary?**

The opportunity to vote in a primary is in August. It is a closed primary which means you must vote all one party for every office on the ballot. It has its advantages and disadvantages.

**Why isn't Minnesota's primary as important as other primaries?**

Minnesota has always focused on caucuses as the grass roots beginning. This is where it all begins for Minnesota. You earn the right to talk politics at the caucus and get involved first hand. Minnesota's primary, in August, is too late in the campaign season to create a hub-bub. It is a help to local campaigns.

(continued on page 7)

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## Everything You Wanted to Know About Caucuses but Were Too Uninterested to Ask

(continued from page 6)

**When can I vote in the general election?**

When you are informed, at least 18 years

old by November 5, 2024, a U.S. citizen, and on or before election day. Call the county auditor for information on a ballot.

**What happens after caucuses?**

This could be a long answer but people can go politically far. People work on campaigns and can advance there, caucus delegates and alternates attend the annual BPOU, in their county, or the district convention in their congressional district or the state convention held in a place in Minnesota. This happens between February and June. It is at the district conventions that delegates are elected to the

national conventions. Unfortunately national conventions are only held in presidential election years. Getting involved in a gubernatorial year gets a person known for one's dedication and hard work to the party so they have a better chance to be chosen to go to the national convention.

**Is it a fun event?**

Conversations with neighbors fill the meeting place. It is a fulfilling and educational event. It explains how our complicated political system works so more people become involved in it. Without this learning

opportunity it is hard to understand the inside of politics. This is the starting point. You will complain less and enjoy politics more perhaps giving you more confidence to hold party chairman seats or run for elected office. It connects neighbors and neighborhoods and is a great opportunity for volunteering. It pulls the entire political picture together for you.

March 5 will be the Presidential Primaries.



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## Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin

### How to Make Friends in a New Community: Being Helpful

By Claudia Vanderborcht

When all is said and done, it still takes time for a home purchase to close. Monica finally had a purchase agreement on a small farm: 20 acres with rolling topography and some fenced pasture, a barely nice four-bedroom home with attached garage, and a huge 40' x 90' pole barn. And still some summer remained to make local friends before her teaching job began in September.

Monica's daughter was grown with a family of her own – it's difficult to make friends when your kids are adults. But church would be a key to meeting some local folks and maybe some farmer friends. (Farming sounded like fun, but Monica realized that she knew nothing and would have a lot to learn.)

Monica settled into a local community church. Although the congregation was small, it was welcoming. With instant friends: there were two female veterans, a single middle-aged teacher, and a few families who farmed. Having time on her hands before house closing and school starting, Monica offered to help her new friends with whatever was needed. One family invited her to help trim grape vines in their vineyard; it was hot, sweaty work, standing on a steep hillside -- but Monica liked being outdoors and loved learning new skills.

One Sunday, Monica listened to the teacher exclaiming frustration about her basement renter: the gal was behind on rent, causing problems, and refusing to leave. Monica had heard many stories from her dad about how difficult it was to evict tenants, usually costing thousands of dollars and causing months of frustration. Monica is a problem solver, had experience with renters, and loves to help others; she offered her new friend help in evicting the tenant.

"Let's make this official," Monica suggested. "Write up a lease and I will pay you \$1 in rent to make the contract legally binding."

Contract in hand, Monica packed a few clothes, her cooler and grill, the air mattress, a few miscellaneous essentials, and moved

into the other basement bedroom. The difficult tenant had gone away for the weekend, so while she was gone Monica helped pack her belongings.

Anything that might be used as a weapon (knives, tools) were stored at the bottom of the box, clothes and dishes on top. Two days later, the delinquent renter returned and discovered Monica -- her new, helpful roommate.

The shouting and cursing began, including pleas like, "Where I am supposed to go? I have nowhere to live! How am I supposed to move? I have nowhere to go..."

After pointing out that this was not the homeowner's or Monica's problem, Monica ignored her. The homeowner simply repeated her requests for rent owed.

Knowing that possession is nine-tenths of the law, Monica was careful not to leave the apartment. When dinner time came and she wanted to use the grill, Monica simply locked the bedroom door and climbed in and out of the window!

The tenant was – of course – furious and threatened to call the police. Both the homeowner and Monica agreed that was a wonderful idea (much to the chagrin of the apartment squatter). A very nice officer came to the home, understood the dilemma, and asked to speak with each person individually.

When it was her turn, Monica presented her driver's license and military identification (knowing that many officers had served in the military).

"I have my own home," Monica explained, "but I am just trying to help my friend, the homeowner."

"You know this isn't the normal way of

doing things," the officer said.

To which Monica completely agreed. So the officer phoned the chief for advice on the legalities of the situation.

"Good news and bad news," the officer told the young lady. "No, the homeowner cannot force you to move out. You have a legal right to stay and make the homeowner go through

the normal eviction process. The bad news is that Monica, having a legitimate lease, also has a legal right to stay."

Within 24 hours, still shouting and cursing, the delinquent renter packed up the rest of her belongings and moved out. Monica left a day or so later.

## Dense Fog = Lights On!

By Wabasha County Public Health

Most drivers know that it can be dangerous to drive in fog without your headlights on, but did you know it is also illegal? For your safety and to help other drivers see you, Minnesota law says every vehicle on the road shall display lighted headlamps and lighted tail lamps when visibility is impaired by weather or insufficient light. This includes rain, snow, sleet, hail, and fog.



Drivers might assume that sensors will activate all the vehicle's lights in reduced visibilities, but that is not always the case with precipitation and fog – especially during daylight hours. Automatic headlight sensors detect how much light is outside.

Sometimes during heavy rain, snow or fog, the sensor still detects light, so it won't automatically turn on. This is why it's important to consult your owner's manual and learn how to turn your lights on manually.

In addition to manually turning your headlights on, follow these tips to keep yourself and others safe on the road during low visibility.

Eliminate all distractions.

Slow down. The faster you are traveling, the longer it takes to stop.

Follow the 3-second-plus following distance rule. Watch the vehicle in front of you. When that vehicle passes an object such as a sign, count three seconds. You should not reach that sign before you count to three. If you do, you are following too close! In some cases such as inclement weather or slick roads, you may need to allow six, seven seconds (or even more) to be safe.

Seeing and being seen can help reduce your chances of getting in a crash. If there's any kind of precipitation, double check that your vehicle's headlights, taillights, and marker lights are shining before heading out on the road.

Together, we can drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

## Ask A Trooper

By Sgt. Troy Christianson of the Minnesota State Patrol

*Question: I have noticed cars that can't be seen in the day when they fail to turn on their lights on during the recent fog. Can you please explain how dangerous it can be and what the law is that covers this?*

*Answer: Minnesota law states that every vehicle on a roadway shall display lighted headlamps, lighted tail lamps, and illuminating devices from sunset to sunrise. The law also applies when it's raining, snowing, sleeting, or hailing and at any time when visibility is impaired by weather or insufficient light, at a distance of 500 feet ahead.*



During the recent snow event, I noticed many vehicles without their lights on during the heavy snowfall. This can create a very dangerous situation, especially when visibility is reduced. Being seen can help reduce your chances of being involved in a crash.

Basic automatic headlights work through sensors which detect the amount of light outside. These sensors are located on the dash of the vehicle. The headlights turn on when the sensors detect a certain level of darkness or the level of ambient light.

The problem can be the limitations to automatic headlights. Sometimes they do not turn on during heavy rain, snow or fog, as the light sensor still detects light.

Most vehicles retained the conventional headlight switches, which allow drivers to turn lights on or off to bypass the sensors. Many drivers fail to physically turn on their headlights, which will also activate the rear taillights and marker lights. Drivers might assume the sensors will activate all of the vehicle's lights in reduced visibilities, but that is not always the case.

If your wipers need to be on, you should also turn on your headlights, taillights and marker lights. When lights are required, manually turn on your headlights to know that all your lights will be on. Also, make it a habit to check your lights often to ensure they are properly working.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and of course, 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 Trp. Troy Christianson – Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us.



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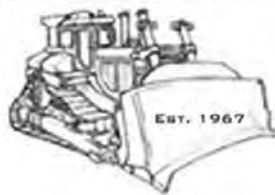
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## Healthy Oils



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS  
Licensed Nutritionist

Last month, I presented the idea of some healthy sugar sources to replace the nutrient deficient white sugar. The next category to review is healthy oils. Oils and fats are an important nutrient for our bodies. The nerve tissue conducting information throughout our body is made up mostly of fats. Your heart prefers fatty acids as a fuel supply and a proper balance of fat reserves is necessary for the ability to produce healthy children. So quality oils and fats are needed for healthy nerve communication, a healthy heart, and healthy children.

The early 1900s saw a significant increase in the understanding of chemistry and how different chemicals interact. During this time, most of the vitamins were discovered and the structure and importance of each vitamin was learned. Fats and oils were also carefully analyzed, and we learned how these important molecules are used in the body.

Some of this chemistry worked on how to

extract oils from seeds. All seeds have some oil in them because oil is important for starting new plant growth. Some of the primary types of oil in seeds are called Omega-3 and Omega-6 fatty acids. Our body uses both of these types of fatty acids to manage important functions in the body.

Over the years, this extraction process has been perfected to maximize oil production and provide a product to the consumer. Businesses and health services have marketed these oils as healthy, plant based, unsaturated fats. The marketing has worked very well, but the health results have not been positive.

The current Omega 6 to Omega 3 intake ratio among average Americans is at least 12 to 1 with some sources stating the ratio is more like 20 to 1. A healthy balance should be about 2 to 1 of Omega 6 to Omega 3. This imbalance is due to the high consumption of corn oil, soybean oil, and vegetable oil, which are high Omega 6 sources. These oils are the primary oils used in fried foods at restaurants and homes because they are the least expensive oils on the market. When consumption of Omega 6 is high and the consumption of sugar is high, the end result is inflammation, excess weight, and diabetes.

The current intake needs a significant shift to more Omega 3 for improved health and well-being.

So, what are the healthy oil options? What changes can be made in the home to improve health? The first step is to remove corn oil, soybean oil, and vegetable oil from the cupboard and commit to using healthy fats for any heating on the stove or oven. These healthy fats include coconut oil, ghee, butter, lard, and tallow. These were common fats

used in the early 1900s before chemistry made the other oils available. These healthy fats do not change their chemistry when heated and do not produce chemicals that can promote inflammation. These saturated fats have been used for centuries to support generations of healthy populations.

Second, add healthy oils at the table for increased intake of healthy Omega-3. These oils include Extra Virgin Olive Oil, Flaxseed oil, Hemp seed oil, and Walnut oil. These oils should not be heated, but generously used at the table on your food. An increased intake of Omega-3 oils over your vegetables, salads and bread will help to decrease inflammation and improve the balance between Omega-6 and Omega-3. A favorite way to use these oils is to make your own vinaigrette dressing, mixing olive oil and vinegar together with some additional spices. Homemade vinaigrette has excellent flavor, and you can create a variety of dressings using apple cider vinegar, various balsamic vinegars, red wine vinegar, or lemon juice. A recommendation of at least 3 tablespoons each day of these healthy

Omega 3 oils will help to reduce inflammation and improve health.

Make your health a priority in 2024. Change is required, but the outcome is worth the effort. Little changes can make a big difference over time. Changing your oil sources can be one of those little changes. If you would like to pursue a healthy lifestyle and increase longevity, 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.

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## Here's Where To Buy Your Minnesota Country Salute CD

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Once again the net proceeds from this years Minnesota Country Salute CD will go to the Minnesota Military Family Foundation and Minnesota Wheels of Honor. Starting Veteran's Day you'll be able buy your copy at any one of these locations and make sure the service men and women and first responders of Minnesota have the support they need.

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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).



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## Avoid baby carrots. Ice baths, cold showers for health!



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

One of the most popular events surrounding the annual New Year's celebration is the Polar Bear Plunge. Thousands of people brave the icy cold water for the thrill and celebration of the new year. As crazy as this seems to people observing on television from the warmth of their living room, science confirms there are many benefits to a daily ice bath or taking a cold shower. Athletes around the world use ice baths for muscle recovery and professional sports leagues all utilize the ice bath (NFL, NBA, NHL, MLB). One of

the major non-sports related benefits has to do with mental and emotional health. Ice baths release neurotransmitters (hormones such as serotonin, cortisol, dopamine, norepinephrine and B-endorphin). These chemicals play a crucial role in emotion regulation, stress regulation and reward processing (which helps in the engagement of goal directed behavior). Ice baths will increase the dopamine concentration levels in the body. Dopamine is the happiness hormone. Studies show that 30 days of cold showers will equip your body to better handle stress, leading to an increase in resilience. Ice baths and cold showers may help reduce anxiety symptoms over time.

Raw carrots are a popular, sweet and healthy snack that is easy to prepare. They not only go great with dips and sauces, but are enjoyable as is. Carrots are low in calories, nutrient dense and have a significant amount of fiber. Most people choose a bag of baby carrots for their convenience, unfortunately baby carrots are bathed in chlorine before sale which increases your risk of chemical byproduct exposure. The best carrots to enjoy are organic whole carrots. Science shows that the act of actually cutting the carrots with your kitchen knife increases the release of healthy antioxidants in the vegetable.

On the topic of healthy snacks, sweet cherries are high in potassium which is important in maintaining healthy blood pressure levels. Cherries also contain a number of strong anticancer nutrients. Tart cherries help with inflammation and can help prevent arthritis and relieve symptoms of gout. To avoid

harmful pesticides, purchase organic cherries. Or better yet, plant your own cherry tree.

One of the more common conditions that presents in our chiropractic office, is plantar fasciitis. Plantar fasciitis is foot pain that occurs on the bottom of the foot. This condition develops in runners and people who walk a lot or stand on their feet all day. The fascia is a soft tissue covering of the bottom of the foot. Plantar fasciitis is inflammation or microtears in the fascia. Fasciitis can also be caused by stress fractures in the foot, a tight Achilles tendon and a decrease in the arch support of your feet. Typically, the onset of symptoms is gradual and noticeable on your first few steps getting out of bed in the morning. The condition can worsen to the point that every step is a sharp, constant pain.

Treatment for plantar fasciitis is based around stretches, ice massage or wearing a splint that prevents foot flexion. In our chiropractic office we treat fasciitis with adjustments of the bones in the foot that make up the arch (metatarsals). Ice massage performed at home involves freezing a plastic water bottle or a golf ball and rolling your foot over top.

Pregnancy Prenatal Chiropractic Care Info: People may use the terms "unmedicated" or "natural" birth to refer to a vaginal birth without an epidural or other pain medication. An epidural involves a healthcare professional placing a catheter in between the vertebra in the space below the spinal cord to administer doses of anesthetic. The anesthetic blocks pain signals from the spine to the brain, preventing the person from feeling pain

in the lower body during labor and delivery. The pros of epidural injection include: Fast, effective pain relief. Pain relief is adjustable.

An epidural with a preplanned cesarean delivery may be less stressful than a vaginal birth or emergency cesarean delivery. An epidural may help a person have a less stressful, traumatic, and exhausting birth experience. The cons of a pregnancy epidural injection include: Inability to walk around, risk of low blood pressure (which may affect the baby's heartbeat), headaches, backaches, nausea, risk of higher risk of medical intervention and assisted birth, difficult to push during the final stages of a vaginal birth, risk of nerve damage, puncture of the spinal cord dura mater, temporary loss of bladder control, difficulty urinating, fever, itchy skin, very low risk of convulsions, difficulty breathing, and death. Published research papers show that regular prenatal chiropractic pregnancy care can shorten labor and lessen the need for medication, including the risk of side effects mentioned above from epidural injections.



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## MDA Announces Additional Farmland Succession Support

*A new position will assist farmers and landowners with transfer planning*

Farmers and agricultural landowners looking for assistance in creating succession plans for their properties have a new support available through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).

The MDA has hired Jim Molenaar as its farmland access and succession teams coordinator. In this newly created role, Molenaar will advocate for and guide farmers and ag landowners through the succession process, bringing in additional outside team members that are necessary for success. These team members could include, but are not limited to, legal experts, accountants, and farm business management (FBM) instructors. There is no cost for this service for those who participate.

"I'm thrilled to partner with the MDA to provide this support to Minnesota's farmers and producers," said Molenaar. "The transfer of farmland to the next generation is integral to the future of agriculture in Minnesota, and I look forward to leveraging my experiences to help farmers and their families successfully transition their legacies."

Molenaar is an experienced and trusted advisor on the topic of succession and farm ownership. In addition to his new role, he works as a Farm Advocate for the MDA, where he offers one-on-one assistance for Minnesota farmers who face crisis caused by either a natural disaster or financial problems. He is also a retired instructor for the FBM program.

According to USDA, the average age of Minnesota farmers has reached an all-time high of 57.4 years. This new position is just one tool the MDA provides to help transfer ag land and operations to beginning and emerging farmers, ensuring the continued strength and resilience of the state's agricultural economy. Its FarmLink program brings together those who are looking for ag land, farming operations, or mentors with retiring farmers and landowners who want to see their



farms or farming operations continue. The agency also offers the Beginning Farmer Tax Credit and the Down Payment Assistant Grant programs.

Molenaar's contact information, as well as further details about the MDA's other land access and succession tools, can be found on the agency's website.

The farmland access and succession teams coordinator position is made possible with support from the Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence.

## Historical Happenings

*Compiled by  
Helen Reiland*

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

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1955**

### **Santa Claus To Visit Area Children Thursday**

The annual Christmas Party sponsored by Mazeppa business men will be held in the Mazeppa school gymnasium on THURSDAY, December 22 at 8:15 p.m. All children in the Mazeppa area are most cordially invited to attend this party. Late word tells us that Santa Claus will again stop by to distribute a generous bag of treats to each boy and girl. Santa will also take time to chat with every child who wishes to talk with him.

Featuring the evening's program will be a Christmas operetta entitled "She Didn't Believe," by Catherine Allison Christie. All the children in grades 1-6 will take part in this holiday presentation. Mrs. Hoppe, Miss Bjorngaard, Miss Laura Reeve, Mrs. Peper and Miss Ruth Reeve will combine their efforts in direction the operetta. The story tells of a little girl who doesn't believe in Christmas. When she came South with her family for the holidays, she felt she would be free from what she considered nonsense and would be truly modern. However, she finds that no one will play with her. Each group in turn is too busy and too happy at this time of year to have much to do with such a queer little girl. She is finally visited by the Merchant's Association which asks her to leave town because she is rapidly spoiling their business. Her arrogance quickly leaves. She is tactful and repentant; and with the help of the elves she is soon restored to happiness.

Opening the program for the Christmas party will be the high school girls' glee club and soloists singing familiar and appropriate Christmas songs under the direction of Mr. Harry Prouty.

Committees of Mazeppa Commercial Club members are in charge of the party arrangements.

### **Warren Grossbach Barn Lost in Fire Sunday (Picture)**

Only basement, milk house and silo pictured above, remained after fire destroyed a 32 x 48 barn Sunday afternoon on the Warren Grossbach farm. Also lost were 2,000 bales of hay, stanchions, water cups, pressure system and milk machine. Livestock was saved by quick action on part of Mr. Grossbach and neighbors who turned all out before top story caved in. One calf, although turned loose, was lost. A crew of neighbors and friends cleared away debris Monday and a temporary roof on basement was built Tuesday and Wednesday. Until stanchions, etc. are replaced, livestock is being housed on neighboring farms.

### **Large Number Participates In Creamery Day Program**

Pictured: Seated at the registration desk is Mrs. Gilbert Schmitt, office secretary, and Kenneth Tupper, secretary of creamery association. Standing is Mrs. Winfred Larson in foreground and Mr. Larson directly behind her. The latter are patrons of the creamery.

Pictured above from left to right are Ray Schmidt, director of Dairy and Food inspectors of this area, who was principal speaker at annual meeting of Mazeppa Farmers' Cooperative Dairy Association, held Saturday, Eldred Kuehn, plant manager and Max Maas, president of the creamery.

### **Stores Will Be Open**

Mazeppa stores will be open until 9 p.m. next Wednesday and Friday evenings to give shoppers more time to conclude their shopping before Christmas.

### **CHESTER FARM BUREAU UNIT HOLDS ANNUAL XMAS PARTY**

The annual Christmas party of the Chester Farm Bureau unit was held Tuesday evening, December 6 at the Pete Klindworth home.

It was decided to give money instead of gifts, which is to be sent to the Kenny Institute.

Entertainment consisted of games and a delicious lunch was served by Mrs. Klindworth, Mrs. Leroy Tomfohrde and Mrs. Gerald Tomfohrde.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1955**

### **Obituaries**

#### **MRS. MARY H. BEFORT**

Mrs. Mary H. Befort passed away at St. John's hospital, Red Wing, Saturday morning, December 17 at 9:30 a.m., where she had been a patient for the past 10 days with a broken hip. She fell at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Peter Hofschulte on December 8 where she had been staying since she broke her arm in August.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Reding on June 8, 1870 at Belvidere, Minn., she was married to Wm. Befort on April 7, 1891 and lived on the farm about four miles north of Mazeppa for 64 years. Her husband preceded her in death July 5, 1924.

She leaves to mourn five children, four sons and one daughter: Steve of Rochester, Mrs. Peter (Isebel) Hofschulte, Mazeppa, Louis and Lawrence of Mazeppa and Nicholas of Bellechestr. Also surviving are two sisters, Miss Sarah Reding of Wabasha and Mrs. Joe Jensen of Verndale, Minn. nine grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Donald Befort, Sylvester Befort, Philip Reding, Leo Lavan, Art Majerus and Wm. Befort. Honorary pallbearers were Mrs. Tony Hoffman, Mrs. Elizabeth Wild, Mrs. Barbara Liffriq, Mrs. Susan Arendt, Miss Susan Liffriq and Mrs. Peter Majerus.

### **Letters To Santa Claus**

The Journal is again happy to act as agent between the small fry and Santa Claus. Here are two offerings, and may they get all they ask for:

Dear Santa Claus: "Please bring me a truck, a candy bar, dresses and a toy for Toddie. "Bring Stub a pair of overalls and Mary a dress." Janie Stull

Dear Santa, "Please bring me a truck and a coloring book, a thick one." Butch Radke

## Regular Meeting of the Mazeppa City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present: Mayor Chris Hagfors. Council Persons Steve Liffriq, Michael Hammes, Erica Young, and Dustin Wiebusch.

Others Present: City Attorney Luke Lamprecht, City Engineer Matt Mohs, Wabasha County Sherriff's Office Chief Deputy Jim Warren, Public Works Director Scott Ellingson, Municipal Liquor Store Manager Todd Ihrke, Joe Sand, and Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

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

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

Motion by Hammes, second by Wiebusch to approve the December 13, 2023 regular City Council meeting minutes. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Wabasha County Sherriff's Chief Deputy Jim Warren presented the monthly Incident Command Report.

Public Works Director Scott Ellingson gave the monthly Public Works report.

Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang gave the Fire Department report.

Municipal Liquor Store Manager gave the liquor store report. He also relayed a request

by Zumbro Valley Life Events to hold raffle the Mazeppa Municipal Liquor Store as part of a fund-raising event hosted at MMLS.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffriq to approve Resolution 2024-03 Approving Exempt Gambling Permit for Zumbro Valley Life Events. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

City Engineer Matt Mohs gave an engineering update.

City Administrator Karl Nahrgang gave a City Hall activities report.

Joe Sand submitted documents for a minor subdivision in River Bluff subdivision. His plan meets criteria, but more documents including a title opinion and a resolution of approval from the Planning and Zoning committee are required by ordinance.

Attorney Lamprecht said a formal application must be created with all the requirements listed so the process is completed in a manner compliant with City Ordinance.

Discussion of water/sewer billing, late notification, shut-off, and assessment of past-due bills procedures were reviewed. These items are stated in Mazeppa City Ordinance and to create a procedure may require changes to ordinance. A suggestion was made to condense Ordinance requirements into a checklist to follow to ensure consistency in following past-due procedures for shutoff or assessment.

The City has received one quote for auditing services. Administrator Clerk Nahrgang will search for more available providers for quotes and follow up with other communi-

ties that use the firm that has submitted a quote. A special meeting will be held to choose so the 2023 audit can begin in February.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to set a special meeting on January 24, 2024 at 6:00 PM to choose a new City Auditor. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve Resolution 2024-01 Designating City Appointments for 2024. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve Resolution 2024-02 Accepting donations from the Fire Relief Gambling fund. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve year end transfer of \$130,000.00 from Fire Fund to Fire Equipment reserves and \$16,156.00 from Fire Fund to Fire Relief Retirement Account. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Administrator Clerk Nahrgang requested a meeting with 2 members of the Council to assist in better ways to display data for the rest of the year-end transfers to create a meaningful document. Councilperson Wiebusch and Mayor Hagfors volunteered to do so.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Administrator-Clerk

## Special Meeting of the Mazeppa City Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present: Mayor Chris Hagfors. Council Persons Michael Hammes, and Dustin Wiebusch.

Others Present: Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

Absent: Councilpersons Steve Liffriq and Erica Young.

Auditor Quotes were presented.

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

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to appoint Wilson, Tibor, and Maves LTD CPAs as the City's Auditor. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Liffriq, second by Hammes to approve Resolution 2024-04 Granting permission for a fireworks display associated with Mazeppa Winterfest on February 10, 2024. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 PM.

Administrator-Clerk

## Zumbro Falls City Council Minutes - December 13, 2023

The Zumbro Falls council meeting was held at City Hall on Wednesday at 6pm. Absent for the meeting was council person, Bob Benson.

The meeting was called to order by the Mayor. The Clerk read the minutes from the November meeting which were accepted as read with a motion from Bankers, seconded Heitmann, all in favor, carried.

Clerk gave the treasurer's report and was accepted by a motion from Bankers, seconded Heitmann, all in favor, carried.

Sam Meyers, representing Zumbro Valley Snowmobile Club, asked council for approval to hold a raffle drawing at the VFW on April 2nd. Tickets will go on sale at various businesses. Funds raised will be used to help pay for the purchases of a different groomer for the club. A motion followed by Bankers, seconded Heitmann, all in favor, carried, for the club to go ahead with the raffle.

Scott told council that Adam Zich is a new volunteer firefighter. The member supper will be held on February 3, 2024. He invited all council members. At their annual election meeting the department has decided to change the structure of the department. There will be a Chief and a Chief's Assistant only with 4 Captains. A motion by Anderson, seconded Bankers, all in favor, carried gave approval for the new structure. The election results are as follows: Fire Chief, Scott Kennedy, Chief's Assistant, Brad Tighe, President, Matt Fick, Vice President, Brad Tighe, Secretary, Leon Sexton, Treasurer, Bob Benson, Training Officer, Logan Deobald, Assistant Training Officer, Ike Klees, and Relief Members, Bob Benson, and Tyler Blim.

Scott also asked council for an increase for the retirement pension to get the dollar amount to 150%. This increase changes the current amount of \$1,800.00 per man year to \$2,000.00. Motion from Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried, will put this amount in place beginning January 1, 2024.

Clerk will pay Daren Hofschulte \$32,800.00 for the second half TIF collected for 2023. Motion for approval made by Anderson, seconded Bankers, all in favor, carried.

Christmas lighting contest winners paid by the City are as follows: Dana Oelkers, \$250.00, Joshua DeFrang, \$150.00 and Jordon Moon, \$100.00. Also winning was Staci Sexton who also received \$100.00 paid for by the committee.

Levy set at \$84,835.00 will again be sent to Wabasha County by the Clerk.

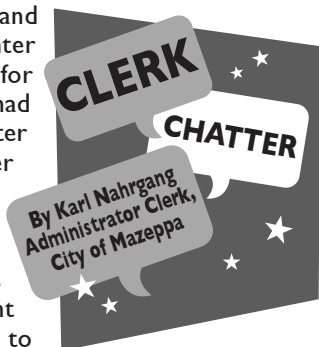
A motion from Anderson, seconded Bankers, all in favor, carried, gives the Clerk permission to issue the gaming, cigarette, and soft drink licenses to businesses for the year 2024.

The Clerk is told to pay all bills presented and for the meeting to adjourn was made by Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Submitted by,  
Susan Eischens, Clerk

Complaining about the weather is timeless and unproductive, and we all do it. I am a bit of a winter activities enthusiast, and this year has been a bust for winter recreational activities. Many communities have had to cancel or modify some activities associated with winter festivals or charity events. But some clouds have a silver lining. The City has saved a quite a sum in snow removal and overtime costs. Less plowing means there have been fewer times that the maintenance crew has put a snow ridge at the end of your driveway, and less times that you have had to shovel the sidewalk in front of your home. I am superstitiously "knocking on wood" to hope we have reasonable precipitation for the rest of the snow season and avoid the localized flooding that occurs in some areas and the inconveniences it creates for the affected property owners. However, the drought in our area persists. Last year we did not suggest water use restrictions, but the City did cut its water usage in the parks and ball fields.

So here is to wishful thinking! Hoping for, praying for gentle, abundant rains as we move from winter to spring, and avoiding a stockpile of snow that can create problems.



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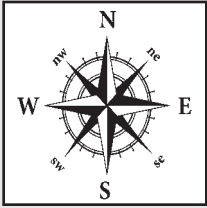
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## Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Power Outages and Why



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.*

Power outages can be frequent in Western Tennessee. Virtually everyone has a generator. I had a generator at the construction site because I built for the first year without service to the address. I just always keep it fueled up and plenty of gas in reserve. Windstorms or tornadoes seem to happen about 12 months out of the year down here.

We have had a number of close calls with windstorms but they always just missed us. One night about five years ago, we had just arrived at our cabin in Big Sandy to do some maintenance. I hadn't even got the tools out of the truck when the rain struck. It usually rains with a vengeance, and wind. We retreated to the house and shortly after the power went out. When the storm passed, we headed back home, only to find a big tree over the road, blocking our path.

In 2020 we went to Nashville on March 2nd to see Collective Soul at the Ryman. After the concert we discussed stopping at one of the restaurants on Broadway for dessert but decided to head home. On the drive home I could see an angry lightning storm behind us. When we turned on the news at home, we saw that a tornado had struck about two blocks from the concert venue we attended.

Three years ago, while we still lived on the Cumberland River and had just started building our new house on the Tennessee River, a big storm came through. The tornado passed within a mile of our home under construction, jumped the river and tore up a path heading east, destroying homes within a couple miles of where we lived twenty miles away. We were in Minnesota at the time and were quite surprised at the devastation when we returned. I recall driving down Cypress Road and observing the trees flattened out across the landscape, thinking I was going to be cleaning up debris instead of building a

house.

Last winter we were in the yard putting chairs away because wind gusts were forecast within the hour. We stood and watched as one tree toppled over in the woods across the road. Then we heard a crash about a quarter mile down the road. We could see the power line on the ground and knew what the outcome would be. I pulled the generator up from the garage and plugged it in and fired it up.

So, this December when I arrived, I had to reset all the digital clocks in the house. It is just a fact of life. I had only been home one day, when the following evening the lights flickered and went off. After lighting a couple candles, I decided to go to bed rather than start the generator. I woke up a couple hours later and the power was back on. The next day I was talking to my neighbor Harry, who lives about a mile down the road. Since there was no wind that night, we supposed it was one of the local boys with too much beer and too little common sense behind the wheel of his pickup who had run into a power pole somewhere.

A couple days later I was walking my dog and I stopped to visit with my neighbor, the mayor. Before he retired, he was the mayor in Pulaski, Tennessee, so everyone calls him the mayor. He asked me if I saw what caused the electrical outage. He had the pictures on his phone. He was coming home that Friday evening and a guy had just hit a power pole in the ditch. It sheared off the pole and he continued down the ditch a hundred yards before crashing into a house and the vehicle was lodged in the living room. All that was visible was the rear end of the car framed by the red bricks of the house. Was a Friday night so I guess one could expect it. The funny part of all these intoxicated mishaps is that after living in Stewart County for five years I learned it was a dry county.

## A Minnesotan: -10 Degrees or Colder



By RosaLin Alcoser

As Minnesotans we are prepared for the cold and those harsh bitter sub zero days. To the point where for some seeing who can go the longest without switching to jeans and a coat is a thing of pride. We all know at least one of those people who is fine in shorts and a sweatshirt until it is nearly -10 degrees F outside and wonder how in the world they do that while the rest of us are pulling out our heaviest winter parkas.

Whether you are taking pride in not wearing a parka or are safely bundled up in one we are all prepared to face those sub zero days. Or at least we are when we go

outdoors.

The first of the super cold days we had this January were the wind chill and the temperature dropped well below zero. I like many donned my parka and made my way into what should have been the warmth of the office.

My desk is currently right next to the window which is less than ideal in the winter. However, it is also right under a heating vent. So naturally I was expecting to spend the bitterly cold day nice and warm under that vent.

Instead it was spent freezing as the heat in my section of the building was not operating at full capacity. Which made our little corner of the office really, really cold.

I spent half the morning half nestled in my parka to keep from shivering while I worked until I finally couldn't take it anymore and temporarily took over a coworker's desk, who was away for the rest of the day.

The next day Mathanice informed us that not only was our heating vent out but there is also a leak in the window letting in a draft. So those of us who are right next to the window had been sitting in 9 degrees F while inside of the building.

Thankfully now the window has been patched and the vent has been fixed. All in time for things to be a little bit warmer for at least a couple of days.

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# An Important Tool for Economic Development



**Tim Penny**  
So. MN Initiative Foundation

Imagine that your community needs funding to build a trail system which will draw tourism to the area. Or perhaps your town needs better broadband access, or a housing plan. Whatever economic development initiative your city or county is working on, there is a good chance you will need to use an important tool, called the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), to achieve your goal. Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) recently worked with numerous regional partners to develop a new CEDS plan for southeastern Minnesota.

The CEDS is a strategic economic plan developed for a region. Not only does it provide a roadmap for local economic growth, but it helps communities determine ways to mitigate risk that can result from economic shocks or natural disasters. Having a CEDS is a nation-wide requirement for communities to qualify and apply for federal economic aid through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). Having a CEDS is also a prerequisite for designation by the EDA as an Economic Development District.

In rural Minnesota these plans are typically developed by regional development commissions. In the southwestern portion of SMIF's 20-county service area, Region Nine Development Commission (RNDC) holds the



CEDS document. In the southeastern part of SMIF's region, there are 11 counties that are not represented by a regional development commission. On behalf of those 11 counties, SMIF has helped draft the CEDS plan for the past fifteen years.

One of the benefits from creating a CEDS, which needs updating every five years, is the collaboration that it entails. During our most recent update, SMIF leveraged the talents of many community leaders and helped lead a robust two-year strategic planning process. This allowed stakeholders to do a deep dive on economic priorities for the region, creating a blueprint for future growth.

The CEDS can be used in many ways, by many different entities. On February 5 in Rochester, one of the key partners on the CEDS Strategy Committee, SE MN Together, will be holding a meeting for economic and community leaders to learn more about using the CEDS document. At this event, Nicole Griensewic, executive director of RNDC, will highlight how Region Nine

has successfully leveraged their CEDS. Additional panelists will share practical applications, resources and funding ideas to assist each entity in accomplishing its goals.

The efforts of many community leaders went into the development of this important tool. I encourage you to take a look and see how the CEDS can benefit your town. The

CEDS document for our 11-county southeastern region can be downloaded at [smifoundation.org/ceds](http://smifoundation.org/ceds). The CEDS document for Region 9 can be found at [rncd.org](http://rncd.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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