



MAZEPPA and ZUMBRO FALLS

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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 \$5-\$10 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@three-riverscap.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.

Do you have an announcement?
Email: hometownmessenger@gmail.com

"52" Club event this month

By Tara Gullickson

The Mazeppa American Legion will be hosting their annual fundraising event what is referred to as the '52 Club' on Saturday March 23, 2024. Doors to this event open at 5:00 pm and will take place at The American Legion in Mazeppa. Members of the Mazeppa American Legion started selling tickets for this event in January and tickets have already sold out; all 400 tickets were sold. During the event a total of 52 cash prizes will be given away, the drawing starts at 7:00 pm and the cash prizes are between fifty dollars up to five hundred dollars; winners will be paid by mail unless present. There will also be a Meat Raffle going on with thirty packages of various meats to be won by several lucky raffle players. Barbecues and chips will be provided at a free will donation - donations are not expected but greatly appreciated! This fundraiser is put on

annually by the Mazeppa American Legion to fund scholarships to selected graduating students in our community. This year the Mazeppa American Legion members hope to generate enough money to cover all eight scholarships. These scholarships are awarded to 3 college bound Zumbrota Mazeppa students, another 5 scholarships will be awarded to selected grandchildren of members of the Mazeppa American Legion. At the end of fourth quarter, graduating students are asked to turn in their GPA to a panel of five Mazeppa American Legion members to be carefully selected to hopefully receive a scholarship from this great group of individuals within our community. After selection the scholarships are then given to the Zumbrota Mazeppa Schools to disperse to the awarded students at a later date. The Mazeppa American Legion hopes to grow the number of scholarships awarded per year

as our community continues to expand as well. The Mazeppa American Legion would like to invite the community out to their 'Smokey Memorial Bean Bag Tournament' happening on March 16, 2024; sign up starts at 12 pm, games start at 1 pm sharp. The tournament is draw for partner and cost per player is five dollars. This months tournament is a Tribute to a local legend by the name of Mark Bartel who attended the bean bag tournaments and frequently took first place on many occasions. The Mazeppa American Legion would like to Thank the Community for their ongoing support!

A Monthly Moment at MotoProz



A couple weeks back, a customer stopped in with his 15-year-old son, Will, who was interested in job-shadowing Mike at MotoProz for a Saturday morning for his Careers class at Zumbrota-Mazeppa. He told Mike he would have lots of questions for him, and Mike told Will he would have a lot of answers! That particular Saturday was not our typical winter Saturday due to lack of snow. Will had plenty of time to ask Mike questions, and see what we do at MotoProz. It was a great experience for all of us.

Mazeppa Winterfest

By Tara Gullickson

'Mazeppa Winter-Fest - 2024' was held last month on Saturday, February 10, 2024. Mazeppa Winter-Fest has been a successful community fundraising event for many years and continues to bring in a lot of community support to pull it all off. Several groups and businesses within the community participated in putting together a fun event for the whole family. This mid-winter gathering is put on annually for all-ages to come out and enjoy what this charming "village in the valley" has to offer while fundraising for the community as a whole. The Mazeppa Fire & Rescue Department were ready to host a sledding and skating party at Herb Vyk Field, but unfortunately due to this seasons remarkably warm temperatures caused this part of the event to be cancelled.



(continued on page 4)

Celebrating Another Trip Around the Sun.

For my Birthday this year I will be donating 20% of Sales during the Month of March to ZM Primary School for playground equipment & books for their classrooms.



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Hang out with Jesus: Be Changed!



By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

According to an article in the New York Times, scientific evidence has led people to believe that couples will eventually start to look like one another. Sounds crazy, right? Well, it might not actually be so far-fetched as you may think. When they first meet and get together- there doesn't appear to be a strong resemblance, but after 25 years of marriage there does seem to be people growing more and more in resemblance to one another. The main cause is believed to be that due to being married for such a long time, they share many of the same emotions. Our wrinkles, laugh lines, and mannerisms often reflect each other and therefore we begin to 'look alike.'

We become like the people we hang out with. Our friends, our family, our workplace- people affect who we are and who we become. Humans are social creatures and we're all highly influenced by the people around us each day. There's not much we can do to control it. Who you spend your time with will have an impact on the way you behave.

The psychological influence of the people

you're close to is strong. You only have to look closely around you to see the truth of this statement. If you want to be successful in business or in your faith or in your life, hang around those people that are successful in those areas!

This underlines the importance of being thoughtful about exactly what you expose yourself to for learning and who you spend time with and relate to. If proximity effect dictates that we'll mirror the people around us, then we must carefully choose who those people are. It's the one thing we can control. If hanging around people with bad habits will cause you to develop bad habits yourself, then the opposite is also true: spending time around people with good habits will cause you to develop good habits.

The same is true in faith. If you want a 'rebellious faith' one that can stand up under the stress and challenges of the world around, you- you need to be around someone that already has accomplished that. If you want to be more like Jesus- if you want to follow and live for Him- then He is the one you need to spend time with. When you "Hang out with Jesus- you will be changed!!!"

Peter and the disciples spent 3 years with Jesus. They worked with him, shared boat rides, shared struggles, shared life with Him for 3 years! They saw Jesus tired, hungry, strong, angry, loving, compassionate, giving, healing, - they saw Jesus do life in almost every type of situation there was. They were there. They knew Jesus. They learned from and spent time- quality and quantity time with Jesus.

Jesus stood up to the Pharisees and the

other religious leaders- he lived out His faith, by going against the status quo, and showing and living out a new way before all the people. The disciples lived it as well. In the beginning they were mostly curious, but as time went on- they practiced the principles they were learning. They were sent out 2 by 2 to share the good news and to depend on God- They were able to do miracles and face demons and the forces of evil prevalent in the world. When the time came for Jesus to leave this world- He knew that He had given these men and women all that they needed to lead the 'church' of Jesus Christ to the next level.

You can read in Acts 4:13-21 where Peter and John had healed a man- they took no credit for it- they told him that they would give him what they had- and they had JESUS! And in the name of Jesus the man was healed- 40 years a cripple- now he is jumping, and dancing and praising God!!! 3 years before Peter and John would have just passed by or waited for Jesus to heal this man- now they are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and are ready to live out the change that Jesus had made in their lives!

The council was amazed! They were amazed at hearing the strong testimony- the faith, the power of Jesus presence in these two men. They knew that these guys were just plain old fishermen 3 years before. Peter and John had never been to school, or toastmasters, or had coaching- their schooling was day to day life with their family and friends going into the sea and bringing in the catch of the day. They would not have been polished speakers- in fact, their language was probably rough and possibly colorful as

well. And NOW, they are standing before this prestigious council able to defend their faith with power and truth. They weren't shaking in their boots- they were going toe to toe with the people in charge without fear!

That's the kind of faith I want. That's the kind of faith available to each of us! A faith that isn't afraid of the repercussions. Faith that doesn't fear what other people think. Faith that stands true to what is right and holy. Faith that is able to speak with assurance that God is on my side, and I will continue on the path that God has given me- no looking back! Peter and John had that kind of faith- and the council saw that, and they recognized that these men had been with Jesus!

When you hang out with Jesus, you will be changed! We must take the steps to become like Jesus; to live for Him and to follow Him.

If there's something you want to do or change about your faith and ultimately your life, choose to hang out with Jesus Christ.

- Hang out with Jesus! Take the next step in your faith; accept Jesus.
- Read the Bible.
- Go to church!
- Join a small group.
- Find a way to serve.

The more you are spending time with Jesus and His people, the more your life will reflect the life of Jesus Christ. People will know that you have been with Jesus, and you may hear them say- "They are just ordinary people, but we can see that they have been with Jesus!" That's a powerful epitaph to our lives- they have been with Jesus. I want that said of me... I hope you do too.



Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls
Messenger

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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY
Jesus Recreates Us

If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
— 2 Corinthians 5:17

God loves, reasons, and creates. So do his children, made in his image and likeness. But instead of honoring the good, doing the right, and creating the lovely, we fell into sin (Genesis 3). As a result, we despise, pervert, and destroy our world and our relationships. Though we are still able to do some good (by the grace of God), it is painfully obvious that we do not live up to our created potential. We willfully do wrong, hurt others, and destroy.

It is hard to imagine the disappointment and heartbreak God must have felt when we first turned against him. God might well have destroyed humanity and started over. And in a way he did make a new start. God sent his Son, Jesus, to bear his image without falling into sin; Jesus was fully human, like us in every way (see John 1:14; 3:16-18; Hebrews 2:17; 4:15). He loves and thinks and creates as a human made in God's image should. He hit the restart button on human nature.

The miracle of salvation through Jesus is that we can become part of the new creation and the new world he creates. We can become part of God's family again. With the new life he makes possible for us, Jesus saves!

Dear Jesus, thank you for being the first responder for all of creation. You have given us a new start. Help us to live faithfully in your name. Amen.

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Pastor Colleen Hoeft
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www.southtroywesleyan.org • 507-259-1442
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Email your church announcements, schedule, etc. to the
Mazeppa Zumbro Falls Messenger at:
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Louis William "Skeeter" Berg

Louis William "Skeeter" Berg, 87, of Mazeppa, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at the Zumbrota Care Center surrounded by his family. He was born in Mankato on August 12, 1936, to Lyall and Marie (Marzinske) Berg. He graduated from High School in New Richland, MN in 1954. He served in the United States Army Reserve from 1954 until his honorable discharge in 1962. On June 9, 1955, he married the love of his life, Elaine Sable in New Richland. They lived in New Richland until moving to Mazeppa in 1960. They shared 59 years of marriage before Elaine's passing on February 22, 2015. Skeeter worked for S&S Step Company while also driving school bus, retiring in 1986. He and Elaine were also part owners of the Coffee Cup Café in Mazeppa for 13 years. In the late 60's,



Skeeter started the Skeeter & the Sundowners Band playing at numerous weddings and social events over the years. His favorite past times included music, dancing, bowling, attending his grandchildren's sporting events, and tinkering with broken things. He was a fan of the Minnesota Vikings and Twins. He enjoyed huggy-buggies with his grandchildren and going for rides to get the newspaper, which soon turned into family events. Skeeter was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Mazeppa and the Mazeppa American Legion Post 588.

He is survived by his six children, Denise (Bob) Poncelet of Mazeppa, Dennis (Colleen) Berg of Mazeppa, DeAnn (Mike) Horsman of Mazeppa, Debbie (Dan) Dettmer of Zumbro Falls, Delane (Jon) Liffrig of Mazeppa, and Daryl Berg of Rochester; 24 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law, Kathy Berg of New Richland, Sylvia Berg of New Richland, Evelyn Berg of New Ulm, and Doris Klein of Mazeppa; brothers-in-law, Dennis Grunwald of Ellendale and Harold (Linda) Sable of Red Wing; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Elaine; son, Dean; grandson, Trevor Dettmer; parents, Lyall and Marie; sister, Barb Grunwald; brothers, Stan, Robert, and Bill Berg; in-laws, Fred and Irene Sable; and brother-in-law, Duane Klein.

Funeral Service were at 11 a.m. on Monday, February 26, 2024, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mazeppa. Reverend Alan Horn officiated. Visitation was from 2 until 5 p.m. on Sunday, February 25, 2024, at the Mahn Family Funeral Home in Zumbrota and for one hour prior at the church on Monday. Burial was at the Mazeppa Cemetery with military honors provided by the Mazeppa Honor Guard. A celebration of Skeeter's life followed the funeral service on Monday, at the Mazeppa Community Center from 12 until 4 p.m.

Free Caregivers Workshop

Are you acting as a caregiver for a loved one? Do you wish you knew how to take better care of yourself? Considering attending a Powerful Tools for Caregiver workshop coming soon to Goodhue.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is an educational program designed to help caregivers take care of themselves while caring for a relative or friend. You will benefit from this class whether you are helping a parent, spouse, friend, someone who lives at home, in a nursing home, or across the country.

During the 6 week program you will learn

- Managing stress, isolation, fatigue and difficult emotions
- Handling challenges of caregiving
- Building Confidence
- Setting goals
- Problem solving
- Improving communication with family and care team

During the six-week sessions, participants receive support from trained leaders and other workshop participants. Participants also benefit from meeting other people with similar challenges and learning how they cope.

This FREE workshop is sponsored by Active Aging Programs, Catholic Charities of Southern MN and Goodhue Living. It will be held at Goodhue Living, 108 Cty 9 Blvd, Goodhue, MN 55027 meeting for six Wednesdays from 9:30-11AM beginning April 3, 2024. Class size is limited and registration is required by March 27. For more information or to register, contact Jessica Mollison: 507-287-2047 ext. 133 or jmollison@ccsomn.org.

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Powerful Tools for Caregivers



Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a group workshop designed to help caregivers develop self-care tools and strategies to better manage the unique challenges facing them.

Who Should Attend

- Anyone acting in a caregiving role whether or not care receiver lives with you

What You'll Learn

- Managing stress, isolation, fatigue and difficult emotions
- Challenges of caregiving
- Building confidence
- Setting goals
- Problem solving
- Improving communication with family and health care team



Goodhue Class Information

Location: Goodhue Living
108 Cty 9 Blvd
Goodhue, MN 55027

Dates: Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8

Time: 9:30-11 AM

Register by: March 27, 2024

Classes are FREE of charge
Seating is limited
Registration Required

To learn more or to register contact:

Jessica Mollison Active Aging Programs 507-287-2047 ext.133 jmollison@ccsomn.org

Visit our website for more information: www.ccsomn.org

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Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin How to Make Friends in a New Community: Being Helpful

By Monica & Claudia Vanderborght

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.

Mazeppa Winterfest

(continued from page 1)

The Mazeppa American Legion sponsored a draw for partner bean bag tournament to participate in this special event with a total of twelve teams competing this year. Family Bingo was held at Rumors Bar & Grill and sponsored by The Mazeppa Lions Club along with a silent auction and a live auction. The Silent Auction kicked off at 3:00 pm and bids were happening fast up until the last few seconds; the silent auction ran until 7:59 pm. Several great items were donated to this silent auction from many generous community members and businesses from the area. Some live auction items featured were 2 half-hogs donated by Holden Farms, several Deck-Party Packages for Mac's Park Place of Mazeppa and Mazeppa Municipal Liquor Store, Minnesota Wild tickets, a variety of baked goods,

and the ever popular 'Mystery Bags'. A Trex Bench, made with recycled plastic, was also donated by the Mazeppa Lions Club this year. Thank you to the many volunteers for your help coordinating this fun filled community fundraising event year after year. Money raised by this event will be used to support the community with various projects throughout the year. Fun was had by all during this year's Winter-Fest and the community is looking forward to next year's festivities!

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Call or text Mike, Missy or Monty at MotoProz
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for more information on ordering a 2025 Arctic Cat Snowmobile!

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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

My Favorite storage/organizing items

I love reading articles or Facebook posts about organizing. The Minimal Mom is one of the Facebook pages I enjoy reading tips from. I think the best advice I have read is declutter, downsize, and use what you already have. Don't go out and buy any totes or organizers before you try using what you already have, to organize first.

When we moved into our house in 2005, we had a big change from our first house and upsized. We had a little coat closet and no room for shoes in our old house.

When we moved to our new

house, we had a mud room, and I felt like sky was the limit for organizing. I didn't want a closet in the mud room. I wanted a cubby system. We started out with some shelves, and I could already tell after a short amount of time it wasn't going to work for us. I found two pressed wood shoe cubby holders at Menards. I had my husband mount them a few inches off the floor, so shoe trays could go below them, and then he made four cubbies. One for each of us and then the last one for the dirty shop coats. Each cubby has 3 hooks. There are two shelves above the cubbies and each one of us has our own baskets for hats, gloves and off-season items. The new system still works out awesome! We have a coat closet on the other side of the cubbies for off season coats. I bought an old set of skis that I had Mike put hooks on, which works perfect for snow pants.

I love hooks, but I think my favorite organizing item is over the door hooks. You can just toss them over the door without having to screw anything into the wall or door. When I get lazy and don't want to fold or hang something, I just toss it over the hook and take care of it later! But I never toss a wet towel to dry on the door hook, because it could wreck the door!

I also like clear containers because you can see what you got. For our silverwear drawer organizer, we have a metal holder where all the crumbs fall through to the drawer. Just lift the organizer out, and cleaning the drawer is easy. I also have six laundry baskets, not just for laundry. When I am sorting clothes or tossing papers, taking down Christmas decorations to put back in their totes, they come in handy to contain whatever, but they all are the same so they stack and do not take up much room.

Stay tuned for next month's topic: Too many t-shirts!
There's so much to do, so little time. Bye for now!

Memo from MotoProz...

Ready for Spring? Check out our inventory of new EzGo Golf carts, new and used ATVs and side by sides, and new and used Hustler mowers online at www.MotoProz.com or stop in and see what we got! We've got something for everyone! The place to go is MotoProz!

Come see MotoProz at the Rochester Home & Lifestyles Show
Graham Arena Complex Olmsted County Fairgrounds
March 15 3 to 8 PM
March 16 10 to 6 PM
March 17 11 to 4 PM



Minnesota Farm Bureau to Host Day on the Hill

EAGAN, Minn. – The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) is set to host its annual Day on the Hill on National Ag Day, March 19, 2024.

The event invites members from across the state to come together at the state Capitol to share the stories and impact of agriculture. Last year, nearly 130 members made the trip.

"The agriculture industry plays a significant role in the state of Minnesota, and we're looking forward to highlighting that at Day on the Hill," said MFBF Director of Public Policy Pierce Bennett. "Seeing our members connect with elected officials and share their sto-

ries is always exciting."

Members will gather at the Minnesota Department of Revenue at 10 a.m. for a briefing before heading to the Capitol steps to hear from agriculture leaders and elected officials around 11:15 a.m. There will also be a tractor on display on the mall, along with facts about Minnesota agriculture. From there, members will head into the Capitol to meet with their local elected officials.

If you are interested in attending, visit www.fbmn.org for more information or contact your local county/regional Farm Bureau. Free bus transportation is available from select parts of the state.

About the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation

To ensure Minnesota's agricultural vitality, the Minnesota Farm Bureau amplifies its members' voices through engagement, grassroots advocacy and agricultural awareness. Learn more about our efforts as an advocate for our over 30,000 members and 78 county and regional Farm Bureaus at www.fbmn.org.

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MISSY'S MESSAGE

MAKING A PLAN



MISSY PAPERFUS

January 1, I committed myself to make a plan each day. I start my day by drinking 1 or 2 glasses of water. If I can't exercise right away in the morning, I figure out when I can do it later, and after breakfast I fill in my food plan for the day and try to stick to it. That is when I fill in my steps from my Fit Bit for the previous day. I have a spot to keep track of water, shooting for 8 glasses a day, but I pretty much never end up filling that part in. I don't know what it is, but filling out this sheet, helps me stick to my plan and not just grab something because it is there.

| Water Tracking | Breakfast | Lunch | Supper | Snack | Drinks | Steps | Daily Exercise |
|----------------|-----------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|----------------|
| Monday | | | | | | | |
| Tuesday | | | | | | | |
| Wednesday | | | | | | | |
| Thursday | | | | | | | |
| Friday | | | | | | | |
| Saturday | | | | | | | |
| Sunday | | | | | | | |

Missy and her husband Mike own MotoProz in Mazeppa.

MDA Offers Mini-Grant for Produce Growers

Reimbursement possible for water testing, harvest supplies, and other expenses

Minnesota produce farmers who improve their on-farm food safety systems may be eligible to reimburse those expenses through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) 2024 Produce Safety Mini-Grant, which is now accepting applications.

The Produce Safety Mini-Grant will distribute a total of approximately \$33,600. Awardees will receive up to \$800 per farm. No matching funds are required.

To be eligible, applicants must be produce growers farming in Minnesota, who grow and sell one or more of the following crops: leafy greens, apples, berries, carrots, cucumbers, garlic, green beans, herbs, melons, microgreens, mushrooms, onions, peppers, sprouts, summer squash/zucchini, or tomatoes.

Applicants must also have completed the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Produce Safety Program Grower Questionnaire at least once between 2021-2024.

Expenses must occur on or after October 1, 2023 or be planned to take place before August 2, 2024. Examples of eligible expenses include:

- Supplies to build or purchase a portable handwashing station
- Harvest totes or collection tools
- Water testing for generic coli
- Consultation fees for developing an on-farm food safety plan
- Waxed boxes and market containers

Additional information and the online application are available on the MDA website.

Farmers can contact the MDA Produce Safety Program at 651-539-3648 to request a paper copy. Applications will be accepted through 11:59 p.m. on March 30, 2024.



Funds Available to Boost Minnesota Livestock Product Sales

Meat, poultry, egg, and milk processors focus of MDA grant program

Minnesota livestock product processors seeking to start-up, modernize, or expand their businesses are encouraged to apply for the Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing (MPEM) Grant.

Funded through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), the intent of the MPEM Grant is to increase sales of Minnesota-raised livestock products by investing in equipment and physical improvements that support processing, capacity, market diversification, and market access.

The MDA anticipates awarding up to \$750,000 in 2024 MPEM Grants using a competitive review process. The maximum award amount is \$150,000, and the minimum

award amount is \$1,000. Grantees are responsible for 50% of the first \$50,000 of project expenses, and 75% of the total remaining costs above \$50,000.

Individuals (including farmers), businesses, agricultural cooperatives, nonprofits, educational institutions, local unit of governments, or tribal governments that intend to be or are engaged with livestock slaughter or processing are eligible for the MPEM Grant. Projects focused on meat and poultry processing, especially slaughtering, will be prioritized in this round of funding.

Grant applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. For further information and to submit your online application, visit the AGRI Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing Grant web page.

This call for MPEM Grant applications follows a previous round of applications announced in fall 2023. Recipients of the 2023 MPEM Grants will be announced at a forthcoming date.

Funding for the MPEM Grant is made available through the MDA's AGRI Program, which administers grants to farmers, agribusinesses, schools, and more throughout the state of Minnesota. The AGRI Program exists to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy sectors.



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Lodermeier Implement Earns Global Award

By Beth Brekke

Lodermeier's Inc. was honored with the Mathews Company's coveted North American Dealer of the Year award for 2023. The award recognizes their top-selling dealership and a large traveling trophy was presented to Lodermeier's reps during a dealer sales meeting and incentive reward trip at Hotel Xcaret Mexico in January.

The Mathews Company (M-C) began operations in 1954 and started manufacturing continuous flow grain dryers in 1957. Their motto is "Make it easy to operate, make it safe and make it last" which was coined by founder, B.C. "Matt" Mathews. M-C is currently owned by his son, daughter, grandson and granddaughter.

Nick Kloos represented the company and was able to answer questions and visit with guests during Lodermeier's customer appreciation event on February 16th.

Based in Crystal Lake, Illinois, M-C has dealers across the United States and in Canada. Lodermeier's is one of about 30 dealers across Minnesota, Iowa and Wisconsin. While some dealers have been going out of business, Lodermeier's continues to grow.

They are not the largest dealer but earned the recognition based on total sales, all made within a 125 mile radius of Goodhue. Troy Voth, Dustin Luhman and Tim Watson travel up to two-and-a-half hours within that radius to find potential customers. Voth says they are on track to earn the award again in 2024 but can only sell as many dryers as they will be able to install. Sales are done in the off-season with the team acting as project managers when the units are set up on farms in the Summer and maintained before and into the harvest.

Lodermeier's grain business began with a Butler Manufacturing equipment contract in 1963. They offer some of the best and most innovative grain equipment in the industry to dry and protect your harvested grains. This includes the M-C line of equipment known for building durable, high quality equipment designed to give years of trouble-free service to the customer. Lodermeier's experienced grain equipment team members will help you find and design a system that fits your needs. For all your ag equipment needs, stop in the shop at 38241 County 6 Blvd, Goodhue or call 651-923-4441. Find more information on the web at www.lodermeiers.net and www.mathewscompany.com.

Pictured to the right: (L-R) Nick Kloos, representing the Mathews Company attended the annual customer appreciation day at Lodermeier's, Inc. Lodermeier's was awarded their 2023 Dealer of the Year traveling trophy in January. The sales team consists of Tim Watson, Troy Voth, and Dustin Luhman.



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| <p>2021 FORD RANGER LARIAT 4WD</p> <p>Super crew cab, 5' box, 4 door, 17,475 miles, oxford white, 2.3L ecoboost, turbocharged #23209U</p> <p>SALE \$38,999</p> | <p>2022 FORD MAVERICK XLT 4WD</p> <p>Super crew cab, 4 door, oxford white, 9,130 miles, ecoboost 2.0L turbocharged #23207U</p> <p>SALE \$29,999</p> | <h3>Cold Weather Car Care</h3> <p>At Milo Peterson Ford Co., our highly qualified technicians are here to provide exceptional service in a timely manner. From oil changes to transmission replacements, we are dedicated to maintaining top tier customer service, for both new and pre-owned car buyers! Allow our staff to demonstrate our commitment to excellence.</p> <p>Call our service department to schedule your maintenance needs. Open Monday thru Friday 7:30am to 5pm.</p> | |

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35,000 Die from Antibiotic Overuse, Helium Shortage



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

An estimated 35,000 Americans die each year from antibiotic resistant infections. Worldwide, the number rises to 4.95 million. Antibiotics are extremely overused in medical practice. Antibiotics are only useful for bacterial infections, they are useless for viral infections such as colds and flu. As far as childhood ear infections goes, 70% of ear infections clear up in 3 days without treatment and 80% clear up in 10 days without treatment. In addition to risks of developing antibiotic resistant germs in your body, the floxacillin variety of antibiotics (the drug

names that end in with the word floxacillin), can increase your risk of aortic rupture and have been linked to kidney stones, colorectal cancer and inflammatory bowel disease. Most antibiotics end up in our bodies not from medical prescription but from animal meat consumption. Animal meat that is not antibiotic free becomes contaminated and a source of antibiotic resistant infections. This is just one of many reasons to only eat organic chicken, beef, pork and fresh fish that is not farm raised. If you have minor bacterial infections, there are natural antimicrobials that do not cause drug resistance. Garlic, ginger, echinacea, goldenseal, oregano oil, olive leaf extract and liposomal vitamin C to name a few. Antibiotic medical prescriptions are needed to save lives in an extreme bacterial situation and are one of the most important drugs ever discovered. Taking these drugs unnecessarily and frequently will lead to a situation that when you actually need an antibiotic for a bacterial germ, the antibiotic will not work for you.

Sauna use four to seven times per week decreased the risk of dementia by 66% and 65% for Alzheimer's disease. Sauna use appears to boost brain health by lowering inflammation and blood pressure and improving vascular function.

Did you know that the gas helium used to fill up our balloons is mined from 3000 feet underground in a natural geologic formation called the helium reservoir? The Cliffside Gas Plant in Amarillo, Texas produces up to 30% of the nation's helium supply and 9%

of the global supply. Helium is now in short supply which has the healthcare industry worried. Helium is the coldest element on Earth and is used to keep MRI machines cool. Without helium, MRI machines will not work. Three out of the five U.S. helium suppliers are now rationing helium so that MRI machines take priority over parade and party balloons. It sounds like this is the time to start blowing up balloons the old fashioned way, with our breath.

It appears that the "conspiracy theory" that Covid-19 coronavirus was developed in a lab in China is not a theory any longer. Evidence gathered through the Right to Know Act shows that the ECOHealth Alliance in 2018 proposed gain of function research (this is the type of research used to develop vaccines) on bat coronaviruses. Documents show that American scientists planned to work with China's Wuhan Institute of Virology to engineer coronaviruses with SARS_CoV-2 features the year before the virus emerged from the city. In his new book, Senator Rand Paul states that the COVID-19 pandemic was the result of Anthony Fauci's decision to fund the bat coronavirus gain of function research in China. This research was banned in the U.S. at the time. Paul goes on to say that Fauci profited from the Covid-19 pandemic disaster in the amount of 5 million dollars. In an interview on the Tucker Carlson show, Paul states that the pandemic killed millions of people and Fauci should serve prison time.

Vitamin D3, sometimes known as the "sunshine vitamin", is more than just one of the many supplements on the shelf—it's a pow-

erful player in our overall health. Vitamin D is essential for the health of our bones, but did you know that Vitamin D3 also plays a crucial role in strengthening our immune system? This is why there are less cases of colds and flu in the summertime when more people are exposed to sunshine. Then there's the topic of cancer prevention. While we don't have all the answers, research suggests that Vitamin D3 might help out again by putting up a fight against certain types of cancer cells including colorectal cancer. So, please consider how Vitamin D3 supplementation could be a simple, yet effective addition to your daily routine. It's all about giving your body a bit of extra support so that it can take care of you better.

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Fasting



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist



SCAN ME

March is a month of new beginnings and this year the beginnings seem to be coming earlier than previous years. The official start of the spring season will come this month and the month will conclude with the celebration of Easter. During this month, some will choose to abstain from a select food or activity in observance of Lent. Choosing to abstain from something can be a good exercise in self-control. This type of practice helps an individual to understand how much something truly influences their life. Perhaps during this season, you may consider the activity of fasting.

Fasting can take many forms from abstaining from one meal to not eating any food for

a few days or up to 40 days. Various religious practices around the world have incorporated fasting as a way to focus more attention on spiritual activities and less time on physical activities. However, there are some significant benefits to the physical body when a healthy fast is practiced.

A simple, healthy fast would begin in the evening after your final meal of the day. Once dinner time is complete, the fasting clock begins. No midnight snacks, only water as needed and go to bed. The majority of the first 12 hours of fasting will be spent sleeping through the night. The next day only drink water, a small amount of herbal tea, or possibly some vegetable broth, if needed. By the time you reach the next dinner hour you have stayed away from food for 24 hours. Continue drinking water only and go to bed. By the next morning, you will have completed almost 36 hours of fasting and now is a good point to break your fast with a healthy breakfast. This 36 hour fast is a good first step to practicing what fasting on a regular schedule may look like.

Benefits of fasting include:

- Reduces high blood sugar levels
- Decreases high insulin levels and reduces insulin insensitivity
- Increases immune cell activity
- Improves clarity of thinking
- Can reduce inflammation
- Stimulates detoxification systems in the liver and kidneys

When you go into a fasting season, you force the cells of your body to do some clean up work. Activity inside the cells will remove anything that has become non-functional or is unhelpful. With this activity,

cleaning helps the cell to prioritize healthy activity. This can be a helpful activity when your body is recovering from an illness. Improving healthy activity at the cellular level is what fasting stimulates.

A variation of fasting is becoming popular with many individuals called Intermittent Fasting. The general concept is reducing the window of time each day when food is consumed. Instead of eating food within a 12 hour window of the day, the time frame may be reduced to only 6 hours in the day. The remaining 18 hours of the day would only drink water or sleep. Some individuals reduce the eating more strictly to only 4 hours per day for eating, or only eating every other day. Intermittent fasting has gained popularity since 2010 when research studies on animals observed the animals living longer when their food intake was restricted.

While fasting may seem the exact opposite of living a full life, consider how the alternative has affected our society. We live in a culture where no restriction is given. You are encouraged to eat at all times of the day and to eat whatever you want. Grocery stores are filled with more choices than you know what to choose. The result has been increased obesity, increased diabetes, chronic inflammation, and a generation that does not know how to prepare healthy food. An occasional season of fasting can help bring clarity and focus to food preparation and a healthy lifestyle.

I invite you to join me this spring at the Northfield Holistic Health Summit "New Beginnings" Saturday, May 4, 2024, to learn more about healthy lifestyle choices and the resources available to you. Ten local health

practitioners will be presenting information on – herbs, homeopathy, acupuncture, toxins, neurology, allergy therapy, and more. Come join us for the day and enjoy a healthy catered meal by Café Shawn. More information at <https://www.nutritionproportion.net/health-summit2024> or scan the QR code.

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. 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

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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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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.

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Rainfall Monitoring Network Seeks Volunteers

Participants provide important data about precipitation, climate trends

By Minnesota DNR

The Minnesota State Climatology Office is seeking rainfall monitors for the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network.

The network includes more than 20,000 volunteers nationwide who measure precipitation in their backyards using a standard 4-inch diameter rain gauge.

Participants submit their precipitation reports online. The data from backyard rain gauges are a critical source of information and it's beneficial to add more volunteer weather observers each year, even in areas where there are already volunteers.

"Rainfall and snowfall amounts can vary widely over a short distance, so a variety of reports is helpful in the same community or area," State Climatologist Luigi Romolo said. "We have some areas in greater Minnesota that have very few reporting stations. The more we have across the state, the better information we all have."

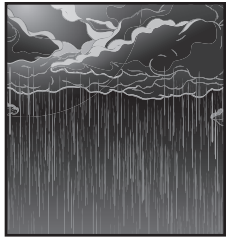
"Over time, as more volunteer reports make our precipitation maps more accurate, these observations provide critical guidance on Minnesota's changing climate," Romolo added. "This is also a great educational activity for families with kids and a rewarding hobby for anyone interested in weather or climate."

Volunteers are particularly needed outside the immediate Twin Cities metro area. Volunteers receive training on how to observe weather trends and how to submit their precipitation and weather event reports. All training material is available online. Participants must purchase or provide a standard 4-inch diameter rain gauge (available at discount through CoCoRaHS) and have internet access to submit reports.

For the past four years, Minnesota has won the "CoCoRaHS Cup" for recruiting the most new volunteers of any state. "We're hoping Minnesotans will again come through in 2024

to keep the cup in Minnesota and, more important of course, to improve our state's precipitation recording," Romolo said.

To sign up or for more information, visit CoCoRaHS.org opens in a new browser tab or contact Luigi Romolo at luigi.romolo@state.mn.us opens in a new browser tab.



Historical Happenings

Compiled by
Helen Reiland

THE MAZEPPA JOURNAL, Editor and Publisher: Barbara and Reider Tommeraas
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1955- CONTINUED

Obituaries

PETER JOHN REILAND

Peter John Reiland of Rivera, Calif., passed away Tuesday morning at Rochester Methodist Hospital at the age of 75, from cancer. He had been ill since May.

Mr. Reiland, son of Mike and Veronica Reiland, was born June 14, 1880 in Pine Island Township, and attended country school. He was married at Wabasha Nov. 23, 1905, to Agnes Baker, who survives with two stepdaughters, Mrs. Ina Rovelstad of Red Wind and Mrs. Bessie Jones of Mazeppa.

Also surviving are one sister, Mrs. Susan Clemens, a sister-in-law, Mrs. Matt Reiland and brother-in-law, George A. Swanson of Hager City, Wis., and eight nieces and nephews. A twin sister and brother Matt preceded him in death.

Mr. Reiland resided at Pine Island and Mazeppa until 1942, when he went to California and worked in the Richmond ship yards, and later at Rivera.

Pallbearers were Nick Smith, Jim Smith, Nick Reiland, John Reiland, Bernard Reiland and Arthur Reiland. Interment was in the Mazeppa Catholic cemetery.

Mr. Reiland had a host of friends in Mazeppa, and came back here to visit every year after making his home in California. He will be missed by all who knew him.

***Peter Reiland and Nick Brucher were in the real estate business: their slogan was "WE SELL DIRT CHEAP"

RICHARD WHIPPLE

Richard Alan Whipple, 16-day-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Whipple of Rochester, died of congenital heart disease Monday evening at St. Mary's hospital, where the child was born Dec. 4.

Survivors, in addition to the parents, are a brother, Ronald Edward; sisters Suzanne Kay and Nancy Jean; grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Nash of Wykoff and grandmother, Mrs. Mary Whipple of Zumbro Falls.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday at the R.C. Ranfranz and Son Funeral Home by the Rev. Walter W. Eifert, and burial was in Oakwood cemetery.

Hope He Makes It

Thanks to information from Harvey Tri, we note that Kerwin Engelhart, former Mazeppan, is one of 27 outstanding Air Force basketball players approved for the Olympic tryout program the AF is conducting. By Dec. 22, when the AF team plays its first game at Bunker Hill, AFB Ind., the group will be about 12 strong. The inter-service tryout tourney will be not later than Mar. 21, and the winning team will select the final 14 players to meet AAU and college hoopsters in the final Olympic tryouts. Lt. Engelhart has been stationed Yokota AB, Japan.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1955

Town Team To Play Goodhue Friday

The newly organized Mazeppa town basketball team will meet Goodhue's town team here this Friday evening at the high school gym. Game time has been set for 8 p.m. Admission is 35c for adults, 15c students and Grades 1-6 free.

The team has had two practice games to date and prospects for future games seem bright. The visiting Goodhue five is expected to give the Mazeppa squad a real ball game and everyone is invited to be on hand for a good night's entertainment.

J. Walter Manahan Patents Hand Truck

Two and a half years of hard work, experiments and more experiments were successfully accomplished this week for J. Walter Manahan of Mazeppa who patented a new type hand truck that is more efficient and handles easier than models in existence at the present.

The new hand truck works on the principle of a tilt and lift with a controlled center of balance through a method of shifting fulcrum which enables operator to handle a 1,000 pound plus load with comparative ease not attained with present modes. It is also made with an interchangeable platform whereby same carriage may be used for bags, packages, brick, tile or cement blocks.

Mr. Manahan started work on the project two and half years ago having experienced difficulty with present hand truck models in warehouse work. The thought occurred to him then that a more efficient and more easily handled model could be made. After much thought, hundreds of hours of hard work, delays, and failures, the present successful model was finally made.

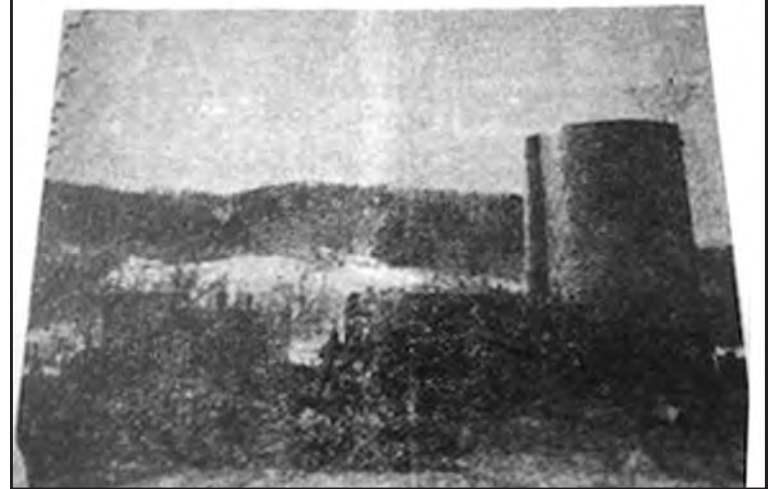
Quentin Majerus of Bellechester, development engineer for Mr. Manahan, has, according to the latter, been of inestimable assistance in helping bring the project to a successful conclusion. Also, aiding in an advisory capacity is Mr. Elmer Fuglie of Winona (former Mazeppa resident).

Ore Oelkers is a part of the inventor and has actively taken a part in the manufacture of the truck.

Plans for manufacturing the hand truck are in process of organization at the present time.

Congratulations are offered the partners on their new unit and best wishes extended for their future operations.

Warren Grossback Barn Lost in Fire Sunday



Prepare to Pay the Price for More "Clean" Energy



Rep. Pam Altendorf (R) District: 20A

Perhaps you've heard an old tale that goes something like this: one day the sun and wind challenged each other to see which could force a man to remove his coat. The wind went first, trying to blow the jacket off the man's body with overwhelming gusts. It didn't work. The sun then gently shined light down on that man, who went from clutching his coat to taking it off as the warmth of the sun persisted.

Moral of the story: you can often accomplish more with a delicate, not overpowering approach.

In Minnesota, many are concerned about unreliable and costly energy choices being forcibly inflicted upon them. Last session, Governor Walz signed a bill into law that mandates carbon-free energy (in other words, eliminating coal and natural gas) in Minnesota by the year 2040. The cost: \$313 billion.

Because the energy infrastructure does not

currently exist in Minnesota to meet this mandate, energy producers will be forced to update and replace what is currently in place. Anyone who knows anything about business understands that this increased cost will ultimately be passed back to the paying consumer through higher energy bills. In this scenario, the \$313 billion amount translates to nearly \$3,900 per family, per year.

Starting this month a new Democrat-approved law will give you a \$2,500 rebate if you purchase an electric vehicle (EV). With the average price of a new EV ranging from \$50,000 to \$70,000, who among us will take advantage of this rebate? Clearly, it's not low-to-middle class income drivers, which means the government is now using your tax dollars to entice rich drivers to buy expensive EV's.

In addition to our state government picking winners and losers in the new car sales game, there is the major problem that the State of Minnesota simply does not have the infrastructure to charge a large amount of EV's. Over a recent cold snap in Chicago, we all watched as travelers were stranded next to their vehicles because the weather conditions didn't allow EV stations to work. The same will eventually happen here, just more often, as our cold snaps last significantly longer than they do in Chicago during normal winters.

This session, it's expected that the Walz administration will adopt California's "Clean Transportation Standard." Doing so will raise fuel prices by at least 50-cents per-gallon and will cost southeastern Minnesota's families between \$400 to \$600 more each year. Not only will these tax increases disproportionately hurt the working poor but will also hurt our economy and hammer border businesses. There's no doubt in my mind that people in Red Wing will drive over to Hager City, Wisconsin to fill up if that means saving \$10 each time they refuel.

We all should have the same goals: clean, reliable, affordable, and smart energy. So how do we get there? Nuclear. More specifically, other proactive countries and states are choosing new small modular nuclear technologies. Remarkably, nuclear is about as clean and reliable of an energy source that is available. New technology nuclear is forward thinking versus embracing wind and solar which is costly, inefficient - especially in Minnesota's long, dark winters - and replacement is needed every 10-20 years. Did you know solar panels and wind turbines are not recyclable? Does that sound very "green" to you? Yet, elected Democrats last session voted against an amendment that would finally remove the moratorium on nuclear energy. By doing so they're not allowing Minnesotans to explore best energy options.

Our state is making reckless energy decisions that put us at risk of upsetting our energy grid and causing rolling blackouts.

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Many Minnesotans are financially hurting and didn't ask for and do not want increases in additional gas taxes at the pump and excessive energy costs on our monthly statements.

While clean and efficient energy policies should be a priority, Governor Walz could learn a thing or two from the tale of the sun and wind. Forcing unprecedented, unreliable, dangerous and expensive energy legislation onto the people of Minnesota is only making many residents clutch their jackets tighter. Your voice matters. Contact the Walz administration and demand accountability and balance in these crucial legislative decisions.

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Rep. Steven Jacob

DISTRICT 20B



NEWS

Hello from the State Capitol,

There was a minor positive and a major negative unveiled in Minnesota's most updated state budget forecast.

Minnesota's economic experts found that our state projects a positive balance of \$3.7 billion for the remainder of the current fiscal year but also finds a \$1.5 billion deficit for the upcoming budget cycle.

If you're a fan of instant gratification, you'll take positives from the surplus projection for the remainder of this fiscal year. But if you care at all about our state's long term fiscal health, you'll see we've got a big problem staring us in the face. If the Democrats wastefully spend the surplus that exists in this current budget cycle, that problem is going to worsen substantially.

The Democrats' deficit could have been avoided by using common sense while enacting their budget last session. At that time, Minnesota had a nearly \$20 billion budget surplus. By the time session ended in May, the Democrat majority spent every bit of that amount, raised taxes by an additional \$10 billion so they could continue their spending spree, and ultimately crafted a budget that increased state spending by 40%.

As part of the forecast presentation, Minnesota's budget experts found that spending will significantly outpace income revenues during Fiscal Year 26-27.

This means any new and permanent spending the Democrats approve this year will only increase the deficit projection their decisions have created. It's my hope they will recognize that we are nearing the edge of a fiscal cliff and will finally stop their reckless spending.

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Regular Meeting of the Mazeppa City Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 14, 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 Liffri, Michael Hammes, Erica Young, and Dustin Wiebusch.

Others Present: City Attorney Luke Lamprecht, City Engineer Matt Mohs, Wabasha County Sheriff's Deputy Jason Bade, Municipal Liquor Store Manager Todd Ihrke, Chad Peterson from Kalass Agency, Nate Arendt, Andrew Miller, and Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

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

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

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve the January 10, 2024 regular City Council meeting minutes and the January 24, 2024 special meeting minutes. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Wabasha County Sheriff's Deputy Jason Bade presented the monthly Incident Command Report. A Council member mentioned that a small blue Ford had been speeding down 1st Ave. every morning during the week.

Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang read the

Public Works report.

Mr. Nahrgang read the Fire Department report.

Municipal Liquor Store Manager Todd Ihrke gave the liquor store report.

City Engineer Matt Mohs gave an engineering update. He gave information on an MPCA stormwater resiliency grant that would pay for some non-covered items to replace culverts that would be displaced during the sewer collection system upgrade along 3rd Ave. NE.

Motion by Hammes, second by Wiebusch to approve Bolton and Menk to submit an application for the Minnesota Pollution Control Stormwater Resiliency grant. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

City Administrator Karl Nahrgang gave a City Hall activities report.

Andrew Miller presented information on a re-application for a MN DNR trail connection grant. The first application was reviewed by MN DNR but was not chosen. The reviewer gave feedback on improvements that would increase the chances of being awarded a grant in the next grant cycle. The City would be required to provide a 25% match. Match can be a combination of City funds, donations, and in-kind service. Local community service groups had expressed interest in donating to the project.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to approve Resolution 2024-05 in support of the trail grant submission. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffri to approve applying to the MN DNR for the trail connection grant. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve the drafting of maps showing future phases of the proposed trail system as part of the MN DNR grant application. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to approve building permits 24-818-001, 238 Chestnut St. - furnace replacement. 24-818-002, 361 13th Ave. SE - Furnace replacement. 21-818-003, 710 River Bluff Rd. - water heater replacement. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to approve Ordinance 2023-05 regarding fence setbacks in Land Management Ordinance Article IV, Section 13. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Chad Peterson of Kalass Agency presented 2024 property and casualty insurance options.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to NOT waive tort limits. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to waive medical payments coverage. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to keep open meeting law coverage. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffri to set City Cleanup Day for Saturday, May 4, 2024, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Liffri to approve sidewalk replacement for the East side

of 3rd Ave. NE from Maple St. to Chestnut St., East side of 2nd Ave. NE from Chestnut St. to Elm St., and complete sidewalk on the West side of 2nd Ave. NE between Maple St. and Chestnut St. at a cost off \$31,425.00 quoted by Next Level Excavating and Contracting. No work will be started until school year is complete. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Liffri to approve Illinois Casualty Company as the liquor liability insurance provider for the Mazeppa Municipal Liquor Store at an annual rate of \$4031. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

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

City Attorney Luke Lamprecht reviewed abstracts for the parcels at the south end of Herb Vik Park as part of the WWTP project's new location and found inconsistencies. He suggests that the parcels in question be surveyed and move forward with a quiet title action to correct these inconsistencies.

Motion by Hammes, second by Wiebusch to approve surveying and taking a quiet title action on parcels R23.00226.03, R23.00226.00, R23.00426.00, and R23.00425.00. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Council thanked those that helped with the Winterfest events that were able to be held.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Administrator-Clerk

Lefse

Recipe by Mrs. H.V. Anderson

Ever long to make fresh lefse yourself? Here is a recipe that is time proven.

- 5 cups mashed or riced potatoes
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 tbsp butter or cream added while potatoes are hot
- Let stand while covered until real cold
- Add 2 cups flour, work in real well
- Take a small piece and roll real thin, using as little flour as possible
- Bake on top of stove, turn real often until slightly browned all over



Zumbro Falls City Council Minutes - January 10, 2024

The Zumbro Falls City Council met at 6PM at City Hall with all members present along with Fire Chief, Scott Kennedy, also attending was Mike Bubany from David Drown, and Assoc.

Clerk read the minutes from the December meeting which were accepted as read by a motion from Benson, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Treasurer's report followed with a motion to accept by Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Mike Bubany was asked to attend the meeting to discuss with council how TIF affects the City's finances now and in the future so council could get a better understanding how TIF works.

Scott said the Township Budget meeting is set for February 13th. Discussion was made on the replacing of Grass rig #12 which is 20 years old. Scott asked council if the yearly pay for the 2nd Assistant position, (which has ended in the new structure), could be divided between the Training Officer and the Assistant. Council agreed to split the \$1,000.00 as follows: \$500.00 to the Training Officer, \$250.00 to the Assistant Training Officer, and \$250.00 added to the Fire Chief's pay. This approved by a motion from Benson, seconded Bankers, all in favor, carried

Donations to the Fire Department are as follows: \$1,000.00 from the ZF Fire Relief for Fire Equipment, \$98,000.00 from ZF Fire Relief for the Truck Fund, \$250.00 from Thoren Mangold, and \$500.00 from Jack Priggens to go into the general fund of the Fire Department. All donations accepted by a motion from Bankers, seconded Anderson, all in favor carried.

Resolution 24-01 was put in place with a motion from Bankers, seconded Benson, all in favor, carried. This resolution is the schedule of fees for the year 2024.

Council agreed to the following to represent the City: Lake City Paper, Lakeshore Agency, Minnwest Bank, Attorney firm Hoff, Barry and Kosar, Bolten and Menk for City Engineering Firm, Paul Bankers as acting Mayor, Bruce Heitmann as weed inspector and the ZF Fire Relief Trustees are the Mayor and Clerk. Polling places remain in the Post Office, Falls Standard and Rod's Service. Motion to accept by Benson, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Jason Faas has agreed to be the Planning and Zoning Administrator for the year 2024.

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

Submitted by,
Susan Eischens, Clerk

As warmer weather approaches, I like to think of relaxing outdoors, enjoying my flower gardens in bloom, and generally being at peace. However, what I also see are PROJECTS. Most are mundane, moving a perennial or two, edging a flowerbed, maybe adding mulch to the landscaping. Others seem overwhelming. Re-siding the house, replacing a window, and cleaning the garage all seem to be the scary monster I don't want to meet.

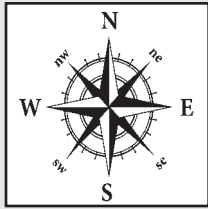
At the City, its very much the same. There are always more projects than funding. I can think of several sidewalks that need rehabilitation, streets that need rebuilding or resurfacing, and stormwater projects that would improve safety and conveniences for motorists and homeowners. We try to select some of each type of project to keep progressing the overall livability of the community. Some projects must wait to be done in conjunction with others. When parts of the wastewater collection system are upgraded, those areas will see other improvements that had to wait for the underground items to be completed. The plan is always to have problem free projects and that the outcomes are everything we expect.

The City is always observing and evaluating to determine what we can do next and how to fund it. Much the same many of us do while sitting on our patio trying to relax, constantly observing what needs to be done next.

CLERK CHATTER

By Karl Nahrgang
Administrator Clerk,
City of Mazeppa

Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes Self-Checkouts and the "Pig"



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.



I do not care for self-checkouts. I never wanted to be a cashier at Dollar General. When I go to a store I expect to be waited on. I stop at the Piggly Wiggly in town. The "Pig" was the first self-service grocery store in the country. It started in 1916 in Tennessee, and no one knows why the name. But down here everyone loves them and refers to them as the "Pig". Originally no one shopped for groceries. You gave your list to the clerk, who filled your order. The Piggly Wiggly changed all that.

There are always a couple smiling faces from the clerks standing at the checkout lines. They are genuinely friendly and talkative. Southern kids seem more respectful and courteous. They check the egg carton for cracked eggs. The other night the young girl went to ring up my groceries and she noticed a rip in the brown sugar bag. I never saw it, but she ran off to get another one off the shelf before finishing up my purchase. They have carry-out kids as well. They put the bags in the cart and start for the door. You just walk behind them and point them to your vehicle. They ask about your day, talk about the weather, inquire about your plans for the weekend. It is refreshing to have a pleasant visit. I usually have my old black lab in the back seat of my pickup and they say hello to my dog and tell me about their pet, while stacking the bags in the front seat. I don't ever expect Piggly Wiggly will have self-checkouts.

One evening I had to drive to Clarkesville to get dog food. I feed NutriSource dog food. It is a high-quality food and that was the closest store that sells it. It's a forty-five minute drive to J-M Petland. I take State Hwy 79

into Clarkesville and turn on Charlemagne which intersects Fort Campbell Boulevard. Charlemagne Blvd is where the tornado hit Clarkesville in December of 2023. Over ninety homes were destroyed along that road.

I don't go up Fort Campbell Blvd very far. It will take you right into the Army base. I tried going to Fort Campbell one time to get an item my wife bought off marketplace. I had to stop at the guard shack to get permission to enter the base. They asked for driver's license, proof of insurance and vehicle registration. There was a very grumpy guard on duty. My insurance card had my name, address, vehicle information and VIN. He asked where my vehicle registration was and I said the info was on my insurance card. He wouldn't even look at it. He just looked at me and barked back that shouldn't even show up without the proper documentation, I was told to leave immediately and "Next". I left feeling fortunate I wasn't shot over this infraction.

On my way back from the pet store I stopped at the Dollar General outside of Woodlawn. I recall a red Mustang convertible leaving as I pulled in. I went in to get some plastic flowers for a window box on our house. We don't plant real flowers so we don't have to water them. I selected my red, blue and yellow flowers and looked for a clerk. No one was to be found. I went to the self-check out and rang up my order, paid with my card and looked around before leaving. It was after 9pm and no one in the store. I walked out to my pick-up and then noticed there wasn't another vehicle in the parking lot. I had just shopped at a non-staffed store. Maybe the girl in the red Mustang was the employee and just decided to go home early for the night.

As I drove home, I pondered this experience. There are big cities where people loot stores and shoplift merchandise at will. Some stores have to lock up items to keep them from walking out with light fingered shoppers. I am so happy to live in a place in Tennessee where people have integrity and be part of a community where the honor system works because the people there can be trusted. Nationwide the trend for self-checkout seems to be reversing. Todd Vasos, Dollar General CEO just announced that a number of stores opened in the last year with self-checkout only, will be converted back to conventional clerk checkout shortly. It seems that shrinkage at these un-manned stores is more than double the national average. I stopped by at the local DG the other day to buy an electric shaver. After I completed my task as a checkout clerk, I headed out. I hadn't been trained on how to deactivate the magnetic tab on the box. That is where the alarm went off. I had tripped the theft alarm at the front door with my shaver purchase. I wasn't paid to be part of the loss prevention team so I just walked to my car with the alarm bell ringing in my ear.

A Minnesotan: Easter Bunnies



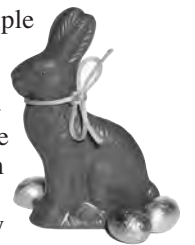
By RosaLin Alcoser

There are many things to be said about Easter Sunday. From egg hunts to new Easter hats to funny Easter morning sermons that we've all heard at church. All of which I could go on and on about.

One of the things that has always been my favorite since I learned about chocolate has been Chocolate Easter Bunnies. But my love for them is nothing compared to the love my father has for chocolate bunnies. He loves them so much that I have seen him sing about them as he does a little dance. What he especially loves to do is to bite their ears off.

About two Easters ago my father, the

pastor, was given multiple chocolate Easter bunnies by members of his churches. He was probably given about four or five bunnies that year from church members plus the one that we had already gotten for him.



The fact that he had multiple bunnies excited him to no end and that afternoon he felt he needed to bite the ears off of each chocolate bunny in succession. So we stood with the camera ready to watch him do just that, because one of those church members who had given him a bunny asked to get a photo when he went to bite the one she gave him.

So, he went down the line biting into the ear of each chocolate bunny and then he got to that last one that we had been asked to take the photo of. And when he bit into it, it wasn't chocolate, but instead was hollow plastic. It looked so much like it was real chocolate he didn't even suspect that it wasn't real. After that he started to shake it and take it apart in hopes that there would be candy inside of the plastic bunny.

However, it was much like the tomb when he opened it up there was nothing there. The disappointment painted across his face when it dawned on him that he had been tricked was like no other. It was also the exact reason we were asked to photograph the moment.

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Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls
Messenger

HAPPY EASTER

**WISHING YOU AND YOURS A
WONDERFUL HOLIDAY!**

From All of Us at the Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger



Open Grants Support Literacy and Community Beautification



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

100,000 children have been impacted by this grant which aims to enhance school readiness for children from birth to age eight by providing books to families. Schools, libraries and other early childhood-focused organizations have received this grant in the past which has been essential for building children's confidence as readers throughout the region. The program receives books through partnerships with publishing companies, Capstone and ABDO, which helps ensure a diverse selection of books are available for families to read to their children. Applications are due March 5, 2024. Contact Heidi Coulter at heidic@smifoundation.org with questions.

I always look forward to the Paint the Town Grant cycle which offers free paint for various community beautification projects. In Peterson, the public library now has a mural on the side of the building that depicts a gnome mailing a letter, adding to a community-wide gnome theme which draws tourism to the area. In Elmore, a mural was created by keeping most of the design low to the ground. This enabled people to sit down while painting, making an inclusive process for those unable to climb ladders. By making this grant specific to towns under 10,000, SMIF can help small communities access resources that are sometimes limited.

In the past, the Paint the Town Grant has been made available for murals, historic structures and welcome signs. I am excited for a new component that communities can apply for this year: the ability to use paint for public art and creative placemaking projects. I look forward to seeing what projects com-



munities use paint for that contribute to the vibrancy of their town. Applications for this program are due by March 28, 2024. Contact Alissa Oeltjenbruns at alissao@smifoundation.org with questions.

Several more grants will open up later this year. During the summer, we will open up the Small Town Grant program which supports communities with populations of 10,000 or less with projects that impact the culture, education, economy and social aspects of the town. In the fall, the Early Care and Education Grants will open, which support important services for children birth to age five. Around the same time, the Inclusive

and Equitable Communities Grant will open, which supports equitable entrepreneurship. To learn more about these grants, visit smifoundation.org/grants.

Over the past 38 years, SMIF's grants have been able to make significant, and sometimes even visible, progress in southern Minnesota, contributing to early learning, economic development and community vitality. I can't wait to see how organizations use this year's grants to make our region an even better place to call home.

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

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