



MAZEPPA and ZUMBRO FALLS

Mazeppa-Zumbro Falls Messenger™

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Announcements

• **Celebration of Life-"David Perrotte"** will be Saturday, June 15, 1-4 pm at the Mazeppa Community Center.

• **Mazeppa Area Historical Society Summer hours: the 2nd & 4th Saturday of the months of June, July & August from 1-3 p.m.**

• **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@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: celebraterecoverysouthtroy@gmail.comat.

• **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 Hoelt 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

Business Highlight: Zumbro Falls Winery

By Tara Gullickson

Kevin purchased his stunning 80-acre property 31 years ago and has evolved it into the little slice of heaven it is today, weaved between the rolling hills of lush green, located off Highway 63 in Zumbro Falls.

Zumbro Falls Golf Club was built in 1999; this year marks the 24th season of golf since the business opened its doors to the community and surrounding areas. In the summer of 2015, Kevin and his wife Laura were enjoying a glass of wine on their deck when he turned to her and said, "For as much wine as we drink, we should plant grapes". Kevin and Laura quickly devised a plan to expand their services in the local area utilizing space on their current property and spent that entire winter researching viticulture.

(continued on page 7)



Mazeppa Daze: Field of Flags



The Mazeppa Veteran's Honor Guard kindly invites the community out to the 17th Annual Field of Flags opening ceremony, which will be held at the ball field at Jaycee's Walking Bridge Park in Mazeppa on Thursday, July 11th; the opening ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. The Mazeppa Field of Flags ceremony is a touching tribute honoring deceased family members and loved ones, regardless of their military background, in a breathtaking view of red, white, and blue. Mazeppa Veteran's Honor Guard invites those interested in helping place flags to please come up as names are being called and walk the flag to its appropriate marker. The Mazeppa American Legion Post #588 encourages all who wish to participate in this year's ceremony by honoring a deceased loved one to please pre-pay for their flag(s), before the Field of Flags opening ceremony.

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Mazeppa Youth Pageant

The Miss Mazeppa Committee will be coordinating a youth pageant this year in Mazeppa. Children within the Mazeppa and Zumbrota communities, who are entering the third grade in the 2024-2025 school year, are encouraged to participate in this wholesome family event. The Little Miss and Master event is a new and exciting opportunity for young children to participate in the Mazeppa Daze festivities, this event is designed to be purely for fun.

(continued on page 3)

MAZEPPA DAZE JULY 12th-14th, 2024

But First, COFFEE

- Mocha's (Iced/Hot)
- Latte's (Iced/Hot)
- Drip Coffee
- Refresher's
- Herbal Tea Blend's
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- Smoothies
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ALSO OPEN IN ROCHESTER AT APACHE MALL THROUGH JULY!

Speak to Me



By Pastor Colleen Hoeft

Father's Day not only a day to honor your father, but all men who act as a father figure. Stepfathers, Fathers-in-law, uncles, grandfathers, spiritual fathers, etc. are all honored on Father's Day. Dads do make a difference

A positive and continuous relationship to one's father has been found to be associated with a good self-concept, higher self-esteem, higher self-confidence in personal and social interaction, higher moral maturity, reduced rates of unwed teen pregnancy, greater internal control, and higher career aspirations. Fathers who are affectionate, nurturing and actively involved in child-rearing are more likely to have well-adjusted children.

Meet Samuel, he has lived in the temple as Eli, the priest's, assistant since he was 6 years old. He served by keeping the candles lit in the temple and probably many other odd jobs around the place, as well as attending to an aging priest. One night when Eli was sleeping and Samuel is sleeping near the lamp of God, Samuel hears someone calling to him. "Samuel, Samuel,"

He runs to Eli and calls out, 'here I am.' Eli is a little annoyed- I didn't call you—go back to bed. A second time Samuel heard his name being called and he ran to Eli again- and again Eli's response is, "I didn't call you- go back to bed." A third time Samuel again hears his name and runs to Eli; Then Eli realized that God was calling Samuel. God's voice had been absent so long it wasn't even recognized by the priest! Eli said go back to bed and listen and answer if you are called again.

Samuel went back to his bed and waited. I'm sure he didn't sleep- I mean- he'd been up and over to Eli 3 times already- Verse 10 says, "The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Every time God spoke and gave someone an assignment, it would challenge their faith. It would stretch them. It was never easy to hear. If you have the faith, the courage to pray, "speak to me, Lord," and when God does, I hope you'll know that the message may convict you. His voice will challenge you. What He asks you to do may seem completely impossible but I can promise you this: His voice will stretch you and teach you to depend on him and live with even greater faith.

We need to be ready to accept the message that God is giving us. When we pray – it may be scary, or startling, it may stretch you and it may seem totally impossible. That's the kind of prayers that God loves to answer; speak Lord, I'm listening

Samuel was ready for Him now- Speak Lord, I am listening. Samuel had no idea what he was getting into. Samuel listened- and he heard a tough message; God was showing him what was to become of Eli and his family. He didn't know what to expect when he got the call. Don't ask God to speak- if you don't want to hear what he says.

Prayer in its essence is communicating with our God, our Father, going before his throne of grace, and any form of real, meaningful communication is not just one-way communication. Jesus said we can cry out Abba- Daddy- to communicate with His Fa-

ther. It always reminds me of climbing up on my Dad's lap to just sit- to listen to and enjoy his company. To just be with him. God wants us to be 'with Him' to hear Him and to know Him. In other words, praying to God isn't us just talking to him, but praying is actually listening to God. In fact, I would argue that God has done way more when I listened to him than when I talked to him.

God is a speaking God. So, you may say, "Okay, I'm in. "I know it's dangerous, but I want to pray. "I want to hear the voice of God. "How do I hear the voice of God?"

Three spiritual thoughts to hear the voice of God:

- Be still before God. This goes against all of the trajectory of everything in culture, fight to be still before God, to pause and to rest in his presence.

- God speaks through His Word. He directs, guides, corrects. Hebrews 4:12. We need to read it and do what it says!

- God speaks through people. God may use a sermon to speak to you. He may use a good friend or teacher.

- God speaks through circumstances. For Jonah to get turned around God sent a storm and a fish. To help me see that drinking was wrong I woke up on a railroad track. Sometimes it is the loss of a job that will steer you a different direction or health or family situations... God can change our courses and help us to discover His plan if we are open to listening. We need to learn to thank God for those closed doors and be thankful for the future opportunities before us.

- God speaks through His Spirit. When I said I heard God- it wasn't audible- but it was a prompting from the Holy Spirit. It can happen through imagination, dreaming, a vi-

sion, feeling God's pleasure as we begin a journey with Him. The more you listen the more you recognize His voice—Be still!

- Be Willing: Often our prayers are long babblings- repetitive sentences that have lost their meaning. We need to be willing to be honest before God. We need to be willing to do what He calls us to do.

A warning: Make sure you've obeyed what He showed you last! God isn't going to show you what to do tomorrow if you haven't obeyed Him today. If you find yourself asking, "why don't I sense God? Why don't I feel His presence? It may be that you haven't done what He already told you to do in the past.

- Be Ready. When Samuel said, "Speak Lord"- he was ready to listen. When God speaks you may not like what you hear. You might not feel ready to do what He has asked. God calls us to do hard things- but with those hard things He gives us what we need to accomplish them. We had those that didn't think we could raise the funds for the addition on South Troy, but God had other plans. God may call you to move to a different state, or to change your career. He may be telling you to invite your boss to church or break up with the person you're dating. He may call you to forgive that one that hurt you.

Every time God spoke to people in the Bible- and even now- they felt unprepared, unequipped, and unqualified. God doesn't speak to those that aren't listening. He calls those that have willing hearts and faith to believe. Don't fear- You are exactly in the right place. Have Faith. Pray Speak Lord! The only thing more dangerous than praying this prayer- is not praying this prayer!



Business & Subscription Office:
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Pastor Dan Reich
507-753-2576 • 35933 Cty. Rd. 17, Lake City, MN
Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.

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Mass 9:00a.m.

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AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY
Keep Up the Good Work!

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. — Galatians 6:9

It can be hard not to grow weary of doing good. Physically tired, emotionally and spiritually drained, we might be ready to give up.

The brokenness in our world knows no end. There is always another hungry person to be fed. No sooner is a hospital bed open, and another person fills it. Someone who is healthy today will be sick tomorrow. In a sinful and broken world, there will always be hungry, sick, lonely, imprisoned, or impoverished people. Wars and rumors of wars will always produce refugees. The world's problems will last until Jesus returns. In the meantime, though, we are encouraged, "Do not grow weary of doing good!" And only in God's strength can we continue. We may certainly resign from a committee, leave a specific ministry of mercy, and stop volunteering at a soup kitchen. But we must not grow weary of doing good! If we change ministries, we can still continue to minister in other ways. In the end, as we become people who must be fed, clothed, and visited, our ministry may be reduced to a smile, an encouraging word, or a prayer. And that may be our most effective ministry of all. By God's grace, may we all rejoice to hear the words "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Dear Jesus, sometimes we grow weary and discouraged. Help us, in the power of your Spirit, to press on. Thank you for giving us eternal life and for welcoming us into your kingdom. Amen.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ORONOCO

10:00a.m. Worship
20 - 3rd St. SW, Oronoco, MN
507-367-4711 • www.oronocochurch.org

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Dave Neil
180 2nd Ave NE, Mazeppa • 843-4962
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

ZUMBRO COMMUNITY CHURCH

Dave Mohler
58354 Cty. Rd. 7, Zumbro Falls
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

SOUTH TROY WESLEYAN CHURCH

Pastor Colleen Hoeft
56187 Hwy. 63, Zumbro Falls
www.southtroywesleyan.org • 507-259-1442
Sunday 10:30a.m.
Sunday 5:00p.m. Celebrate Recovery -
5pm- meal, 5:45 large group and 6:30 small groups.
Wednesday Kids and Teen worship at 6pm -
meal at 6, followed by worship and small groups.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

80 3rd Ave. S., Hammond, MN
Sunday worship at 11:00 a.m.
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Pastor Al Horn • 507-843-5302
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

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

Special Service held at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church



Pastor Dan Reich of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, retiring teacher Alice Atkinson, and congregational vice-chairman Dean Klein

On Sunday, May 19, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (also known as “Lincoln Church”) or rural Lake City held a special service “praising God and commemorating 58 years of teaching Sunday school by teacher Alice Atkinson,” the church said in a news release.

Atkinson began her teaching career when in 1966 she began to assist Hariet Siewert in teaching the kindergarten class. Over the years she taught all grade levels, the last 12 teaching grades 6-8. Countless numbers of students learned about Jesus from Alice. Nine pastors were privileged to serve Trinity during her long tenure.

Last fall Alice decided that the time was right to finish her career after the current school year. With the end of the Sunday school year on May 19, the congregation recognized her faithful service. After the service the congregation presented her with a commemorative plaque and hosted a meal in her honor.

Mazeppa Youth Pageant

(continued from page 1)

Your child will have a moment in the spotlight in front of their family, friends, and community members. The Little Miss and Mister event will take place before the Crowning Ceremony of the new Miss

Mazeppa Royalty at the ball field of Jaycee’s Walking Bridge Park in Mazeppa on Thursday, July 11 at 6:00 p.m.; prior to the Field of Honor ceremony. To participate in this year’s first annual Little Miss and Mister event please locate the application on the Miss Mazeppa Facebook page. Then go ahead and forward your child’s photo, including their first and last name to Alesia Hofschulte at missmazeppapageant@gmail.com. The application submission deadline for the Little Miss and Mister event is Sunday, June 23, 2024. Any questions regarding the Little Miss and Mister event please email Alesia and she will respond to you at her earliest convenience.

Mazeppa Daze: Field of Flags

(continued from page 1)

The Mazeppa American Legion is open for business on Monday evenings starting at 5:00 p.m. Flags can be purchased during business hours; the flags are \$10.00 each. Contact Troy Liffbrig or Wes Voeltz via email at legionpost588@outlook.com with your flag requests; please include your contact information in your request. The Mazeppa American Legion Post #588, American Auxiliary Post #588, and Honor Guard will be participating in the Mazeppa Daze Parade on Friday, July 12th at 7:00 p.m.

WE’RE ONLINE!

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Confirmation at St. John's Lutheran Church - Bear Valley and Trinity Lutheran Church - Lincoln



Trinity Lutheran Confirmation class: (front row): Lily Dittfach, Ashley Mellgren, Emily Mellgren, Matalyn Tesmer. (Back row): Pastor Dan Reich, Raini Milstead, Alec Veronen



Pastor Reich at Addisyn Boraas at St. John's Lutheran

On Sunday, May 5 St. John's Lutheran Church of Bear Valley welcome Addisyn Boraas into communicant membership through the Rite of Confirmation. On that same day, Trinity Lutheran Church - Lincoln welcome six new communicant members through the Rite of Confirmation. St. John's and Trinity Lutheran Churches are served by Pastor Dan Reich.



South Troy Church ditch clean-up crew



New steeple at South Troy Church

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.

What's Off Season Storage?



By
Missy Papenfus

Off Season storage is anything that you won't be using for a few months, you relocate it to another area to make more room for what you will be using "now". It is easier to get at what you need to use, and the stuff you aren't using doesn't need be in the way. We have a lot of things we move around at home, at work at MotoProz, and at the cabin that we swap out each season.

Decorations are the first thing that comes to mind when I think of off-season storage. Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter. I don't really enjoy putting them up and taking down, but Christmas is the big one I decorate for. I like to keep the rest to a minimum, unless I really love something. I have a few Christmas decorations at home that stay up all year around, and I don't care what anyone thinks about it.

Next, there is off season clothes—Boots, snow pants, winter jackets, stocking hats, mittens, gloves and now time to get out the life jackets, shorts, capris, flip flops, t-shirts and tank tops. It's also time to put away the sweaters and thick jeans! You get the idea...

When you don't have a lot of space and you have a lot of stuff; swapping out for the seasons is a great way to help stay organized.

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

Memo from MotoProz...

Ready for Spring? We are!! Check out our inventory of new E-Z-Go 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!

Save the date...for the Mazeppa Monthly Markets this summer. If you're at the 3rd Thursday Summer Markets in Mazeppa, stop over to chat with us! Coming up in June, July, August, and September.

Family Fun Fest June 22, 4 to 8 PM at the Fairground

Join the fun at Goodhue County Family Fun Fest, Saturday, June 22, 4 to 8 p.m., at the Goodhue County Fairground in Zumbrota. This fundraising event is hosted by the Friends of the Goodhue County Fair (FGCF)

to raise funding for new livestock barns on the fairground.

The festivities will feature a Steak or Pork Chop meal (hot dog option for kids), Silent Auction, Beer & Wine grab, live music and lots of games and activities for the kids.

"It's so exciting to hear feedback from the people of Goodhue County about the progress of the barn raising projects!" LeeAnn Waugh, FGCF board member and event chair said.

"Everyone is thrilled to hear about the significant Red Wing Shoe donation and we continue to build awareness of the needs and this grassroots fundraiser is part of that momentum!"

There'll be a bounce house, ladder toss, giant Jenga and Connect 4, bean bag boards, Barrel Train and a clever basketball arcade made from a gravity box for the kids. The Silent Auction is loaded with terrific items including: St. Paul Saints Super Fireworks tickets donated by Huneke Custom Spraying, Minnesota Wild tickets donated by Insignia Printing Co., Wagyu & Angus beef bundle

from Cannon Valley Ranch, Half hogs for processing from Mike and Rebecca Patterson Family, Mark Behrens hand-crafted wood bowls, LTS Brewery sampling and tour, a Garden Abundance Basket from Paul and Mamie Luhmann Family, a framed print of Zumbrota's Covered Bridge donated by Sary-Yerka VFW, a one-hour fly over of a local area of choice with Ben Priebe in his Piper Cherokee 140 and finally, 4K resolution drone photography of the buyer's home- stead, donated by Priebe and Cal Luebke.

"So many lives have been enriched by being involved with the Goodhue County Fair and these people want to give back and be part of raising the new barns for this and future generations," Waugh continued. "The Family Fun Fest is a way everyone can participate and enjoy great food and beverages, local music, family activities and more!"

Many local organizations and businesses are supporting this fundraiser with donations to the meal including: Three Rivers Cattle- men's Association, Goodhue County Pork Producers, Goodhue County Corn and Soy-

bean Growers, the Goodhue County Ameri- can Dairy Association (ADA) and Nilssen's Hub Food Center, Zumbrota.

The meal includes your choice of a steak or pork chop, potato bar, creamed corn, corn bread with honey butter, milk and ice-cream and water. There's a hot dog meal available for kids. Pre-sale meal tickets (\$35/adult, \$20/kid) are available from the following local businesses: CannonBelles, Cannon Falls; Country Station, Goodhue; D & S Sign & Banner, Kenyon; M & M Lawn & Leisure, Pine Island; Kevin's Service, Red Wing; Blondies Butcher Shop, Wanamingo; Brid- get's Café, Zumbrota and Mazeppa BP Sta- tion, Mazeppa. At the door, meal tickets are \$10 more.

If you want to attend the fest but not eat, then just \$5 per person gets you in the gate with access to all the kids games and activi- ties, the silent auction, wine & beer grab and live music by Tyler Stehr & 8th St.Bend!

We hope to see you there! The event will be held rain or shine.

SIZZLING SUMMER SAVINGS EVENT



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\$9,975



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2024 E-Z-GO
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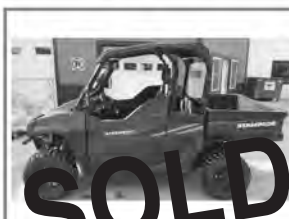
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A Monthly Moment at MotoProz

By Missy Papenfus

When my brother (Corey) and I were kids, our dad bought a brand new Honda Passport (yellow scooter with a brown seat and a white basket in front). When we got it, we were so small, all three of us could ride up to grandma's house about a half mile away. As we grew up, I remember driving it on my own. I think Dad sold it when Corey was getting old enough to drive. A few weeks ago, my brother found one on the internet for sale. I showed my husband and son the picture. Monty immediately wanted to buy me one. I looked closer and said, "It doesn't have a brown seat; I can't have that one"! Monty kept looking and found one in Mantorville with a nice brown seat, minus the white basket. Mike bought it for me, and Monty went to pick it up. I showed a picture to my best friend, and I don't know which one of us was more excited. We don't even have one picture of that old scooter from our childhood, but my brother, my friend and I all remember exactly how it looked! Monty brought it back to MotoProz for a tune-up, to install some mirrors, and get the missing white basket for the front.



MISSY'S MESSAGE



MISSY PAPENFUS

May 7th and 8th are a couple days I will never forget. I was so sick with terrible stomach cramps, nausea, and vomiting. I was thinking it was my appendix, but the pain I was experiencing wasn't quite exactly like it typically would be for an appendectomy. I was miserable, and compare this experience to when I was pregnant 23 years ago and felt sick for 9 months. Only this time, the pain was even worse. I should have known from my experience back then when I had to make a trip to the ER (here's where everyone can learn from my mistake), when your body is not cooperating, sometimes the only relief is getting an IV and getting some anti-nausea medication. After struggling for over 30 hours, I gave up and decided it was time to make a trip to the ER.

Six hours later in the Emergency Room at Saint Marys Hospital and a bunch of testing, it was determined I was headed to Methodist Hospital via ambulance for emergency surgery and had to have an ovary removed. They also discovered I had a hernia and repaired that too. Recovery is going well. No exercise except walking for six weeks and no lifting more than 15 pounds. Mike and Monty have been taking good care of me and making sure I rest when needed.

Missy and her husband Mike own MotoProz in Mazeppa.

Zumbro Falls Lioness/Lions Planting Party

Submitted by Lori Windhorst

The Zumbro Falls Lioness/Lions held a planting party at Jenny's Greenhouse in Zumbro Falls on May 4th. 15 kids aged toddler to 11 years old were extremely creative in painting their pots, had fun picking out the perfect flower and then planting the flower. Little pinwheels and stickers were provided to make them extra special with many giving as gifts for Mothers Day. After the planting was done the kids had cookies and juice and also got to pick out a gardening tool to take home with them. Parents/grandparents also had some fun and enjoyed some shopping time. Big thanks to Jenny's Greenhouse for hosting this community event. What for further details from the Lioness/Lions group as plans are being discussed for a fall decorating party.

bro Falls on May 4th. 15 kids aged toddler to 11 years old were extremely creative in painting their pots, had fun picking out the perfect flower and then planting the flower. Little pinwheels and stickers were provided to make them extra special with many giving as gifts for Mothers Day. After the planting was done the kids had cookies and juice and also got to pick out a gardening tool to take home with them. Parents/grandparents also had some fun and enjoyed some shopping time. Big thanks to Jenny's Greenhouse for hosting this community event. What for further details from the Lioness/Lions group as plans are being discussed for a fall decorating party.



The adults watching as the kids created their own flower pots to take home



Elaina Deobald is deep in thought creating the perfect flower pot decorations

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Give a hoot, don't pollute!



Members of the Zumbro Falls Lioness/Lions picking up trash. Arlys, Tamara, Gayle and Lori. Missing from photo Angie, Erin and Nanners

Submitted by Lori Windhorst

The Zumbro Falls Lioness/Lions care about the environment and picked up trash on highway 60 for the adopt a highway program on May 8th. 11 bags of trash were collected in the 2 mile stretch and would ask everyone to do their part and not litter. Give a hoot, don't pollute!

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Zumbro Falls Area



Business Highlight

(continued from page 1)

Zumbro Falls Winery



In the spring of 2016, they planted 200 grape vines in total. That same year, Kevin joined the Minnesota Grape Growers Association - he and Laura quickly began networking with many other grape growers across Minnesota. The MNGGA hosts a remarkably informational and highly educational 3-day conference in Minneapolis every year; Kevin states that this conference is worth checking into if you are interested in learning about viticulture. In 2018 Kevin and Laura were then able to plant another 900 grapes; they continued to add more grapes in smaller lots over time. Currently, there are just over 2,200 vines planted in the vineyard.

In 2020 Kevin was voted Vice President of the MNGGA board; it was here that he acquired an abundance of knowledge and experience. Kevin and his wife Laura had the opportunity to tour 50-60 wineries throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Traveling to different wineries was their favorite activity together; Kevin and Laura eventually decided they wanted to work towards becoming a winery themselves. The two then made plans to use the existing clubhouse for wine tastings and retail. The shed was later remodeled for production and processing, as well as a warehouse for storage. It took about a year to get final approval on the plan review from the township before work could begin on the remodel. While moving forward with the process Kevin and Laura worked very closely

with the Wabasha County Zoning Department and County Commissioners and experienced no opposition. Next, they obtained their Alcohol, Tobacco, and Gambling License, issued by the Federal US Government; which took an additional 6 months. While Kevin and Laura handled the logistics of their new venture the grapes were maturing and produced a small crop for them that fall, the crop was sold to Next Chapter Winery of New Prague, Minnesota, and Bellezza Winery of Pepin, Wisconsin.

Tragically, on December 9, 2021, Kevin's wife Laura unexpectedly passed away. It has been an extremely, difficult time for Kevin and their family following Laura's passing. Kevin continues to work hard on the future of Zumbro Falls Winery in honor of Laura and their dream together. In May of 2022, Kevin asked the Minnesota Department of Ag for a preliminary visit to tour both facilities. Following the tour of both facilities, the Minnesota Department of Ag responded with an extensive "to-do" list for Kevin and his team, who quickly took action on the requested items. Kevin then began to purchase all the necessary processing and fermenting equipment from chillers, pumps, filters, and storage tanks. Zumbro Falls Winery was approved as a Minnesota Licensed Winery on May 1, 2023, and was ready to offer their product to the public

Kevin and his team wanted a menu that could find the likes of an experienced wine drinker and a novice wine drinker. They crafted their menu to offer 12 excellent choices; 5 sweet wines, 3 semi-sweet wines, and 4 semi-dry wines. They named their #1 choice Sweet Laura Lynn, from their Frontenac Blanc grape variety; the team changed the profile of that grape by backsweetening the juice. Their semi-sweet wines are the most popular and sales have been strong for all 3 of the varieties. The fruit juices are frozen in barrels and then imported from Michigan; the barrels of frozen juice are defrosted by Kevin and his team and the fermentation process begins. Kevin states that fermenting the fruit juice is very rewarding. The production room smells exactly like a floral shop for weeks afterward. After the fermenting process, Kevin and his team follow the same steps as the grape process.

All great wines start in the vineyard. You can't make great wine without great, high-quality grapes. At Zumbro Falls Winery Kevin and his team strive to produce the highest quality grapes with the highest yield possible. To ensure that Kevin and his team produce the highest quality grapes and yield possible the vines are properly sprayed every 14 days all summer starting mid-May and looked after throughout the season. Kevin shared that he was homeschooled in wine-making by Drew Horton from the University of Minnesota. Drew has 25 years of commercial wine-making experience in California and has been at the University of Minnesota for the past 10 years. Kevin met Drew at the University of Minnesota, during his time on the MNGGA board. Recently this past January Kevin was appointed as President of the Minnesota Grape Grower board. Kevin loves both viticulture and the enology of making remarkable wines. Kevin has always had a passion for agriculture and horticulture and viticulture was an easy addition.





ZUMBRO FALLS Winery

DOMESTIC BEER \$4.00

1. Budweiser
2. Bud Light
3. Michelob Ultra
4. Coors Light
5. Coors Banquet
6. Miller Light
7. Miller Genuine Draft
8. Busch Light
9. Michelob Golden Light
10. Grain Belt Premium
11. Grain Belt Nordeast

IMPORTS \$5.00

1. Goose IPA
2. Hazy IPA
3. Blue Moon
4. Amber Bock
5. Stella
6. Leinkugels

SELTZERS \$5.00

1. Mike's Hard Lemonade
2. Mike's Hard Cranberry
3. High Noon
4. Carbless
5. Twisted Tea



Zumbro Falls GOLF CLUB



ZUMBRO FALLS Winery

We offer tasting flights.
\$5.00 for 6 wine samples. \$10.00 for all 12 wine samples

SWEET WINES

	Glass	Bottle	Case (Buy 11, get 1 free)
1. Sweet Laura Lynn	\$6.50	\$16	\$176
2. Peaches & Pears Wine	\$6.50	\$16	\$176
3. Raspberry Wine	\$6.50	\$16	\$176
4. Blackberry Wine	\$6.50	\$16	\$176
5. Cranberry Wine	\$6.50	\$16	\$176

SEMI-SWEET WINES

	Glass	Bottle	Case (Buy 11, get 1 free)
6. Danielle's Delish Rosé	\$7	\$17	\$187
7. Kaleb's Marquette	\$7	\$17	\$187
8. Wedding Day Wine	\$7.50	\$18	\$198

SEMI-DRY WINES

	Glass	Bottle	Case (Buy 11, get 1 free)
9. Kautz White Oak	\$7	\$17	\$187
10. Minnesota Itasca	\$7	\$17	\$187
11. Merlot	\$7.50	\$18	\$198
12. Cabernet Sauvignon	\$7.50	\$18	\$198

Prices do not include sales tax.



Zumbro Falls GOLF CLUB

Tips for pairings:
Sweet wines pair with anything sweet.
Semi-sweet wines pair well with fruit, hard and soft cheeses.
White wines pair well with fish, chicken, seafood, pasta, and pork.
Red wines pair well with red sauce, red meat, and grilled or smoked meats.

Kevin has been delighted to have his son Kaleb on the team full-time. Kaleb helps immensely with handling the weekly golf leagues and general maintenance of the golf course.

The Zumbro Falls Winery logo is a black Percheron draft horse. Kevin has 2 black draft horses who reside on the property and are full brothers named Jack and King. It has been the plan for a long time now to give carriage rides around the vineyard for hire. This summer the idea will finally come to fruition. The winery will also offer spectacular live music on the weekends. Kevin and his team hope that the locals will utilize the winery for their social gatherings and their spot, the view

from the patio overlooking the golf course and pond is breathtaking.

The Zumbro Falls Winery is open 7 days a week from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. Friday nights they offer a fish fry from 4:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. and live music starting at 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. Saturday Wine Bingo beginning at noon and goes until 2:30 p.m.; food will be served all day. Prime Rib & Salmon will be served for dinner at 5 p.m.; you're welcome to stay for live music beginning at 3 p.m. and going till 6 p.m. Sunday brunch is served at 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. Broasted chicken is on the menu from 11:30 a.m. until 8 p.m. - food will be served all day - live music from 2 p.m. to 5 pm.

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Mazeppa Memorial Day



Mazeppa Memorial Day Ceremony held at Mazeppa Veterans Memorial. Mazeppa Honor Guard would like to thank the community for coming out to the ceremony to honor the brave. *By Tara Gullickson*



Mazeppa Memorial Day

June 5, 2024

- MAZEPPA-ZUMBRO FALLS MESSENGER -

Page 9



Down on the Farm/ Up at the Cabin After-hour Adventures (There are no after-hours on a farm)

By Monica & Claudia Vanderborght

Monica can be a very sound sleeper. There have been many nights when Claudia climbed the stairs from her living space (basement) to Monica's (first floor):

Knock, knock, knock. "Monica, wake up! Someone has been mooing for 20 minutes." Indigo had delivered her first calf at 2:00 A.M. and she wanted to show it off.

Knock, knock, knock. "Monica, wake up! The chickens are screaming!" A fox had broken into the coop.

Knock, knock, knock. "Monica, wake up! The cows are making a racket." Half the herd

had broken out of the pasture into the neighbor's cornfield and the other half complained LOUDLY that it wasn't fair.

Knock, knock, knock. "Monica, wake up! There's a critter under my bed."

Now, Monica is one tough cookie. Runny spring cow manure and mud leaking into her worn-out muck boots doesn't bother her. Goat afterbirth smeared all over her shirt and arms doesn't faze her. Trying to tuck a chicken's prolapsed uterus back into place doesn't make her blink twice.

But snakes and rodents just give her the creepy crawlies.

Technically, opossums aren't rodents. They are marsupials – like kangaroos. But they sure look more like large rats than kangaroos.

We knew there were opossums on the farm. Rarely we would see one scamper along the tree line. Occasionally, we'd find evidence of their thievery (empty broken eggshells) in the laying boxes. Once, Monica even got to pet an opossum when she reached into a laying box for an egg and felt fur instead of

feathers. Did you know that possums hiss when they are upset? The neighbors (two miles away) probably heard that scream!

Monica was awake. "What do you mean, there is a critter under your bed?"

"I think an opossum came through the cat door and ate all the cat food. Then – looking for more – wandered all the way through the downstairs and couldn't figure out how to get back outside."

Getting out of bed, Monica said, "Okay. Let me get the .22."

Claudia returned downstairs – how to get the critter outside? No way would we move it from the bedroom to the hallway, past the laundry room and the kitchen, through the living room and screened porch, onto the lawn. We had no problems moving 20 cows where we wanted them (goats were a bit trickier). But a single opossum in the middle of the night would be a challenge.

By the time Monica clomped down the stairs in her knee-high muck boots (the good ones), Claudia was ready. The other back door (thankfully just beyond Claudia's bedroom) was propped open. All downstairs doors were tightly shut. The halls were blocked off. And Claudia was armed with the longest broom she could find.

Monica stationed herself outside the back door, 0.22 in hand, thigh-length nightshirt flapping in the breeze (picture Elmer Fudd). Claudia returned to the bedroom – also in muck boots and nightshirt – broom at the ready (picture Lucille Ball).

Poke, prod, poke under the bed. Hiss, hiss was the answer.

Poke, prod, poke. Hiss, hiss.



Claudia was going to have to get on her hands and knees and actually look under the bed to deliver more accurate blows.

Ew!!

With the opossum in sight, Claudia was able to poke and prod more effectively. (Don't come this way! Please, don't come this way!!)

Finally, the opossum waddled out of the bedroom, down to the back door, and out onto the lawn. Monica dispatched him before he could scurry away.

Needless to say, getting back to sleep after all that was a challenge, but we had another great farm story to share with all of our suburbanite friends!

Minnesota FFA Organization Names State Officers

The Minnesota FFA Association is led by six state officers elected from the 40,000 School-Based Agricultural Education students in Minnesota. The six state officers and the president of each of Minnesota FFA's eight regions compose the Student Board of Directors. Together these 14 student officers lead the organization working with our boards to advance agriculture and education, promote food, fiber, and natural resources awareness and literacy, and provide premier leadership, personal growth, and career success to youth across the land of 10,000 lakes.

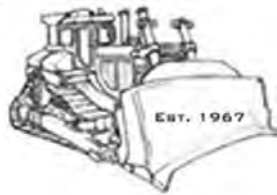
The Minnesota FFA State Officer Team is selected from a dynamic pool of candidates who go through a rigorous interview process with the nominating committee. The committee includes one student representative from each region balancing the different perspectives and experiences of Minnesota FFA members. Adult representatives of Team AgEd, which supervises the state's agriculture, food and natural resource efforts and the FFA, are also included. The committee has two past FFA state officers as co-chairs.

This nominating committee chose Zumbrota-Mazeppa graduate, Natalie Clemenson, who currently attends the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, to serve as the new state reporter. The new officers were chosen at the state convention in Minneapolis in April. Clemenson had previously been serving as the Region VIII President. Representing our area as the new Region VIII President is Cameron Addington of the Cannon Falls FFA chapter.



Natalie Clemenson

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DENNISON DAYS



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June 21 & 22, 2024



All You Can Eat PANGCAKE BREAKFAST

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SATURDAY, JUNE 22
8:00 AM to 11:00 AM



SATURDAY, JUNE 22 CLASSIC CAR SHOW

8:00 AM
Trophies at NOON

TRUCK & TRACTOR PULL
10:00 AM

SATURDAY, JUNE 22
KIDS PEDAL TRACTOR PULL
11:00 AM

FRIDAY, JUNE 21 KICK OFF

Gopher State Garden Tractor Pull
6:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC
8:30 PM-Midnight
Russ Franek & The Biscuits

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

LIVE MUSIC
7:30 PM-Midnight
Main Street
Shane Martin
www.shanemartin.com

Saturday Schedule of Events

- 8-11a.m. **All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast** Hosted by Nerstrand-Dennison Fire Dept., and Dennison Community Church. \$12 for adults, \$5 for kids 12 & under, 3 & under FREE. Includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, coffee, juice, milk. Under Mainstreet tent.
- 8a.m. **Farmers Market Downtown • Citywide Garage Sales**
5K Run Begins at Paul's Plumbing Building, North of Dennison Depot. For more information text Ted at 507-301-4314 or e-mail: dennisonvangoffice@gmail.com
Classic Car Show on Mainstreet Presented by Clutchmen Car Club. Trophies at Noon. Contact Eric Swanson 612-282-6562.
- 8:30a.m. **Euchure at Fireside Lounge** For information, contact Jen Eggum 507-649-0602
Sign Up for Clutchmen Truck & Tractor Pull at Pull Site
Truck Pull Mike Beebe 651-341-2424 • Tractor Pull Thad Sondahl 507-330-0180
- 10a.m. **Truck & Tractor Pull Begins on the Hill**, sign up begins at 8:30a.m.
Cow Milking Contest Main Street, hosted by David Flom Dairy
- 11a.m. **Food Stands Open**
Joel Stenhaug & Jim Tracy Memorial Horseshoe Tournament in City Park Presented by the Dennison Lions
Kids Pedal Tractor Pull on Mainstreet (At Mainstreet intersection) Sign up begins at 10:30a.m.
- 1-3p.m. **Kids Carnival**
- 1:30p.m. **Parade Downtown - A Kiddie Parade Leads Off Main Parade** (Ages 12 & Under)
\$100.00 Prize for Best Parade Entry! Sign up at 12:00 p.m. South Mainstreet. Call 507-645-9992
- 2p.m. **625 Bar & Grill Bags Tournament** Sign up at 625 or call 507-782-9061
Live Music at 625 Bar & Grill
Kids Bingo Under the tent. Presented by Dennison Lions. Ages 3-11.
- 4:00p.m. **Purse & Gift Card Bingo** Presented by Dennison Lions & Fireside Lounge
- 5:30p.m. **Game Show TBD**
- 7:30-11:30p.m. **Live Music from "SHANE MARTIN" Alabama Tribute on Mainstreet** 18+ event. No Cover Charge. 21 to drink. Presented by Capitol Construction and Fireside Lounge & Supper Club

BE IN THE PARADE

SATURDAY at 1:30 PM!

A Kiddie Parade Leads Off Main Parade
(Ages 12 & under)

Sign up at 12:00 p.m. South Main Street

\$100.00 Prize for Best Parade Entry!
Call 507-645-9992

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- 2nd Prize: \$200 Cash**
- 3rd Prize: \$100 Cash**
- 4th Prize: \$50 Cash**

Drawing held at 9:00p.m. at the Fireside Lounge

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For updated info. go to www.dennisondays.org

PLEASE... Eat Your Veggies!



By Shauna Burshem, D.C.

Eat your veggies! I heard that a lot during childhood. As a kid, I was never a big fan. My favorite vegetable was corn. And corn

isn't even a vegetable, it's a grain. Forget peas, carrots, string beans etc. Disgusting! I don't know about you, I am in my early 40's, when I was a small child, most vegetables eaten were served from cans. Gradually, as I became older, the focus on vegetables moved from canned to fresh. And I am guessing, that helped a lot with the taste. I soon starting liking vegetables and as a young adult in my 20's vegetables became a mainstay in my diet.

Vegetables are the body's main source for vitamins, minerals and fiber. The nutrients that allow us to live a healthy life. Over the years we have been told to eat a certain amount of vegetables a day for optimal health. The latest scientific research reports that eating a higher amount of fruits and vegetables is associated with a lower risk of dying in men and women. A recent study of over 2 million people worldwide found that the optimal amount and combination of fruits and vegetables for longevity are 2 fruits and 3 vegetables a day.

Diets rich in fruits and vegetables help re-

duce risk for numerous chronic health conditions that are leading causes of death, including cardiovascular disease and cancer. Yet, only about one in 10 adults eat enough fruits or vegetables, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The take away from the study revealed:

- Intake of about five servings of fruits and vegetables daily was associated with the lowest risk of death. Eating more than five servings was not associated with additional benefit.

- Eating about two servings daily of fruits and three servings daily of vegetables was associated with the greatest longevity.

- Compared to those who consumed two servings of fruit and vegetables per day, participants who consumed five servings a day of fruits and vegetable had a 13% lower risk of death from all causes; a 12% lower risk of death from cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke; a 10% lower risk of death from cancer; and a 35% lower risk of death from respiratory disease, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

- Not all foods that one might consider to be fruits and vegetables offered the same



benefits. For example: Starchy vegetables, such as peas and corn, fruit juices and potatoes were not associated with reduced risk of death from all causes or specific chronic diseases.

- On the other hand, green leafy vegetables, including spinach, lettuce and kale, and fruit and vegetables rich in beta carotene and vitamin C, such as citrus fruits, berries and carrots, showed benefits.

**Information and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*

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GOODHUE VOLKSFEST
JUNE 7-9, 2024

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5
7pm | Medallion Hunt | First clue drops
7pm | Pool Games

FRIDAY, JUNE 7
7pm | Miss Goodhue | GHS Gym 1 | \$5/Person
7pm | Street Dance | N 2nd St.

HAIRBALL
7:00pm GATE | 8:00pm MUSIC
\$25 PRE-SALE & AT GATE
THE DADS

SATURDAY, JUNE 8
8am-1pm | Car Show | St. Peters Church
8:30-11:30am | Burrito Breakfast & Quilt Show | St. Peters Church
8:45-10am reg. | Road Rally | Goodhue C-Store | \$5/person
9am | Udder Run | Front of GHS | \$16/ea adv or \$20/ea day of
9am-2pm | Craft and Vendor Show | Lion's Community Center
9am | Volleyball Tourn., Co-ed | Rosie Park | \$60/team
10am-1pm | Kids Bounce Party | GHS Gym 3
10am | 3-on-3 Basketball | GHS Gym 1 & 2 | \$100/Team

11am | Bean Bag Tourn. | Rosie Park | \$40/team
1pm | Bingo | Fire Hall
1-4pm | Gopher State Garden Tractor Pull | 3rd Ave
2pm | Tyler Stehr Live | Corner Bar
2pm | Pedal Tractor Pull | Broadway/2nd Ave
6pm | Street Dance | N 2nd St.
10pm | Fireworks | Rosie Park

JUSTIN MOORE
6:00pm GATE | 6:30pm MUSIC
GA \$60 UNTIL 5/10 | \$70 5/10+ & AT GATE
VIP \$125 UNTIL 5/10 | \$140 5/10+
CHAD JOHNSON & THE MINNESOTA TRANSPLANTS
BRYAN ANDERSON

SUNDAY, JUNE 9
9am-12pm | Dads Belgian Waffle Feed | Lion's Community Center
5yr | Free | 6-12yr \$8 | 13yr | \$12
9am | Community Worship Lutheran Service | GHS Gym 1

1pm | Parade
2pm | Fire Dept. Water Fight | Fire Dept.
2pm | Bryan Anderson Live | Corner Bar

THANK YOU SPONSORS!

Dairy



By Noel Aldrich, PhD, CNS
Licensed Nutritionist

June is national dairy month. So it is appropriate to consider this amazing food source, it's health benefits, and the controversies and misunderstandings surrounding this food.

Milk is a unique food source produced by the female of some species for the initial food of the newborn. This liquid food contains protein, fats, minerals and vitamins specific to the species and specific to the age of the baby. This liquid also contains active enzymes and immune support to help the newborn baby become an active participant of life.

These unique features of milk have been used by man for centuries to sustain the human population and provide a consistent food source in diverse environments. Dairy was a primary focus of farmers across the Midwest as the nation grew with many creameries located across each county collecting the daily contributions from the local

herds. Wisconsin and California lead the nation in milk production. In the United States, more than 72 million gallons of milk are produced each day. From this source, all the additional products of butter, ice cream, cheese, yogurt, Kiefer, and various treats are produced. No wonder we celebrate dairy as it is involved in so many significant food items we enjoy.

Some individuals are not able to enjoy dairy because of severe reactions caused by a lack of digestive enzymes or caused by an allergic reaction. Lactase is the specific enzyme required in your intestines to break down the lactose sugar in milk. If a person does not make this enzyme, an uncomfortable reaction typically results in diarrhea. A person who experiences this reaction can simply avoid drinking milk, or they can obtain lactase enzyme as a supplement to consume with the milk. Some products like Lactaid are available to help aid digestion of milk products. An allergic reaction to milk will not be eliminated by using lactase enzyme. An allergic reaction is an immune response to the protein in milk in whatever form of milk product may be. Typically, an allergic reaction to a milk product may be avoided by selecting a different source of milk like goat, sheep, or donkey. There are also many non-dairy sourced products that have become available in recent years.

A primary controversy regarding milk production has been the availability of raw milk to the general consumer. Raw milk contains all the active enzymes and is the most easily digested form of the food. Raw milk has been the primary way man has consumed milk for centuries, and in recent history the

Mayo hospital had a raw milk therapy that was used successfully for clients having digestive challenges. This all changed with the promotion of pasteurized milk.

The history of pasteurized milk provides an important observation on the influence of business over health. In the 1950s, most milk was delivered in glass bottles, and you could observe a layer of cream at the top of the bottle. Some competition developed as the consumer could see how much cream was available in each bottle. Creameries tried to "fix" this challenge with the process of homogenization, which forces the milk through a fine mesh to break up the fat molecules into pieces that are so small the fat stays suspended in the fluid and does not rise to the top. Unfortunately, once milk is homogenized the live enzymes in the raw milk activate a reaction that causes the milk to spoil within 24 hours. The solution to this problem was pasteurization. Pasteurization kills the enzyme activity improving the shelf life of the homogenized milk.

Pasteurization has progressed over the years to the level of ultra pasteurization (UHT). Ultra pasteurized milk has been additionally heated to the point that the milk can sit on the shelf without refrigeration for long periods of time. However, you cannot make your own yogurt or cheese from this milk. The healthy bacteria used to make yogurt, cheese, or Kiefer is not able to use UHT milk. This milk has been cooked too much and is undigestible to natural fermentation processes. This makes you wonder if the UHT milk has any health benefit to mankind as well.

More than 100 years ago, Dr. Weston Price

researched the effects of the modern food preparations that were beginning to advance through the western culture of Europe and the United States. He documented his research in the book, "Nutrition and Physical Degeneration." In cultures all around the world, he discovered the importance of quality fat to sustain a society. When the culture moved toward more processed foods, more "low fat" foods, and more convenient foods, the result was increased cavities, increased need for braces on teeth, and decreased fertility. These are all the symptoms we see in today's modern living. You can find out more about Dr. Price's work and the thriving community that is applying the principles he discovered at <https://www.westonaprice.org/>

Make your health a priority in 2024. Quality dairy options include raw milk, whole fat milk, and naturally fermented products like yogurt, fresh cheese, and Kiefer. Adding quality fat sources can be one of those little changes that can make a big difference in your health. 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.

**Information and opinions expressed in this article are those of the author and may not reflect those of The Messenger.*

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ZM Class of 2024 Scholarships Awarded

Courtesy of ZM School

Local Senior Scholarships totaling over \$60,000 were awarded to ZMHS Class of 2024 on Wednesday, May 1, in the Neuman Auditorium.

Jack Boraas - Alma C. Swanson Zumbrota Covered Bridge Scholarship

Ben Helfer - Bill Peper Memorial Scholarship

Lucy Hornquist - Bellechester Area Lions Club

Laiken Copeman, James Eickhoff & Cora Ohm - Charles Buck Scholarship

Isabella Roberts - EMZM Scholarship

Max Books, Avery Crosby, Landon Flaaen, Solveigh Goldsmith Raymond Li, Cole Lohmann, Gabriella Perrotti, Theadocia Peterson and Madeline Seymour - Peter Sand Memorial Scholarship

Brinna Fruth - First Famers and Merchants Banks

Kaleb Lochner & Gage Star - Frandsen Bank and Trust Zumbrota

Rachel Earnhart - Goodhue County Cooperative Electric

Abby Plan, Ava Rolviecki and Britta Stiller



Front row left to right: Alexandra Ebertowski, Theadocia Peterson, Gage Starr, Jadyn Irish, Ryan Stimets, Landon Flaaen, Aubrey Allen, Ella Meyers, Sommer Post, Solveigh Goldsmith, Abby Plank, Angel Gonzalez, Lucy Hornquist, Max Books, Madeline Epps, and Brooke Jensen. 2nd row: Raymond Li, Laiken Copeman, Kaleb Lochner, Brinna Fruth, Gabriella Perrotti, Kaylee Peterson, Britta Stiller, Megan Jasperson, Jordan Schliep, Anna Cylkowski, Cora Ohm. 3rd row: Katelynn Albrecht Carpenter, Rachel Earnhart, Lilly Mehrkens, Franki Bremer, Isabella Roberts, Ava Rolbiecki, Will Higley, Rachel Krinke, Madeline Seymour, Avery Crosby, and Dalton O'Reilly. 4th row: Camryn Kovars, Trinity Chapa, Jack Krier, Oliver Liffbrig, Ben Helfer, Jack Boraas, Preston Ohm, James Eickhoff, Hunter Streit, Melanie Raasch, and Mackenzie Boraas

- Mazeppa Fire Department

Trinity Chapa, Anna Cylkowski, Maddie Epps, Angel Gonzalez, Jayden Irish, Megan Jasperson, Camryn Kovars, Jack Krier, Oliver Liffbrig, Lilly Mehrkens, Ava Rolbiecki and Hundter Streit - Mazeppa Lions

Mackenzie Boraas, Jack Krier, Dalton O'Reilly, Abby Plank and Ava Rolbiecki - Mazappa Veterans Honor Guard and American Legion Post 588

Katelynn Albrecht - Nibbe Family Foundation

Kateling Albrecht, Mackenzie Boraas, Camryn Kovars, Megan Jasperson & Melanie Raasch - Stary Yerka VFW

Aubrey Allen, Franki Bremer, Connor Fogerty, Will Higley, Brooke Jenson, Rachel Krinke, Ella Meyers, Kaylee Peterson, Sommer Post and Jordan Schliep - Willie Aebly Memorial Scholarship

Ben Helfer & Ryan Stimets - Wally Friese Memorial Scholarship

Maddie Ebbs, Abby Plank and Isabella Roberts - Zumbrota American Legion Post # 183

Alexandra Evertowski - ZAAC Allan E Nilsson Memorial Scholarship

Jack Boraas - Zumbrota Area PEIP

Preston Ohm - Zumbrota Telephone Scholarship

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JULY 4th: DAVE CARPENTER BAND 2:00-5:00 PM

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JULY 6th: BLYND EYE 8:30 PM

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Supporting Small Towns for Thriving Communities



Tim Penny
So. MN Initiative Foundation

I grew up in the town of Kiester which, according to the latest U.S. Census, has a population of 488. I know firsthand that small towns often face unique challenges, including limited access to financial resources and a reduced tax base. I also know that the nature of living in a small town makes it easy for people to work together and enhance the vitality of the place they call home. At Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) we

know that supporting the small towns in our 20-county region is crucial for fostering equitable development and ensuring that all our communities have the same chance to thrive.

SMIF's Small Town Grant, which opens soon, can help bridge the gap in financial resources by providing the necessary funds for projects that ultimately enhance the quality of life for residents. I'd like to highlight some of the projects that communities have implemented recently with the support of this grant.

In Caledonia (population 2,831), the city used a Small Town Grant to organize a Holiday Pop Up Shop to allow community members with business ideas to temporarily trial their business concept in a brick and mortar setting downtown. This allowed entrepreneurs to introduce new product lines, test new markets and generate awareness of their product. This program generated huge results, as three of the home-based businesses that participated in the program have continued their businesses in a brick-and-mortar setting.

In Elkton (population 133), the grant was used, in part, for sound boards to muffle noise in the community center. More people are renting this space now that the sound is more manageable. This has enhanced the quality of the space as it can be more easily used for town hall meetings and private events without sound issues.

In Dundas, (population 1,744), the grant

was used to support a new annual event: Oktoberfest. Dundas residents and businesses benefited from having a new community-wide event that they could call their own. According to one of the organizers, there was even one family who moved to the area from the Twin Cities after attending Oktoberfest. The group is already planning for this year's event which will be held on September 21.

SMIF's Small Town Grant opens on July 15, 2024. More information can be found at smifoundation.org/smalltowngrant. We are grateful to Paul Johnsons' children, Amy De Jong, Paula Rehder and Scott Johnson, for continuing their father's legacy by supporting this program.

Another way that SMIF supports small towns is through our Community Foundation program. There are 32 Community Foundations under SMIF's umbrella. These volunteer-led, place-based foundations are able to quickly meet the needs of their communities. While SMIF provides both administrative and financial support on an annual basis, these foundations recently received an extra boost thanks to an anonymous matching donor. Thanks to this donor, SMIF was able to award \$90,000 in grants to our Community Foundations over the past couple of months.

In Mapleton (population 1,675), the Mapleton Area Foundation is putting the matching funds to good use on a wide variety of projects. They are hiring a firm to provide archi-



tectural plans for a daycare, a critical investment in any small town. They are also upgrading some of their community marketing materials including a billboard and a park sign in order to market Mapleton as a place to visit, shop and live. They even received a grant to replace their apple press for a fall festival, which kids look forward to using every year to make apple juice.

In Plainview (population 3,515) the Plainview Elgin Millville Foundation will be implementing an exciting new summer program. They will use the funds to purchase pool passes for youth in the community to make the city pool more accessible for all.

It is so empowering to see what small towns are able to accomplish with increased financial resources. By investing in small towns, we help build resilient, vibrant communities.

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

Historical Happenings

Compiled by
Helen Reiland

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

January 27, 1956

Obituaries

HENRY C. EHLERS

Henry C. Ehlers, retired Mazeppa farmer, died suddenly of a heart attack downtown at 5 p.m. Monday, at the age of 68. He had been in ill health for some time.

Mr. Ehlers was born Oct. 20, 1887 in Belvidere Township. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's Lutheran church at Belvidere.

He was married March 24, 1915, to Bessie L. Haas by the Rev. Willis Beck of Zumbrota Lutheran church. Mrs. Ehlers survives four children, Mrs. Ervin Post (Evelyn), Earl Ehlers, Mrs. Melvin Kish (Lola), and Mrs. Warren Grossbach (Gladys); nine grandchildren; three sisters, Mrs. Christ Sprick, Mrs. Walter Pruter and Mrs. Louise Holst, all of Lake City, and one brother Osmar of Mazeppa. His parents preceded him in death.

Pallbearers will be Alfred Gerken, Lawrence Hart, George Oelkers, Albert Oelkers, Alfred Manthei and Clyde Thomas.

Mr. and Mrs. Ehlers, who farmed north of town, moved into Mazeppa in 1943. He was a prominent farmer in that area and a tireless worker for St. John's Lutheran church. He will be greatly missed by a host of relatives and friends.

U.S. WHALEY

Mrs. Frank Almeter received word recently of the death of former resident, U.S. Whaley of Warroad, Minn.

Mr. Whaley passed away Saturday, Jan. 14, and funeral services were held Jan. 17. He was 91 years of age and leaves two sons, Leo of Proctor and Clayton of Warroad and four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Al. Schlasner of Minneapolis have announced the approaching marriage of her sister, Evelyn Samuelson to Everett Edward Holt Sunday, Feb. 5, at 3 p.m. at Knox Presbyterian church in St. Paul. Mrs. Samuelson is a former Mazeppa resident.

Miss Susan Liffriig announces the coming marriage of her niece, Mary Ann Liffriig of Washington, D.C. to Dr. Edward E. Hassey, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ned Hassey of Lawrence, Mass.

Mary Ann is a graduate of the College of St. Teresa, and St. Mary's school of Nursing, Rochester, Minn. She is currently affiliated with Georgetown University hospital, Washington, D.C. They will reside in Boston.

Local Power Problem Discussed at Meeting

A group of local residents gathered at the Community Rooms last Thursday evening and listened to R.E.A. power proposal, a brief talk by Mr. Edom, member of Associated Consultants of Minneapolis and a short discussion on the power situation by the group.

Ray Krofchalk of Peoples Cooperative, Rochester and Frank Unger of Wisconsin Dairyland made the R.E.A. proposal which included "off peak" or limited power, and unlimited.

After a short discussion by the group on the local power situation, it was recommended to the council that another open meeting be held with Northern States invited to present their proposal.

March of Dimes Event Features Minstrel Show, Many Special Acts and Dancing

A "bigger and better" March of Dimes show is in final rehearsal this week. The fourth annual event will be held at the Mazeppa gymnasium Saturday, Jan. 28, beginning at 8:15 p.m.

Featured will be a minstrel show, with Jack Moses as interlocutor and Danny Liffriig, Larry Colling, Gilbert Schafer and Tom Klein as end men, and a large chorus line in the background.

AVA---Contact me immediately if you can't go to March of Dimes program at gym, Saturday night, so I can ask Lana, ROCKY

Ask A Trooper



By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol

Question: Can you talk about drug use and impaired driving. It seems like I am seeing more and more of this.

Answer: Drug-impaired driving is as dangerous as alcohol-impaired driving. Minnesota law prohibits driving while impaired by controlled or intoxicating substances. These substances include illegal drugs, prescription drugs, and over the counter drugs (cold medicines), as well as household products. These substances can cause drowsiness and impair a driver's mental and physical ability to safely operate a vehicle and to re-

spond to driving conditions.

Legal drugs that may not cause impairment alone can produce powerful intoxicating effects when mixed with alcohol. The safest rule is do not mix drugs with driving at all. Use of drugs can lead to traffic crashes resulting in death, injury and property damage. It can lead to arrest, fines and jail sentences.

Pay attention to warning labels for legitimate drugs and medicines and to doctor's orders regarding possible effects. Stay away from illegal drugs. Don't use any drug that hides fatigue - the only cure for fatigue is rest.

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

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

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Excuses Won't Save You in a Crash

Seat belts save lives, yet some people still make excuses for not wearing them. Excuses won't save you in a crash. Preliminary numbers show that 281 unbelted motorists died on Minnesota roads over the last three years. These are such tragic deaths. Seat belts are designed to help prevent them from even happening.



Here's why excuses for not wearing a seat belt don't hold up:

Concern: I don't need to buckle up because my car has air bags.

What you need to know: Air bags are designed to work with seat belts, not replace them. If you're unbuckled, the force of being thrown into a rapidly opening frontal air bag could injure or kill you.

Concern: I don't need to buckle up because I'm not going that fast or driving too far.

What you need to know: Most fatal crashes happen within 25 miles from home and at speeds of less than 40 mph.

Concern: I don't want to buckle up because I could get trapped if my car is on fire or under water.

What you need to know: Crashes involving fire or water represent 1/2 of 1 percent of all crashes. You can't escape from a crash unless you're conscious. Wearing a seat belt gives you a much greater chance of being conscious and able-bodied.

Concern: My seat belt can hurt me in a crash.

What you need to know: Everything in your car can potentially hurt you in a crash, but your seat belt is one of the few things that can save you. It is your first line of defense and last line of defense when something bad happens.

No matter the excuse, not wearing a seat belt is never worth the risk. Protect yourself and your loved ones. Buckle up, every trip, every time. Together, we can drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.



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U.S. Senator Tina Smith Leads 29 Colleagues in Push for Robust Rural Housing Funding

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Tina Smith (D-Minn.) led 29 of her Senate colleagues in a push for more funding for rural housing programs in the FY2025 Appropriations bill. In their letter, the Senators noted that rural communities saw only a 1.7% increase in the number of housing units between 2010 and 2020, with almost half of states seeing a decrease in the number of rural units. According to Minnesota Housing Partnership, every county in Minnesota has a shortage of affordable and available rental homes for extremely low-income households. 79% of counties have a shortage that exceeds 100 homes, and 31% have a shortage exceed-

ing 500 homes.

“Without a safe, decent, affordable place to call home, nothing in your life works – not your job, your health, your education or your family,” said Senator Smith. “While the housing crisis is hurting communities across the country, the burden has been especially hard on small towns and rural communities. The severe shortage of affordable housing is hurting rural America’s ability to prosper, and it is imperative we direct more funding to address this housing shortage and finally bring our communities some relief.

“Against this backdrop, federal rural housing programs have shrunk to the point that only about 3,500 direct loans are available for low-income families to purchase or build their own home, the lowest level since 1957. Funding to preserve rental and farm labor housing is meager by any standard and by no means adequate to provide new housing opportunities or preserve existing housing resources,” wrote the Senators. “In the coming years, the number of maturing Section 515 mortgages will only accelerate, resulting in an even worse state of rental housing in rural America as some rural communities’ only source of affordable housing is lost.”

“In Minnesota, rural residents are desperate for homes they can afford and many of our affordable homes are substandard or ready to

exit affordability terms. We need all hands on deck to provide more affordable homes to rural residents and preserve the ones we have to be healthy and stable,” said Elizabeth Glidden, Deputy Executive Director for Minnesota Housing Partnership. “Increasing resources for rural housing and rural development is a practical solution that works to keep residents in their homes and rural communities thriving - we applaud these efforts to focus on the needs of rural communities across the U.S.”

“There is ample evidence that Senator Smith’s efforts are sorely needed. Over 1.5 million occupied substandard housing units in rural areas, and over 750,000 units lack piped water. A rising tide of maturing U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) rural rental housing loans threatens the availability of affordable housing. The number of USDA rural home mortgages for low and moderate-income households is at its lowest level since the mid-1950s,” said Bob Rapoza, Executive Secretary of the National Rural Housing Coalition. “We very much appreciate the Senator’s leadership and good work on rural housing.”

The letter specifically requests:

\$1.585 billion for section 502 direct homeownership loans, including \$20.8 million for the Native American Relending Pilot Program;

\$40 million for section 523 Mutual and Self-Help Housing;

\$76 million for home repair through section 504 and section 533;

\$200 million for Section 515 rural rental housing loans;

\$90 million for multi-family preservation; \$1.69 billion for Section 521 rural rental assistance;

\$68 million for farm labor housing loans and grants authorized under section 514 and 516;

\$1.61 billion Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program loans and \$726 million in grants; and

\$22.745 million for the Rural Community Development Initiative.

The letter was signed by Senators Tom Carper (D-DE), Alex Padilla (D-CA), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Angus King (I-VT), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Ed Markey (D-MA), Mark Kelly (D-AZ), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Peter Welch (D-VT), Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Brian Schatz (D-HI), Jon Tester (D-MT), Raphael Warnock (D-GA), Gary Peters (D-MI), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Chris Coons (D-DE), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Maggie Hassan (D-NH) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN).

Senator Smith has long been a champion of expanding affordable housing programs. Her bipartisan legislation with Senator Mike Rounds (R-SD) would improve federal rural housing programs, cut red tape, and strengthen the supply of affordable housing. The legislation would represent the most significant Rural Housing Service reforms in years.

BRAD FINSTAD

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Finstad Announces

2024 Congressional Art Competition Winner

ROCHESTER, MN – Congressman Brad Finstad (MN-01) announced his selection of “Shades of Winter” by Dean Wang, as the winner of this year’s First District Congressional Art Competition.

Dean is a junior at Century High School in Rochester. His artwork will hang in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. for one year. The winner from each district will receive two roundtrip tickets to Washington, D.C., compliments of Southwest Airlines, to attend the official ceremony later this year honoring the Congressional Art Competition winners from across the country.

Artist’s Description: “Minnesota is renowned for its picturesque winters, and Southeast MN exemplifies this. Often, our winters are underappreciated. “Shades of Winter” is an oil painting capturing the serene beauty of our winters. Contrasting the cool tones of the snow, the golden sunset represents the warmth that radiates throughout winter: a magical season that unites communities. A stream flows through, melting the hues together and adding to the enchanting atmosphere. Winters unify us and create fond memories.”



First Place – “Shades of Winter” by Dean Wang

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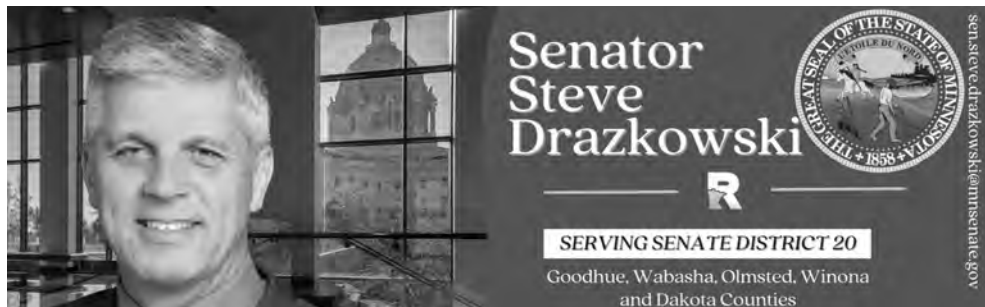
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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The dust is just settling on the raucous session finale but I wanted to give you a quick update on where some important issues stand now that the legislature has adjourned until next January.

I hope you have a safe and happy Memorial Day weekend, and remember the countless men and women who died serving their country so that you are able to do so!

For Democrats, the ends justify the means

By now, you may have read about the end of the legislative session and how it ended in chaos. Democrat leadership combined several large omnibus bills into one colossal 1,432-page garbage bill that nobody could read before passage.

Article 4 Section 17 of the Minnesota Constitution states, "No law shall embrace more than one subject, which shall be expressed in its title." The title for HF5247 alone is six full pages, including dozens of individual subjects expressed in the title. Elected officials are required to swear an oath to the Minnesota Constitution. Each session I have served, we have gotten farther away from that provision. For the most part, the courts have declined to get involved, citing separation of powers and providing narrower and narrower explanations of an omnibus bill's constitutionality. At some point, we'll reach the breaking point, and we may have with this bill.

This mad rush was completely unnecessary. Remember that the Democrats have a "trifecta." They control the schedule, the agenda, everything. Only at the end of the session does the minority have leverage. The minority has a choice; they can be accomplices in shortening discussion and getting to the vote, or they can assert their right to debate bills they disagree with. It's not the minority's role to pass the majority's bills.

To avoid all this, the Democrats could have negotiated with the Republicans and compromised on some issues. That happened last

year, and it produced an infrastructure bill and spending bills that contained Republican priorities, such as more money for nursing homes. They landed the plane. I opposed overspending and extremist bills like abortion up until birth. But we had to face a tough reality when the other side had more votes.

Senate Democrats had significant issues facing their caucus—last year, they chose a leader who was seriously ill with Cancer and was mostly voting remotely. Even after she stepped down, schedules had to be planned around her treatment, which complicated floor action because they needed her vote. That alone would not have caused the train wreck in the end. This year, they had a senator get arrested on felony charges. They pushed back on Republicans who demanded that they address the issue and defended her to the hilt. This cost Democrats at least a week. Finally, in the last hours of the session, one of their members went AWOL for 13 hours, holding the whole session and his caucus hostage in order to get his bill passed. He eventually got his way, but the Senate spent that valuable time in recess when they could have been debating and passing the individual bills separately.

So what passed and what didn't? First the good news. There were major pieces of legislation that the Democrats wanted but did not get done. One was ranked-choice voting, and the other was the so-called ERA amendment. (More about the latter below.) The House spent hours debating these bills, but the Senate did not have the votes to pass them, so they were never taken up. We also did not see bills on "safe firearms storage," which criminalized gun owners and limited their ability to use their guns when they were needed. Sanctuary State legislation that would have tied the hands of law enforcement in dealing with illegal aliens also never made it to the Senate. A few Senate Democrats publicly stated they would not vote for these bills, effectively killing them.

Some gun restrictions were passed into law. The new law on binary triggers will make guns that can shoot twice--once on a trigger pull and once on release illegal. If you own one, you will be forced to get rid of it by turning it in or selling it out of state by January 1, 2025. If it's an installed device, you will need to remove it. In my view and many others' this is an unconstitutional taking to ban someone's property from use or sale without compensation. 2nd amendment groups are looking into this issue right now. For people interested in removing the shotgun zone in Southern Minnesota, that also did not pass again this year.

Thanks to the Democrat "trifecta," our school districts will have more costly education mandates, bringing political agendas into the classroom. They also continued to build a path to single-payer healthcare in Minnesota. Minnesotans will be more at risk for suffering rolling blackouts like those in California

with the passage of Democrat bills that limit our energy supply and make energy less affordable. They increased the cost of doing business in Minnesota while disincentivizing work and gave more money to the failed Southwest light rail. Thanks to out-of-control spending at the Federal level, inflation continues to be a problem. But don't look to what was passed this session to be of any help. You'll be paying higher gas taxes, sales taxes, tab fees, payroll fees, and fees and fines. Many of these will contribute to higher prices of items as businesses pass these increases on to consumers. There is more to say about this session, but for now, that's the top level view from my perspective.

Religious freedom update

In my last newsletter, I provided you with an update on the religious liberties exemption in the proposed changes to Minnesota Human Rights statutes. This exemption, which was a significant concern for many, has now been signed into law. It means that churches can continue to operate in accordance with their sincerely held beliefs and teachings without fear of discrimination lawsuits. This is a significant victory for religious liberties in our state.

The other bill that caused even more consternation would have put an "Equal Rights Amendment" on the ballot to amend the Minnesota constitution to guarantee equality by gender, gender identity, and "gender expression," as well as "making and effectuating decisions about all matters relating to one's own pregnancy or decision whether to become or remain pregnant" a new right. What's worse, the ballot language did not match the language put into statute, which was intentionally deceptive to voters. The House passed this bill after approximately 14 hours of debate and over 100 amendments brought by House Republicans. It came to the Senate but was not brought up before we adjourned making it DEAD for the year. We do not know why, but clearly, the effort in the House must have given the Senate Democrat leadership some cause for concern, with so many other bills left to finish in the closing days.

I want to thank everyone who called, sent letters, or emailed me and other Senators. Throughout the weekend, I received an email about this bill every 20 minutes. I was never going to support this bill. Still, your overwhelming support highlighted how crucial this issue was to the people of Minnesota, especially amidst the many other challenges we are facing. This issue stood out as the most frequently discussed topic via email this session, and we can all now breathe a sigh of relief knowing that, for the time being, it is off the table.

End of session summary of Mitchell Ethics case

As I have written about in previous newsletters or as you may have read in the media, Senator Nicole Mitchell of Woodbury was arrested in Detroit Lakes in the early hours of April 22nd, 2024, and is charged with first degree felony burglary, essentially home invasion, of her step mother's home. Her court date is coming up on June 10 and there is a Senate ethics hearing on June 12.

There is no question that she brought dishonor to the Senate, further tarnishing our institutions at a time when people's trust is at an absolute low. Worse still, Senate Democrats were so fixated on passing their radical

agenda that, with rare exceptions, they could not contemplate working with Republicans to find legislation that both sides could agree on that could pass with bipartisan votes. No matter what she had done, they needed Mitchell for that 34th vote.

Here is a summary of all of the things that Senate Republicans and I tried to do to remove her from making important decisions about the future of our state:

- Expedite the ethics hearing process
- Prevent Mitchell from voting
- Instructing the Secretary of the Senate not to count Mitchell's vote
- Rebalance the committee assignments based on a 33-33 Senate
- Request Mitchell's resignation
- Ask the Senate as a whole to find there is probable cause in Mitchell's ethics complaint
- Find Mitchell in conflict of interest for her votes on some of these motions

All of them have failed without Democrat support. Additionally, Senate Republicans registered a formal protest and dissent on a bill when Mitchell was the deciding vote.

Bad Weather Damage? Tips from the State Dept. of Commerce

The Minnesota Department of Commerce, which provides consumers with protections and enforces insurance laws for the State of Minnesota, offers Minnesotans guidance on steps to take when filing an insurance claim after storms damage their home, business or other property from yesterday's storm. Please share this information to your constituents and local officials in your district: Minnesota Department of Commerce Disaster Information Center. Also attached in this email is Commerce Department Disaster Response Guide.

Key tips for filing insurance claims to your property:

Contact your insurance company immediately.

Wait for the company's adjuster before you or anyone starts working to remove or repair or replace property.

Inventory your damage.

Take notes of who you talk with and what they say from your insurance company, adjusters or repair services. Note dates, names and contact information.

Avoid scammers or high-pressure sales tactics if you are contacted by someone you don't know, such as salespeople going door-to-door in areas hit by storms.

Question or complaint about your insurance company?

If you have questions, complaints or problems with your insurance company, contact the Minnesota Department of Commerce Consumer Services Center:

By phone: 651-539-1600 or 800-657-3602
By email: consumer.protection@state.mn.us

You can submit a complaint online or call Commerce's Consumer Services Center.

Please do contact me to share any issues, concerns, or feedback you have to assist me in best representing you. The best way to reach me is by email at sen.steve.drazkowski@senate.mn or by phone at 651-296-5612. My legislative assistant is Margaret Martin, and her number is 651-296-4264. She will be happy to assist you, in or out of session. Have a great summer!

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One-Party Rule - Chaos Reigns in Minnesota



Rep. Pam Altendorf (R) District: 20A

Two years, two very different legislative sessions. Both however, orchestrated under the same Democrat one-party control in Minnesota.

In January 2023 the legislature started seeing large, controversial bills arriving on the House floor. The extremist abortion-to-birth was introduced as the Democrats' top legislative priority. In February, we debated the blackout bill (aka carbon free energy). In March, Democrats prioritized making Minnesota a sanctuary state for transgenders, allowing our state to pay for children to transition and going as far as removing parental rights. We debated this bill for hours, to no avail.

By year's end, House and Senate Democrats and Governor Walz agreed to spend a nearly \$18 billion budget surplus, raise taxes by \$10 billion, and grow state government by 40%. They also agreed to new laws that allow abortion until birth, punish law-abiding gun owners, and give free college, health insurance and drivers' licenses to illegal immigrants.

Many were shocked last year by the large number of awful new laws that raised taxes, spent money, or created controversial policy. The Democrats showed they had the capability of passing large controversial bills and doing it month after month.

The 2024 session ended in mass chaos. This was due to a significant logjam of more controversial bills seeking passage. Any serious person could understand that these bills could not be debated based on the time left on the clock.

On May 19, with less than an hour to go before the 2024 legislative session was mandated to adjourn, numerous omnibus spending proposals were unfinished. This

was due to the complete mismanagement of the session agenda by Democrats, who waited until the last day to try and approve their preferred partisan legislation before tackling their budget bills.

The bills on our calendar included stopping schools and governments from removing gay and lesbian rainbow pride symbols (ultimately did not receive a floor hearing); ranked choice voting for local governments (received bipartisan opposition and was defeated on the House floor); a Constitutional Amendment that would codify abortions in Minnesota all the way until the baby's birth (approved in the House by 1 vote, not debated by the Senate); and more.

Because Democrat leadership was unable to control the radical activists in their own caucus who pushed these controversial bills, legislation that actually impacted state government were left until the final weekend of session.

All of Saturday was lost. The Minnesota Senate recessed all day as the majority tried to strike a deal on the Uber/Lyft situation, a problem that came about due to the actions of the radical leftists sitting on the Minneapolis City Council. So as the left was negotiating with the far left, regular legislative business took a back seat.

All of this led to chaos in both chambers as the legislative clock was winding down Sunday night. As the Democrats were unable to pass their budget bills, during the final hour they combined all of them into one mammoth extortion bill. It was more than 1,431 pages in length, yet not available to read online or on paper. We were literally told the bill contains provisions relating to taxes, transportation, housing, labor, higher education, agriculture, energy, human services, scope of practice and a binary trigger ban for firearms.

Despite Republican objections, we were ordered to vote. Like Nancy Pelosi once said, "we have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it."

As I write this, I still don't know all of what's in it. It's 1,431 pages!

And if that wasn't bad enough, the deciding vote as to whether this monstrosity was sent to the governor was made by a Democrat senator who is charged with burglary.

To me, it's par for the course. Democrats had two years to pass anything they wanted under one-party rule. Yet they'll point the finger at anyone but themselves for their dereliction of duty - and have no shame doing it.

It's been nothing but displays of radical, out-of-touch Democrat extremism for the past two years. How could anyone be surprised that they gave us one more for the road?

Quorum Meeting of the Mazeppa City Council Meeting Minutes Saturday, May 4, 2024

A meeting of the Mazeppa City Council was called to order at 9:00 AM by Mayor Chris Hagfors.

The meeting was called to order because a quorum was present for the City of Mazeppa Cleanup Day.

Present: Mayor Chris Hagfors. Council Persons, Erica Young, Dustin Wiebusch, and Steve Liffri.

Others Present: Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang, Public Works Director Scott Ellingson, Public Works staff Dan Nelson, Dynamic Recycling staff, Lake City Disposal staff, and multiple volunteers.

No business was discussed.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Meeting recessed at 12:15 PM.

Administrator-Clerk

Regular Meeting of the Mazeppa City Council Meeting Minutes Wednesday, May 8, 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, Public Works Director Scott Ellingson, Municipal Liquor Store Manager Todd Ihrke, Helen Reiland, John Clemens, Corey Klein, Jason Klein, Bill Hedin, Travis Liffri, Jordan Robinson, Jed Stoltz, Carol Stoltz, Miranda Ihrke, Ken Berg, Irene Berg, Tara Gullickson, Darrell Zeller, Sarah Forzetting Dodson, Blaine Hentz, Myra Schuck, Darold Mehrkens, Trudy Mehrkens, Shanon O Reilly, and Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang.

Present via electronic meeting: Wabasha County Sherriff's Chief Deputy Jim Warren, Holly Galbus from the News Record, Robert Josselyn, Mindy Arendt, and Russ Doss from Overland Engineering.

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

Motion by Young, second by Hammes to approve the April 10, 2024 regular Council meeting minutes and the May 4, 2024 Council quorum minutes. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to close the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing 1 for Land Management Ordinance 2024-02 regarding Stormwater Mitigation on future development. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Regular meeting was closed at 6:02 PM.

Public hearing was opened at 6:02 PM.

Ordinance 2024-02 regarding stormwater mitigation on future development on open lands in the City of Mazeppa was explained. The purpose is to not create issues in the downstream watershed if development takes place on lands in northeast Mazeppa. No changes in current practices would occur if the land remained in its current agricultural use.

No other comments were offered.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffri to close Public Hearing 1. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Public Hearing 1 on Land Management Ordinance 2024-02 closed at 6:14 PM.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to re-open the regular Council meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Regular Council meeting re-opened at 6:14 PM.

Wabasha County Sherriff's Chief Deputy Jim Warren presented the monthly Incident Command Report. He also said that even though staffing was still down, the Sherriff's department would be able to cover the extra needs for Mazeppa Daze and asked if the City would like to have the speed trailer deployed for Mazeppa Daze weekend, since there is also a large event at Spring Creek Motocross park that weekend also. City staff asked Chief Deputy Warren to be aware of speed and stop sign violations at the intersection of 2nd Ave. NE and Cherry St.

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

Administrator Clerk Karl Nahrgang gave the Fire Department report.

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

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve a new point-of-sale system purchase for the Liquor Store's on-sale operation. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to close the regular meeting and open the Public Hearing 2 for Land Management Ordinance 2024-01 changing zoning for parcels R23.00027.00 and R23.00190.00 from R-1 to C-2. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Regular meeting was closed at 6:28 PM.

Public hearing 2 opened at 6:28 PM.

A business has approached a local landowner about purchasing land to place a retail business within the City of Mazeppa.

(continued on page 21)



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Mazeppa City Council Meeting (continued from page 20)

To move forward, zoning for parcels R23.00027.00 and R23.00190.00 would need to be changed from R-1 to C-2 by Land Management Ordinance 2024-01.

Mayor Hagfors gave parameters for comments and began taking comments from attendees.

Comments:

Why are businesses not being urged to build on 1st Avenue in the downtown business district.

Urge the business entity to locate in an area that already has proper zoning to leave residential areas for residential development.

What is the business plan and long-term goal?

Will there be access from highway 60? Using 2nd Ave. SE and Cedar will increase traffic and residents have safety concerns for children and families living in that area of town.

Will the proposed walking path stay in the same area as planned?

What is the business development's traffic control plan?

Wants no walking path or store in the proposed area.

Small communities need businesses to locate in the community to maintain growth. People that have these questions need to contact the City.

When does the City plan to approve this Ordinance and when would it take effect?

Some of these issues have been discussed in past meetings, and people should attend Council meetings or call City Hall and ask questions.

Mayor Hagfors thanked the attendees for their comments.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to close the Public Hearing 2 for Land Management Ordinance 2024-01. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Public hearing closed at 7:07 PM.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to re-open the regular Council meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Regular meeting was opened at 7:08 PM.

City Engineer Matt Mohs presented the engineering report.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to approve the drafting of a letter detailing the land swap of the new WWTP location for the old location in Herb Vik Park meeting the existing DNR grant covenant and to direct the City Administrator to sign and submit the land swap letter. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to approve amendment number 2 for \$5218 on the Owner Engineer agreement to prepare an easement for the watermain extension at the new sewer plant location. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

City Administrator Karl Nahrgang gave a City Hall activities report.

Helen Reiland of the Mazeppa Area Historical Society let the Council know that a new stove was purchased and installed at the community center and was seeking reimbursement of \$600 to the Mazeppa Area Historical Society.

Motion by Hammes, second by Young to reimburse the Mazeppa Area Historical Society for the stove installed at the community center. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Luke Lunde of WSB engineering shared photos of the riverbank restoration and showed a proposal for improved access to the river's edge for fishing along the newly installed rich structure in the streambed with the remaining funds on the grant.

Motion by Young, second by Wiebusch to approve the plan to improve river access on each end of Herb Vik Park. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Jason and Corey Klein told the Council of their intent to add mini storage facility next to Turbo's Repair and are in process of surveying and getting necessary use permits.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to approve building permit 24-920-057, 545 4th Ave. NE -water heater. 24-818-005, 347 5th Ave, NE -New home. 24-818-006, 331 5th Ave. NE -New home. 24-920-058, 243 Oak St. NE -heating system. 24-920-054, 359 2nd Ave. SE -home/garage. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Have found a company that may be a great fit for City cell phones for staff. Will have more to report at next meeting.

Still waiting for completed documents to be submitted by property holder on Riverbluff 2nd subdivision.

City Hall needs to get the final draft of the personnel handbook for review.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to approve Resolution 2024-12 to hold a disc golf tournament at Herb Vik Park. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Hammes to approve Resolution 2024-12 to hold a disc golf tournament at Herb Vik Park. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2024-13 issuing a temporary off-site liquor license to the Mazeppa Municipal Liquor Store to serve at community market/music in the park events this summer. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2024-14 to accept the donation of a bench by the Friends and Family of Derek Tri. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Young, second by Liffrig to approve Resolution 2024-15 to accept the donations to the City for community events. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to approve Resolution 2024-16 temporarily closing roads for Memorial Day events. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

1st Reading Ordinance 2024-01 NCE Properties LLC Lots 1-5, Block 5, and all of Block 38, in the City of Mazeppa from R-1 to C-2.

1st Reading Ordinance 2024-02 Amending Section 2 Article 2 of the Revised Land Man-

agement Ordinance to add Stormwater Runoff Reduction. Requirements.

Attorney Lamprecht asked that the development agreement for Chestnut Estates be added to June's meeting agenda under old business.

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

Council thanked the Tri family for the donation of the park bench, reminded everyone of the volunteer park cleanup at Herb Vik Park, thanked the volunteers that participated at Cleanup Day, and to Mr. Roth and the Z-M shop classes for building the A.D.A. compliant park picnic tables.

Motion by Liffrig, second by Young to close the meeting to protect Attorney-Client Privilege

(Minnesota Statute 13.005, Subdivision 3(b)) regarding MB Sveen Properties LLC - 4th Ave. NE where the purposes of Attorney-Client privilege and open meeting law. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Meeting closed at 8:31 PM.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to re-open the meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Meeting was re-opened at 9:38 PM.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Liffrig to reject the offer of easement and lease on 4th Ave. NE made by MB Sveen Properties LLC. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Motion by Wiebusch, second by Young to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, none opposed. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Administrator-Clerk

Recently the Council of the City of Mazeppa held public hearings. The participation in these meetings was good, and the comments and questions were helpful. Dollar General has approached a local landowner about purchasing property in Mazeppa. Preliminary discussions with companies doing background research for land acquisition and engineering are ongoing. At any time during this process, it may be determined that it is not feasible. During this research phase, many rumors get started, but until an agreement is signed, no one knows if the project will move forward. A portion of the land needed to have zoning changed before an agreement can be completed.

One comment expressed was that it seems as if the City is trying to "operate in the shadows". Nothing is farther from the truth. Council meetings, EDA meetings, and all committee meetings are open to the public. Council meetings are posted 3 days before the meeting in accordance with open meeting statute. City Hall publishes its meeting minutes after approval on the City's website. Minutes are not a transcription, but they are a report of the business conducted. If there are questions that are not answered during these meetings, City Hall is available from 8A - 5P Monday through Thursday, and until noon on Friday. We are always happy to answer questions that you have. So give us a call if you have questions on City business.

Zumbro Falls City Council Minutes - April 10, 2024

Zumbro Falls Council met at City Hall. Present at the meeting were all council members, Fire Chief, Scott Kennedy and Darla Oelkers.

The meeting was called to order by the mayor at 6PM.

Clerk read to council the minutes from the March meeting that were accepted as read with a motion from Anderson, seconded Bankers, all in favor, carried.

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

Darla presented the council with details on the scoreboard for Cardinal Park. Donations have been received and bids for the project explained. A few bids are yet to get for the project. Darla will keep the council updated. The Lake City Lakesters Car Club will be holding their 5th annual car show in Zumbro Falls on June 1st or do to rain on June 2nd. Council approved the event and stated the city will supply the construction toilet and the availability to use the City Hall restrooms. The City will also pay for a DJ if the Club wants to have music at the event.

Scott updated the council with Fire Department business. Two new turnouts will be arriving sometime in August or September to be paid with money set aside in the City general fund from the State Covid Fund.

Council decided to not waive the statutory tort limits on the insurance renewal, due In July of this year, on the property and liability insurance policy. This agreed with a motion from Benson, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

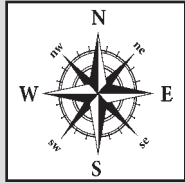
Discussion was made concerning the Community Garden. It was decided the City would offer use to Zumbro Falls residents on a free use basis providing only water. It will be the responsibility of all gardeners for the preparing, maintaining, and removal of all debris at the end of gardening season.

Bruce is getting bids to repair the groundwater situation at the ponds. This needed to satisfy the inspection from the MPCA. Council also agreed that Gillford Township could list the City Hall as a backup location for election voting.

A motion for the meeting to adjourn and the Clerk to pay bills presented was made by Benson, seconded Anderson, all in favor, carried.

Submitted by,
Susan Eischens, Clerk

*Changes in Latitudes,
Changes in Attitudes*
**Invasion of the
Zombie Cicadas**



By Terry Campbell

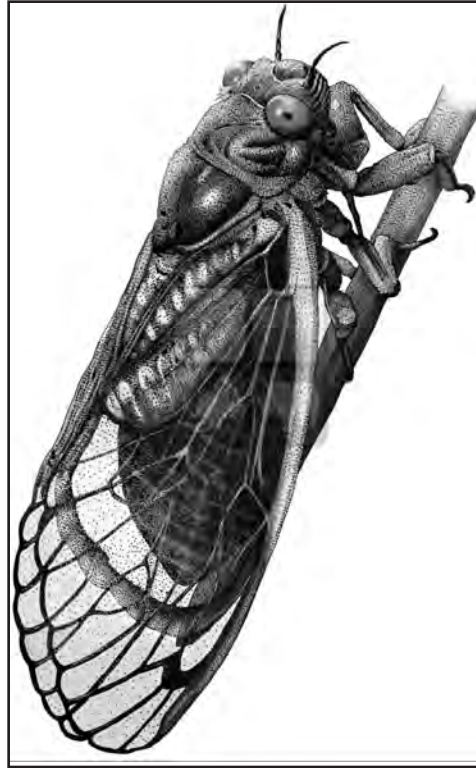
This column is written by Messenger editor and Minnesota native Terry Campbell.

Terry now splits his time between Minnesota when it's warm here and Tennessee when it's cold here.

Cicadas come out in the summer. It happens every year in Tennessee. They are best known by the high pitched buzz created by the male vibrating their abdomen over 120 times per second. This sound can reach 100 decibels. They make a lot of noise and start flying around looking for a mate. You can see the evidence of Cicadas since they shed their exoskeleton a couple times while growing. You will see the empty shell attached to the bark of a tree. Every thirteen or seventeen years a brood of cicadas, which have lived under the soil near a tree, will emerge and finish their life process by mating and dying. This year, the first time since 1803, the broods will co-emerge in the same year and populate in the trillions. If that is not enough, a fungus has infected the cicada, turning them into zombies.

The Massospora cicadina fungus attacks the bugs and takes over their body and behavior. The Cicada emerges from the soil with the goal of procreating, but the fungus makes them unable to achieve this objective. This fungus grows as a spore in the abdomen of a Cicada and causes them to swell up and burst releasing a white chalky substance. In the process their genitals fall off. The fungus causes them to become hyper sexualized yet unable to produce.

If that hasn't got your attention yet, the fungus also has a hallucinatory effect on birds which eat them. Baby Copperheads congregate around trees and feed on the Cicadas because it is an easy and plentiful food supply. They haven't figured out what the effect is



on snakes yet. On top of that the Cicada holds the title of king of the animal kingdom peeing contest. The Cicada has muscle that pushes waste through a tiny hole, like a jet. The flow rate is triple that of humans and elephants, reaching ten feet per second. If you thought it was raining on a clear day, you were just getting soaked in Cicada urine.

So you have trillions of frustrated Cicadas flying and trying to mate with other Cicadas while peeing from trees, stoned birds zooming around under the influence of the zombie fungus, a whole brood of vipers growing up on hallucinatory fungal spores and a constant high pitched whine in your ears day and night. The greatest hatch of Cicadas seems to be located between northern Tennessee and southern Illinois. Even if the fungus doesn't affect the Copperheads, a bumper crop of the serpents is anticipated for 2024 from the plentiful food source, which will increase the number of snakes hatching young next spring.

They call it Cicada-geddon and some folks complain that it is too noisy to stay outside. A chef in New York City has offered Cicada cuisine in his restaurant featuring various types of insects. An entomologist has recommended that people skip the Cicada dish until the threat of the infected bugs has gone. For the rest of the world it just looks a little like the plagues have returned.

**A Minnesotan:
Working Dogs**



By RosaLin Alcoser

Over the course of my life my parents have always had a dog. And all of those dogs have had some sort of job that was either taught to them or they just naturally did.

The dog we had when I was little's job was to keep things out of bushes and watch children. Both of which she naturally did on her own. There was never anything in the bushes and she kept us away from anything that she deemed as a treat to human children.

The next dog my mom trained to stay by her side or if she wasn't home to stay by my side. Which he did very well and it was his job. His main occupation was making sure everyone was safe which he did rather well as he was a giant dog that strangers didn't want to tangle with and was a cow-

ard. This dog once trapped me in a bathroom with him because the tornado sirens were going off. He was very good at his job.

This same job was then taught to the next dog as well. With the expectation, he patrolled the perimeter of the house for mice and other rodents. The house and garage were mouse and rodent free for his entire life.

It is my parents' current job that is different though. This dog is mainly a dog of leisure. That isn't to say she doesn't have a job, it's just not an overly productive job. Much like Ken's job in Barbie Land is just beach, her job is just lake. She doesn't even swim in the lake; she just stands on the edge of it.

I believe this dog has swam exactly three times in her life. Twice when she fell off of the dock. The first time of which she blames me for as she feels I pushed her. When in reality she walked off the side of the dock and started swimming; while I was prepared to jump in and grab her since she was still rather young but didn't since she was swimming.

The third time was the one and only time she ran and jumped off the dock like the other dogs and even I do. Just to see if this was something she really didn't like or if the falling was the problem. She did not care for it and has not done it since.

Instead she keeps to her strengths and keeps doing her job of just being a lake. Not swimmer or lake jumper. Just lake.



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- ACROSS
1. Ice cream treat, pl.
 6. Albanian money
 9. Desertlike
 13. Like Bananas Foster
 14. Paleozoic ____
 15. O. Henry's specialty
 16. Printer brand
 17. Always, to a poet
 18. Extended family member
 19. "Breaking Bad" father
 21. "The Lion King" father
 23. Unit of length of yarn
 24. "____ Me Maybe"
 25. *____ Anderson, he knew best?
 28. The Supremes, e.g.
 30. Subject matter, pl.
 35. Same as ayah
 37. Plural of #14 Across
 39. Like less processed grain
 40. Kind of shark
 41. U.S. Airline
 43. Short for "and elsewhere"
 44. Opposite of digest
 46. Flabbergast
 47. Like Gulf Stream
 48. Most achy
 50. Not much (2 words)
 52. Reggae's cousin
 53. Rapunzel's abundance
 55. Maintenance closet staple
 57. *____ Rock of "Everybody Hates Chris"
 60. "Finding Nemo" father
 63. Golfer's sun protection
 64. Aloha prop
 66. Only daughter of Michael Jackson
 68. Not active
 69. Emergency Medical Services
 70. In the cooler (2 words)
 71. "Opie's father
 72. Egyptian boy king, for short
 73. Button on electrical outlet

- DOWN
1. Nth degree
 2. Not many
 3. Turkish money
 4. Online troublemaker
 5. Mike Brady's children, e.g.
 6. Malicious look
 7. Before, in the olden days
 8. Culture Club 1983 hit "____ Chameleon"
 9. Solo at LaScala
 10. Fish eggs, pl.
 11. Cuzco valley empire
 12. Yellow #5, e.g.
 15. Stream of revenue
 20. Dog-____ pages
 22. Final, abbr.
 24. Medicated shampoo ingredient (2 words)
 25. *____ Evans Sr. of "Good Times"
 26. Idealized image
 27. "Prepare to meet your ____!"
 29. Wraths
 31. Exclamation in a stinky room
 32. Smidgins
 33. "National Lampoon" father
 34. 1965 march site
 36. Garden staple
 38. Half a ticket
 42. Carl Jung's inner self
 45. Casual top
 49. T, in Greek
 51. Lethargy
 54. Speck in the ocean
 56. Heathrow craft
 57. Same as genie
 58. Pre-owned
 59. Type of parrot
 60. Atomizer output
 61. Van Gogh's famous flower
 62. On Santa's gift list
 63. Roman road
 65. Down Under runner
 67. Group of dishes

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