

# Herness Headlines

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## Lake Home Sweet Lake Home



In October, Zac and Cari, along with Cari's parents, closed on a lake home on Pickerel Lake in Otter Tail County, MN. With lake home prices continuing to climb and being particular with what lake they wanted to be on, it only made sense to go together on a lake place. This way they will be able to split the work and maintenance that comes along with a lake place as well. The lake home is a year-round home with some unique features to it. All the rock on the exterior of the house and the upstairs fireplace consists of rock that was hand-picked from the Badlands. Zac and Cari, as well as Cari's parents, are looking forward in spending some time at their lake home doing all kinds of winter and summer activities and just simply getting away to relax.



Cari, Zac and Mocha at their lake home at Pickerel Lake, MN.

## Puppy Love

Liberty Creek's Mocha Java (AKA "Mocha") is now a 21-month old puppy at heart, but not in size. Mocha is weighing in at 65 pounds and she fits into the AKC standard at a height of 22 inches. She has been the highlight of Zac and Cari's lives. Mocha, a leap-year pup, celebrated her first birthday a day early on Feb 28th. Mocha loves swimming in the water

and she finally jumps off the end of the dock. She was a bit timid last year. Her other favorite thing to do is - hunting. She can't get enough of it. When Zac went out during deer hunting this year, Mocha whimpered when he left home without her. She could tell he was going hunting by the clothes he puts on. Mocha has adjusted to both "Mom" and "Dad" working away from home each day, but definitely enjoys the moments when they come home. Her nose is always as close to the door as she can get it and her butt wagging to greet Mom and Dad when they get home.



*Zac & Cari celebrated their sixth wedding anniversary on May 1st.*

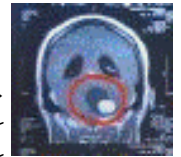
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Happy  
Holidays!



## Zac Undergoes Brain Surgery



In May, Zac and Cari had some unexpected excitement in their lives. During most of April and May, Zac had been experiencing some very painful headaches and was having difficulties with his balance. Several different diagnosis' were thought to be the root cause of all the symptoms from high caffeine intake, BPPV (vertigo), to chronic sinusitis or a sinus infection, but none of the remedies for each seemed to work. So on Monday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Zac and Cari went into WestHealth in Plymouth for a MRI. Right after the MRI was complete, Zac and Cari were informed that the radiologist wanted to speak with them before they left. It was then that Zac and Cari found out Zac had a mass/cyst/tumor in his lower right brain in the cerebellum area. They were given the MRI images and advised to go to a hospital and get admitted through the emergency room, so they headed off to North Memorial Medical Center (NMMC). Once at NMMC, Zac was visited by a neurosurgeon, Dr. Roach, and he admitted

Zac to the Trauma-Neuro Intensive Care Unit (TNICU) at NMMC right away and performed surgery that afternoon to drain all the fluid that was surrounding the tumor. Zac stayed in TNICU for the next several days hooked up to a device that continued to drain the fluid surrounding the tumor. On Thursday, May 26, Zac had surgery to remove the tumor. The surgery was a huge success and the surgeons were able remove the entire tumor since it was self-contained. After the surgery, Zac stayed in TNICU until Friday, June 3 and then was moved out to a regular hospital room until Monday, June 6<sup>th</sup> when Zac was cleared to go home after he had another MRI that checked out good. Zac spent the rest of June and the first week of July at home recovering from the surgery. Thankfully, his company and his boss were very supportive of him and this allowed Zac the proper time to recover. Finally at the end of June, Dr. Roach called with Zac's tumor biopsy results which turned out to be benign (non-cancerous) and the type of tumor Zac had was called a hemangioblastoma (basically meaning a tumor arising from blood vessel tissue). Today, Zac is doing remarkably well and days go by as if the surgery never took place. However, both Zac and Cari are a little more receptive to how precious life is and are enjoying all the wonderful things that life has to offer. For more details on Zac's surgery, you can visit [www.herness.net/zac\\_surgery.htm](http://www.herness.net/zac_surgery.htm).

## Moose Spotted in the BWCA

From the Rocky Mountains to the lakes of Minnesota, Zac and Cari's travels were enjoyable as ever. In January, Zac traveled to the Colorado Rockies to go downhill skiing with guys at Breckenridge and Vail. In February, Zac and Cari flew out to Bozeman, Montana and met up with Cari's parents and brother for a weekend of skiing at Big Sky. Then in July, Zac and Cari had the opportunity to spend the entire week of the Fourth of July and every weekend in July at Pickerel Lake in Otter Tail County, MN. As always, the vacation was spent hanging out with family, golf, waterskiing and just relaxing in the sun. Then in Sept., Zac and Cari headed up to the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area for a weekend in the great outdoors. The trip was short this year, but it was very memorable as they encountered a big bull moose!



## Time to Spare

In their spare time, Zac and Cari continue to try and fit in as many things as possible. Late summer and early fall, they took on some outside projects at their home. They planted some shrubs, stained the deck (again), fixed some siding on the house, and painted the entire exterior of the house and shed. Zac and Cari got those projects complete just in time before hunting season started. Zac got out several times to go grouse and pheasant hunting in both MN and ND. He got several birds this year and was able to spend a lot of time with Mocha in the field. In November, Zac went with a buddy up to Northern MN for his first time deer hunting. Unfortunately, he didn't get a deer, but he enjoyed the experience and is looking forward to next year. Zac also took some time off from his MBA program at the Univ. of MN's Carlson School of Management, but plans to start back up with his classes this spring semester. Cari spends a bunch of her spare time doing stuff for Alpha Gamma Delta. In January, Cari stepped up to be the Delta Chapter's (at the Univ. of MN) Chapter Advisor. Cari also helps out the Beta Beta Chapter (NDSU - Fargo) by publishing the bi-annual newsletter and maintaining the alumnae chapter website.



## Cari is Hired at US Bank



After a year off from work, Cari took a job at US Bank in downtown Minneapolis in mid-September. She is the Market Research Analyst focusing on competitive intelligence for the Corporate Payment Systems department. She tracks the competitors who offer corporate credit card products and solutions and keeps an eye on what they are up to, so needless to say, she has learned a ton about American Express and several other key competitors. She enjoys working in downtown Minneapolis and commutes every day by bus.

Zac continues to work for Accenture at the Best Buy client site at their headquarters in Richfield, MN. Zac is an Application Architect and works on the Retek software solution that controls Best Buy's entire inventory.



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