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# Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, February 16, 2023

## Updated housing study directs city planners for community growth

By Lori Sorenson

There is demand for 144 owner-occupied homes, 90 more rental units and over 300 affordable senior housing units in Luverne and surrounding area.

That's according to the latest housing study reviewed Monday at the Luverne Economic Development Authority.

“It's a snapshot of the city's housing that we can use as we move forward into the next few years of housing development,” said EDA director Holly Sammons.

Joe Hollman of Maxfield Research and Consulting, Roseville, presented key highlights of the study.

“The area is missing out on potential population and household growth as some buyers choose to move elsewhere if they can't find suitable housing,” he said.

“A historically tight labor market is making it difficult for employers to find workers, and additional housing will be needed to support economic development.”

The study shows there's a housing shortage in Luverne, with the greatest need for middle-market “move-up” single-family homes in the \$300,000

to \$350,000 range and starter homes under \$200,000.

“All the realtors I've talked to have emphasized that need,” Hollman said.

Because it's difficult to build a new home for \$200,000 the study

Housing study/ page 5

## Jellema retires after 47 years and 157 children

By Mavis Fodness

A request from a friend back in 1976 led Marilyn Jellema of Hills to a 47-year profession.

Jellema had a desire to stay home with her daughter, Jodi, when friend Nelva Behr asked if she was interested in watching another child.

Behr and her husband, Ron, just had daughter Amy.

“We were blessed with Jodi and I wanted to stay home and that was made possible by bringing in Amy,” Jellema recalled.

“And so, on March 1, 1976, I started — not knowing that I would stay for 47 years.”

Jellema, 72, closed her day care Dec. 29, having chosen three years earlier not to renew her state license and officially retire.

“You just know when it is time,” she said.

A total of 157 children came to the Jellema home on a full-time basis and became “family” to Jellema and her husband, Jim.

The children (several of whom have had their own children cared for by Jellema) are still welcomed visitors to the home on the corner of South Anna Avenue and East Third Street.

“I ran my day care under the philosophy that I treated any child that came through the door as I wanted someone to treat my kids,

*“I treated any child that came through the door as I wanted someone to treat my kids. ... They were treated as a family — all the kids that ever came here are called ‘my kids.’”*

— Marilyn Jellema, retired day care ‘mom’

Jodi and Wade,” she said. “They were treated as a family — all the kids that ever came here are called ‘my kids.’”

‘Day care mom’ not a day care provider’

To many of the “kids,” the Jellemas became “Nana” and “Papa,” after Jodi married Chris Harnack and the couple's sons, Easton and Brock, came to the day care, where one word was never used to describe Marilyn.

“I don't like being called a day care provider,” she said. “A day care mom but not a provider.”

Jellema retires/see page 2



Amy Behr (left) was the first child enrolled in Marilyn Jellema's (center) home day care in Hills. Baby Scout Wiertzema was the last child enrolled before Jellema retired from her 47-year career. Submitted photo

## County Board splits votes on funding for day care center

By Mavis Fodness

On a split vote, Rock County Commissioners decided on Feb. 7 to assist the city of Luverne with a day care facility.

While commissioners voted 3-2 to give \$250,000 toward the estimated \$6.3 million remodel of the former Total Card Inc. office building on Roundwind Road.

The county will provide an additional \$200,000, contingent on if the project's construction goal is met.

Minutes prior to the split vote, commissioners declined to grant the city the entire \$450,000 in another split vote.

While commissioners Greg Burger and Stan Williamson recognized the need for more local day care, they voted twice not to allocate money toward the city of Luverne project.

Burger said it's about the money and who is responsible paying for it. “I keep hearing this

County day care support/page 3

## County collects second-largest gravel tax amount in 2022

By Mavis Fodness

Almost \$187,000 in aggregate taxes was collected from six gravel pit operators in 2022.

The amount, \$186,532, is the second-most collected in the past 10 years.

The highest, \$189,969, from eight operators, was in 2020.

The collected taxes were split four ways.

The county road and bridge fund received \$75,312, special reserve fund \$26,581, townships \$75,312, and administrative fees \$9,327.

Six townships split the amount collected from the town-

ship fund, based on where the aggregate originated.

Mound Township received the highest amount (\$29,303), followed by Denver (\$22,069), Battle Plain (\$8,582), Clinton (\$6,081), Vienna (\$4,869), and Luverne (\$4,393).

The remaining townships of

Beaver Creek, Kanaranzi, Magnolia, Martin, Rose Dell and Springwater each received \$500 from the administrative fund to offset the gravel tax expenditures.

The county collects the state-mandated 15 cents per ton of removed material from the county.

The increased amount began

in 2017.

Northern Con-Agg LLP paid the most tax in 2022 at \$68,135. Bremik Materials Inc. (\$54,660) was next followed by Henning Construction (\$24,112), Buffalo Ridge Concrete (\$21,255), W&N Construction (\$10,919) and Reker Construction (\$7450.)

## Luverne Leap raises \$23,000 for LACF

By Lori Sorenson

Twenty-nine people raised \$23,000 for the Luverne Area Community Foundation through the “Reezin’ for Freezin’ Luverne Leap.”

It started as an idea from Rock County Sheriff Evan Verbrugge who has participated in “Polar Plunge” fundraisers through his law enforcement affiliations.

Working with the LACF, he and organizers encouraged community members to support the cause and raise money ahead of Saturday's “leap” into The Lake.

Luverne Area Chamber Director Jane Lanphere offered a thanks to organizers, leapers and fundraisers in her Chamber newsletter Monday morning.

“What an awesome turn-out and great participation,” she said. “All of you brave women, men and

Luverne Leap/see page 3



Theresa DeBoer photo

Luverne's Dave Duffy makes a triumphant entry in his “Wienerman” costume Saturday as one of 29 “leapers” who helped raise money for the “Reezin’ for Freein’ Luverne Leap” at the The Lake.

## Helgesons host 30th Father/Son Pool Tournament in Beaver Creek

Annual event has raised over \$48,000 for hospice

By Lori Sorenson

Sixteen teams competed for the traveling trophy in the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Helgeson Father/Son Pool Tournament Feb. 10 and 11 at Up the Dam Creek Bar in Beaver Creek.

Stan and Ron Jensen defeated tournament hosts Gary and Travis Helgeson in the final round.

Dick Kramer and Brandon Muellenberg defeated Keith and Ryan Morford for third and fourth places respectively.

Other father-son teams included Rocko and Vince Verhey, Irwin and Kyle Rozeboom, Burdett and Kyle Braun, Bert and Andrew Verhey, Wade and Noah

Pool tournament/see page 3

Gary and Travis Helgeson took second place in the tournament. They're pictured with the traveling trophy and the personalized leather cue case that belonged to tournament founder Gordon Helgeson.



Lori Sorenson photo



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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Meetings

**Compassionate Friends** will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 20, in the Luverne Area Community Foundation office next to the Palace Theatre. The support group is for anyone grieving the loss of a child - recent or past, of any age and any cause. Contact pat.saum@gmail.com.

### Dental clinic in Luverne Feb. 23

The mobile dental clinic will be in Luverne Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Rock County Health and Human Services community room.

This clinic provides dental care for adults and children ages 0 to over 100. Call 612-746-1530 to schedule an appointment. All forms of insurance are accepted. Organized by #Luv1LuvAll's Rock County Oral Health Task Force.

### Virtual author tour in February

The libraries of the Plum Creek Library System will offer "Wrapped in Reading Author Tour," which include Feb. 21 paranormal researcher and author Chad Lewis, and Feb. 28 mystery thriller writer Brian Freeman. Preregister at <https://tinyurl.com/Plum-creekvirtualauthortour>

For more information contact the Rock County Library at 507-449-5040 or rocklibrarystaff@gmail.com.

### World Day of Prayer March 2

Luverne's First Presbyterian Church will host a World Day of Prayer at 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 3, under the theme, "I have heard about your faith," based on Ephesians 1:15-19.

A time of fellowship will follow the service. World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical movement of Christian women who gather the first Friday in March for informed prayer and prayerful action. See [wdp-usa.org](http://wdp-usa.org).

### Community Ed

Community Education will offer the following classes in the next few weeks. Call 507-283-4724 to register.

Learn how to protect, detect and report fraud in **Don't Be a Target of Medicare and Consumer Fraud** on Feb. 21 from 10 to 11 a.m. Fee is \$5.

Learn how to detect and treat Emerald Ash Borer and other common insects and diseases at **Insects and Diseases in Trees: What Should I Plant?** On Feb. 27. Fee is \$10.

Students grades 3-8 can learn painting techniques in Pour Painting to create beautiful art pieces on Feb. 28. Fee is \$10.

Join Master Gardeners on March 2 at **Planning Your Garden** to learn tips on how to plan your garden for your space. Fee is \$5.

Students in grades K-2 with an adult are invited to Child-Adult Yoga for strengthening child-care-giver bonds starting on March 4 for four weeks. Fee is \$40.

### Free tax preparation at library

AARP volunteers will offer free tax preparation for low-income individuals and seniors at the Rock County Library on Mondays starting Feb. 13 through April 15.

Call 507-449-5040 for appointments. Bring documents, including last year's tax return and a form of identification to document social security number. Tax returns for 2021 will be prepared if requested.



Thirty-one of Marilyn Jellema's 157 day care children through the years attended her retirement party Jan. 8 in Steen. Pictured from left are Jill Reindel, Amy Behr, Karlee VanDerWeerde, Maddie VanDerWeerde, Jaci Stubbe, SunMee Top, Brynn Rauk, Taren Rauk, Maybrie Bush, Sage DeBoer, Laney Top, Luka Wiertzema, Lily Top, Jordyn Rauk, Kai Wiertzema, Londyn DeBoer, Colton Bass, Jellema (holding Scout Wiertzema), Karic Wiertzema, Dalton Bass, Malachi Bush, Micah Bush, Kale Wiertzema, Brock Harnack, Dylan Gehrke, Easton Harnack, Kenzie Fischer, Lauren Fischer, Jodi Harnack and Wade Jellema.

## Jellema retires after 47 years in day care/continued from page 1A

Her day care ran on a tight schedule in order to get the school-aged children on and off buses and keep the infant and toddlers occupied during her operation hours of 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

She read stories, completed crafts, taught basic reading and math skills, and saw to it that the children were polite to one another, which Jellema said is among proudest moments of her career.

"Watching the kids grow, watching them learn, watching them be kind to one another," she listed.

"Like now you go to ball games and you see that some of the little ones still seek out those older ones and go and sit by them — they are still best friends," Jellema said. "You go to weddings and see the people in the wedding party are day care people that they grew up with."

The Jellemas are often seen surrounded by their kids as they attend community events or Hills-Beaver Creek Secondary School events.

### Kids have lasting friendships with Jellema

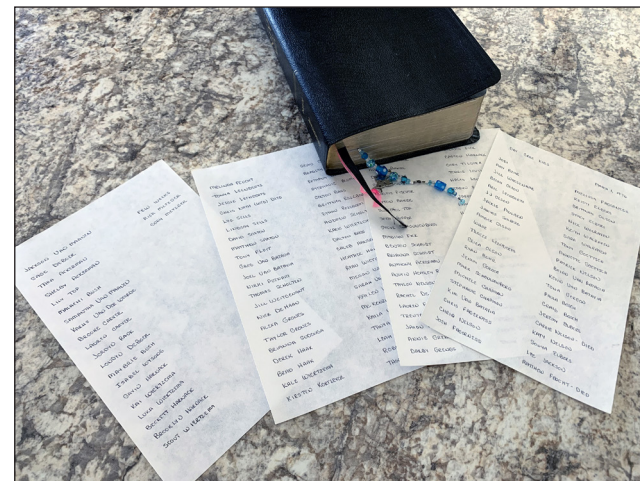
Knitting is one of Jellema's passions, and as a retiree she dedicates one day a week meeting with friends who call themselves the "Happy Hookers."

She also knits with one of her kids, Laney Top, 10, who's dedicating the next eight years (until she graduates from H-BC) knitting regularly with Jellema.

"Laney said, 'I'm going to hang with you until you're 80, and then you're on your own,'" Jellema said with a laugh.

Years ago, Jellema began making and donating tiny baby blankets to the neonatal intensive care units in Sioux Falls.

The first blanket went to her kid



Mavis Fodness photo/0216 Marilyn Jellema Retirement

Four handwritten sheets list the 157 children that Marilyn Jellema cared for during the 47 years she operated a family day care from her Hills home. The sheets are kept in her Bible for safe keeping.

Sage DeBoer, who surprised her parents by arriving weeks before her due date. Jellema's blankets allowed the various medical equipment to be easily placed between the hand-knitted pattern.

All of Jellema kids receive baby blankets when they decide to start their own families.

### Good times and bad

Through the years, Jellema has shared in the joy of adding another kid to the day care, the anguish in the adult deaths of three former kids (Carrie Nelson, Chris Nath and Matt Feucht), prayed with others when they were troubled, and offered support after accidents such as the one where former day care kid Trenton Bass was paralyzed in high school.

"We were at the football game where the accident happened," Jellema said. "I always have a pit in my stomach because I just felt bad for him."

Recently Jellema's sad feeling was lessened when Bass and his wheelchair were carried up the steps in order to enter the former place of his childhood care. He stated, "Like

old times. God is good."

"When he said that, the feeling went away and I knew he was going to be OK because I heard it from him. He is an amazing person," Jellema said.

### Career choice was a good decision

Choosing a career in family day care is one that Jellema never regretted.

"In the world we are living in, you have to have health insurance and 401ks are huge," she said. "With a home day care you don't have any of this. I like to say my 401k are memories."

"Day care is a great profession, but you have to like kids. You can't do it for the money — never do it for the money."

Instead Jellema focused on what she could give the kids.

"If there is one thing you can do in your life that can change one thing in someone else's life, it is a success," she said.

Four handwritten papers are tucked into Jellema's Bible. The names of all 157 kids are listed in the order of their arrival at Jellema's day care.

The list starts with Jellema's daughter and ends with Scout Wiertzema, who was 11 months at Jellema's retirement party on Jan. 8.

No. 2 Amy Behr holds a special place as the child who started the day care.

"It is a great feeling to hear that I started the best career she could have asked for," Behr said.

As with the 156 kids who followed her, Behr recognizes Jellema's positive impacts in her life.

"She was always there to cheer me on, whatever that may have been, from sports to music concerts," Behr said. "To this day it is great to spend time catching up with her, and she is always welcoming me to come visit anytime."

## #TellUsTuesday Results

Scan Here to Vote for this Week's Survey!



### How Do You Typically Spend Valentine's Day?

With my significant other	43%
With family/friends	6%
Alone	14%
Like any other day because it's a made up holiday	37%

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## County day care support/ continued from page 1A

is somehow becoming an essential service, and I don't agree with it," Burger said.

"I don't think the taxpayers in Luverne and Rock County should be held responsible for providing day care. It is not law enforcement. It is not public assistance. It just should not be categorized as an essential service."

Luverne officials purchased the 30,000-square-foot building in 2021 and will lease the space to a third party to operate the day care.

Once renovations are complete, the facility will be able to care for 168 newborn- through school-aged children.

Various applications have been made for state and federal financial assistance in order to complete the project.

In December the city received a \$2.6 million federal grant. A \$3.4 million request with the state may be reconsidered as legislators look to pass a bonding bill this spring.

City officials asked county commissioners to support a portion of the remodeling costs.

"I don't see very many communities in this state or any other state under 5,000 people willing to spend that kind of money on a day care facility," Burger said.

"Especially when you can look around in other communities in our area and see they spend about half of that building new construction and they are providing the service for the same amount of kids."

Chairman Sherri Thompson voted in favor of the county funding the day care project.

"I feel like, along with housing and other things, day care is something that we need," she said.

"I feel it is borderline essential for that need and for what we want to do to grow our county."

She pointed to the recently organized county economic development committee and its focus to bring more businesses into the county.

New businesses could bring more families interested in living in Rock County.

Williamson, whose District 2 encompasses the western half of Rock County, said he is also concerned about the high price tag for the day care project while seeing no need for the service among his constituents.

He pointed to the city of Hills project where a former business suite is being remodeled into three separate family day cares.

Once finished, the Hills facility appears to cover the needs of families in the southern areas of his district.

His northern constituents near Beaver Creek and Jasper indicate Luverne is not near their work areas.

"They just don't think they will use it," Williamson said. "They are just too far away (15 and 25 miles) and they work in the opposite direction."

Commissioner Jody Reisch supported allocating a portion of the federal funds the county received

*"I don't think the taxpayers in Luverne and Rock County should be held responsible for providing day care."*

*It is not law enforcement. It is not public assistance. It just should not be categorized as an essential service."*

— Greg Burger, Commissioner

for covid relief toward the building remodel, but not to operational costs.

"We just don't know what the future brings. I think an investment in a facility like that, that there's a value there," he said.

"We can disagree on the cost and everything — it is the city's responsibility to figure out how to fund the rest of it. I just want to show a little goodwill and help them out a bit."

Commissioner Gary Overgaard suggested the compromise, switching his vote to support the day care allocation to the city of Luverne.

"I have more questions than answers about money," he said. "That's my issue. I'm not saying we don't need day care. I think the case is that we do."

### Uses portion of \$1.8 million for day care

Rock County received more than \$1.8 million in 2021 and 2022 as part of the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Prior to the Feb. 7 commissioners meeting, a balance of \$474,000 remained.

When commissioners received notification about the federal funds in 2021, they agreed to focus on infrastructure needs around the county.

They set aside \$700,000, indicating there was \$100,000 available for each of the seven cities located in the county.

Luverne indicated they would use their \$100,000 toward the day care project.

Other cities used the funds to improve streets, sewer systems and other infrastructure improvements.

Other allocations were as follows:

- The rural water systems of Rock County and Lincoln-Pipestone received \$100,000 each for system improvements.

- The city of Hills received a second \$100,000 allocation toward its day care project.

- Rock County Agricultural Society (\$122,000) for sanitary supplies and a mobile stage.

- Alliance Communications (\$31,600) for internet services at the Land Management Office.

- Servicemaster (\$62,563) for duct cleaning at the courthouse and health and human services building.

- Sanford Luverne (\$42,400) for a power cot.
- Generations (\$325) for an EDA event.

- Rock County EDA (\$75,000) for operational expenses.



Lori Sorenson photo/0216 helgeson pool tournament

Travis Helgeson lines up a shot Friday night during opening rounds of the 30th Annual Father/Son Pool Tournament at Up the Dam Creek bar in Beaver Creek. He and his dad, Gary Helgeson (center), beat Dick Kramer (right) and Brandon Muellenberg that night on their way to second place. Kramer and Muellenberg were third.

## Helgeson Father-Son Pool Tournament/continued from 1A

Hofer, Ron and Stan Jensen, Bill and Eric Stegemann, Gary and Frank Parker, Dave and Travis Broesder, Tom and Josh Freese, Lee Westphal and Spencer Stroeh and Garrett Chicoine, Jarod and Tanner Rowden and Brian and Dalton Bennett.

Along with registrations for the double-elimination pool tournament, a quilt and several other raffles raised additional money.

Vicki (Helgeson) Nelson makes the quilt each year, Joni (Helgeson) Worm contributes door prizes, and the corn-hole games this year were constructed by Harvey Gehrke with artwork by Kenzie Helgeson.

The 2023 event raised \$5,800 for Sanford Luverne Hospice, bringing the total



Submitted photo

Stan and Ron Jensen (center) beat Gary (left) and Travis Helgeson to take top honors in the Helgeson Father-Son Pool Tournament over the weekend.

to \$48,100 over the years of Helgeson fundraising. Money came from the tri-state area and from as far away as Colorado and Indiana.

"It felt awesome," Gary Helgeson said after the tournament. "We raised the most money ever this year." Gordon and Kitty

Helgeson started the pool tournament in 1983 to support the Hospice Cottage in Luverne.

Gary played as a father-son team with his dad until Gordon's health declined. He passed away in 2012, and the tournament paused for several years until Gary's son, Travis, was old enough to play. It paused again for Covid 19, resuming in 2021.

"The Helgeson family wants to thank everyone for the donations, family members for helping and Up the Dam Creek for letting us play here," said Gary Helgeson, who with wife, Maureen, organizes the event.

"We especially thank the players. Without them there is no tournament."



Theresa DeBoer photo

Rick Peterson, AKA "Flipperman," makes his way down the beach to jump into frigid waters of The Lake Saturday as one of 29 "leapers" who helped raise \$23,000 for the Luverne Area Community Foundation community fund.

## Luverne Leap raises \$23,000/continued from page 1A

youth who jumped deserve a big round of applause and thanks. You are all amazing people and wonderful community leaders."

With temperatures in the mid-30s and first responders standing by, costumed participants took turns jumping into frigid water near the shore of The Lake.

Ron Cote and Bruce Thalhuber announced names of each one as they approached the water's edge, and two Luverne firefighters in insulated suits stood in the water to assist people to shore.

Participating leapers include Evan Verbrugge, Mike Davis, Dave Duffy,

Pat Baustian, Jason Oye, Joel de Cesare, Tim Gust, Amanda and Cora McDonald, Brady Dinger, Pat Saum, Jeff Stratton, James Roby, Jody Reisch, Knute Oldre, Reece Carlson, Colby Crabtree, Eric Sage, McKenzie Rosales, Connie Morrison, Dustin Rodger, Stacy Mente, Lucas Peters, Jackie Johnson, Dylan Gehrke, Isaac DeBoer, Joshua and Emily Crabtree and Rick Peterson.

In addition to the "leapers" who raised money, 12 local businesses sponsored the venture, and volunteers included Mike Davis and his "Lake Crew" and TJ Renken at the event.



Theresa DeBoer photo

Luverne's Mike Davis takes a flying leap into The Lake Saturday as one of 29 "leapers" who helped raise money for LACF with the "Reezin for Freezin' Luverne Leap."

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Class 5, pit run, and screened to be spread on Beaver Creek Township roads. Bids will be expected on or before the monthly meeting on  
**Monday, March 13, 2023**  
at the township hall.  
Bids may be sent to:  
**Beaver Creek Township: JoEllen Benson, Clerk**  
**PO Box 67, Beaver Creek MN 56116**  
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## Running shoes are priceless, even if you use them only for 'plodding'

In addition to journalism and survival skills, college taught me the harsh consequences of a sedentary lifestyle and reckless diet.



### ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

Late night homework with Cheetos, on-demand cafeteria soft-serve and weekend beer and pizza sent me home in sweatpants after my first spring semester.

Fortunately, a 20-something metabolism and occasional three-milers on the gravel road near Kenneth took care of the Freshman 15.

But it also taught me the value of quality running shoes and outdoor exercise.

It was tough to spend the money on that first pair of Asics, and I frugally wore them long past the recommended 500 miles. But the return on their investment made future purchases easier.

I continued replacing running shoes as they covered miles on urban lake trails and Twin Cities neighborhoods and then on blacktop shoulders when we moved "home" to Rock County.

When Jonathan came along, he rode in his stroller ahead of the Asics. (The rough gravel road bounced him to sleep.) By the time Carson arrived five years later, Jonathan was tooling along on his bike beside his brother's stroller.

We lived within running and bicycling distance of the Blue Mound Trail when it was paved in the park. Carson graduated from his stroller, and we continued logging miles with two bicycles pedaling a safe distance ahead of Mom and often a dog.

As my running buddies grew older and developed their own interests, it became

increasingly difficult to make time for the Asics.

There was T-ball, Little League, piano lessons, Tae Kwon Do, marching band, jazz band, football, basketball, tennis, outings with friends and numerous other activities that demanded attention.

I sneaked in a run whenever I could, sometimes late at night on the half mile of gravel near our home or during my lunch break on the bike path in town.

I'd occasionally meet 50-something marathoners on a 10-mile training run, and I envied their freedom — to the point where I wistfully contemplated a marathon in my retirement.

But soon enough my boys were driving to their own practices and social engagements, and before I knew it they were grown and investing in their own running shoes, much to their mother's delight.

Among the wisdoms I hoped to impart on my children was the importance of outdoor exercise ... for the body, brain and soul.

It's what has so far kept me healthy and my head on straight, and today I'm the 50-something runner (I "plod" now) amid younger athletes on the trail.

While I'm no inspiration for anyone's marathon, I hope they know they're on the right path.

Good health is a blessing, but it requires an investment of time and running shoes (and strollers, bicycles or whatever gets you moving) to enjoy for a lifetime.

## What you need to know about vaping and teens

### GUEST EDITORIAL

By Stephanie Pierce, Emma Lysne and Wanda Jarchow, Substance Free Coalition of Rock County

Parents need to understand the prevalence of e-cigarette use, also known as vaping, and the serious health risks they pose to young people.

Vaping comes in many forms: e-cigarettes, pen mods, box mod kits, pod mods (JUUL), which may sound foreign to some, but are everyday terms among youth.

They look like pens or flash drives or are disguised as watches or tucked into the sleeve of a hoodie, which make them hard to detect at home or school. They are sold in a wide variety of kid-friendly flavors, from gummy bear to menthol which hide the fact that e-cigarettes can deliver massive doses of nicotine, which is highly addictive.

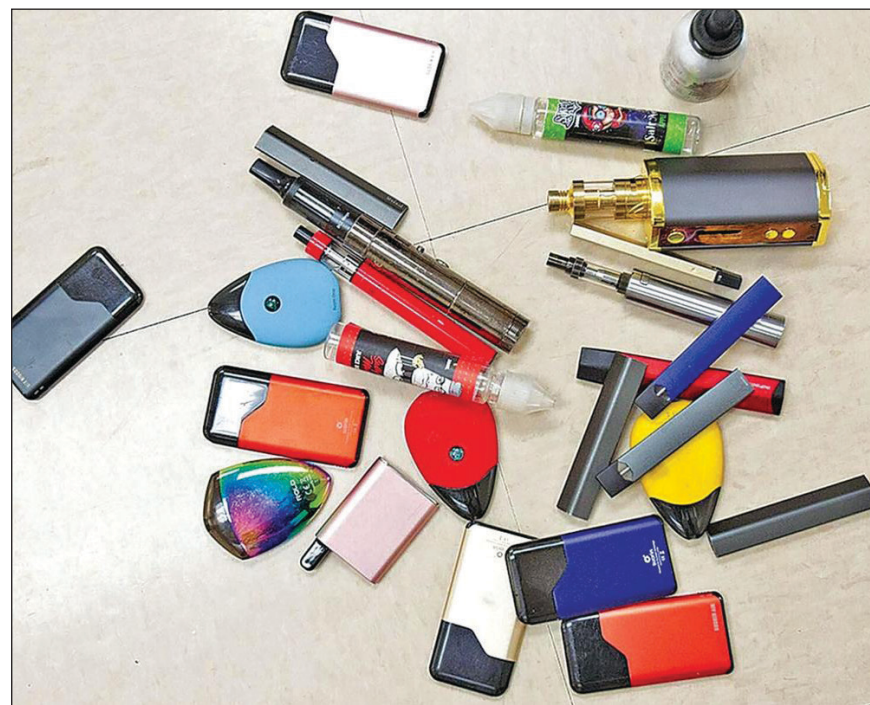
Nicotine in any form is unsafe for youth as their brains continue to develop into their mid 20s and can impact attention, memory, learning and impulse control. Using nicotine in adolescence may also increase the risk of future addiction to other drugs.

The most common reason middle and high school students give for trying e-cigarettes is "a friend used them," and they're drawn to the flavors and the lower costs of some e-cigarettes. Youth may turn to vaping to deal with stress or anxiety, but what may start out of curiosity could become an addiction and become a source of stress. Youth e-cigarette and cigarette use have been associated with mental health symptoms such as depression.

The FDA in 2020 restricted some flavored e-cigarettes, but there were loopholes that exempted thousands of flavored products that appeal to kids because of the use of synthetic nicotine. Many communities are restricting the sale of youth-appealing items, but that won't stop youth from finding them online or elsewhere.

We still do not know the long-term health effects of vaping. There are many unknown chemicals in e-cigarettes yet to be determined as to how they affect brain development. Some ingredients are known to harm the lungs. Some flavors are safe to eat, but not inhale. People can be poisoned by swallowing, breathing or absorbing vaping liquid through their skin or eyes.

Approximately 50 percent of



calls to poison control centers for e-cigarettes are for kids five years of age or younger.

Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) is a life-threatening injury as a direct result of vaping. This is where the lungs are unable to provide enough oxygen to the body. A young woman named Amanda who had vaped for seven years ended up on life-support with ARDS.

"It seems harmless until it isn't, she said. "You never know what can happen. I thought it was no big deal when I started."

E-cigarettes heat a liquid to produce an aerosol that users inhale into their lungs. The e-cigarette aerosol that users breathe from the device and exhale can contain harmful and potentially harmful substances. The liquid can contain nicotine, tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and cannabinoid (CBD) oils, and other substances and additives.

THC is the active ingredient of marijuana that produces the "high." Katherine Keyes, a professor at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health in New York City, speculates the rise in youth vaping

marijuana is due to the legalization and changing social norms around marijuana as well as pro-marijuana messaging.

Vitamin E acetate, an additive in some THC-containing vaping products, has been linked to severe — and sometimes fatal — lung injuries. The lack of smoke is also a problem as marijuana vaping can be concealed more easily as there is no telltale pot odor.

"It's not a matter of whether your child will be exposed to this, but when," Keyes said. "The best thing parents can do is to talk to their kids about marijuana use and start early — prior to middle school."

New products enter the market continually. We must remain vigilant to protect our youth from the mass marketing campaigns designed to pull in our youth and keep them on a path of dependence on such products.

*The mission of the Substance Free Coalition of Rock County is to educate the community and break down barriers that hinder success in addressing substance misuse.*

## DPS sounds alarm about growing sextortion threat facing Minnesota families

A Minnesota boy makes a new friend in an online game. He thinks it's a cute girl around his age. After chatting for a while, she sends him a nude photo of herself and asks for one in return. He sends a photo and suddenly his new friend stops being friendly.

She is actually an overseas criminal who demands money or says that photo will be sent to his parents and friends. Panicked and ashamed, the boy has no idea what to do next.

This and similar scenarios play out every day in homes around Minnesota. Financial sextortion is a growing issue affecting children and families in our state and around the country. Sextortion happens when someone tricks a person into sending them explicit photos then demands something in return for not sharing

the photos. The extortionist often demands more pictures, videos, meeting for sex acts or money. The recent rise in cases has primarily been financial sextortion — simple blackmail.

Law enforcement nationwide received more than 7,000 reports related to online financial sextortion involving children in 2022, according to the FBI.

They identified at least 3,000 victims, primarily boys. Tragically, more than a dozen children committed suicide because they felt there was no way out from the sextortion scheme.

FBI data shows a large portion of these cases originate outside the U.S., primarily in West African countries. That makes these cases extremely difficult to investigate or prosecute.

"It doesn't matter where in our state you live. If your child uses the internet, they are at risk," said Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner Bob Jacobson.

"Parents and caregivers, you are the first line of defense when your child is online. Talk with them about being safe, especially when meeting new people and sharing images or videos."

A Minnesota mom learned that lesson firsthand just a few weeks ago when her son fell victim to a sextortion scheme. She recounts how quickly the criminals manipulated her son into sending explicit pictures of himself.

Thankfully, he went to his parents for help. BCA Predatory Crimes agents are now investigating this case, along with many just like it involving families around the state.

"We need parents and trusted adults to have ongoing, open lines of communication with the children in their lives," said Drew Evans, superintendent of the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

"A child needs to know they have somewhere to turn. If you believe a child has been victimized, please let them know they haven't done anything wrong and they can come to you if this or something like it happens to them. They are not in trouble, they are not alone, and there is help available."

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) has outlined steps parents and caregivers can take if their child falls victim to a sextortion scheme:

- Get help before deciding to pay. Cooperating with the demands rare-

ly stops the extortion or harassment.

- Report the predator's account via the platform's safety feature.

- Block the predator but do not delete the profile or messages because they could be useful to law enforcement.

- NCMEC can help you get the images off the internet if they were posted.

"As a parent and a grandparent, I know it can be awkward to talk to your children about sex," said Jacobson.

"If you need help starting that conversation, there are resources available. Having a frank and honest talk with your child could be the difference. This can and is happening to Minnesota families and the consequences can be deadly."

FBI resources can be found at [fbi.gov/sextortion](http://fbi.gov/sextortion)

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# Luverne speech team finishes fourth at home meet Saturday

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne finished fourth Saturday at its own speech invitational. Fifteen teams vied for the team trophies given to small and large schools.

Brandon Valley High School took the small school trophy while Russell-Tyler-Ruthon was the large school team champions.

For Luverne, seven speech team members were recognized for their performances. Results are listed below. (Blue and red ribbons are awarded to participants who place one and two places, respectively, from the medal round.)

•Discussion: Cassi Chesley, blue ribbon;

Makayla Oechsle, red ribbon.

•Extemporaneous speaking: Parker Carbonneau, first; Zander Carbonneau, second.

•Great speeches: Nora Louwagie, fifth.

•Informative speeches: Jessika Tunnissen, second.

•Original oratory: Roselynn Hartshorn, third.

Saturday's invitational featured 181 students, the largest tournament coach Gavin Folkestad has hosted during his 13-year tenure.

"We had a lot of great parent volunteers who helped with concessions and lunch for the judges' lounge," he said.

## ON THE RECORD

### Dispatch report Feb. 3

•Complainant on Manfred Drive reported a road and drive issue.

•Complainant on 221<sup>st</sup> Street and Highway 75 requested roadside assistance.

•Complainant on E. Brown Street reported a parking issue.

•Assistance was provided on Highway 23 and Interstate 90 near Manley.

•Complainant on Highway 75 and 131<sup>st</sup> Street reported a pedestrian.

**Feb. 4**  
•Complainant reported an outage.

**Feb. 5**  
•Complainant on W. Brown Street reported harassing communications.

•Assistance from another department was provided eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 11, Luverne.

•Assistance from another department was provided on 201<sup>st</sup> Street, Hardwick.

**Feb. 6**  
•Assistance from another department was provided westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 11, Luverne.  
•Assistance from another department was provided on N. Kniss Avenue.

•A warrant was issued on N. McKenzie Street.

•An outage was reported.

•An outage was reported on E. Adams Ave.

**Feb. 7**  
•Assistance from another department was provided on N. Davidson Street.

•An outage was reported.

•A warrant check was conducted on W. Hatting Street.

•Complainant on W. Hatting Street reported suspicious activity.

**Feb. 8**  
Complainant on North Spring Street reported a parking issue.  
•Roadside assistance was provided on Highway 23 and 191<sup>st</sup> Street, Edgerton.

•Complainant on Highway 75 and 161<sup>st</sup> Street Jasper, reported a

driving complaint.

•Assistance from another department was provided on 320<sup>th</sup> Street, Ellsworth.

•Complainant on N. Oakley Street reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant on E. Main Street reported trespassing.

**Feb. 9**  
•Complainant on N. Freeman Avenue reported harassing communications.

•Complainant on W. Luverne Street reported trespassing.

•Complainant on E. Carol Street reported a scam.

•Assistance from another department was provided.

•Complainant reported a runaway.

•Complainant on Highway 23, Jasper, reported an abandoned vehicle.

•Complainant on N. Spring Street filed a noise complaint.

•Complainant reported an outage.

•Complainant on 190<sup>th</sup> Avenue and County Road 4, Magnolia, reported an abandoned vehicle.

•Assistance from another agency was provided on Interstate 90, mile marker 2, Beaver Creek.

In addition, officers responded to 2 motor vehicle accidents, 2 deer accidents, 2 vehicles in the ditch, 2 transports, 17 ambulance runs, 4 paper services, 7 animal complaints, 1 fingerprint request, 10 burn permits, 2 alarms, 7 purchase and carry permits, 2 stalled vehicles, 35 traffic stops, 12 abandoned 911 calls, 1 welfare check, 2 OFPs and 4 follow-ups.

## Key Demographic & Employment Trends

### Resident employment outpacing labor force growth

- Record low unemployment (1.9% in 2021)

### Strong job growth in Luverne and PMA, despite COVID-19 impact

- 15% growth in PMA 2010 – 2019, -0.6% loss of jobs in 2020
- Recovery post COVID (9% growth 2020 – 2022 Q2)

### Solid job growth projected for Luverne over the next 10+ years

- Potential labor force shortages could restrain growth

### Worker inflow can stimulate demand for housing

- 66% of jobs in Luverne filled by workers commuting into the City

### Housing in area is relatively affordable compared to wages

- Workers earning average wage (\$967/week) could afford rent of \$1,257/month (market average of \$809)
- Purchase a home priced at \$161,900 (\$140,000 median sale price in 2021)

## Housing study to direct city planners/continued from page 1A

suggests that construction of move-up housing could generate faster turnover of entry-level housing.

With demand from older buyers for maintenance-free products (like twin homes), more construction of those will create turnover for new households to move into the area.

At the same time, there is opportunity for more new rental housing, notably workforce rental housing to accommodate 70 to 80 additional workers for Lineage Cold Storage when it comes online this spring.

### Luverne imports 66 percent of its workers from up to 50 miles away

The study considered demographic and employment trends.

Luverne has an opportunity to continue growing, but that will be based largely on employers' ability to hire and the availability of housing.

"A community can't grow if there's nowhere for people to move into," Hollman said. "Additional housing is needed to achieve growth."

Rock County hit record low employment in 2021-22 and wasn't significantly impacted by Covid, the study showed.

"Luverne and surrounding areas have experienced strong recovery from Covid, and solid growth is projected over the next 10 to 12 years," Hollman said.

He said lack of labor and housing for workers can restrain job growth.

"Right now, Luverne is importing workers who are commuting into the city," he said.

"About 66 percent of jobs are filled by workers commuting into the community, many who come from over 50 miles away."

The study shows that Luverne is bucking census trends, with some of its strongest growth in married couples with children.

This increases demand for move-up, single-family, owner-occupied housing, and in Luverne resale prices

in this category are rising over 6 percent annually.

The median home sold in 2021 for \$157,000. New construction homes are selling at an average price of \$355,077.

"So, there's a pretty big price gap between new construction and resale of existing housing," Hollman said.

Luverne has 31 lots available for construction plus 33 more pending in preliminary platting.

"I think your lot supply is really right where you want it now," Hollman said.

He said the rental housing market in Luverne is tight, with most affordable rental units occupied with waiting lists, and market rate rentals at just over 4 percent vacancies.

The study shows that newly constructed rental units cost occupants an average of \$1,189 per month compared to existing older rental units that average \$660 per month.

In terms of senior housing, the study shows a large and growing senior population in Luverne living independently, but that growth is expected to flatten in coming years.

In Luverne's 106 senior housing units, nearly 4 percent are vacant.

In the 74 units outside of Luverne (such as Hills and Adrian), more than 28 percent are vacant, mostly in assisted living and memory care units and likely affected by Covid 19.

*"We'll use this information to strategically plan what housing looks like parallel to day care.*

*Tackling both at once is really going to be critical.*

*They really do go hand in hand. ... That coupled with job growth will create a lot of new opportunities."*

— Holly Sammons, Luverne Economic Development Authority director

that we need it."

Specifically, according to the study, the city may need to encourage rental townhomes that would be affordable for families earning \$50,000 renting for \$1,300 per month.

Baustian said that when the Veterans Home was built in Luverne in 1992, the city built spec homes to fill a need where private developers had fallen short.

Now with Lineage Logistics opening soon, he said Luverne should consider meeting housing demand for those workers.

"This report shows if we don't get those spec homes built, we're going to lose opportunity," Baustian said.

"And housing and day care need to pair up together. We have to keep moving in every lane in order to make it happen."

### Three years of change

Luverne's last housing study was completed in 2019, and since that time, the Uithoven Addition was added to include 15 single-family and twin home lots.

Also, 54 market rate rental units (Prairie Loft) were built, and four luxury-size lots north of town were annexed into the city limits in the Schmuck Addition.

In addition to the Lopau Addition's 19 single-family and five multi-family lots, another lot or two may be added to the Reisch Addition, which is on the stub of Walnut Avenue north of RCO and Mary Jane Brown.

The city paid Maxfield Research \$10,000 to update Luverne's housing study.

The entire report can be found on the city's website, cityofluverne.org under the drop-down menus "business," "economic development" and "studies and reports."

### Planning for growth

Sammons said the updated study will be useful for planning purposes.

"We'll continue to look at opportunities for single family as far as lots and prices and incentivizing the private sector. We'll continue to look at opportunities for more multi-family rentals in both private and public sectors," she said.

"We'll use this information to strategically plan what housing looks like parallel to day care. Tackling both at once is really going to be critical. They really do go hand in hand. ... That coupled with job growth will create a lot of new opportunities."

Mayor Pat Baustian said the study will be useful if the city pursues spec homes to fill a shortage of new starter homes.

"This is great data for our council and EDA to look at. We need to make sure the backing is there for spec homes to be built," he said.

"We know we have a housing shortage, but when we have data to back it up it helps boards and commissions and bankers to see

PALACE THEATRE		UPCOMING EVENTS
	<b>Afternoon Escape: 80 for Brady</b>	PG-13
	Thursday, February 16	2:00 pm
	Tickets: \$5	
	<b>80 for Brady</b>	PG-13
	Friday, February 17	7:00 pm
	Saturday, February 18	7:00 pm
	Sunday, February 19	2:00 pm
	Tickets: \$5 for kids age 3 – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade, \$7 for adults	
	<b>A Man Called Otto</b>	PG-13
	Friday, February 24	7:00 pm
	Saturday, February 25	7:00 pm
	Sunday February 26	2:00 pm
	Tickets: \$5 for kids age 3 – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade, \$7 for adults	
	<b>Free Fallin': The Tom Petty Concert Experience</b>	
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## DINE & DISCUSS

### FREE ADVANCE PLANNING SEMINAR



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Join your neighbors and friends to gain information  
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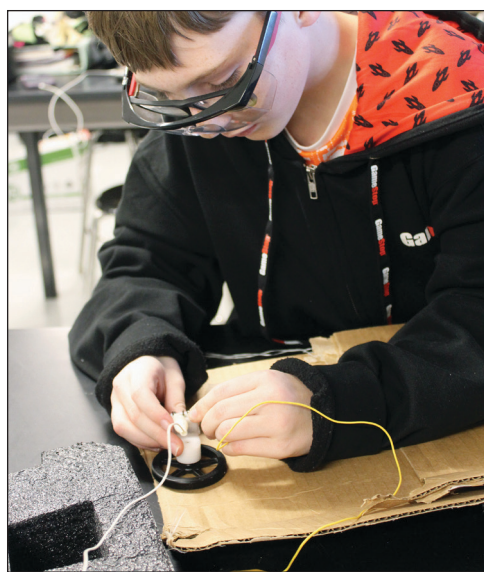
The seminar date is quickly approaching, so please call us at 320.762.2297 to make your reservations TODAY!



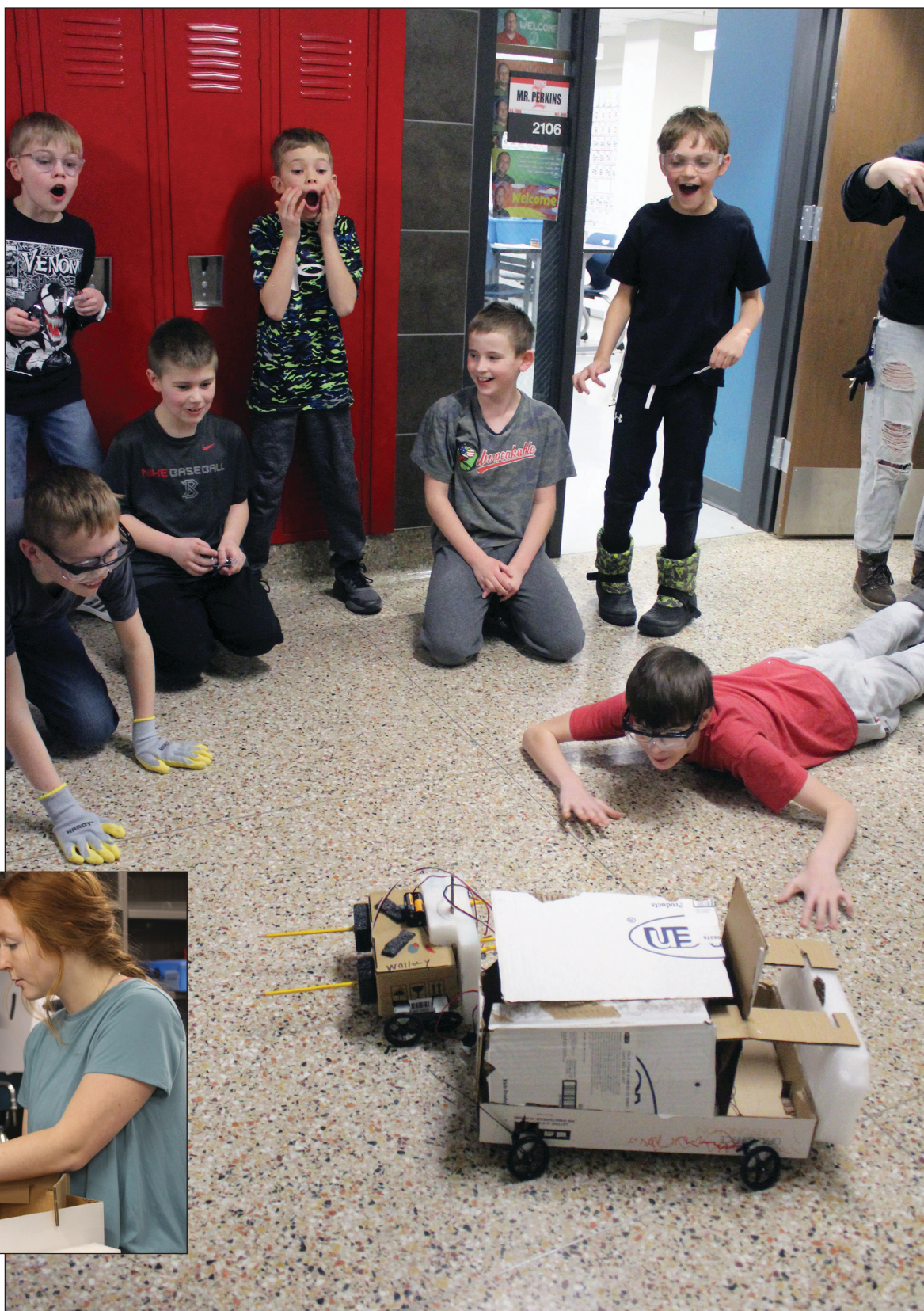
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**At right:** Participants in the Luverne Community Education sumo robotics class cheer their team's entries in a one-on-one match Feb. 9 in the hallway of the middle-high school. Cheering (from left) are Emmett Woodley (on floor), Chase Hup, Caleb St. Clair, Kade Schneekloth, Garrett Carlson, Bentley Elgersma and Joss Johnson.



Justin Mulder attaches the power cords to the wheel axel. **Below:** Luverne High School robotics team member Reese Louwagie (right) helps Logan Hoff cut slits into the cardboard box.



## Community ed class introduces elementary students to robotics

**Story and photos by Mavis Fodness**

If the smiles and loud voices of the 16 third-through fifth-graders are any indication, the inaugural sumo robotics class through Luverne Community Education is a hit.

The students were charged with making a robot out of discarded cardboard and packaging materials.

The simple "bot" used a battery pack and four wheels as propulsion.

High school robotics team coach Aaron Perkins hosted the class as an introduction into Luverne School District's robotics program.

"It's meant to get them excited," he said. "And have

fun."

Perkins was assisted by high school robotics team members Zoey Berghorst, Reese Louwagie and Lola Peterson.

The 16 students were divided into four teams, each constructing a robot.

The finished bots then went head-to-head to see which bot could push the other out of the taped arena in the school's hallway.

The four bots were named Battering Ram, Wall-y, Fred the Murder Bot and Murder. Fred, while not the best-constructed robot, won due to his ability to move in a circle.

Perkins said the one-time classes offered through community educa-



Joss Johnson (left) releases his team's sumo bot called "Wall-y" in a head-to-head battle with Aiden Reese and his team's battle bot "Battering Ram."

tion are meant to bring attention to the district's involvement in the First LEGO league and advancement to

the levels of the First Tech Challenge and First Robotics Competition as middle and high school students.

## CELEBRATIONS

### Card Showers

**John Hup** will celebrate his 90th birthday on Sunday, Feb. 19. Greetings may be sent to Minnesota Veterans Home; PO Box 539; Luverne, MN 56156.

**Marti Boltjes** will celebrate her 50th birthday on Monday, Feb. 20. Greetings may be sent to 111 W. Crawford Street, Luverne, MN 56156.

### 1943: Wahlert claims he holds two county records

**By Betty Mann, Rock County Historian**

*The following article is part of the Diamond Club Member group that began in the January 7, 1943, issue of the Rock County Star Herald. Members of this group consist of persons of age 75 and older.*

*The following appeared in The Rock County Herald on Aug. 5, 1943.*

Jacob Wahlert, Luverne, holds two county records and both records are worthy of note. First he is the father of 16 children, all of whom are now adults and living in various parts of the United States. Secondly, he claims the record of having more sons in the service of their country than any other father in this country. At the present time, five Wahlert boys are in uniform, and it is expected that two others will be called to the colors in the future.

Rearing a large family as Mr. Wahlert and his wife did was a job in itself; but it was a pleasant task, not a drudgery, Mr. Wahlert states. One of the secrets of their success, however, was the fact that they lived on a farm all the time the children were all at home. "There was plenty of work for them to do," Mr. Wahlert said, "and plenty of space for them to play in so we always got along just fine."

Mollie, the oldest, is now Mrs. George Blomnell, who lives in Minneapolis. George lives on a farm in Mound township. Rose is Mrs. Alfred Staeffler of Battle Plain township. William F. Wahlert lives in Dayton, Ohio, and Elizabeth lives with her parents at home. Cpl. Alfred Wahlert is stationed with the army at Warrenton, Pa. Harry and Raymond live in Cincinnati. Jacob, Jr. is serving with the U.S. Navy in California; Mamie, now Mrs. Dick Schmuck, lives in Luverne township; Mildred, Mrs. Dick Brewer, lives at Adrian; Sgt. John Wahlert is serving with the army in North Africa; Ralph lives in Minneapolis; Pvt. Harvey Wahlert is with the army at Boca Baton, Fla.; Pfc. Arlo Wahlert is stationed at Carolina Beach, North Carolina, and Dorothy, Mrs. William Lutt Jr., resides in Springwater township, Rock county.

Mr. Wahlert has been a resident

**Bits, continued on page 7**

## MENU

**Monday, Feb. 20:** Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, dinner roll, dessert.

**Tuesday, Feb. 21:** Chicken ala king, peas and carrots, pineapple chunks, brown rice, gelatin with whipped topping.

**Wednesday, Feb. 22:** Tuna noodle hotdish, peas and carrots, tropical fruit, dessert.

**Thursday, Feb. 23:** Pork loin, candied yams, California Normandy vegetables, dinner roll, bar.

**Friday Feb. 24:** Lemon pepper fish, baked potato with sour cream, coleslaw, bread, apple dessert.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Security Savings Bank.

*LSS Dining offers well-balanced and affordable meals in a community atmosphere.*

*Call Pam Franken at 283-9846, extension 11 to reserve one day prior, to arrange to pick up a dinner or for home-delivered meals.*

*Gift certificates are available at the meal site or online at [www.lssmn.org/nutrition](http://www.lssmn.org/nutrition).*

### 10 years ago (2013)

•Forty-seven members of the Blue Mound Figure Skating Club competed at the Frosty Blades competition at the Schwan Super Rink in Blaine Feb. 8-10. The BMFSC successfully defended their 2012 championship by topping the 20-team field with 767 points. Second place went to NSC Schwan Rink with 55 skaters and 581 points. Third place went to Sioux Falls with 32 skaters and 504 points. The next competition for the BMFSC is Blades of March event staged at Parade Garden in Minneapolis the first weekend in March.

### 25 years ago (1998)

•With boosts from private business, volunteers, an extra city donation and a possible no-interest loan, Luverne baseball players could set their spikes on an irrigated, freshly sodded, new baseball diamond this spring.

Jerry Buss of McClure Plumbing and Heating volunteered to acquire at cost and help install sprinkler equipment for the Luverne Baseball Association and the city diamond. Buss said he did not have an exact estimate from his suppliers, but it would probably cost less than half of earlier estimates. The Associa-

tion would provide labor for the installation, under supervision of his son, to help reduce the cost.

### 50 years ago (1973)

•Lexia Van Wyhe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Van Wyhe of Steen, was chosen as FFA Sweetheart of Hills-Beaver Creek High School for the 1972-1973 school year. Miss Van Wyhe is active in chorus, president of the band and is a member of GRA and FHA. Lexia was selected from three candidates. The other candidates were Marcia Boeve, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Boeve; and Becky Leuthold, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Leuthold.

### 75 years ago (1948)

•The well-known Galloping Gophers basketball team, which includes several University of Minnesota football players, will perform here Sunday. The team will meet the Luverne American Legion team at 2:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium, and a fast game of basketball is anticipated.

Listed on the Gopher line-up are: Chuck Dellago, Larry Olsonaski, Larry Hallenkemp, Capt. Steve Silianoff and Harold Olson.

Playing on the Luverne team will be Joh Reimer, Ace Canfield, Melvin Smook, Keith Connell, Howard Helling, Leonard Hansen, Bob Meyer, Bob Wildung, and perhaps several others.

### 100 years ago (1923)

•The "cold" epidemic which has been sweeping over the country during the past few weeks seems to be keeping up to the original firm hold which it had gained here. This probably is due now to the unusually severe spell of cold weather which descended upon Rock County this week, and took many unawares.

Report from the high school and from the graded school are to the effect that although coughs and colds appear to be just as prevalent as heretofore the attacks are not so severe, and daily absences have decreased somewhat in number.

On Wednesday, session was dismissed at the Central building because of the extremely cold weather, which made it impossible to heat the building sufficiently for the comfort of the occupants. The building is cold and hard to heat, and several times during the previous winters it has been necessary to do likewise.

## REMEMBER WHEN



## OBITUARIES

### Loren Ask

Loren Ask, 78, of rural Tractorhouse.com. Kenneth, Minnesota, died Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, at the Sanford Luverne Hospital.



Visitation was Thursday, Feb. 9, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne. Funeral service was at 11 a.m. Friday, Feb. 10, at First Presbyterian Church in Edgerton. Burial was at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Loren Lynn Ask was born on June 2, 1944, to James and Dorothy (Hunsdal) Ask in Luverne, Minnesota. He was baptized on June 25, 1944, and confirmed on Oct. 26, 1958, at Blue Mound Lutheran Church. He was raised on his parents' farm south of Kenneth. Loren attended school in Kenneth through the sixth grade and then attended and graduated from Magnolia High School in Magnolia, Minnesota, with the Class of '62. He attended one year of college in Mankato.

On September 28, 1963, Loren married Lucille Moen at Lake Wilson Lutheran Church in Lake Wilson, Minnesota. The couple moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1963 and returned to Kenneth in 1964, living on Loren's grandparents' farm north of town. Their 60-year marriage was blessed with three children and nine grandchildren.

Growing up, the family took many cross-country trips, often traveling without any maps. It never failed that before leaving the driveway, Loren would be heard asking for someone to hand him a sandwich.

Loren had a plethora of careers. He worked for Burlington Northern and Milwaukee Railroads as a fireman, worked in the plastic and steel industry in St. Paul, drove 18-wheelers, and taught truck driving at Austin Technical Institute. Loren's latest career was driving for various charter bus companies, retiring from Reading Bus Lines in 2011. Even after retirement, Loren would still be easily recognized and will be forever remembered for wearing shorts and his Reading Bus Line blue shirt.

However, with all of his careers, his passion was farming. When he wasn't farming himself, he enjoyed watching others in the field from his deck and looking at tractors on

He was very good with storytelling and had an ability to make friends wherever he went. He easily filled up his extra time following his children's lives, watching and attending his grandchildren's activities, and socializing with almost any person that came across his path.

Loren was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Edgerton. He was a former member of Kenneth Lutheran Church where he served on many leadership positions and was involved in the M2M prison ministry program. He was a regular attendee at the Kenneth Store Coffee Club. Loren would rarely miss a good farm sale and had many other interests. He enjoyed collecting tractors and participating in tractor parades; he loved trains and draft horses. He even received his pilot's license so he could fly Cessna airplanes. Wherever he went, Loren was sure to have a hat on his head. Some of his favorites through the years were his LA, John Deere, Augie Soccer, and "Artni's Grandpa" hats.

Loren set a good example for his family. He worked hard, but made sure to have time to visit with his family and others. He deeply loved his wife, Lucy. He took pride in his grandchildren and made sure to tell each one of them that "they were his favorite."

Those grateful to have shared in Loren's story include his wife, Lucy; three children, Lori Witte (Tim Levitt) of Luverne, Les (Rachel) Ask of Luverne, and LeRoy (Laura) Ask of Brandon, South Dakota; nine grandchildren, Lauren Witte (Scott Cerny), Alexander (Shannon) Ask, Paul Witte, Ashley Ask, Meghan Witte, Hayden Ask, Adam Ask, Julia Ask, and Bergen Ask; two sisters, Doris Nelson of Alamo, Texas and Cheryl Ask of Cold Springs, Minnesota; and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his son-in-law, Paul Stanley Witte, Jr., and parents, James and Dorothy Ask.

Arrangements were provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, hartquistfuneral.com.

(0216 V)

### Helga Lybye Dahlgard

My Danish sister, Helga Lybye Dahlgard, died of Parkinson's Jan. 19, 2023.



She was born Oct. 9, 1943, and at age 16 she chose to become Luverne's first female AFS student and was a true gift to our whole Golla family! Her Luverne classmates helped her fit right in and she adored them! Her graduation in 1961 was bittersweet for Helga and me, so my parents eased our pain by sending me to spend all summer with her and her family in Denmark after my graduation in 1962! Then I understood how deeply "American" she had become as I loved "being Danish" with her family for those three months.

Helga went on to become a very devoted teacher - of English! She also worked with Denmark's AFS office the rest of her life

to promote the program personally.

Helga loved hiking, biking, badminton, being fit and active, and she married a great guy, Peter Dahlgard, who shared her activities! They have two daughters, Louise and Rikke, who both married and gave Helga a total of five grandchildren to be even more active with!

Helga and Peter were worldwide travelers, including several trips back to us in Minnesota, and I was blessed to visit them in Denmark two more times!

To know Helga was to love her spunk, her humor, her kindness and willingness to try life's best! She's gone too soon and is forever the best sister I ever had!

(0216 V)

(Written and submitted by Vikki Golla Joseph)

## LHS announces second quarter honor rolls

### A honor roll Quarter 2

**Seniors:** Justis Ahrendt, Mariam Alinzi, Abigail Anderson, Ross Bergman, Emma Beyer, Parker Carbonneau, Zachary DeBoer, Marcus Feit, Egypt Forrest, Emmanuel Gonzalez, Jacie Graham, Lauren Hansen, Jady Hart, Jocelyn Hart, Tori Hemme, Camden Hoven, Camden Janiszski, Anja Jarchow, Ashlyn Johnson, Katharine Kelm, Reese Louwagie, Lacey Morseman, Priscilla Muehr, Ethan Nath, Mallory Nelson, Logan Ommen, Isabella Oye, Averill Sehr, Carsen Tofteland, Cedar Viessman, Mallory Von Tersch, Christina Wagner, Elizabeth Wagner.

**Juniors:** Morgan Ahrendt, Tyler Arends, Alexis Berg, Zoey Berghorst, Kayla Bloemendaal, Abby Boltjes, Brynn Boyenga, Kai Buss, Cassandra Chesley, Conner Connell, Jenna DeBates, Elliot Domagala, Ryan Fick, Elle Halverson, Henry Hartquist, Roselynn Hartsborn, Uriel Hernandez, Julia Hoogland, Addison Huiskes, Kira John, Patrick Kroski, Maya Limones Gonzalez, Jacob Madison, Tyler Rolfs, Dennie Sandbulte, Elizabeth

Smidt, Sarah Stegenga, Zachary Terrio, Sklyar VanderSteen, Brooklyn Wicks, Steven Woods.

**Sophomores:** Zachary Brown, Amira Cowell, David Happeny, Owen Janiszski, Katia Jarchow, William Johnson, Caitlin Kindt, Brianna Kinsinger, Linkon Knorr, Nora Louwagie, Andrea Luitjens, Xavier McKenzie, Liam Murphy, Emma Nath, Janica Oechsle, Corynn Oye, Katherine Pizel, Ella Reisdorfer, Maria Rops, Kylie Vander Lugt, Sage Viessman, Zane Walgrave, Piper Wynia.

**Freshmen:** Anna Banck, Rhiannon Bartels, Julia Beyer, Connor Bose, Zander Carbonneau, Maddux Domagala, Fox Forrest, Elijah Henrichs, Tyler Hodge, Ella Hoogendoorn, Jaydon Johnson, Hannah Kempema, Allie Kracht, Addyson Mann, Logan Mann, Nicholas Mann, Paula Martinez, Greta McClure, Cameron McCrary, Nardy Merida, Elizabeth Mulder, Gabriella Nath-Huls, Makayla Oechsle, Jordyn Reisch, Adelyn Rodriguez, Emma Saarloos, Austin Sandbulte, Ella Schmuck, Ava Sieve,

Jessika Tunnissen, Brooke Vos, Hannah Woodley.

### B honor roll Quarter 2

**Seniors:** Micah Anderson, Josie Anderson, Brock Behrend, Brady Bork, Trenton Carson, Tyson Cowell, Lily Ehlers, Ashton Eitrem, Sarah Gehrke, Andy Halverson, Lucas Hansen, Grace Ingebretsen, Tiana Lais, Isabella Lanoue, Jocelynn Mann, Deziree Nath, Carly Olson, Austin Ossefoort, Lola Peterson, Gavin Reisch, Joseph Remme, Alvia Renken, Travis Schempp, Riley Sneller, Ryenn Stegenga, Bonita Tiesler, Kamryn Van Batavia, Kalyee Voorhees, Ava Vortherms, Ryan Vos.

**Juniors:** Tucker Banck, Cash Bonnett, Morgan Bonnett, Zakada Bradley, Tucker Damann, Sarah de Cesare, Kenedee Franken, Morgan Hadler, Kylianna Hendrickson, Isabel Honerman, Morgan Jonas, Cade Kracht, Ava Loosbrock, Emma Lusty, Gracie Nath, Rayann Remme, Sawyer Saker, Mitchell Sauer, Tori Serie, Kiesli Smith, Owen Sudenga, Percyis Trierweiler, Zane Verba, Josie Voorhees.

**Sophomores:** Keaton

Ahrendt, Jaelyn Arp, Bethany Behr, Payton Behr, Kaelyn Braun, Jaycee Chapa, Kaitlin Conger, Audrie DeBates, Trevor DeBates, Marcos Diaz, Kaleb Hemme, Zariah Holmgren, Ashton Hood, Leif Ingebretsen, Ryker Johnson, Camden Kunkel, Christopher Matthiesen, Elijah McLendon, Regan Mehlhaff, Layke Miller, Hallie Pergande, Blaycie Remme, Tucker Remme, Layne Saker, Alexander Schlosser, Carter Sehr, Hannah Sneller, Maren Stegenga, Coulter Thone, Kendra Thorson, Marcus Vortherms, Elijah Woodley.

**Freshmen:** Jocelyn Altman, Ella Apel, Isabella Benson, Alexander Booe, Kasey Buss, Jayden Dass, James DeBates, Joshua Hansen, Thomas Held, Dawson Holtz, Rebecca Hoogland, Gavin Hoven, Levi Huisman, Alexis Hultgren, Caleb Kracht, Jaxon Lais, Landyn Lais, Elizabeth Lantgen, Xander Remme, Riley Ripka, Blake Sauer, Traytan Sayavong, Madison Schepel, Zoey Smeins, Blake Swenson, Jace Tofteland, Katelynn Van Belle, Hadley Vanderburg, Kianna Winter, Aaliyah Xaysongkham.

## H-BC releases second quarter, semester honor rolls

### A honor roll Quarter 2

**Seniors:** Anthony Beaner, Olivia Bork, Devon Dysthe, Brayden Metzger, Cody Moser, Amallia Ternus, Leif Tollefson, Joshua Wiersema.

**Juniors:** Grace Anderson, Sylvia Fick, Taylor Gehrke, Tahliya Kruger, Brynn Rauk, Justin Roelfs, Larissa Steinhoff, Joylynn Taubert.

**Sophomores:** Beau Bakken, Gracie Fagerness, Michael Martinyuk, Harli Rozeboom, Bailey Spykerboer, Amber Wiersema.

**Freshmen:** Micah Bush, Mya Erickson, Claire Knobloch, Jamin Metzger, Abigail Olson, Austyn Pap, Sarah Prohl, Ella Sammons.

**Eighth Grade:** Brynn Bakken, Katelyn Chesley, Hailey Moser, Ava Steinhoff.

**Seventh Grade:** Claire Boeve, Sage DeBoer, Karson Metzger, Maddox Metzger, Ella Rheault, Lily Top, AnnMarie Wiersema.

**Sixth Grade:** Hope Bosch, Hailee Gehrke, Ryker Gehrke, Gavin Harnack, Kamron Kellenberger, Karissa Kerkhove-Brandt, Brekyn Klarenbeek, Auston Olson, Kaleb Olson, Trinity Olson, Nicholas Zingler.

### B honor roll Quarter 2

**Seniors:** Alexandra Drake, Brock Harnack, Alexander Harris, Jenifer Martinyuk, Britton McKenzie, Riley Sheppard, Aspen Shimp.

**Juniors:** Lanae Elbers, Kyler Hartz, Aiden Kerkhove-Brandt, Avril Susie, Olivia Susie.

**Sophomores:** Cameron Allen, Isabella DeBoer, Emma Deelstra, Jackson Gacke, Lukas Hubbard, Blake Leenderts, Jack Moser, Kadence Rozeboom, Johnathan Tiesler, Lexxus Wessels, Gracie Wilhelmi.

**Freshmen:** Callum Bartels, Ally Birger, Abigail Harris, Bode Kruger, Jayden Kueter, Gavyn Leuthold, Donovan Mess, Mason Shaffner, Hadley Spath, Joshua Ternus, Jacob Tiesler, Nate Van Maanen, Gavin Voss, Jacob Wallin, Eduardo Wegener, Isabel Wysong.

**Eighth Grade:** Camdyn Broesder, Olivia Deelstra, Edward Duncan, Jed Fagerness, Makynzie Hellerud, Brooklyne Hubbard, Hunter Leenderts, Ava Rainford, Riggins Rheault, Tryg Tollefson, Lilith Volden, Tatyana Williams.

**Seventh Grade:** Aspyn Bartels, Jace Gacke, Braxton Kaiser, Haven Kerkhove-Brandt, Brodie Metzger, Maxwell Sammons, Ruby Susie, Bristol Teune.

**Sixth Grade:** Kelsey Baker, Karis Dwire, Gabriella Junge, Binta Moeller.

### Semester 1 A honor roll

**Seniors:** Anthony Beaner, Olivia Bork, Alexandra Drake, Devon Dysthe, Brayden Metzger, Cody Moser, Amallia Ternus, Leif Tollefson, Joshua Wiersema.

**Juniors:** Grace Anderson, Sylvia Fick, Taylor Gehrke, Tahliya Kruger, Brynn Rauk, Justin Roelfs, Larissa Steinhoff, Avril Susie, Olivia Susie, Joylynn Taubert.

**Sophomores:** Beau Bakken, Gracie Fagerness, Michael Martinyuk, Jack Moser, Harli Rozeboom, Bailey Spykerboer, Amber Wiersema.

**Freshmen:** Micah Bush, Mya Erickson, Claire Knobloch, Jamin Metzger, Abigail Olson, Austyn Pap, Sarah Prohl, Ella Sammons.

**Eighth Grade:** Brynn Bakken, Katelyn Chesley, Hailey Moser, Ava Steinhoff.

**Seventh Grade:** Aspyn Bartels, Claire Boeve, Sage DeBoer, Karson Metzger, Maddox Metzger, Ella Rheault, Bristol Teune, Lily Top, AnnMarie Wiersema.

**Sixth Grade:** Kelsey Baker, Hope Bosch, Karis Dwire, Hailee Gehrke, Ryker Gehrke, Gavin Harnack, Kamron Kellenberger, Karissa Kerkhove-Brandt, Brekyn Klarenbeek, Auston Olson, Kaleb Olson, Trinity Olson, Nicholas Zingler.

### Semester 1 B honor roll

**Seniors:** Tyrae Goodface, Brock Harnack, Alexander Harris, Ellynor Klosterbuer, Jenifer Martinyuk, Britton McKenzie, Riley Sheppard, Aspen Shimp, Elisha Taubert.

**Juniors:** Lanae Elbers, Alexis Gardner Swenson, Cooper Gehrke, Kyler Hartz, Aiden Kerkhove-Brandt, Ty Leuthold, Riley Tatge.

**Sophomores:** Cameron Allen, Isabella DeBoer, Emma Deelstra, Jackson Gacke, Lukas Hubbard, Blake Leenderts, Kadence Rozeboom, Johnathan Tiesler, Lexxus Wessels, Gracie Wilhelmi.

**Freshmen:** Callum Bartels, Ally Birger, Abigail Harris, Bode Kruger, Gavyn Leuthold, Donovan Mess, Mason Shaffner, Hadley Spath, Joshua Ternus, Nate Van Maanen, Gavin Voss, Jacob Wallin, Eduardo Wegener, Isabel Wysong.

**Eighth Grade:** Camdyn Broesder, Olivia Deelstra, Edward Duncan, Jed Fagerness, Makynzie Hellerud, Brooklyne Hubbard, Ava Rainford, Riggins Rheault, Tryg Tollefson, Lilith Volden, Tatyana Williams.

**Seventh Grade:** Jace Gacke, Keaton Huisman, Braxton Kaiser, Brodie Metzger, Maxwell Sammons, Khloe Susie, Ruby Susie.

**Sixth Grade:** Erica Jones, Gabriella Junge, Keaton Koller, Binta Moeller.

## DEATH NOTICES

### Deborah Javner

Deborah M. Javner, 55, Hardwick, died at her home on Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023.

A visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, at Hartquist Funeral Home in Pipestone. A funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at Peace Lutheran Church in Ruthton. Burial will follow at Ruthton City Cemetery.

Arrangements are provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Pipestone, hartquistfuneral.com.

(0216 DN)

### Denis Gerardo Gomez Cruz

Denis Gerardo Gomez Cruz, 37, Adrian, died Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, at his home.

A funeral Mass will be at 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Worthington. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will take place in Honduras.

Arrangements are provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Adrian, dingmannandsons.com.

(0216 DN)

### Duane Luke

Duane A. Luke, 76, Luverne, died Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023, at the Sanford Luverne Medical Center.

Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16, at the Dingmann Funeral Home in Luverne, as well as one hour prior to the funeral service at the church on Friday. Funeral Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. Burial will follow at St. Catherine Catholic Cemetery.

Arrangements are provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Luverne, dingmannandsons.com.

(0216 DN)

### Roman Lenz

Roman Lenz, 95, Luverne, died Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023, at Ava's House Hospice in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

A time of fellowship will be from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. A memorial Mass will be Saturday, Feb. 18, at 10:30 a.m. at the church. Burial will follow in the St. Mary Cemetery in Ellsworth.

Arrangements are provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Luverne, dingmannandsons.com.

(0216 DN)

## Bits by Betty/continued from page 6

of Rock county for nearly a half a century, and until moving to Luverne a year ago last spring, he had been a farmer all his life.

He was born in Germany April, 17, 1868, the son of John and Mollie Haack Wahlert. He

lived with his parents until he was 16 years of age, attending school, and working out away from home as soon as he was able. In Germany, Mr. Walther said, there were "no ifs or ands about it", ev-

erybody between the ages of 7 and 14 attended school during the winter months. During the summer vacations, usually about four months in duration, he helped on farms, usually receiving

about \$10 for his summer's work. However, even during the summer months, he had to go to school two forenoons a week.

(Continued next week)



Culligan Water Team Records as of 02/14/2023		
	<b>LHS</b>	W-L-T
Girls' Basketball		20-2
Boys' Basketball		11-9
Girls' Hockey		20-6
Boys' Hockey		17-6-1
Gymnastics		23-4
Wrestling		11-15
	<b>H-BC</b>	W-L-T
Girls' Basketball		9-13
Boys' Basketball		9-10

## LHS girls win Section 3A semifinal

### Cardinals head to championship game against New Ulm

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Cardinal girls' hockey team competed in their first round of post-season play Saturday when they hosted Windom in the Blue Mound Ice Arena.

LHS took down the Eagles 8-1 in the Section 3A semifinals to advance to the section championship game against New Ulm on Tuesday, Feb. 14, in St. Peter.

The Luverne girls' hockey team finished its regular season with a 19-6 record after beating Fairmont 7-0 at home Tuesday, Feb. 7.

#### Section 3A Semifinal LHS 8, Windom 1

The Luverne girls' hockey team came ready to play against Windom Saturday, Feb. 11, at the home rink. The excitement was evident on their faces.

Payton Behr made the game's first goal at 3:15 in the first period assisted by Kamryn Van Batavia and eighth-grader Tenley Behr.

Junior Anika Boll made the Cardinals' second goal at 12:10 assisted by Saarloos and freshman Ella Apel.

Luverne went up 2-0 after the first period.

In the second period Windom scored their only goal at 5:51.

Steensma answered the Eagles' goal with two of her own in the second period. She scored her first at 8:20 unassisted and her second at 9:52 assisted by Tenley Behr and Mallory Nelson.

Luverne pulled away 4-1 after the second period.

In the third period the Cardinals scored four more goals to win the game 8-1.

Kamryn Van Batavia beat the Eagles goalie eight seconds into the period on a power play. Ellie Van Batavia and Apel assisted in the play.

Steensma scored her third (hat trick) goal at 1:27 assisted by Tenley Behr and freshman Greta McClure.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0216 LHS Ghoc team

The Luverne girls' hockey team celebrates their Section 3A Semifinal win over Windom Saturday, Feb. 11, on home ice. The Cardinals beat the Eagles 8-1 to move on in the playoffs.

Kamryn Van Batavia got her second score unassisted at 4:21.

McClure finished the scoring at 15:27 in the third period assisted by Ellie Van Batavia and Tenley Behr.

Senior Mallory Von Tersch recorded her eighth shut-out, finishing two games behind Andover goalie Courtney Stagman with 11. In 2022-23 Von Tersch faced 436 shots on goal with 398 saves.

Senior Kamryn Van Batavia leads all of Minnesota girls' hockey with 55 goals in the regular season along with 18 assists.

Senior Mallory Nelson finished the regular season with three goals, 12 assists, and 32 minutes of penalty time, with one game-winning goal.

#### LHS 7, Fairmont 0

The Cardinal girls played Fairmont at home Feb. 7 winning a 7-0 game.

Shots on goal for the night favored Luverne, shooting 63 times on net. Fairmont had a total of six shots.

Kamryn Van Batavia got the Cardinals rolling with a goal in the first period at

Girls' hockey team/p. 14

## Luverne gymnastics team finishes season 23-4

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne gymnasts finished their season with a home victory over New Ulm 133.725 to 130.025 Tuesday, Feb. 7, improving their team record to 23-4.

Head coach Phoebe Flom said she's pleased with her team's performance.

"This is one of our best seasons as a team since I have been the coach," she said.

In the all-around gymnastics competition LHS placed three in the top five spots.

Sophomore Ella Reisdorfer took first place with 35.950 all-around combined points.

Sophomore Amira Cowell placed second with 33.900 combined points.

Junior Sarah de Cesare

placed fifth with 31.775 combined points.

All three gymnasts competed in all four (vault, bars, beam, floor) individual events.

Other Luverne gymnasts placing in all-around were:

**Kianna Winter** – 24.050, seventh, competed in three events  
**Kendra Thorson** – 15.050, seventh, competed in two events  
**Reagan Gangestad** – 15.000, eleventh, competed in two events  
**Addyson Mann** – 7.850, fourteenth, competed in one event

In the individual event competitions, results are as follows:

**Vault:**  
**Ella Reisdorfer** - 9.350, first  
*New school record*  
**Amira Cowell** – 9.275, second

**Sarah de Cesare** – 8.750, third  
**Kianna Winter** – 8.600, fourth  
**Kendra Thorson** – 8.050, tenth

**Bars:**  
**Ella Reisdorfer** – 8.800, first  
**Amira Cowell** – 8.050, third  
**Sarah de Cesare** – 7.075, fifth  
**Kendra Thorson** – 7.00, sixth  
**Reagan Gangestad** – 6.750, eighth

**Beam:**  
**Ella Reisdorfer** – 8.700, third  
**Amira Cowell** – 8.275, fifth  
**Reagan Gangestad** – 8.250, sixth  
**Sarah de Cesare** – 7.800, seventh  
**Kianna Winter** – 7.200, ninth

**Floor:**  
**Ella Reisdorfer** – 9.100, first  
**Amira Cowell** – 8.300, fourth  
**Kianna Winter** – 8.250, fifth  
**Sarah de Cesare** – 8.150, sixth  
**Addyson Mann** – 7.850, eighth

The Cardinals will compete in the Section 3A Tournament Saturday, Feb. 18, in Pipestone.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0216 gymnastics

(At top) Senior Ella Reisdorfer, (L to R) freshman Addyson Mann, junior Sarah de Cesare, Amira Cowell and Kianna Winter perform during Luverne's last home meet Feb. 7.

## Luverne wrestling team posts 11-15 season record, heads to sectionals

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne Cardinal wrestling team participated in one triangular and two quadrangulars over the past week.

On Feb. 7 the Cardinals beat Hanson 48-15 and Viborg-Hurley/Irene Wakonda 51-6.

On Feb. 9 they lost to Red Rock Central 42-39 and to Wabasso 60-18, and LHS beat Chester 63-4.

On Feb. 10 the Cardinals lost to Fulda-Murray County Central 60-23, beat Ortonville 51-12 and lost to St. James 51-30.

The Luverne wrestling team finished the regular season with a record of 11-15.

The Cardinals will compete in the Team Section Tournament Thursday, Feb. 16, in Jackson.

Individual wrestling section competition will be Feb. 25 in Jackson.

#### Viborg Triangular -Feb. 7

The Luverne wrestling team participated in the Viborg Triangular Tuesday, Feb. 7, along with the Hanson and

Viborg-Hurley/Irene-Wakonda squads.

LHS wrestled in two duals, beating Hanson 48-15 and Viborg 51-6.

"The team all around wrestled really well," head coach Jordan Kopp said.

"We have a busy week so to start it off with two dual wins is great. We just need to bring that intensity all week."

In the first meet, Luverne took on Hanson, beating the Beavers 48-15.

The score is a bit skewed by only three matches actually being wrestled head-to-head, with Luverne winning two and Hanson taking one.

Eight other matches were won by forfeits and three had no wrestlers entered by either team.

Breakdown by weight-class is as follows:

**106 – Brody Kopp (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 6, Hanson 0**  
**113 – Bernie Rock (L) win by forfeit Team: LHS 12, Hanson 0**  
**120 – no wrestler either team Team: LHS 12, Hanson 0**  
**126 – Leif Ingebretsen (L) over Max Baker (H) win by fall**



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0216 wrestling hudson

Eighth-grader Hudson Hough shoots for a takedown in his match against RRC opponent at the Luverne quad Thursday, Feb. 9.

**Team: LHS 18, Hanson 0**  
**132 – Andrew Deutsch (L) over Jason Porth (H) win by fall Team: LHS 24, Hanson 0**  
**138 – CeCe Rock (L) win by forfeit Team: LHS 30, Hanson 0**  
**145 – Cameron McCrary (L) win by forfeit Team: LHS 36, Hanson 0**  
**152 – no wrestler either team Team: LHS 36, Hanson 0**  
**160 DJ Rock (L) win by forfeit Team: LHS 42, Hanson 0**  
**170 – Sam Rock (L) win by forfeit**

**Team: LHS 48, Hanson 0**  
**182 – Stetson Riggs (H) over Jacob Madison (L) SV-1 7-2 dec.**  
**Team: LHS 48, Hanson 3**  
**195 – no wrestler either team Team: LHS 48, Hanson 3**  
**220 – Brock Tuttle (H) win by forfeit Team: LHS 48, Hanson 9**  
**285 – Jamin Peterson (H) win by forfeit Team: LHS 48, Hanson 15**

In the second meet, the Cardinals wrestled Viborg-Hurley/Irene-Wakonda, beating the Cougars 51-6.

In this dual there were seven matches determined by forfeits on behalf of one side or the other or both.

Luverne took four of the five head-to-head matches.

Breakdown by weight-class is as follows:

**106 – Brody Kopp (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 6, VHIW 0**  
**113 – no wrestler either team Team: LHS 6, VHIW 0**  
**120 – no wrestler either team Team: LHS 6, VHIW 0**  
**126 – Rayden Boyenga (L) over Morgan Lee (VHIW) by fall Team: LHS 12, VHIW 0**  
**132 – Leif Ingebretsen (L) win by forfeit Team: LHS 18, VHIW 0**  
**138 – Cameron McCrary (L) win by forfeit Team: LHS 24, VHIW 0**  
**145 – no wrestler either team Team: LHS 24, VHIW 0**  
**152 – Levi Simonsen (VHIW) over Treven Bell (L) by fall Team: LHS 24, VHIW 6**

**160 – DJ Rock (L) win by forfeit Team: LHS 30, VHIW 6**  
**170 – Sam Rock (L) over Kasen Hoilen (VHIW) by fall Team: LHS 36, VHIW 6**  
**182 – Cash Bonnett (L) over Trevor Ryan (VHIW) 8-3 dec. Team: LHS 39, VHIW 6**  
**195 – Jacob Madison (L) win by forfeit Team: LHS 45, VHIW 6**  
**220 – no wrestler either team Team: LHS 45, VHIW 6**  
**285 – Masyn Akkerman (L) over Brinlee Smith (VHIW) by fall Team: LHS 51, VHIW 6**

#### Luverne Quadrangular-Feb. 9

The Luverne wrestlers hosted a quadrangular with participants Red Rock Central, Wabasso, and Chester Area Thursday, Feb. 9, which was also Parents Night.

The Cardinals wrestled in three duals and lost by three points to Red Rock Central 42-39, fell to Wabasso 60-18, and defeated Chester Area 63-4.

In Luverne's first dual the Cardinals lost to the Red Rock Central Falcons 42-39.

LHS won seven of the 14  
**Luverne wrestling/p. 13**



# Luverne boys' hockey team nets three victories in late season push

**By Greg Hoogeveen**

The Luverne boys' hockey team won three games last week.

The Cardinals took down Fairmont at home, 10-3, on Feb. 7.

LHS beat Minnesota River two days in a row, on Feb. 10 in a close game, 4-3, at home, and on Feb. 11 by a score of 4-0 on the road.

The Cardinals are now 17-6-1 for the season, with a seven-game winning streak going into their next game.

Luverne is scheduled to play their final game of the regular season against Windom Thursday, Feb. 16.

After that the Cardinals await Section 3A seeding and playoff bracket as they prepare for the playoffs.

## LHS 10, Fairmont 3

The Cardinal boys' hockey team defeated the Fairmont Cardinals at home, 10-3, on Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Luverne had 40 shots on goal in the game, with Fairmont taking 13.

Junior Owen Sudenga started Luverne's scoring drive at 1:31 in the first period assisted by freshman Maddux Domagala and sophomore Blaik Bork.

Maddux Domagala scored 30 seconds later at 2:01 assisted by junior Henry Hartquist.

Blaik Bork scored at 7:34 assisted by senior Brady Bork.

Brady Bork followed up scoring himself at 7:51 assisted by junior Patrick Kroski and junior Elliot Domagala.

Sudenga scored his second goal at 9:02 assisted by seniors Brock Behrend and Ethan Langseth.

Fairmont scored one in the first period at 14:33.

The Cardinals led at the close of the first period 5-1.

In the second period Sudenga once again scored the first goal, this one at 5:41 assisted by Kroski and Behrend.

Blaik Bork scored



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0216 LHS Bhoc sudenga

Junior Owen Sudenga scores against Minnesota River in their Feb. 10 hockey game at home. The Cardinals beat the Bulldogs 4-3. Luverne beat them again on the road, 4-0 the next day Feb. 11

his second goal at 7:50 assisted by sophomore Alexander Schlosser and Kroski.

Elliot Domagala scored at 10:11 on a power play assisted by Kroski and Behrend.

Behrend closed the second, scoring at 15:12 assisted by Sudenga and Maddux Domagala.

Behrend's shot was a history in the making. It was his 100<sup>th</sup> career goal.

The Cardinals were up 9-1 at the end of the second period.

The third period opened with a Fairmont goal at 9:42.

Sophomore Layke Miller scored the last goal of the night for the Cardinals at 11:07 assisted by Elliot Domagala and Kroski.

Fairmont made its third goal at 13:03 in the third period.

The Cardinals won the game 10-3.

"Big congratulations to Brock, scoring his 100th

career goal," head coach Phil Paquette said.

"He is a dynamic and skilled hockey player who was worked very hard for all of his success in the game of hockey."

## LHS 4, MN River 3

Luverne boys' hockey hosted Minnesota River Friday, Feb. 10 beating them 4-3.

Junior LHS goalie Tyler Arends faced 32 shots from the Bulldogs, holding them to only three points.

The Cardinals placed 30 shots on the Minnesota River goalie, sneaking four past his pads.

Elliot Domagala fired the first goal for Luverne 45 seconds into the game. He was assisted by Brady Bork and Maddux Domagala.

Elliot followed up scoring again at 5:49 in the first period assisted by Brady Bork for the second time.

The Bulldogs cut the lead to one, scoring at 16:59 and finishing the first period down 2-1 to Luverne.

In the second period Sudenga scored at 1:23 assisted by Behrend and Maddux Domagala.

Maddux scored the next goal at 11:03 assisted by Langseth and Sudenga.

The Bulldogs scored their second goal at 13:00 in the second period.

Luverne led 4-2 after two periods of play.

The third period produced only one score, from Minnesota River at 4:40.

Luverne won the game 4-3, sending the Bulldogs home with a loss.

## LHS 4, MN River 0

On Saturday, Feb. 11, Luverne traveled to the LeSueur Community Center to play Minnesota River once again.

The Cardinals iced the game just like the day before in Luverne, with a win.

This time LHS beat Minnesota River 4-0 on their home ice.

Stats were unavailable at the time of this publication.

# H-BC girls' basketball beats HLOF 50-17

**By Greg Hoogeveen**

The H-BC girls' basketball team took down Heron Lake-Okabena/Fulda 50-17 on the road Friday, Feb. 10, bringing the Patriots' record to 9-13 for the season.

"I thought our girls did a good job of setting the tone to start the game," head coach Dylan Gehrke said.

"Defensively we played well all around."

He said the Lady Pates were led offensively by junior guard Brynn Rauk, who had 19 points, six boards and four steals.

"The girls knew she had the hot hand and did a good job of finding her for some open looks," Gehrke said.

Junior Layla Deelstra posted eight points and three rebounds for H-BC, with four assists and two steals.

Eighth-grader Olivia Deelstra added seven points, six rebounds, one assist, one steal and one blocked shot.

Freshman Abbie Harris put down seven points and grabbed four rebounds with three assists and two steals.

Junior Lanae Elbers made two baskets and a free throw for five points. She also got three rebounds, and registered two assists, three steals and five blocked shots.

Junior Larissa Steinhoff contributed three points and five rebounds in the game.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0216 layla

Photo from H-BC/SWM game.

Freshman Claire Knobloch had one free throw, three rebounds and one assist.

Senior Olivia Bork helped the team with two rebounds and one assist.

Freshman Ella Sammons added four rebounds and three steals in H-BC's win.

H-BC was scheduled to travel to Adrian Feb. 14, and they'll host Westbrook Walnut Grove Feb. 16 before meeting Elkton-Lake Benton Feb. 17 and playing Red Rock Central at home Feb. 20



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0216 bernie cece

Luverne wrestlers eighth-grader CeCe Rock (L) and her sister Bernie Rock (R) both qualified for the girls' state wrestling tournament this past week at sections in Hastings. They will compete March 4 at the Xcel Energy Center.

# Luverne's Rock sisters qualify for girls' state wrestling tournament

**By Greg Hoogeveen**

Luverne girls' wrestling placed two competitors at the section tournament in Hastings Saturday, Feb. 11, to qualify for state competition.

Freshman Bernie Rock took first place in the 120-pound weight class.

Her sister, eighth-grader CeCe Rock, placed second in the 152-pound weight class.

Both will compete in

the 2023 Girls' Wrestling State Tournament at the Xcel Energy Center Saturday, March 4.

Two other LHS girls competed in the sectionals but were not able to move on.

Junior Zakada Bradley took third place in the 106-pound weight class and sophomore Andi Luitjens placed fifth in the 152-pound weight class.



# THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall  
Outdoors columnist

# Our winter nemesis is peeking around the corner

It has a long time since my neck of southwest Minnesota has dealt with area lakes winterkill. Winterkill is just a slang term for low oxygen content in the water of a lake. When the oxygen content gets too low, the fish will start to die. There has never been a total 100-percent winterkill in any lake that I know of.

There always seem to be at least some fish that survive the low oxygen, but as a percent of the total fish populations, only a small percentage might remain. Partial winterkills, on the other hand, can happen quite often and may be localized to one small area in an overall larger lake.

Oxygen in water is measured by parts per million. There are fancy machines or electronic gadgets that do this measuring. Just drill a hole in the ice and drop down the sensor, and in seconds you can read the parts per million.

I am sure it varies, but in most of the lakes in my county and those surrounding counties around me, the oxygen readings in a normal winter run about 12-16 parts per million. Fish get in serious trouble when the parts per million gets down to about 2 parts per million. I have seen readings in lakes where a drawdown was intentional and almost all of the water in the lake was drained the prior fall when oxygen readings can be 0 parts per million.

Snow cover is really one of the biggest factors as to when and if a lake will winterkill to some extent. Last year we tested a lake that had 2 feet of ice and only 6 inches of water below it, and the oxygen readings were totally able to support fish life. There was very little snow on the ice that year. The same lake this year has about 12-16 inches of snow cover, and when the sunlight is blocked, oxygen content can fall very fast. Readings in the normal range fell to the "fish in trouble" range in as little as three days.

Plant life that grows in lake bottoms produces oxygen while it is alive. When the sunlight is blocked, these plants begin to die, and as they do so, they actually consume oxygen and expel CO2. When this flip-flop happens, oxygen content moves negative very quickly.

If you read my column with any regularity, you know that I am a pike spear fisherman. I have seen lakes with clear water turn cloudy overnight. This is as a result of an algae bloom. Little snow cover allows algae to be produced even during periods of very cold water. Growing plants make oxygen and dying plants consume it. Snow cover in above average depths cuts off the sunlight, and winterkills become far more common.

The one big mystery to me is why some lakes of similar size and depth maintain much higher oxygen levels than other lakes only a few miles away with similar characteristics. Some never winterkill, when lakes 5 miles away suffer significant fish losses. Most of the shallow lakes in southwest Minnesota have manmade aeration systems designed to either keep water open, thus allowing open water to absorb oxygen, or bubble air from the lake bottom like an aquarium pump.

In Minnesota, if the DNR intends to stock fish in a particular lake, an aeration system is mandatory in most cases. Why would they want to stock a lake over and over

the outdoors/p. 14

# SENIOR ATHLETES of the Week

## Lauren Hansen

**Sport:** Basketball  
**Parents:** Adam and Tracy Hansen  
**Other extracurricular activities/hobbies:** Golf, Student Council, peer tutoring, CEO, choir, yearbook, National Honor Society  
**Favorite Class:** Yearbook  
**Future Plans:** Attend SDSU to major in Business Economics



## Ethan Langseth

**Sport:** Hockey  
**Parents:** Shawn and Karen Langseth  
**Other extracurricular activities/hobbies:** Golf, Student Council, National Honor Society  
**Favorite Class:** Graphic Design  
**Future Plans:** Attend USD to major in Exercise Science and then graduate school for Physical Therapy

## Mallory Nelson

**Sport:** Hockey  
**Parents:** Chad Nelson and Jennifer Nelson  
**Other extracurricular activities/hobbies:** Golf, choir, peer tutoring, reading, watching hockey  
**Favorite Class:** College Psychology  
**Future Plans:** Attend the University of Minnesota to study Strategic Communications



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# LHS and H-BC boys' basketball play in Luverne

## Luverne record at 11-9

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne boys' basketball team won two games and lost one high-game this past week.

LHS beat H-BC at home 80-67 Tuesday, Feb. 7. The Cardinals lost to Windom 111-97 on the road Feb. 10 and won 80-60 at home against Adrian Feb. 13.

Luverne is now 11-9 for the season with one game remaining against Windom, on the road, Thursday, Feb. 16.

### LHS 80, H-BC 67

The Cardinal boys' basketball team and the Patriots matched up in the Luverne Cardinal Gym Tuesday, Feb. 7.

Luverne won the cross-county contest 80-67, pressing the Patriots and going to the line 31 times, making 16 free throws.

H-BC made three of only five free throw attempts in the game.

"Luverne was much more aggressive on both ends of the floor, and they shot 31 free throws to our five because of it," Patriots head coach Kale Wiertzema said.

"We are at our best when we defend and get to the free throw line."

Luverne played without Senior Gannon Ahrendt who was resting an injury.

"It was fun to see some of the kids step up with Gannon out due to injury," Luverne head coach John Sichmeller said.

"Carter and Gavin had big scoring games for us, and I was really happy with how Eli Woodley played in his first varsity start."

Sophomore Carter Sehr was five for nine at the 3-point line, posting 28 points, one rebound, four assists and one steal.

Junior Gavin DeBeer netted 27 points inside with seven rebounds, five assists, two steals and one blocked shot.

Sophomore Eli Woodley in his first start added six points and 13 rebounds with two assists.

Other Cardinals scoring in the game were sophomore Landon Ahrendt with six, seniors Marcus Feit and Tyson Cowell with six and five points respectively, and freshman Jaydon Johnson with two points.

Senior Riley Sneller came off the bench with four rebounds and one assist.

Sophomore Beau Bakken played a solid game for the Patriots, posting 22 points, five rebounds, one blocked shot and one steal.

Senior Brock Harnack netted 19 points, grabbed three rebounds and one steal.

Sophomore Sawyer Bosch added nine points, one rebound, one assist and two steals.

Freshman Micah Bush made seven points, grabbed three rebounds, had two assists and one steal.

Other Patriots scoring in the game were freshman Jamin Metzger with four points and senior Brayden Metzger, junior Riley Tatge and sophomore Cameron Allen all with two points each.

Sophomore Jackson Gacke helped H-BC with three rebounds and one assist.

"We are starting to move the basketball a little better which is helping our shooting



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0216 LHSBC BBB

Luverne junior Gavin DeBeer and H-BC freshman Jamin Metzger jockey for position under the bucket Tuesday, Feb. 7, in Luverne. LHS won the cross-county battle 80-67.

percentage, but we're still looking to put a full game together on both ends of the floor," said Wiertzema.

### Windom 111, LHS 97

The Luverne boys' basketball team traveled to Windom Friday, Feb. 10, losing to the Eagles 111-97.

"Windom leads the state in scoring and they are tough to stop," Sichmeller said.

"Their point guard is the toughest guy to guard that I have seen in a while."

Windom had 17 steals in the game to Luverne's six.

The Eagles were also able to hurt the Cardinals at the free throw line, shooting 94 percent, making 16 of 17 attempts. Luverne shot 61 percent, making 14 of 23 at the line.

"I was proud of how our kids kept battling and we were able to get the lead to ten multiple times but just couldn't get over the hump," Sichmeller said.

Gannon Ahrendt posted a double-double for Luverne, making 20 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. He also had one assist and four blocked shots.

Sehr made six of 10 3-point shots in his 35-point day. He also had five rebounds, three assists, two steals and one blocked shot.

DeBeer added 28 points, nine rebounds, two assists and two steals for the Cardinals.

Woodley netted nine points, muscled six rebounds with one steal and one blocked shot.

Feit added four points, one rebound and one assist.

Cowell made one of two at the line, had one rebound, one assist and one steal.

Landon Ahrendt did not score but grabbed one rebound, had two assists and

one blocked shot.

### LHS 80, Adrian 60

The LHS boys' basketball team hosted Adrian Monday, Feb. 13, beating the Dragons 80-60.

"We were able to speed Adrian up and make some runs in the second half to pull away and did a little better job of limiting our turnovers the second half as well," Sichmeller said.

"It was good to see the scoring a little bit more balanced tonight."

Gannon Ahrendt opened the game with a missed dunk, which turned into a technical from him hanging on the rim.

It sent Adrian to the line scoring the first points of the game.

Ahrendt was still able to make a few other dunks on his way to 16 points. He also had eight rebounds, five assists, six steals and five blocked shots.

DeBeer played strong inside, sinking 18 points, grabbing nine rebounds and two assists.

Sehr made 15 points, three rebounds, five assists and had two steals.

Cowell added 11 points, two rebounds, one assist and one steal in the win.

Landon Ahrendt came off the bench and posted nine points, four rebounds, one assist and two steals.

Feit and Sneller both added three points. Feit helped with two rebounds, one assist and one steal.

Sneller made one rebound, had two assists and one steal in the game.

Woodley made two free throws, had four rebounds and one steal.

Senior Ashton Eitreim came off the bench to chants of his name, to sink a 3-pointer in the last 1 1/2 minutes of the game.

## Patriots record at 9-10

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team went 1-1 this past week with an 80-67 loss to Luverne Feb. 7 and a 67-60 win over HLOF Feb. 9.

The Patriots, now 9-10 for the season, were scheduled to travel Tuesday, Feb. 14, to take on Southwest Christian and will meet Worthington at home Thursday, Feb. 16.

### LHS 80, H-BC 67

The Patriots traveled to Luverne Tuesday, Feb. 7, losing an 80-67 cross-county contest.

"We are a much better team defensively than we displayed Tuesday night. We cannot give up 49 points in a half and expect to win," head coach Wiertzema said.

Sophomore Beau Bakken played a solid game for the Patriots with 22 points, five rebounds, one blocked shot and one steal.

Senior Brock Harnack netted 19 points and grabbed three rebounds and one steal.

Sophomore Sawyer Bosch added nine points, one rebound, one assist and two steals.

Freshman Micah Bush made seven points, grabbed three rebounds and had two assists and one steal.

Freshman Jamin Metzger scored four points. Senior Brayden Metzger, junior Riley Tatge and sophomore Cameron Allen all added two points each.

Sophomore Jackson Gacke helped H-BC with three rebounds and one assist.

### H-BC 67, HLOF 60

The Patriots played Heron Lake-Okabena/Fulda away Thursday, Feb. 9, beating the Coyotes 67-60.

"In the first half we were not very patient offensively, but once we started moving the ball and working inside out, we found better scoring opportunities which led to our 43-point second half," Wiertzema said.

"We also did a much better job getting to the free throw line and converting. We were 23 of 32 from the line and made eight straight to close out the game and seal the victory."

He said Bosch made two to take a one-point lead with just over a minute left.

"Micah Bush made six straight to finish the game and give us a seven-point victory," Wiertzema said.

Bakken led the Patriots scoring 16 points. He also had eight rebounds, one steal and three blocked shots.

Jamin Metzger had a double-double game with 13 points with 13 rebounds. He also had one assist and two blocked shots.

Bush added 12 points, two rebounds, two assists and two steals.

Harnack netted eight points, Tatge had seven, Bosch six, Brayden Metzger four and Allen one.

# Luverne High School girls' basketball team wins four games

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne girls' basketball team added four decisive wins this past week.

LHS beat host MCC 63-23 Feb. 7, defeated

Adrian at home 70-31 on Feb. 9, topped the Cougars 56-32 Feb. 10 at Canby, and

clipped the Windom Eagles at Windom, 63-28, Feb. 13.

Luverne is now 20-2 for the season.

The Cardinals were scheduled to host Tracy-Milroy-Balaton Tuesday, Feb. 14, and they'll travel

to Worthington Thursday, Feb. 16.

### LHS 63, MCC 23

The Luverne girls' basketball team took on

Martin County Central Tuesday, Feb. 7, beating the Mavericks 63-23.

The Cardinals caused 29 turnovers in the game, had 22 steals and out-rebounded the Mavericks 42-26.

As a team, Luverne was solid at the line, making 85 percent of their free throws.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0216 LHS GBB sehr

Senior Averill Sehr takes the ball up court against Adrian at home. Luverne won the game 70-31 on Thursday, Feb. 9.

Senior Elizabeth Wagner led Luverne with 25 points, seven rebounds and three steals.

Junior Sarah Stegenga went two for five in three-point shots and added two rebounds, one assist and four steals.

Junior Kira John posted six points and eight rebounds. She also had one assist and three steals.

Junior Kiesli Smith added six points, four rebounds, one assist and two blocked shots.

Senior Lauren Hansen made five points, had one rebound and one steal.

Senior Averill Sehr contributed four points, one assist and two steals.

Senior Christina Wagner played a strong game, making four points, seven rebounds, an assist, four steals and one blocked shot.

Junior Dennie Sandbulte was three for four at the line, grabbed four rebounds, had one assist and one steal.

Seniors Jocelyn Hart and Emma Beyer both added two points. Hart had three rebounds, two assists and one steal.

Beyer had two rebounds, three assists and one steal.

### LHS 70, Adrian 31

The Luverne girls' basketball team hosted Adrian Thursday, Feb. 9, beating the Dragons 70-31.

The Cardinals were able to pressure Adrian, causing the Dragons to turn the ball over 33 times and letting the Cardinals steal the ball 23 times.

Elizabeth Wagner had a great game, posting 31 points, five rebounds, two assists, two steals and one blocked shot.

Jocelyn Hart came through inside, making eight points, three rebounds and one steal.

Voorhees added seven points and one assist.

Smith and Serie came off the bench, contributing six points each.

Hansen made five points, grabbed one rebound, had two assists and one steal.

John had four points and five rebounds. She also had three assists and 10 steals.

Sehr made two points, had two rebounds, two assists and one steal.

Christina Wagner was one for two at the line, had three rebounds, three assists, three steals and two blocked shots.

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**St. Catherine Catholic Church**  
203 E. Brown St., Luverne

**St. Catherine Ph. 283-8502; www.stscl.org**  
**Monsignor Gerald Kosse, Pastor**  
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass. Public Mass will be celebrated at FULL capacity in the church. Masses: 9 a.m. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Friday at the nursing homes – check the bulletin. All Sunday masses will be live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/stscluverne/videos/>. Visit [www.stscl.org](http://www.stscl.org) for more information.

**Luverne Christian Reformed Church**  
605 N. Estey St., Luverne  
**Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982**  
**www.luverneccr.com — office@luverneccr.com**

**Joe Steenholdt, Pastor**  
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 6:30 p.m. Evening worship service. We are streaming Sunday services live on YouTube at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Send him a friend request if you're not connected. You may also visit our website for delayed broadcasts. Also our services are on local cable TV at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays. In all circumstances, may we joyfully declare: "Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 124:8.

**First Baptist Church**  
103 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne  
**Ph. 283-4091; email: fbcluv@iw.net, www.fbcluverne.org**  
**Walt Moser, Pastor**

Sundays: 10:30 a.m. In-person worship service. Service is also on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m.

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne  
**Ph. 507-283-4431; www.graceluverne.org, graceluverne@iw.net**

**Dave Christenson, Interim Pastor**  
Thursday, Feb. 16: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Sunday, Feb. 19: 9 a.m. Worship Service 10 a.m. Fellowship Coffee. NO Sunday School & Drums. Monday, Feb. 20: Grace Notes deadline. Tuesday, Feb. 21: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Feb. 22: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 9 a.m. Spring cleaning. 5:30 p.m. Glow Praise Band. 6:45 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service with Holy Communion. 7:30 p.m. Voices of Grace rehearsal. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are available. Online worship: Sundays 9 a.m. at [www.graceluverne.org](http://www.graceluverne.org), click Worship tab; or Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne  
**Ph. 507-283-4571 or 605-215-9834**  
**Andrew Palmquist, Pastor**

Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School and Bible class. 10:15 a.m. Worship service; worship online as well (at els.org). Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne) for other classes and events.

**American Reformed Church**  
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne  
**Ph. 507-283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org**

Friday, Feb. 17: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. Sunday, Feb. 19: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. 10:50 a.m. Sunday School. Tuesday, Feb. 21: 12 p.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Feb. 22: 5:30 p.m. Midweek meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Clubs and Youth Groups. Comm Services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

**Rock River Community Church**  
1075 110<sup>th</sup> Ave., Luverne  
**Ph. 507-283-9070; email: info@rockrivercommunity.church**

**Bob Junak, Pastor**  
Come as you are—Sundays @ 10 a.m.: Main Service. Kids church age 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade—Nursery. Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m. Midweek Service—Kids age 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**United Methodist Church**  
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne, Ph. 283-4529  
Saturday, Feb. 18: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Sunday, Feb. 19: 9:30 a.m. FUEL/Adult Sunday school. 9:45 a.m. Coffee. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible Study. 6 p.m. ALIVE Youth Group. Monday, Feb. 20: 6:30 p.m. Genesis to Revelation Bible Study. Messenger deadline. Tuesday, Feb. 21: 10 a.m. Shut-in visits. 6:30 p.m. PPR meeting. Wednesday, Feb. 22: 5:30 p.m. Community Meal. 6:15 p.m. FUEL and Confirmation. 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service at Presbyterian Church. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Live streamed on Facebook and radio.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
302 Central Lane, Luverne  
**Ph. 283-4787; email: Firstpc@iw.net**

Sundays: 9 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 10:15 a.m. Worship service. Youth Sunday school during worship service. In-person Worship service and live on Facebook. Our Facebook page can be found under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne. We are also on the local Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
803 N. Cedar St., Luverne  
**Ph. 283-2316; email: stjoh@iw.net**  
**www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org**

Saturdays: 5:30 p.m. Worship Service. Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Service. 10 a.m. Fellowship Time. 10:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study. Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Bible Study. 6:30 p.m. Catechesis Class. 6:30 p.m. Kids for Christ. 7:30 p.m. Youth Group. Services will be available on the Vast Channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, [cityofluverne.org](http://cityofluverne.org). Holy Communion is offered on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weekends and Liturgical Feasts.

**Living Rock Church**  
500 E. Main St., Luverne  
**Ph. 449-0057; www.livingrockswmn.org**  
**Josh Hayden, Pastor**

**New Life Celebration Church**  
101 W. Maple, Luverne  
**Ph. (605) 368-1924; email: newlifecel@iw.net**

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
305 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick  
**Ph. (507) 669-2855; zionoffice@alliancecom.net**  
**Jesse Baker, Pastor**  
Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Bible study. Worship service on Luverne cable at 3:30 p.m. every Thursday and Friday.

**First Lutheran Church**  
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.  
**Ph. (605) 757-6662 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net**  
**Mark Eliason, Pastor**

Thursday, Feb. 16: Parish council meeting at Palisade Lutheran Church. Sunday, Feb. 19: 10:30 a.m. Worship at First Lutheran Church. 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. Tuesday, Feb. 21: First Lutheran council meeting. Wednesday, Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday service at First Lutheran. All are welcome. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @FirstLutheranValley Springs; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish.

**Palisade Lutheran Church**  
211 121<sup>st</sup> St., Garretson, S.D.  
**Ph. (507) 597-6257 — palisadchurch@alliancecom.net**  
**www.palisadelutheran.org**

Thursday, Feb. 16: Parish Council meeting at Palisade Lutheran Church. Sunday, Feb. 19: 9 a.m. Worship Service at Palisade Lutheran Church. 10 a.m. Sunday School. Wednesday, Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday service at First Lutheran. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @PalisadeLC; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
201 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek  
**Ph. 507-935-5025 email: lori.firstpres@gmail.com**  
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. Second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Session meeting.

**Magnolia United Methodist Church**  
501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia  
**Ph. 605-215-3429 email: magnoliamnumc@gmail.com**  
**Nancy Manning, Pastor**

Sundays: 9 a.m., in-person with livestream available on the church's Facebook site.

**Steen Reformed Church**  
112 W. Church Ave., Steen, Ph. 855-2336  
**Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor**

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship service in-person with livestream available on Facebook and YouTube. Radio worship on KQAD Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
112 N. Main St., Hills  
**Ph. 962-3270 / bethlehemofhills@gmail.com**  
**Nita Parker, Pastor**

Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 9 a.m. Sunday school. 10 a.m. Worship Service. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website blchills.org.

**Hills United Reformed Church**  
410 S. Central Ave., Hills  
**Office Ph. 962-3254**  
**hillsurc@alliancecom.net**  
**Alan Camarigg, Pastor**

## Band-Aids, bruises and true healing

As a father of three children, I have the privilege to view things differently. And if you have children, you know what I mean in regard to how kids see things differently than adults. They don't care if things are messy or clean. They don't care about schedules, money, or things that seem to matter most to adults.

Something that I realized recently is the perspective kids have on Band-aids and injuries. My daughter right now seems to think the more Band-Aids on her the better. Even if there is not an actual injury, scratch or pain, there seems to be a need for Band-Aids. Even with other kids, if they break something and need a cast on, they make sure everyone knows and signs it.

Yet, when an adult has something happen to them, we make sure we get the most skin-like colored bandage so no one knows. We make sure that if there is any kind of injury in our life that happens, we want it covered, unnoticed, and do our best to make it not as a big deal as it may actually be.

Unfortunately, this kind of thinking about pain, injuries and hurts transfers over into our relationship with God as well if we are not aware of it. Instead of being like a child and showing God our wounds and pain, we seem to think he doesn't want anything to do with us when we are hurting. We don't like the idea of being weak and out of control, so we think that God doesn't want us that way either.

Thankfully his thinking is different from ours. Psalm 34:18 says, "The Lord is near the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." Psalm 51:17 tells us, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, oh God, you will not despise." And Jesus in Matthew 9:9-12, when being questioned by the religious leaders why he hangs out with sinners and tax collectors, responded that he didn't come for the healthy, but for the sick.

Many times in our walk with God we think that he will accept us as we are, but once we are his, we need to clean ourselves up and we are on our own.

Shouldn't we be strong enough by now to not need his help? Shouldn't we make sure we are perfect before him? Should we clean ourselves up by now because he surely can't love us with our Band-Aids and bruises, right?

Wrong. He is very interested in the places of hurt, pain, addiction and

## BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Josh Hayden,  
Living Rock Church, Luverne

wounds that we don't want him to see (even though he sees them). Jesus' mission statement for why he came in Luke 4 was to preach to the poor, bring freedom for prisoners, sight for the blind, and to set the oppressed free. Of course after he told people this in the synagogue, they wanted to kill him. Which is usually how religious people respond when they hear that they actually need help and saving.

A religious heart, like the elder brother in the prodigal son, sees others' sins before he sees his own. He doesn't rejoice with those who were broken and made whole, he despises them. There is a brother coming home with Band-Aids and is healed through the father's love, and there is a brother in the field covered in Band-Aids, unwilling to show his pain and hurt.

So what do we do? How do we come to God with our brokenness, pain, hurt and injuries? Is there a formula or some confessions we need to give him to unlock a code?

No. The key is talking to him and talking to others. When we talk to him about what is actually going on and are real with him, he hears us. He knows what we need even before we ask him. He is the Father that wants to take the bandages off, the casts off, and is not scared of seeing them on us as well.

He is the healer but he also gives us a community to help us with our wounds. Christianity is not done on an island. James 5:16 tells us when we confess our sins and pray for each other there is healing that happens. But if we keep hiding our wounds, scars, and sins from each other there is no real healing. Just a pseudo community.

So if you have wounds today that you are covering up because you think that God would be mad about them, it's time to become childlike and show God your Band-Aids and bruises.

So stop hiding in the dark and come into the light where there is life, healing and hope. It is there you will find real healing, restoration and freedom.

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## City of Luverne sets public hearing for child care center

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Luverne, Minnesota, will hold a Public Hearing at a regular meeting of the City Council beginning at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, to be held at Luverne City Offices Council Chambers, 305 E. Luverne St, in Luverne, Minnesota. This will be an informational meeting to discuss the Child Care Center Project located at 1 Roundwind Road in Luverne, Minnesota, including economic and environmental impacts, service area, alternatives to the project, and potential funding sources, including USDA Rural Development. All residents and property owners within the area are encouraged to attend.

All interested persons may appear at the hearing and present their views orally or in writing prior to the hearing. Anyone needing reasonable accommodations or an interpreter should contact the City Clerk, 305 E. Luverne St., Luverne, Minnesota (507-449-2525).

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF THE CITY COUNCIL

(02-16)

## Leenderts probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF ROCK

PROBATE COURT  
DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

In Re: Estate of  
Leonard Leenderts,  
Deceased

Court File No. 67-PR-23-20

### ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 27th day of February, 2023, at 8:30 O'clock A.M., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Rock County Courthouse, Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named deceased, dated December 16, 2005, and for the appointment of Alan Leenderts, whose address is 510 2nd Street, Hills, Minnesota 56138, as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in supervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, said personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representatives or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Date Filed: January 27, 2023

/s/ Terry S. Vajirt  
District Court Judge

Douglas E. Eisma  
Attorney for Petitioner  
Eisma and Eisma  
130 East Main  
Luverne, MN 56156  
(507) 283-4828  
I.D. #158343

/s/ Natalie Reisch  
Court Administrator

(COURT SEAL)

(02-09, 02-16)

## Rock County Commissioners meet Jan. 9

Herreid Board Room  
Rock County Courthouse

9:00 A.M.  
Jan. 9, 2023

The scheduled meeting of January 05, 2023, was postponed to January 09, 2023, due to inclement weather.

The meeting was called to order by Administrator Oldre with Commissioners Gary Overgaard (District 1), Stan Williamson (District 2), Greg Burger (District 3), and Jody Reisch (District 5) present, Sherri Thompson (District 4) present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Also in attendance were County Attorney Jeff Haubrich and Deputy Administrator Susan Skattum and Mavis Fodness. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

The Administrator requested nominations for the County Board Chair; Commissioner Reisch nominated Commissioner Thompson. The Administrator called three times for nominations for County Board Chair; motion by Reisch, seconded by Burger to have nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Thompson to serve as the Chair, declared carried on a voice vote.

The meeting was turned over to Chair Thompson.

The Chair requested nominations for Vice Chair of the County Board; Commissioner Reisch nominated Commissioner Burger. The Chair called three times for nominations for Vice Chair; motion by Reisch, seconded by Williamson to have nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Burger to serve as Vice Chair, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Overgaard, to approve the January 05, 2023, County Board agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch, to approve the December 27, 2022 County Board minutes, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Williamson, seconded by Burger, to approve Resolution No. 01-23, Housekeeping items, declared carried on a voice vote. Identified in the Housekeeping resolution was the 2023 IRS Mileage Rate reimbursement of \$.655/mile.

Ashley Kurtz, Auditor/Treasurer, presented a listing of the year end claims paid on December 27, 2022; motion by Burger, seconded by Overgaard, to approve as presented, declared carried on a unanimous vote.

### DECEMBER 30, 2022 CLAIMS OVER \$2,000

BEAVER CREEK/CITY OF	\$11,239.89
BMO FINANCIAL GROUP	4,885.87
DAKOTA RIGGERS & TOOL SUPPLY INC	3,952.95
HARDWICK/CITY OF	8,225.00
SANDERS INC	2,374.94
WIDSETH SMITH NOLTING & ASSOC	11,784.00
37 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	18,124.00
TOTAL	\$60,586.65

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Williamson, to approve Per Diems of \$2,100 and the claims list of January 5, 2023, declared carried on a unanimous vote. A complete listing of the claims is available upon request at the Auditor/Treasurer's office.

### JANUARY 5, 2023 CLAIMS OVER \$2,000

11 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	\$3,672.90
TOTAL	\$3,672.90

The County Board was in receipt of the Fund Balance report which reflected receipt of the 2022 Opioid Settlement, the Auditor/Treasurer stated that those funds will be forwarded to SWHHS/Public Health. Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Burger, to approve the Fund Balance report, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was in receipt of the County State Aid Maintenance Agreement with the City of Luverne. The contract is a (5) year renewal contract with a 3% annual increase; motion by Williamson, seconded by Reisch, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Administrator presented a request on behalf of the Sheriff to approve a job re-classification of Team Lead-Dispatcher to Dispatch Supervisor. Compensation increase due to the change would come from Gun Permit reserves.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Burger, to approve the job re-classification of Team Lead-Dispatcher to Dispatch Supervisor, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was informed that they need to designate a Commissioner appointment for the SWHHS Public Health Opioid Settlement Committee; Commissioner Burger was appointed by order of the Chair.

The Administrator informed the County Board of an upcoming meeting with Johnson Controls scheduled for January 11 at 10:00 a.m. to review the timeline for HVAC improvements at the Human Services Building and other HVAC improvements to other county buildings.

Commissioner Overgaard inquired if the County Board was interested in volunteering for Meals on Wheels delivery as they have

done in the past; it was determined to schedule something in April.

The Administrator also informed the County Board that Representative Schomacker and Senator Weber are carrying a bill for funding of the 41st Street improvement project and for funding for the Rural Water tower project.

Also stated that the Economic Development Authority has an upcoming meeting on January 5 at 6:00 p.m. and contract negotiations for the Sergeant's Union are scheduled for January 12 at 4:00 p.m.

Commissioner Williamson stated that he attended the following meetings/events: no meetings.

Commissioner Reisch stated that he attended the following meetings/events: no meetings.

Commissioner Overgaard stated that he attended the following meetings/events: no meetings.

Commissioner Burger stated that he attended the following meetings/events: no meetings.

Commissioner Thompson stated that she attended the following meetings/events: no meetings.

With no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was declared adjourned.

(02-16)

## Rock County Commissioners meet Jan. 17

Herreid Board Room  
Rock County Courthouse

9:00 A.M.  
Jan. 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chair Thompson with Commissioners Overgaard, Williamson, Burger and Reisch present. Also in attendance were County Attorney Jeff Haubrich and Deputy Administrator Susan Skattum and Mavis Fodness.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Motion by Burger, seconded by Reisch, to approve the January 17, 2023, County Board agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch, to approve the January 05, 2023, County Board minutes, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Thompson, seconded Overgaard, to approve the consent agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

1. Resolution 02-23, a legislative request for new funding formula for Community Corrections, declared carried on a voice vote.

2. Set Bid Date for rehabilitation for Historic Bridge L4646 in Beaver Creek for February 17 at 11:00 a.m.

Ashley Kurtz, Auditor/Treasurer, presented the claims for approval; motion Williamson, seconded by Overgaard, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote. A complete listing of the claims is available upon request at the Auditor/Treasurer's office.

### JANUARY 17, 2023 CLAIMS OVER \$2,000

A & B BUSINESS INC	\$2,849.60
ADRIAN AUTO SERVICE LLC	2,000.00
ASSN OF MN COUNTIES	9,789.00
BECK & HOFFER CONSTRUCTION	8,913.00
CHS INC	27,410.47
FIDLAR TECHNOLOGIES INC	3,200.32
HEAT TACTICAL TEAM	2,260.85
KETTERLING SERVICES INC	11,839.32
LYON COUNTY LANDFILL	16,519.52
MN COUNTIES INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRUST	192,907.02
MN SHERIFFS ASSN	4,889.73
MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS INC	13,381.82
NOBLES COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER	7,860.00
ROCKMOUNT RESEARCH & ALLOYS INC	2,575.48
SCHOMACKER'S OFFICE CLEANING LLC	2,033.24
STAPLES ENTERPRISES INC	6,469.49
STAPP MFG.	33,187.00
SWPTSA	3,365.00
81 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	38,211.23
TOTAL	\$389,662.09

The County Board was in receipt of the Fund Balance Report; motion by Overgaard, seconded by Williamson, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote.

Calla Jarvie, Rock County Community Library, presented a program update regarding Trivia night. She stated that Southwest Crisis Center gave a brief presentation to a captive audience and will encourage other organizations to present throughout the year. The Trivia night schedule is the first Thursday of each month.

Jesper Ascanius Kjersgaard Nielsen, VP Business Development US, Jepper Kjaersgaard, Agronomist, Tore Junkuhn Dehli, Lead Business Developer, and Bob Lefebvre, VP On-farm Business Development all of Nature Energy gave a presentation of their renewable natural gas company which transforms organic waste into biogas. Nature Energy, a company from Denmark has a US location in St. Paul, Minnesota is looking to expand up to 15 projects in North America by 2026, with Rock County being a potential site. Current Minnesota sites include: Swift County, Winona County and St. Croix County. The presentation included what infrastructure is needed and inquired if their type of industry would be welcome in Rock County. After their presentation, it was the consensus of the County Board that Nature Energy would be an enhancement to the area's rich agriculture industry and that Rock County would welcome this type of business.

The Administrator presented updates on the following: the City of Luverne has agreed to lease the TCI building while the Human Services building is under construction for HVAC improvements, the Personnel Committee of the County Board and himself met the Sergeant's Union representatives and that they intend to file to go the mediation, and that he has a brief meetings with a prospective economic development for the Buffalo Ridge Regional Rail Road; other economic development include potential bar and restaurant in the City of Magnolia. Oldre also stated that bills are currently being drafted for the Rural Water tower project and the 41st Street improvement project in Martin Township.

The County Board briefly reviewed the Boards and Committees appointments; no action was taken at this time.

Commissioner Williamson stated that he attended the following meetings/events: Rural Water and Pork Producers Banquet.

Commissioner Reisch stated that he attended the following meetings/events: Rock County Economic Development Authority, Community Corrections and Sergeants Union negotiation.

Commissioner Overgaard stated that he attended the following meetings/events: Rock County Economic Development Authority, Arlyn Gehrke's 25-year work anniversary, Magnolia City Council, Pork Producers and Land Use.

Commissioner Burger stated that he attended the following meetings/events: Community Corrections, Sergeant Union Negotiation, Pork Producers, Southwest Mental Health Consortium.

Commissioner Thompson stated that she attended the following meetings/events: Southwest Regional Development Commission and Pork Producers.

With no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was declared adjourned.

(02-16)

## Mortgage foreclosure sale set for March 16

### NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 15, 2010

MORTGAGOR: Chad M. Gruis, single.

MORTGAGEE: First Farmers & Merchants National Bank.

DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded December 16, 2010, Rock County Recorder, Document No. 175211.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. Dated October 15, 2010, Recorded December 16, 2010, as Document No. 175212. And thereafter assigned to: Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC. Dated August 17, 2020, Recorded August 20, 2020, as Document No. 197744.

TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: First Farmers & Merchants National Bank

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: LoanCare, LLC

MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 811 North Spring Street, Luverne, MN 56156

TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 200286000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

The S.7 feet of Lot 2 and the N.65 feet of Lot 4 in Block 6 in Barck, Adams & Howe's Addition to the Village (now City) of Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota.

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$78,963.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$62,033.91

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgage complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 16, 2023, at 10:00 A.M.

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Office, Main Entrance, Law Enforcement Center, 1000 North Blue Mound Avenue, Luverne, MN

to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on September 18, 2023, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None  
"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: January 9, 2023

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC  
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

LIEBO, WEINGARDEN, DOBIE & BARBEE, P.L.L.P.

Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee  
4500 Park Glen Road #300  
Minneapolis, MN 55416  
(952) 925-6888  
100 - 22-006876 FC

IN THE EVENT REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW: THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

Document version 1.2 July 20, 2021

(1-19, 1-26, 2-2, 2-9, 2-16, 2-23)

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND NOTICE OF FILING REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORY POSITIONS FOR SWEET TOWNSHIP MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

The 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the policyholders of Sweet Township Mutual Fire Insurance Company, will be held in the meeting room of The Pipestone Pizza Ranch, 108 West Main Street, Pipestone, Minnesota, on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is the election of three (3) directors for terms of three (3) years, hearing reports of the officers on the past year's business, and transacting such other business as may properly come before this regular meeting.

With regards to the election of members to the Board of Directors of the Company, candidates seeking to be placed on the ballot for election at the annual meeting shall be members of the Company in good standing, must be nominated and must file for the office of director in writing with the Secretary of the Company no later than March 13, 2023. The filing of the nomination must occur at the office of the Secretary before 5:00 p.m. March 13, 2023, by the order of the Board of Directors.

John Schmidt, President  
Michael Moeller, Secretary  
(2-16)



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matches, two by pins, one by decision, and four were forfeits by RRC.

In the dual, junior Sam Rock won his match with a pin. It marked a milestone in his career with victory No. 75.

Breakdown by weight-class is as follows:

106 – Keagan Steen (RRC) over Brody Kopp (L) by fall, Team: LHS 0, RRC 6  
 113 - Bernie Rock (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 6, RRC 6  
 120 - Matthew Gangestad (L) over Jonah Skarupa (RRC) by fall, Team: LHS 12, RRC 6  
 126 - Rayden Boyenga (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 18, RRC 6  
 132 - Leif Ingebretsen (L) over Andrew Pankonin (RRC) 4-3 dec., Team: LHS 21, RRC 6  
 138 - Carter Beranek (RRC) over Hudson Hough (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 21, RRC 12  
 145 - Evan Bartholomaeus (RRC) over Cameron McCrary (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 21, RRC 24  
 152 - Bode Determan (RRC) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 21, RRC 24  
 160 - DJ Rock (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 27, RRC 24  
 170 - Cash Bonnett (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 33, RRC 24  
 182 - Sam Rock (L) over Austin Cowan (RRC) win by fall, Team: LHS 39, RRC 24  
 195 - Vander Mathiowetz (RRC) over Jacob Madison (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 39, RRC 30  
 220 - Brekken Determan (RRC) over Kane Akkerman (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 39, RRC 36  
 285 - Keaton Skarupa (RRC) over Masyn Akkerman (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 39, RRC 42

In Luverne's second dual the Cardinals lost to the Wabasso Rabbits 60-18.

LHS won three matches, one by pin and two from

forfeits by Wabasso.

Breakdown by weight-class is as follows:

106 – Kaysen Harms (WAB) over Brody Kopp (L) by fall, Team: LHS 0, WAB 6  
 113 - Zach Skoblík (WAB) over Bernie Rock (L) 11-4 dec., Team: LHS 0, WAB 9  
 120 - Ashton Weidemann (WAB) over Matthew Gangestad (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 0, WAB 15  
 126 - Mikale Goblirsch (WAB) over Leif Ingebretsen (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 0, WAB 21  
 132 - William Flowers (WAB) over Hudson Hough (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 0, WAB 27  
 138 - Gavin Marotzke (WAB) over Josh Stroh (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 0, WAB 33  
 145 - Adryen Tietz (WAB) over Cameron McCrary (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 0, WAB 39  
 152 - Preston Remiger (WAB) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 0, WAB 45  
 160 - DJ Rock (L) over Garret Maritzke (WAB) win by fall, Team: LHS 6, WAB 45  
 170 - Mason Kampsen (WAB) over Cash Bonnett (L) 6-4 dec., Team: LHS 6, WAB 48  
 182 - Sam Rock (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 12, WAB 48  
 195 - Chase Irlbeck (WAB) over Jacob Madison (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 12, WAB 54  
 220 - Ezekiel Olson (WAB) over Kane Akkerman (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 12, WAB 60  
 285 - Masyn Akkerman (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 18, WAB 60

In the third dual the Cardinals beat the Chester Area Flyers 63-4.

There were two matches where both teams forfeited.

Luverne got four pins, two matches by decision, and another five by forfeits

by Chester. The Cardinals lost one match by decision.

Breakdown by weight-class is as follows:

106 – Carter Leibeg (CA) over Brody Kopp (L) 12-3 major decision, Team: LHS 0, CA 4  
 113 - Bernie Rock (L) over Jacob Foster (CA) win by fall, Team: LHS 6, CA 4  
 120 - double forfeit, Team: LHS 6, CA 4  
 126 - Rayden Boyenga (L) over Lawrence Emery (CA) win by fall, Team: LHS 12, CA 4  
 132 - Leif Ingebretsen (L) over Daniel Swenson (CA) 8-0 major decision, Team: LHS 16, CA 4  
 138 - Josh Stroh (L) over Brennan Jordan (CA) win by fall, Team: LHS 22, CA 4  
 145 - Cameron McCrary (L) over Ariens Stalford (CA) 18-1 technical fall, Team: LHS 25, CA 4  
 152 - double forfeit, Team: LHS 25, CA 4  
 160 - DJ Rock (L) over Marcus Johnson (CA) win by fall, Team: LHS 33, CA 4  
 170 - Sam Rock (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 39, CA 4  
 182 - Cash Bonnett (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 45, CA 4  
 195 - Jacob Madison (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 51, CA 4  
 220 - Kane Akkerman (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 57, CA 4  
 285 - Masyn Akkerman (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 63, CA 4

**Fulda-MCC Quadrangular-Feb. 10**

Luverne wrestlers went on the road Friday, Feb. 10, to participate in the Fulda-MCC quadrangular.

Teams invited were Luverne, Ortonville, St. James and host Fulda-Murray County Central.

LHS wrestled three duals in the quad. The Cardinals lost to Fulda-MCC

60-23, defeated Ortonville 51-12 and lost to St. James Area 51-30.

In Luverne's first dual, the Cardinals lost to the Warriors 60-23.

LHS won four matches, two by pins, one by technical fall and one by a Fulda-MCC forfeit.

Luverne gave the Warriors five match wins by forfeit.

Senior DJ Rock won his match with a pin, No. 26 this year, breaking Luverne's single season pin record.

Breakdown by weight-class is as follows:

106 – Kaston Clarke (FMCC) over Brody Kopp (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 0, FMCC 6  
 113 - Brayden Gibb (FMCC) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 0, FMCC 12  
 120 - Teague Meyer (FMCC) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 0, FMCC 18  
 126 - Leif Ingebretsen (L) over Torrin Clarke (FMCC) win by fall, Team: LHS 6, FMCC 18  
 132 - Denver Ash (FMCC) over Josh Stroh (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 6, FMCC 24  
 138 - Lucas Kuball (FMCC) over Hudson Hough (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 6, FMCC 30  
 145 - Noah Mathiowetz (FMCC) over Cameron McCrary (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 6, FMCC 36  
 152 - Owen Olsen (FMCC) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 6, FMCC 42  
 160 - DJ Rock (L) over Carson Lewis (FMCC) win by fall, Team: LHS 12, FMCC 42  
 170 - Sam Rock (L) over Luke Iverson (FMCC) win by 20-2 technical fall, Team: LHS 17, FMCC 42

182 - Cain Carlson (FMCC) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 17, FMCC 48  
 195 - Jacob Madison (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 23, FMCC 48  
 220 - Colby Kesteloot (FMCC) over Kane Akkerman (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 23, FMCC 54  
 285 - Rylan Klein (FMCC) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 23, FMCC 60

In Luverne's second dual, the Cardinals beat the Ortonville Trojans 51-12.

LHS won nine matches in the dual with five pins, one decision and three by Ortonville forfeits.

There were three weight classes with forfeits by both teams.

Breakdown by weight-class is as follows:

106 – Brody Kopp (L) over Justus Romanoff (O) win by fall, Team: LHS 6, (O) 0  
 113 - double forfeit, Team: LHS 6, (O) 0  
 120 - double forfeit, Team: LHS 6, (O) 0  
 126 - Leif Ingebretsen (L) over Cody Kiepel (O) 8-4 dec, Team: LHS 9, (O) 0  
 132 - Hudson Hough (L) over Bo Biever (O) win by fall, Team: LHS 15, (O) 0  
 138 - Anthony Eustice (O) over Josh Stroh (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 15, (O) 6  
 145 - Trent Eastman (O) over Cameron McCrary (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 15, (O) 12  
 152 - Treven Bell (L) over Dylan Honetschlager (O) win by fall, Team: LHS 21, (O) 12  
 160 - Logan Willi (L) over Logan Omondson (O) win by fall, Team: LHS 27, (O) 12  
 170 - Cash Bonnett (L) over Isaac Kirchberg (O) win by fall, Team: LHS 33, (O) 12  
 182 - Sam Rock (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 39, (O) 12

195 - Jacob Madison (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 45, (O) 12  
 220 - Kane Akkerman (L) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 51, (O) 12  
 285 - double forfeit, Team: LHS 51, (O) 12

In Luverne's third dual, the Cardinals lost to the Saints 51-30.

LHS won five matches by pins and gave up three matches due to forfeits.

Breakdown by weight-class is as follows:

106 – Beck Johnson (SJ) over Brody Kopp (L) 8-7 dec., Team: LHS 0, SJ 3  
 113 - Keyan Roloff win by forfeit, Team: LHS 0, SJ 9  
 120 - Matthew Gangestad (L) over Zachary Curry (SJ) win by fall, Team: LHS 6, SJ 9  
 126 - Leif Ingebretsen (L) over Eva Romsdahl (SJ) win by fall, Team: LHS 12, SJ 9  
 132 - Hudson Hough (L) over Tatynd Tande (SJ) win by fall, Team: LHS 18, SJ 9  
 138 - Kollin Anderson (SJ) over Josh Stroh (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 18, SJ 15  
 145 - Levi Miest (SJ) over Cameron McCrary (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 18, SJ 21  
 152 - Dylan Reid (SJ) win by forfeit, Team: LHS 18, SJ 27  
 160 - DJ Rock (L) over Hayden Davis (SJ) win by fall, Team: LHS 24, SJ 27  
 170 - Peyton Woiner (SJ) over Cash Bonnett (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 24, SJ 33  
 182 - Sam Rock (L) over Jarrett Durham (SJ) win by fall, Team: LHS 30, SJ 33  
 195 - Derek Fast (SJ) over Jacob Madison (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 30, SJ 39  
 220 - Julio Esqueda (SJ) over Kane Akkerman (L) win by fall, Team: LHS 30, SJ 45  
 285 - Willie Curry win by forfeit, Team: LHS 30, SJ 51

# Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

**CARDS OF THANKS**

Thank you. These two little words carry sentimental value to our family over the course of the last two months. We thank the following people and hospitals for the care that Serena received. Dr. Dahl, the ER doctor and staff of the Luverne hospital. The doctors and nurses at the Sanford Hospital Sioux Falls. The transplant team at the Avera ICU Hospital in Sioux Falls and to the nurses and the ambulance drivers providing transportation. The staff at the hospice cottage in Luverne. Jeff Hartquist and staff for the funeral services and to all the people in the community of Luverne for their services. A special thanks to the class of 2003 for pulling together and showing support for their classmate. Also, to the American Reformed Church for use of the facilities and the two Pastor Ken James and Pastor Mile Altena. God presence was felt from all of you! Again, those two little words ~ THANK YOU!

The family of  
**Serena Franken**  
 Bryon and Kristi Franken  
 Carissa and Jason Spaar  
 (2.16-2.18)

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## Girls' hockey/from page 8

Kamryn Van Batavia got the Cardinals rolling with a goal in the first period at 8:54 assisted by sophomore Payton Behr.

Van Batavia followed up with another goal at 13:38 assisted by eighth-grader Kassidy Saarloos and seventh-grader Ellie Van Batavia.

The Cards went up 2-0 after the first period.

Payton Behr opened the second period scoring at 2:47 assisted by Kamryn Van Batavia.

Eighth-grader Rylee Kurtz scored on a power play at 6:29 assisted by eighth-grader Izzy Steensma.

Steensma then scored at 6:48 assisted by Saarloos.

Kamryn Van Batavia made her third (hat trick) goal at 12:49 assisted by Payton Behr.

At the end of two periods, Luverne led Fairmont 6-0.

In the third period freshman Greta McClure finished the scoring at 1:50 assisted by Steensma and eighth-grader Tenley Behr.

"The girls played well and it was a nice win to end the regular season," head coach Tony Sandbulte said.

"The girls are starting to peak at the right time."



Mavis Fodness photos/0216 LES Third Graders 2023

## The outdoors/from page 9

if it is just going to winterkill repeatedly. These systems are not the panacea they might seem. They will certainly carry over fish that are in the close proximity, but I have been told that you need not travel very far for these benefits to evaporate. An 800-acre lake with an aeration system might still winterkill in 80 percent of those acres.

Many shallow lake systems benefit from winterkills in that with all of the fish removed, the vegetation can re-establish and make for much better overall fish and wildlife habitat. These lakes are usually called a boom or bust fishery. Fishing can be grand when conditions allow, but more often than not, an occasional winterkill makes the process start all over again and with some regularity. Winterkills are either good or bad depending on what you are trying to achieve.

All I know for sure is snow depths can be hard on both fish and wildlife as well. All you have to do is take a drive around and see all the pheasants working their tails off trying to find a few morsels to eat.

Spring will come, and if we can get through the month of February, we will turn the corner for both the benefit of fish and other wildlife. What happens in the mean time is anyone's guess.

Scott Rall, Worthington, is a habitat conservationist, avid hunting and fishing enthusiast and is president of Nobles County Pheasants Forever. He can be reached at scottarall@gmail.com. or on Twitter @habitat champion.

## LHS girls/from page 10

Beyer grabbed one rebound, assisted in eight plays and had three steals.

Stegenga helped with three assists and two steals.

### LHS 56, Canby 32

Luverne went on the road Friday, Feb. 10, beating the Cougars 56-32.

Luverne outplayed Canby shooting 39 percent inside the paint and 45 percent beyond the line.

Canby shot 23 percent inside and 30 percent beyond the line.

The Cardinals were able to steal the ball 17 times and posted 28 points off turnovers.

Christina Wagner led Luverne to the win with 11 points, four rebounds, one assist and three steals.

Jocelyn Hart played a good inside game, making nine points and grabbing three rebounds. Hart also had two steals.

Elizabeth Wagner netted eight points, grabbed two rebounds and two steals.

John contributed seven points, four rebounds, two assists and one steal.

Beyer sank six points and had three rebounds, three assists and two steals.

Smith used her height to make five points, four rebounds, one assist and two steals.

Other Cardinals that contributed points were Sehr with four points and Stegenga and Hansen with three points each.

### LHS 63, Windom 28

The Luverne girls' basketball team traveled to Windom Monday, Feb. 13, and dominated the Eagles 63-28.

"We controlled the game on the defensive end, never allowing them to get in a rhythm," Newgard said

"Holding them to nine first half points is a testament to how well we played on that end of the floor."

Elizabeth Wagner led Luverne with 15 points, nine rebounds, three assists, one steal and two blocked shots.

Hart, Sehr and John added seven points each.

Hart contributed five rebounds, three assists and one steal.

Sehr grabbed two rebounds, had three assists, three steals and one blocked shot.

John got one rebound, had two assists and one steal.

Hansen and Christina Wagner added six points each.

Serie and Beyer posted five points each.

Serie had two rebounds and one assist.

Beyer had four rebounds, one assist and four steals.

Stegenga added one 3-pointer and Smith made one bucket.

## Third-graders take a trip to 'Summer Camp'

Luverne Elementary third-graders traveled to Camp Runamok Feb. 10 for their annual spring concert at the school's performing arts center. The 84 students were under the direction of Beth Capistran, and their performance of "Summer Camp" was complete with bugs, a bear and lots of singing and action at Camp Runamok. **Below, left:** Sitting around the campfire telling ghost stories are (from left) Emmalee Wallenberg, Norma Camarillo and Kaitlyn Berg. **Below, center:** "Bear" Axel Scarset scares Nevaeh DeBoer (center) and Avonelle Woods. **Below, right:** "Spider" Amelia Delowe performs to all the "Bugs on Parade."



**Above:** Co-announcing the "bug" parade are Gavin Loosbrock (far left) and Noel Henrichs as the army arts (from left) Nolan Cink, Elijah Barnett, Gregory Gainey, Bentley Elgersma, Chase Hup, Liam Goemmel and Luke Gehrke take center stage. **Right:** "Mosquitos" singing "I Want It All" include (front, left) Kemper Vanderburg, Callum Cowell, (second) Karsten Weidert and Carter Susie.



Mavis Fodness photos/0216 LES Fourth Graders 2023

## Fourth-graders perform 'Hawaiian Beach Party'

Eighty-three Luverne Elementary fourth-graders took the stage Feb. 10 to perform "Hawaiian Beach Party" in the school's performing arts center. Under the direction of Morgan Van Holland and Beth Capistran, the fourth-graders learned about Hawaiian culture, its dances and phrases. Their performance was "maika'i ka hana."



**Above:** Singing "Lovely Hula Hands" are (front, from left) Clara Sandager, Rocco Reisch, (second) Mollee Pick, Adrianna Spoonhour, (back) Hank DePyper and Riley Van Belle. **At left, top:** The "Hawaiian Dance Party" is led by Principal Peterson (left, portrayed by Grace Van Batavia) and Kumu Leilani (Aniyah Rivas). **At left:** Harrison Aimsworth (far left), Emma Petersen and Hunter Vander Vliet perform "Count On Me."

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