



Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, March 2, 2023

Three-day blizzard dumps more snow, builds giant drifts, cripples regional travel

By Lori Sorenson

The Feb. 21-23 blizzard dropped another foot of snow in Rock County and the tri-state area, adding to the heavy snow cover already on the ground this winter.

The National Weather Service, which accurately forecast the event days ahead, called it a "significant winter storm," with waves of moderate to heavy snow impacting areas especially near and north of Interstate 90.

Meanwhile, wind gusts up to 45 mph and sub-zero temperatures produced dangerous conditions and significant drifting — which completely blocked many roads and major highways.

I-90, state highways 23 and 75 and other roadways in the entire southwestern quarter of the state were closed for most of Wednesday and Thursday.

The Minnesota Department of Transportation issued "no travel" advisories and penalty warnings for motorists who didn't comply and needed rescuing.

According to Rock County Emergency Management Director Kyle Oldre, no one needed rescuing, but a team was ready, just in case.

"There was considerable prepa-

Blizzard/continued on page 12A



Lori Sorenson photo/0302 blizzard

Beaver Creek Township snowblower operator Matt Sorenson works into the evening Thursday, Feb. 23, to open 131st Street north of Beaver Creek. He retired from the State Patrol in December and has been working with the township as needed with snow removal.



Mavis Fodness photo/0302 blizzard

A Rock County snowplow driver widens the shoulder of County Road 7 Friday afternoon following the Feb. 21-23 blizzard. In the photo at right, Brad Akkerman makes a path up the walkway to his front door at the corner of Brown Street and North East Park Friday.



Lori Sorenson photo/0302 blizzard

Local officials demand updated FEMA flood maps

By Mavis Fodness

Rock County officials won't schedule a required open house to finalize preliminary flood insurance rate maps until the maps are fully updated.

"There is no way that we, as a local unit of government, should sign off on this and hope in another 30 years they come back and look at it again," said Rock County Administrator Kyle Oldre.

He and Rock County Land Management Office director Eric Hartman told Rock County commissioners at their Feb. 21 meeting that the meeting shouldn't happen in April.

Local officials have requested the maps be updated with flood mitigation information, and they are waiting for a response.

The preliminary maps reviewed at the first open house in December are missing two flood mitigation projects built in Luverne in the 1990s.

Both projects slow the water flow through Poplar Creek on the west side of Luverne during heavy rain events.

Because of this, previously flood-prone neighborhoods — including 30 or 40 homes — should no longer be designated as "flood plains" in the updated maps.

The flood plain maps for Rock County were last updated in the 1980s.

Hartman relayed Rock County's concerns to Jeff Weiss of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources who handles the FEMA map-updating process for Minnesota.

"I followed up with him and the two others on the correspondence stating that the locally elected officials preferred that we do not set the second meeting until we have the study done and we have more accurate mapping," Hartman said.

Weiss indicated that a restudy of Poplar Creek has been submitted to FEMA.

"Since this is a new grant, we would start the work toward the end of 2023 or early 2024," Weiss wrote.

The timeline would be near the summer of 2024, a deadline FEMA has imposed for counties to accept the preliminary maps.

Weiss also admitted that other flood plain areas around Luverne may also be incorrect.

"In addition to Poplar Creek, we are also proposing that we restudy the Rock River

FEMA flood maps/continued on page 2A

Luverne School Board declines H-BC request for sports pairing discussion

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne School Board members agreed on a split vote Monday night to deny a sports pairing request from the Hills-Beaver Creek School District.

H-BC had sent a letter to Luverne School District requesting to discuss pairing in seven

activities.

"H-BC is interested in pairing in the following sports: wrestling, baseball, softball, gymnastics, cross country, tennis and hockey," stated the Feb. 22 letter from H-BC Superintendent Todd Holthaus to Luverne Superintendent Craig Oftedahl.

Luverne School Board members denied the request at their Monday night meeting, which was rescheduled from Feb. 23, due to the blizzard.

After discussing the matter for about 20 minutes, the Luverne board voted 4-3 to deny the sports pairing request.

Tim Jarchow, Eric Hartman, Dave Wrigg and Ryan DeBates voted against any sports pairing discussions with H-BC.

Jarchow said the two school boards had discussed possible pairing agreements in the past.

"We agreed at that time to set a precedence that open enroll-

ment is allowed for anyone who wants to play sports with Luverne to also benefit from the education options that we have," Jarchow said.

Zach Nolz, Randy Saker and Mike DeBates voted in favor of at

Sports pairing/see page 2A

New agreement saves millions of dollars on city power generation

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne City Council members signed a new Reserved Capacity Agreement with Missouri River Energy Services that will more than pay for the recent \$11 million upgrades to the city's power plant.

MRES is an organization of 61 member municipalities in the Dakotas, Minnesota and Iowa that own and operate their own electric distribution systems.

MRES is part of two of the nation's regional transmission organizations, Midcontinent Independent System Operator Inc. and Southwest Power Pool, which collaborate with other grid partners.

MRES reserves local genera-

tion capacity with its municipal members to sell to other parts of the country in the event of weather emergencies.

A good example of this was the Polar Vortex in February of 2021 when Luverne ran its backup generator around the clock for several days to help provide electricity for areas of Texas that had been affected by a winter snow and ice storm.

Since then Luverne and MRES invested nearly \$11 million in power plant improvements that included two additional generators to supplement the 1950s model already in use. The city currently has 9.7 megawatts of

Power generation/see page 3A

'Super Seniors' help with snow work

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne Public Works Supervisor John Stoffel is leaning on old friends this winter to stay ahead of city snow removal

Retirees Butch Hatting and Fred Boll have tallied dozens of "stand by" hours for the city, filling in for staff who are sick, vacationing or following their kids' hockey games.

Dubbed the "Super Senior Division," Hatting and Boll have their Class A driver's licenses and can handle most of Luverne's street equipment — including snowplows and dump trucks.

"These two have saved us many times this winter," Stoffel said Friday.

"Either one of them can do anything I need them to do."

Super Seniors/see page 3A



Lori Sorenson photos/0302 super seniors

Retirees Fred Boll and Butch Hatting are on standby for Luverne Public Works snow removal as the "Super Seniors Division."



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

American Legion Auxiliary #123 will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 8, at the Pizza Ranch in Luverne.

Parkinsons Support Group will meet at 2 p.m. Thursday, March 16, in Poplar Creek, Luverne. All are welcome. Call 507-935-8173 with questions.

World Day of Prayer March 3

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.

Weather spotter training March 6

The Rock County Emergency Management office will host a weather spotter training at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 6, in the Luverne school performing arts center. Call 507-283-5065 with questions.

Tree trimming and pruning help

Project Food Forest is offering to help with any and all tree trimming for trees less than 10 years old. The local organization will provide one-on-one guidance in the process, specifically tailored to individual trees. To schedule a service, email mickey@project-foodforest.org or call 605-215-1051.

The service is available through March 31, weather permitting.

Community Ed brochure updates due March 7

Community Education thrives through the sharing of talents, interests and information from all members of the community.

If you have a new class idea to offer or a request for a particular class, email me at li.nath@isd2184.net or call 283-4724.

The current brochure is on the school website at www.isd2184.net under Community Education. The new one will be available April 29.

Blood drive March 8 in Adrian

Sanford Health Adrian Clinic and Community Blood Bank will host a blood drive from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, at Adrian Ambulance Building.

Donors can schedule appointments at cblife-blood.org, selecting "events" and Adrian Community or call 507-483-2668. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are encouraged.

'Crafty Canines' at Blue Mounds State Park March 11

Meet from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 11, in the Picnic Shelter at the Blue Mounds State Park for a program on "Crafty Canines."

Coyotes, foxes, and wolves are all members of the canine family, and the naturalist will share information about the tricks these clever critters use to survive and serve as a valuable link in the food chain. Program will conclude with some crafty projects to take home. All ages welcome. Call 507-283-6050 for details.

Help make Rock County 'dementia friendly'

Dementia Friends Minnesota will offer a free event at 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, March 15, at Generations in Luverne to share information about dementia — how to recognize signs of dementia — in order to better interact with caregivers and people living with dementia.

To register contact Linda Wenzel at 507-238-5064



Lori Sorenson photos/0302 palace tour

Palace director Shawn Kinsinger (at right with back turned) and members of the Blue Mound Area Theatre Board offer a tour Tuesday night, Feb. 21, for Luverne City Council members of the lower level "refreshed" areas where performers prepare to go on stage. Clockwise from lower left are Caroline Thorson, Pat Baustian (off the photo frame on left) Ben Vander Kooi, Bill Stegemann, Verlyn Van Batavia, Scott Viessman, Jill Wolf and Richard Morgan.

Palace Theatre dressing rooms, performer areas, lower level get refresh

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne City Council members toured the lower level of the Palace Theatre on Tuesday, Feb. 21, to see recent improvements to dressing rooms and gathering spaces.

Palace director Shawn Kinsinger showed them the "refreshed" areas where performers and musicians store costumes and gear and prepare to go on stage.

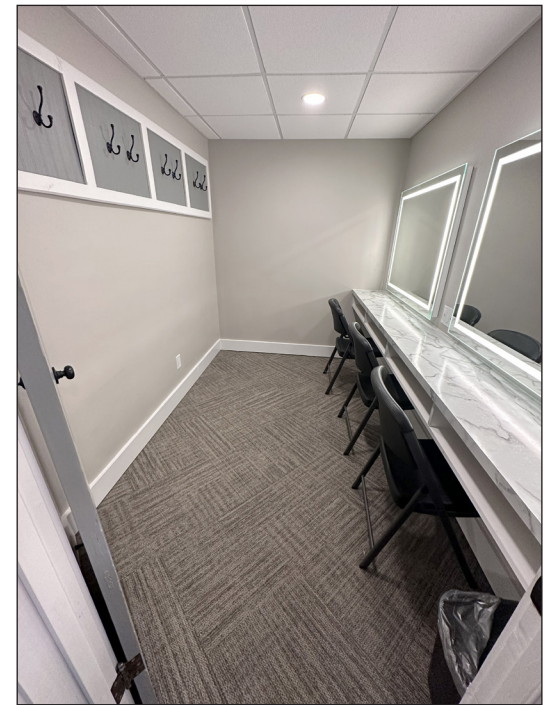
"It looks great," he told the council during his recent council report.

"It is really, really nice down there. The carpet is in, there's nice lighting. It's warm, it's inviting."

He was able to make some of the improvements with a pandemic relief "Shuttered Venue" grant.

Also, a grant from Luverne Area Community Foundation allowed the purchase of a stage monitor.

"It's helpful, especially



Palace director Shawn Kinsinger (in photo at left) shows Luverne City Council members the "refreshed" areas where performers prepare to go on stage. There is new carpet, fresh paint and updated lighting in hallways and dressing rooms.

when we have shows with a lot of little kids," Kinsinger said.

"We have to have peo-

ple down there with them, and they need to know when to send them on stage."

The city of Luverne

owns the Palace Theatre building and leases it to the Blue Mound Area Theater Board for operation.

H-BC sports pairing request/ continued from page 1A

least discussing some pairing options with the H-BC athletic committee.

Sasker asked about Luverne's team rosters, which are all full except for wrestling and junior varsity hockey programs.

"The view looks pretty good now," he said.

"But if enrollment numbers go down, that changes the number of participants in those activities, too."

Luverne's district enrollment is not projected to

decline in the near future.

"We can always entertain it at another point in time," Ryan DeBates said.

Currently the H-BC athletic program offers football, volleyball, girls' and boys' basketball, girls' and boys' track and girls' and boys' golf.

Luverne and H-BC have had individual sports pairing agreements in the past where H-BC was billed for the program costs.

FEMA flood map updates/ continued from page 1A

through Luverne at the same time because we found some issues that need to be addressed, particularly with the floodway for the draft maps."

The December meeting wasn't the first time that local officials told the DNR that the flood retention projects around Luverne needed to be included in the flood map updates.

The first meeting to redraw the flood maps in Rock County took place in 2018.

"And they continue to miss it and clean it up," said Oldre.

Residents in counties where FEMA-proposed maps are not approved would not be eligible to purchase flood insurance through the National Flood Plain Insurance Program.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Class 5 crushed gravel, pit run and crushed rock to be spread on Martin Township roads.

Submit bids on or before **Monday, March 13**

to Allen Nuffer
363 60th Ave, Hills, MN 56138
605-521-6624

Blue Mound Area Theatre ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

PALACE THEATRE
507.283.4339 • WWW.PALACETHEATRE.US
LUVERNE, MN 56156

Thursday
March 9, 2023
5:00 p.m. at
Sterling's Cafe & Grille
Public welcome

#TellUsTuesday Results

Scan Here to Vote for this Week's Survey!



What is a household staple that you refuse to buy generic/store brand of??

Toilet paper/tissues	46%
Condiments	0%
Soft Drinks	29%
None, I like generic/store brands	22%

Dial-a-Specialist Your One Stop Guide to Local Businesses

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• Chiropractic

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• Chiropractic

Power generation agreement saves city money/

generation capacity. The city bonded to pay for the project, and MRES would pay roughly 43 percent in reserved capacity payments over 10 years.

However, with the new reserved capacity agreement between MRES and its members, the new rates will essentially end up paying for the entire project and more.

"This is a huge benefit for the city of Luverne," Mayor Pat Baustian said about the agreement that was approved during the council's Feb. 14 meeting.

He said MRES has reconsidered its supplies of dispatchable power — especially after the 2021 Polar Vortex — and decided to increase rate payments to its members.

The new rates are \$5 per kilowatt per month as well as an upfront \$2 per KW per month for 10 years as an incentive to its members to install new generation.

For Luverne, the new rates mean that instead of MRES paying \$4.3 million toward the \$11 million generation investment, Luverne will receive \$16.9 million over the 30-year agreement, through May 31, 2052.

Although electric costs will rise over that time period, Baustian said it will still more-

'This is a huge benefit for the city of Luverne. What a great agreement. I can't say enough about it.'

— Mayor Pat Baustian

than pay for Luverne's power generation.

"It creates opportunities for our city and residents and business industries to have this dispatchable power," Baustian said.

"What a great agreement. I can't say enough about it."

The Reserved Capacity Agreement (RCA) serves as an agreement between MRES and its members contracting local generation capacity.

In the contract, MRES provides a monthly payment for the availability of required generation capacity to supply back to the grid, if needed.

The agreement helps participating members have local backup generation to increase the reliability of their own operations, as well.

'Super Seniors'/

Hatting and Boll joke that they're more "tired" than retired lately, especially after helping with last week's blizzard cleanup.

But they clearly enjoy their status on the Public Works staff.

"I don't know about you," Hatting said. "But I don't go to coffee shops, and this way I stay in touch with what's going on a little bit socially."

Boll is in his fourth year working part time with the city. He previously was a buyer for 37 years with M-M until Bomgaars bought the business. He will be 70 this year.

Hatting worked for the city from 1991 until his retirement in 2018. Prior to 1991 he worked with Shorty Siebenahler in construction. He'll be 79 in June.

When asked how they might rather be spending retirement, the two seniors said they usually prefer working over watching TV or relaxing at home.

"They grew up workers, and they can't shut it off," Stoffel said. "We're lucky to have them."

Hatting joked, "I've been married 57 years, but that's only because I've been out of the house

'These two have saved us many times this winter.'

— John Stoffel, Public Works

often enough."

While they like to be called on for city work, Boll and Hatting said they also like having the option to say, "no" if they want to.

"I have grandkids, and there are great-grandkids we watch once in a while," Hatting said. "We help them with day care if they need it."

Stoffel said, "Our main competition for getting them to come to work is their grandkids."

Boll and Hatting work for the city part time year-round, but they're especially needed in the winter months when the summer part-timers are at school or other obligations.

That's why the "Super Senior Division" is so essential to Luverne Public Works, Stoffel said.

"Both of these guys have made themselves available to me," he said. "For us to have a full crew wouldn't happen without them."



Mavis Fodness photos/0302 Mock Trial Wrap Up 2023 LHS

Zander Carbonneau (at podium) questions Jady Hart (a defense witness) at Monday night's mock trial presentation in the Luverne Middle-High School media center. The LHS team finished their mock trial season Feb. 17 with a 4-1 record. **Pictured below**, clockwise: Freshman Tyler Hodge presents the LHS mock trial defense team's opening statement. Senior and first-time mock trial team member Mallory Von Tersch portrays plaintiff witness Jamie Morton. Makayla Oechsle serves as the timekeeper. Mock trial defense attorneys Ross Bergman (left) and Eli McLendon confer at the table.

Judges' split decision results in end of LHS mock trial season

By Mavis Fodness

The 2023 Luverne High School mock trial team's performance of this year's malpractice case Monday was just for fun as the team celebrated Parents Night in the school media center.

The students wrapped up the season Feb. 17 with their only loss and missed the chance to attend this weekend's state tournament.

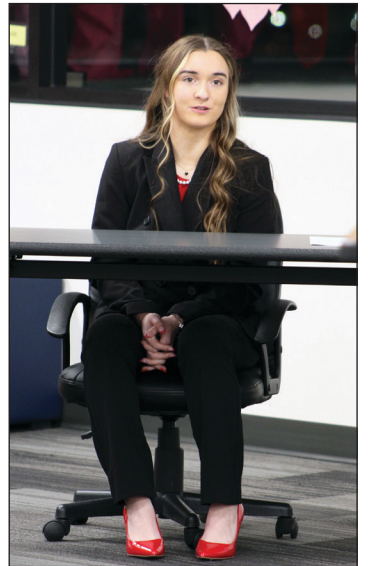
The Luverne students took on Owatonna High School in the tournament-qualifying Round 5. The winner would represent the Greater Minnesota Southern Division at the state tournament.

The Luverne-Owatonna match was the only one where the presiding judge was called upon to break a 1-1 tie. The scoring judges deadlocked on a winner in the Jamie Morton v. Ardi Ramidus, M.D. case.

The presiding judge gave Owatonna the win.

"When you get to Round 5, we face really strong competition," said adviser Jason Berghorst.

"It was obviously very close, and our kids did a fine job. Sometimes the other team's arguments or performance just appeals to one judge more, and that's what happened in Round 5. I was proud of our



LHS mock trial, continued on 5A

H-BC mock trial team disadvantaged by lack of attorney coach in competition

By Mavis Fodness

While the final scores averaged above 200 points, the Hills-Beaver Creek Secondary School mock trial team was at a disadvantage in each of the four rounds they competed in this season.

The Patriots finished 0-4.

"After the competitions, the judges allow the students to ask questions, which is wonderful," said adviser Megan Klumper.

"Most of the suggestions they give us for improvement have to do with topics that I don't have the knowl-

edge for. Since I don't 'live' in the judicial world, I don't know some of the expectations, and reading about them just isn't enough."

The H-BC team has been without an attorney coach since the 2019 season.

Klumper said only an actual attorney has the court knowledge to advise the students.

The school has put a request in for an attorney coach with the Minnesota State Bar Association, but no one has stepped forward. Klumper is hoping in the 2024 season she will receive attorney assistance.

"If anyone would like to help us, please give me a call," she said.

H-BC competed in only one in-person mock trial this season.

"It was a little disappointing. It just seems so much more authentic when the students are in an actual courtroom," Klumper said.

"My students improved greatly from beginning to end. I am proud of them."

Weather, courtroom and judge availability forced most teams to conduct the mock trials via Zoom.

Members of the H-BC team included seniors Britton McKenzie, Tyrae Goodface, Lexi Drake, Leif Tollefson; juniors Tyler Hartz, Joy Taubert, Madison Gaugler, Tahliya Kruger; sophomores Emma Deelstra, Blake Leenderts, Isaiah Stefanuk, Lexxus Wessels; freshmen Gavin Voss and Sarah Prohl.

2023 season record (0-4)
Round 1: Plaintiff vs. Murray County Central, 238-252
Round 2: Defense vs. Luverne, 223-238
Round 3: Plaintiff vs. Cotter, 199-222
Round 4: Defense vs. Battle Lake, 212-223

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PALACE THEATRE UPCOMING EVENTS

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FREE ADMISSION

The Amazing Maurice PG
 Friday, March 3 7:00 pm
 Sunday, March 5 2:00 pm
 Tickets: \$5 for kids age 3 – 12th grade, \$7 for adults

Free Fallin': The Tom Petty Concert Experience
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 Tickets: \$25

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NOTICE

STUDENTS OF LUVERNE HIGH SCHOOL TAKE NOTICE

The Scholarship Committee of the A.R. Wood Educational Trust is currently accepting applications for initial or renewal scholarships from seniors and previous graduates of Luverne High School.

To be eligible for consideration candidates must:

1. Be graduates of Luverne High School
2. Rank in the upper fifteenth percent (15%) of his/her graduating class; and
3. Have maintained a 3.0 GPA or better grade point average.

Requests for applications should be directed to:

First Bank & Trust
 Wealth Management Services
 Attn: Kerri Brand
 P.O. Box 1347
 Sioux Falls, SD 57101-1347

All requests for applications must be received by First Bank & Trust no later than May 1, 2023. All completed applications must be postmarked and submitted to First Bank & Trust by June 15, 2023.

In accordance with the A.R. Wood Educational Trust, decisions regarding recipients, amounts, and number of awards will be made at the sole discretion of the Scholarship Committee.

'There's always tomorrow' has different meaning as life changes

I almost dropped out of a "double dog dare you" challenge I posed to you readers last month.



RUMINATIONS

By Mavis Fodness, Reporter

I wrote I wasn't going to say "no" to an athletic challenge, but I always said "no" to weightlifting.

My wellness group challenged each of us to lift the heaviest amount possible five times. We could choose to stay with hand weights or we could try our hands at lifting dumbbells.

I first tried out the hand weights because (I fully admit) I don't know how to safely use dumbbells.

Enter my oldest daughter, a fitness coach.

In the wee hours of a Sunday morning at Luverne Power Fitness, she showed me how to properly lock in weights on the iron bar, which is 45 pounds by itself. Who knew? And then properly bench, squat, deadlift and overhead press as much as 55 pounds.

Because the challenge accumulated five successful lifts, I tallied 1,050 pounds lifted.

That's right. A half ton. And I have the certificate to prove it.

I realize some challenges are better competed with a friend - or, in this case, an insistent daughter who didn't want to see her mother quit.

This feel-good accomplishment comes on the heels of last week's passing of a very good friend and horseman.

Joe Rowe was an unofficial member of our family through the horse shows he judged and we attended.

Many of my pictures show Joe in the background intently watching horses and riders as they circle the arena.

Horses weren't the only things we had in common. As my children graduated from the 4-H program, we would see Joe at open horse shows. This time I was the exhibitor.

He was open with his horsemanship suggestions, and because he was a Rock County native himself, we had several people and interests in common.

One of our last meetings was a few years ago when we got together to attend a Tonya Tucker concert.

I planned to seek him out this summer to show him the improvements I've made as a horseback rider. I'm sad because I could have done this last year or the year before, but I thought I had more time. I could always see Joe "tomorrow."

Well, my I-can-do-that-tomorrow way of thinking appears to have an expiration date.

Time is finite and we never know when our time will run out.

Along with getting up off the couch, reconnecting with friends is next on my "double dog dare you" challenge. I'm challenging myself to reconnect with my LHS Class of '83 classmates as we celebrate our 40th class reunion.

I admit I've dodged every one of my class reunions since the fifth-year event. This year I will be there, because who knows what tomorrow will bring.

Democracy on display in townships

Minnesota's townships host annual meetings on Township Day, Tuesday, March 14

Minnesota's 1,777 townships will hold their annual meeting on Tuesday, March 14.

Known as Township Day, these annual meetings take place every year on the second Tuesday in March and set townships apart from other forms of local government.

At these meetings, residents of the townships will voice their opinions about local issues with other township residents, and they'll vote directly on their annual tax levy. It's direct democracy in action.

Citizens attending annual meetings also often discuss and vote on other local issues.

In addition, many of the state's townships will hold their township officer elections on Tuesday's Township Day.

"Township Day 2023 will put grassroots democracy on display," said Minnesota Association of Townships Executive Director Jeff Krueger.

We encourage all residents to show up, express themselves, and weigh in on topics like their tax levy and local elections."

To participate in their townships' annual meeting on Tuesday, March 14, residents can find the

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location and time by checking the published notice in their local newspaper, township website or by contacting their township clerks.

"Townships today include over 900,000 Minnesota residents, and we represent an extraordinary form of local government," Krueger said. "Township Day annual meetings are your chance to participate in grassroots government."

Information on Minnesota's townships

There are approximately 918,256 township residents in 1,777 townships in Minnesota.

Townships exist in every area of the state, including the metropolitan area. Some, with populations of more than 1,000, function in much the same way as a small city.

While many townships remain rural agricultural centers, others host a variety of residential, light commercial and industrial devel-

opment.

The tradition of Township Day

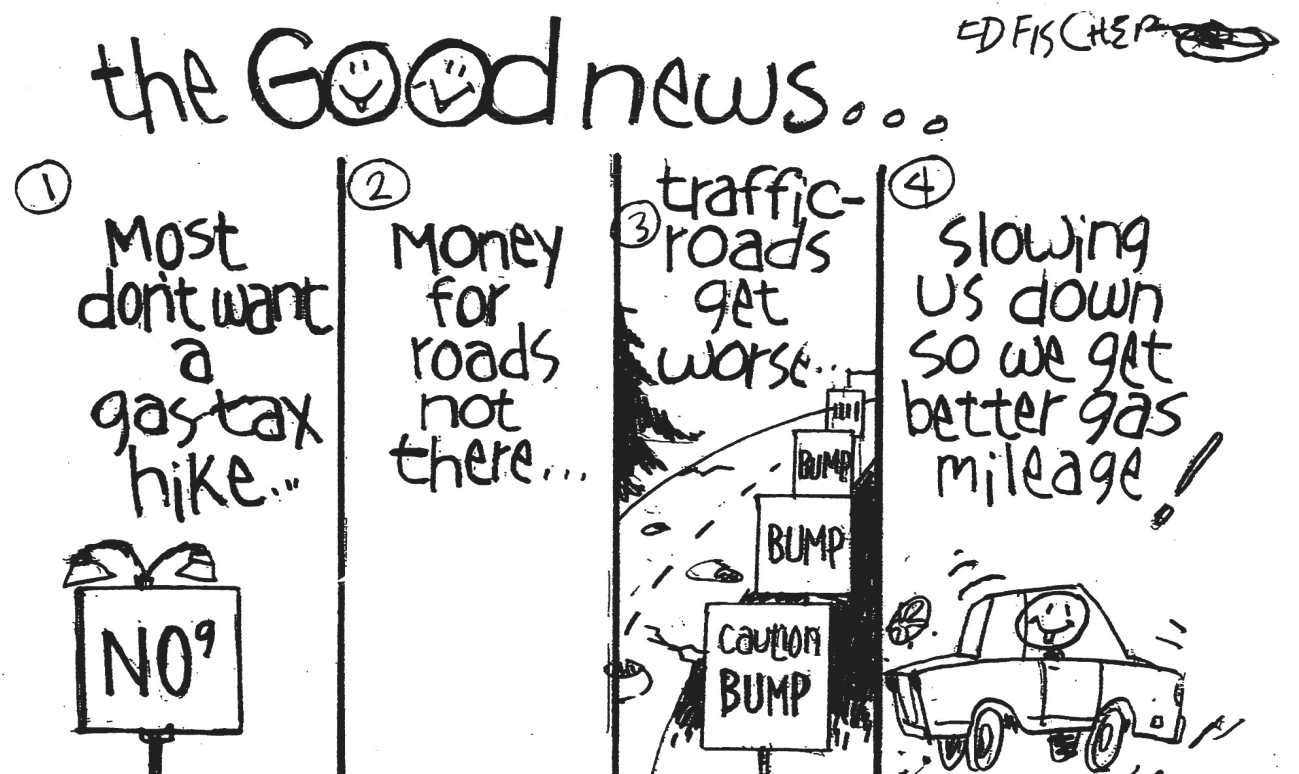
The tradition of a town meeting has roots in colonial America. New England town meetings gave citizens a way to exercise local authority.

Those meetings were especially important in the development of democracy because it emphasized problem-solving through group efforts.

Background on townships

Townships were the original form of local government in Minnesota, established in the 1800s when Congress ordered a survey that divided the Minnesota territory into 36 square mile tracts of land.

Today, the term "township" generally refers to public corporations governed by a local board of supervisors and created to provide services to residents.



Thone: 'God-given inalienable right to travel shall not be infringed'

To the Editor:

This Constitutional Republic of 50 states agree that every American individual has the God-given inalienable right to freely travel without paying, licensing, permitting, registering, insuring, or having that right granted by any entity other than God.

Ex Parte Dickey, (Dickey vs. Davis), 85 SE 781 ... "Travel is not a privilege requiring licensing, vehicle registration, or forced insurances."

The present-day government mandates that every individual pays to exercise their God-given inalienable right to travel in the 50 states.

This premise is carried even farther by allowing each state no limits on the number of plates, registrations, permits, etcetera that can assess fees for exercising

your God-given inalienable right. Thompson v. Smith, Constitutional Law, section 329, page 1135

Hierarchy of travel:

•God-given inalienable right to travel shall not be infringed. No registration required, no license required, no insurance required, no permit required, no fees required, no taxes required, no other charges required.

•All states agree that no more than one full registration fee per vehicle per year with no other taxes, fees, or other charges. Commercial vehicles are allowed to choose their base state of operations. MN statute 168.187 Interstate registration and reciprocity: § Subdivision 1 and 8.

•Pay for hire vehicles under 10,001 GVWR pounds are not subject to commercial regulations.

(Federal Motor Carrier Safety Commission Association) Hours of Service (HOS) | FMCSA (dot.gov)

•Minnesota requires pay-for-hire vehicles under 10,001 GVWR pounds registered in another state that are not subject to commercial regulations to register their pay-for-hire minivans with five plates.

The **first** is registering the 6,050-pound GVWR minivan as a semi-truck that's ineligible for the IRP (International Registration Plan). The 6K pound minivan exempt of commercial regulations becomes a commercially regulate 80K semi-truck that can't be a semi that must be a semi.

The **second** is registering the 6,050-pound 7-passenger minivan as a 15-passenger bus that is not required to follow commer-

cial guidelines. The 7-passenger minivan becomes a 15-passenger bus that can't be a bus that must be a bus.

The **third** is registering the pay-for-hire minivan as a residential vehicle (car) in MN that can't be used to do pay-for-hire transports that's doing exempt commercially regulated transports.

The **fourth** is registering the pay-for-hire minivan as a special transport service being forced to comply with commercial regulations when that minivan is exempt for those regulations and then becoming a bus that can't be a bus.

The **fifth** registration option requires the pay-for-hire minivan to be declared a commercial non-commercial vehicle that cannot be commercially regulated as a commercial vehicle with commer-

cial plates that must be registered in every state as a IRP vehicle as it's registered in another state. Vehicles under 10K are exempt

•SD requires pay-for-hire vehicles under 10,001 GVWR pounds used for Medicaid transports to have a secure registration fee (plate) with corresponding business license and an ambulatory registration fee (plate) with a second corresponding business license.

With the mandates of two states 350 plates, 100 business licenses, 200 inspections, access fees, insurance, etcetera for one minivan are required which equates to \$180,000 to freely travel with one minivan in the United States of America.

Terry Thone, Luverne

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ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

Feb. 17
 •Complainant on Interstate 90, mile marker 18, Magnolia, required assistance from another department.
 •Complainant reported threats.
 •Complainant reported threats.
 •Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue required assistance from another department.
 •Complainant on 80th Avenue, Hardwick, reported burning.
 •Complainant on Interstate 90 and U.S. Highway 75, Luverne, required roadside assistance.
 •Complainant on E. Dodge Street reported disturbing the peace.
Feb. 18
 •Complainant on W. Warren Street reported a parking issue.
 •Complainant on S. Church Avenue, Hills, reported a driving complaint.
 •Complainant reported threats.
Feb. 20
 •Assistance from another department was provided in Marshall.
Feb. 21
 •Complainant east-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 19, Magnolia, reported debris.
 •Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a driving complaint.
 •Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported training.

Feb. 22
 •Complainant on 131st Street and Highway 75, Luverne, reported a road closure.
 •Complainant on S. Donaldson Street reported a miscellaneous public assist.
 •Complainant on N. Spring Street reported threats.
Feb. 24
 •Complainant on 50th Avenue, Luverne, reported hazmat material.
 •Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported an assault.
 •Complainant on Oak Drive reported a scam.
 •Complainant on County Road 6 and 51st Street, Hills, requested roadside assistance.
 •Complainant on Britz Drive reported a runaway.
 •Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported training.
 •Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported training.
 In addition, officers responded to 6 motor vehicle accidents, 15 vehicles in the ditch, 3 escorts, 10 ambulance runs, 7 paper services, 6 animal complaints, 1 fingerprint request, 8 burn permits, 1 background check, 2 gas drive-offs, 4 alarms, 5 purchase and carry permits, 10 stalled vehicles, 41 traffic stops, 13 abandoned 911 calls, 1 test, 1 welfare check, 1 report of cattle out, 2 OFPs and 1 follow-up.



The Luverne speech team took third place Saturday at the Marshall Speech Spectacular at Southwest Minnesota State University. Receiving awards were (front, from left) Roselynn Hartshorn, Brianna Kinsinger, Jessika Tunnissen, Elizabeth Mulder, (back) Cassi Chesley, Zander Carbonneau, Parker Carbonneau, Bergan Ask and Makayla Oechsle. (Submitted photo)

Speech team places third at Marshall meet Hartshorn qualifies for national tournament of champions

By Mavis Fodness

The Luverne High School speech team joined 19 other schools and 250 students Saturday at the Marshall Speech Spectacular at Southwest Minnesota State University.
 The LHS team came away with third place, four points out of first. "Because the meet was so large, it qualified as a NIETOC bid tournament," said coach Gavin Folkestad.
 The National Individual Event Tournament of Champions takes place in May.
 Junior Roselynn Hartshorn, who finished third in original oratory, earned an invite to the NIETOC tournament.
 "To earn a bid for NIETOC, a student must place in a top predetermined percentage of their category," Folkestad said. "To allow more students

to qualify, the meet had regular final rounds for the top six prelim finishers, a next-in finals for the following five places, and a novice division for students in grades 7-9 and those new to speech."
 Luverne had three students receive NIETOC recognition.
 Bergen Ask, a freshman, received fourth-place novice in original oratory.
 Next-in placings went to freshman Makayla Oechsle (fifth) and junior Cassi Chelsey (third) in discussion.
 Other results included:
 •Creative expression: Brianna Kinsinger, sixth.
 •Extemporaneous speaking: Parker Carbonneau, third; Zander Carbonneau, fourth.
 •Informative speaking: Jessika Tunnissen, third; Elizabeth Mulder, fifth.

Redwood Falls Invitational

Luverne garnered a smaller team Feb. 18 for the speech invitational in Redwood Falls.
 The group placed ninth out of 17 teams.
 More than 200 students competed at the event with six LHS students receiving awards.
 •Creative expression: Brianna Kinsinger, sixth.
 •Dynamic Duo: Brianna Kinsinger and Bethany Behr, sixth.
 •Extemporaneous speaking: Zander Carbonneau, second.
 •Informative speaking: Jessika Tunnissen, third; Elizabeth Mulder, blue ribbon.
 •Original oratory: William Johnson, fifth.
 The speech team's next competition is Saturday in Montevideo.

Local ambulances recognized for statewide EMS Clinical Excellence

The Rock County Ambulance and Jasper Community Ambulance are among 95 ambulance services statewide to be recognized by the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board (EMSRB) for providing outstanding pre-hospital clinical care in 2022.

Working with EMS physicians from across the state, the EMSRB last year established clinical advisory performance measures to benchmark ambulance performance, according to Dylan Ferguson, Executive Director of the EMSR Board.
 "They highlight the wonderful prehospital care that

Minnesotans receive every day from our dedicated EMTs and Paramedics," Ferguson said.
 The measures look specifically at the quality of patient care in cases of strokes, chest pain, trauma and pediatrics. In order to qualify for recognition, the 95 awardees had to achieve

a performance rate of 80 percent or higher in five or more individual performance measures.
 Joe Newton, president of the Minnesota Ambulance Association, applauded the 95 ambulance services for achieving the EMS Clinical Excellence awards.
 "Minnesota's EMS pro-

viders continue to provide excellent service even as they confront serious challenges related to staff and volunteer shortages and increased demand for emergency medical services," he said.
 Each year ambulance service providers throughout the state respond to

nearly 715,000 calls for service using 804 individual ambulances.
 "All Minnesotans count on EMTs and paramedics throughout our state to provide not only transportation, but high quality out-of-hospital care to keep Minnesotans safe and healthy," Newton said.

LHS mock trial season complete/continued from page 3A

kids' efforts in the final trial and throughout the season."
 The same tie-breaking heartbreak occurred last year, ending the 2022 winning season with one loss, removing the chance to attend the state tournament.
 Weather, courtroom and judge availability allowed only one of the five mock trial rounds for Luverne to be in-person. Four, including the team's one loss, were completed virtually.
 "That was a real disappointment for the kids,"

Berghorst said.
 "They were resilient and still competed at a high level and did their best, but really regret that only half of our team (the defense side) was able to compete in-person this season."
 The Luverne team consists of seniors Mallory Von Tersch, Ross Bergman, Parker Carbonneau, Jady Hart, Ella Lanoue; juniors Roselynn Hartshorn, Cassi Chesley, Hallie Bork; sophomores Xavier McKenzie, Adam Ask, Keaton Ahrendt, Eli McLendon, Makayla

Oechsle; freshmen Tyler Hodge, Zander Carbonneau and Nicole Areualo.
 Jeff Haubrich returned as the team's attorney coach.
 He said the LHS students assist one another to learn the rules of the courtroom and make the necessary adjustments as a team.
 "All parents should be proud of the work their kids put in," Haubrich said.
 "They are all very busy and yet they still find the time and energy to put into our mock trial team, one of the best around."

Season wrap-up (4-1 record)
 Round 1: Defense vs Lakeview, 239-220
 Round 2: Plaintiff vs Hills-Beaver Creek, 238-223
 Round 3: Defense vs Owatonna, 200-195
 Round 4: Defense vs Northfield, 219-213
 Round 5: Plaintiff vs Owatonna, 1-2 (judge's decision)

*Open House
 Bridal Shower for
Alexis Knutson
 from
 1 to 3 p.m.
 Saturday, March 11,
 at Take 16 Brewing Co.
 in Luverne*

Notice of Annual Township Meetings & Elections

Notice is hereby given that the following townships will hold their annual meeting and elections on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. In case of inclement weather, they will be held one week later on March 21, 2023.

- Battle Plain Township**
Justin Prins' farm - 1941 231st St., Edgerton. Meeting at 7 pm
- Beaver Creek Township**
Beaver Creek Township Hall. Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term.
- Clinton Township**
Business meeting at the Township Hall. 4-5pm Voting from 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Treasurer for 2-year term.
- Denver Township**
Hardwick City Hall. Meeting 7 pm
- Kanaranzi Township**
Kanaranzi Elevator. 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term.
- Luverne Township**
Luverne Pizza Ranch. Monthly Meeting 3-4 pm, Annual Business Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Treasurer 2-year term.
- Magnolia Township**
Arends Farm 1581 121st Luverne. Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Treasurer 2-year term.
- Martin Township**
Township Building 598 51st St Hills. Meeting at 8 pm. Important-Discuss possibility of taring 41st Street to the New Vision Terminal.
- Mound Township**
Keith Schmuck shop 1292 141st St, Luverne. Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term.
- Rosedell Township**
Township Hall. 4-5 pm Business Meeting.
- Springwater Township**
Town Hall 594 141st Luverne. Business meeting 3:00 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term.
- Vienna Township**
Kenneth Community Hall. Business Meeting 7 pm.

**Rock County Township Association
 Teresa Kramer, Secretary/Treasurer**

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Your newspaper representative can provide complete details.
 The 24 Network is a program of the MNA, phone 800-279-2979



Video book readings are available on the Rock County Community Library's YouTube.com page. The videos show local "celebrities" reading a children's book and helping young readers follow along to improve their own reading skills. The project is the result of a fellowship project between the library, Berea College and Save the Children with a goal of increasing the accessibility of the library's youngest patrons to a reading resource. The photos are screen shots from the actual videos. **Above:** Luverne High School sophomores (from left) Tyler Arends, Elliot Domagala and Patrick Koski record a video as part of their confirmation class service project.

Celebrity readers

Local residents read books for online video library to improve elementary reading levels

By Mavis Fodness

When the Rock County Community Library was one of 22 libraries across the U.S. chosen for a library fellowship in 2021, director Calla Jarvie didn't know where the experience would lead.

With the fellowship now complete, library patrons have access to a video library targeted at its youngest patrons — anyone in third grade or younger.

"The video library is to show kids that reading is cool at any age and in any career," Jarvie said. "Reading also makes you a celebrity no matter who you are."

So far, 15 local "celebrities" have read aloud from their favorite children's book or from a selection Jarvie chose.

The first three of the 15 celebrity videos feature a 10th-grade confirmation class activity.

"The sophomores did some readings as part of their service project for St. Catherine's," Jarvie said. "We had a wonderful mix of stories that way."

Other celebrity readers came from both Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek school districts, a veterinarian, a hair stylist, the Luverne mayor and the county sheriff.

The video recordings stem from the fellowship's focus on increasing grade-level reading up to third grade.

Each library selected for the fellowship through Berea College and Save the Children came up with project(s) that



Jason Phelps (above, left), Luverne Middle School principal, selects "Peanut Butter & Cupcake." **Above, right:** Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian reads "Alan's Big, Scary Teeth."



would help increase third-grade scores to proficient levels.

The local project focused on accessibility.

"Rock County only has one library, and that might be difficult to reach families who don't live in Luverne — like during last week's blizzard," Jarvie said. "The videos are accessible no matter where you are."

The recordings can be downloaded or viewed from the Rock County Community Library's YouTube.com page or from the library's Facebook page.

"Being read to at an early age helps

children develop language awareness and recognition of story elements," Jarvie said.

"Studies have shown from birth to third grade, children are learning to read. After that point, they are reading to learn."

More celebrity readers are being sought.

"The video library is a living project, so as long as we have willing readers, we will make videos," Jarvie said.

Contact Jarvie at the Rock County Community Library, 507-449-5040, or calla.jarvie@co.rock.mn.us

1943: Cora Mitchell shares life story with Diamond Club

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. 19, 1943.

"When the Kiebach family moved from Iowa to Rock county," declared Mrs. William Mitchell, Luverne, I thought they were going to clear out of the world. Then as fate would have it, I moved here too, and found that it was a civilized place after all."

Distances, she explained, were much greater than they are now, and when someone went as far away from Benton county, Iowa, to Rock County, Minnesota, it seemed as if they were going into an altogether different world.

Mrs. Mitchell was born Cora Maude Brode, the daughter of David D. and Mary Brode, in Homer township, Benton county, on June 1 1867. The Kiebach family, the Strassburg family, and several other families who now live in Rock county were neighbors of the Brodes before they came to Minnesota to live. The Brode family, however, did not leave Iowa, and it was not until after Mrs. Mitchell was married that her husband just by chance was assigned the position of depot agent here. Thus it was that



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann,
Rock County Historian

after a period of 25 years, she and the people she knew during her childhood, were brought together again in a new and different community.

Mrs. Mitchell was born on a farm and attended country school. She and a twin sister finished school at the same time, and when her sister decided to continue her studies and become a school teacher, Mrs. Mitchell went to Van Horn, Iowa, to learn the dressmaker's trade.

Living on the farm as she did, she learned to do so many of the common farm tasks. She states that she helped milk cows until she was 22 years old, and she believes that she can still bind grain the old fashioned way. Although it was not necessary for her to bind grain when she was a girl, she often did it because the other girls in the community did, and she wanted to be able to do the same as they did.

When she was a girl attending country schools, she often saw Indians from the Tama reservation when they

would go to attend their regular "pow-wows" at Shellsburg. "Lots of times," Mrs. Mitchell states, "the Indians with their horses and equipment would be strung out over a distance of a mile. The old chieftain would be riding the lead pony, and he always had a gun lying across his saddle. Following behind, some on foot, and some on ponies, were the squaws, braves and the papooses. Although they were civilized, Mrs. Mitchell states she'd always try to get as far away from them as she could. They knew she was frightened, and would joke about it amongst themselves. "People said they were on their way to have their annual dog feast," Mrs. Mitchell states. "After being gone for some time, they'd all come back the same way as they went."

There were considerable movements of immigrants at that time, too, she states, and she recalls seeing covered wagons going by their home on their way to Nebraska where there was still free land for those who wanted to homestead.

She was about 17 or 18 when she went to Van Horn to learn dress making. Her mother was an excellent seamstress, and from her she acquired the desire to learn how to sew. She sewed by the day for a long time, earning 50 cents a day. Although that sounds very meager in this day and age, Mrs. Mitchell explained that in those days, 50 cents went a long ways. Living costs were very low; eggs for instance, being only six cents per dozen. Corn was only 20 cents a bushel, and many of the people burned it as fuel as they had more corn than wood, and more heat could be obtained out of a dollar's worth of coal.

After working by the day some time she went to Dysart, Iowa, where she worked in a dress-making shop for 75 cents a day. This job didn't appeal to her, so she finally quit and married William Mitchell, then a telegraph operator, who boarded at the same place as she did.

They were married Dec. 23, 1891, in the house in which Mrs. Mitchell was born, and after that, they moved from one point to another in Iowa, wherever Mr. Mitchell was assigned by the railroad company. Their first home in Minnesota was

Bits, continued on page 7A

MENU

Monday, March 6: Salisbury steak with gravy, baked potato with sour cream, peas and carrots, bread.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Security Savings Bank.

Tuesday, March 7: Tater-tot casserole, green beans, peaches, dinner roll, bar.

Wednesday, March 8: Chicken noodle soup, carrots, pears, bread stick, gelatin with whipped topping.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church.

Thursday, March 9: Pulled pork

on a bun, butternut squash, romaine salad with dressing, pineapple chunks, cookie.

Friday, March 10: Beef lasagna, carrots, fruit cocktail, garlic bread stick, dessert.

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.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2013)

The Luverne High School gymnastics program needs a permanent home, and School Board members discussed proposals at their Feb. 21 meeting.

Before the start of the Luverne 2012-2013 gymnastics season, the district was informed that after 22 years of the gymnastics team's use of the Luverne Armory for practice and meets, the facility did not meet state safety standards.

A Minnesota State High School League rule says no facility with fewer than 19 feet of clearance above any competition area can be used to host meets.

The Armory's overhead balcony is too close to the athletes who use the vault, according to the High School League rules.

25 years ago (1998)

Luverne High School students will be in Kansas City at Worlds of Fun amusement park this spring, if the junior class can raise enough money to make the trip.

Luverne School Board members informally endorsed the plans at their Feb. 19 meeting.

After-prom committee co-chair Christine Reich presented the board with the proposed plans, and juniors Jesse Reich, Tiffany Ward and Carolyn Norton explained how it would work.

Luverne's prom this year will fall on April 25. Pre-prom and prom schedules will be much like previous years, with a formal dinner at the Country Club, grand march and a traditional dance, which will wrap up at about midnight.

50 years ago (1973)

Jim Brandenburg's 31-picture exhibition of color photographs taken in Minnesota's North Woods Country will be on display at the First National Bank of Luverne from March 4-16.

The show opens this Sunday, March 4, with an open house at the First National from 2 to 5 p.m. Brandenburg will be on hand to explain the photos and answer questions.

The exhibit creator is a Luverne native and the son of Mrs. Edward (Buster) Brandenburg of Luverne. In recent years Brandenburg has emerged as one of the state's top wildlife and journalistic photographers.

75 years ago (1948)

Opening Saturday in the Myhre Studio building on West Main street will be a new ladies ready-to-wear store, Ann's Apparel.

Owner of the new business is Mrs. Ann Johnson, who for the past six and one-half years has been manager of the ready-to-wear department of a local department store. Prior to coming to Luverne, Mrs. Johnson operated her own store in Rock Rapids, Iowa, for several years.

Mrs. Johnson will specialize in women's dresses, junior size dresses, lingerie, millinery, and accessories, and states that she has been fortunate to receive a fine array of quality merchandise for spring.

100 years ago (1923)

Merrill Abbey, class of '23, won first honors in oratoricals at the high school district declamatory contest held Thursday evening of last week at St. James, and will therefore have the honor of representing the second district in the state declamatory contest to be held Friday, March 30th, at Minneapolis.

Four schools competed for this honor, Windom, Sherburn, Peterburg and Luverne, all representatives of which had been winners in the sub-district matches. The subject of Mr. Abbey's selection was "The Turk Must Go," and he won unstinted praise on his method of delivery, as well as on the instructive value of his speech.

In Thursday night's event, Windom was awarded first rank in dramatics. Luverne high school will participate in a triangular debating contest with Windom and Worthington on Friday, March 9th.

OBITUARIES

Lester Baustian

Lester R. Baustian, 92, Luverne, died Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023, at the Bethany Lutheran Home in Brandon, South Dakota.

A funeral Mass was Monday, Feb. 27, at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. Burial was in the St. Catherine Cemetery in Luverne.

Lester Baustian was born May 13, 1930, in Luverne, to Walter Sr. and Frances (Brandenberg) Baustian on the farm in Denver Township near Hardwick. He attended school at the Springwater Township School. When he was in fourth grade, the family moved to a farm near Trosky for three years. Then they moved to a farm southwest of Luverne, and the children attended school in Luverne. Later they moved northwest of Luverne.

After graduation from Luverne High School in 1948, Lester joined the Army National Guard meetings in Luverne. He went into active duty in January 1951 and was honorably discharged in the



spring of 1952. While in service he served at Ft. Rucker in Alabama.

Lester married Leora Schievelbein of Humboldt, South Dakota, at St. Catherine Catholic Church on April 18, 1956. Lester farmed from 1952 until retirement in 1996 when son Brian took over the farming. Lester joined the National Farmers Organization in March 1964. He was chairman of Rock County NFO from 1965 until 1970 and then bargaining coordinator five years. He holds a lifetime membership of the NFO (National Farmers Organization).

Lester began selling O's Gold Seed in 1971. He won many rewards and plaques, as well as trips to Hawaii, Caribbean Islands and Cancun. He also was a member of the Minnesota and National Corn Growers Association and Minnesota Soybean Association and served on the Rock County Board of Soybean Association.

Lester served as a super-

visor on Springwater Township Board for three years. Lester was very involved in conservation, and his farm practices included terraces to slow soil loss and washouts and contouring crops, as well as a pond and grassed waterways throughout the farm to stop erosion.

Gardening was always Lester's love and for many years all his children helped grow, pick and can 200 to 300 jars of foods for winter.

Lester also had an Honorary Life Membership of the American Legion, Post 0478, Hardwick, for 26 years in 2006.

Lester was confirmed in the Catholic faith at age 11 at St. Joseph's Church in Jasper. He was a member of St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne and became a member of St. Catherine's Catholic Knights of Columbus in 1958. Lester loved singing and sang in the choir at St. Catherine for 15 years and cantored for eight years.

Les and Leora enjoyed dancing, especially square dancing, and became members of the Hollyhoppers

Square Dance Club in Jasper in 1970. They served on the square dance board for two years. They participated in numerous square dancing events and traveled to many places including San Diego and Hawaii.

Lester is survived by his seven children, Paul (Dena) Baustian of Harrisburg, South Dakota, Brian (Barb) Baustian of Garretson, South Dakota, Anne (Doug) Horst of Piedmont, South Dakota, Greg Baustian of Worthington, Susan (Steve Mitchell) Baustian, of Hudson, Wisconsin, Kevin (Wendy) Baustian of Loudon, Tennessee, and Mary (Don) Olson of Dennison; 27 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Neva Clausen, of Luverne, and Sr. Joan Baustian of Detroit, Michigan.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Leora, on July 4, 2017; a son, Robert Baustian, in 2003; and an infant child.

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

(0302 F)

Shirley DeBates

Shirley DeBates, age 89, shared yet again with family and friends followed successful fishing trips.



Shirley was "Minnesotanice" and came complete with a frequent "uff da."

Her children will fondly remember a couple of her responses, including

when being asked, "Where are you going, Mom?" often she replied with, "Crazy! You want to come along?" When asked, "How are you doing?" she replied with, "Same stuff, different day."

Shirley despised lies. She often said, "You can always remember the truth, but you can't always remember the lies." Although she loved music, she sometimes got the lyrics a little bit wrong. For instance, "Sweet Caroline" became "Please don't cry." Shirley knew her grammar and made sure each of her seven children did, too!

Shirley is lovingly survived by her five children, Debi (Rick) Ripper of Dell Rapids, South Dakota, Becky (Dave) Nankivel of Tea, South Dakota, Joni Keller of Broomfield, Colorado, Kim (John) Kendall of La Veta, Colorado, and David DeBates of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; daughter-in-law Sandy DeBates of Loveland, Colorado; son-in-law Tom Lehmann of Broomfield; 15 grandchildren, Jennifer Ripper, Miranda Ripper, Ricky Ripper, Michael Reisch, Chris Reisch, David Reisch, Carly Waldorf, Cammie Schwindt, Sheila Wayland, Jesse Hildebrandt, Cody Hildebrandt, Parker DeBates, Nick Lehmann, Robert Lehmann, and Elizabeth Lehmann; 14 great-grandchildren, Maxwell Pomeroy, Alexis Ripper, Caden Waldorf, Cassidy Waldorf, Mya Schwindt, Beckett Schwindt, Sydney Sullivan, Taylor Reisch, Oliver Reisch, Elsa Reisch, Mira Reisch, Madeline Reisch, Peyton Reisch and Carlos Valdez; four great-great-grandchildren, Damien Sullivan, Cade Sullivan, Stetson Bohnenkamp and Leyla Valdez; and several nieces and nephews.

Shirley loved music and dancing. She was very proud of her Irish heritage, and you could often find her listening to the Irish Tenors and to Daniel O'Donnell, whom she saw in person. She taught her children how to dance to the old-time music. Shirley liked playing cards, cross stitching, sewing and quilting, baking, and reading. She enjoyed cooking and loved to have gatherings with her family and friends for big meals. Shirley loved fishing for bullheads with her sister Gene. Her sons were both avid fishermen as well, and many walleye fish fries

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

(0302 V)

Leon Pick

Leon Joseph Pick, 78, Rock Rapids, Iowa, formerly of Luverne, died Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023, at the Lyons Care Facility in Rock Rapids.

A funeral Mass was Tuesday, Feb. 28, at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. Burial was in the St. Catherine Cemetery in Luverne.

Leon Pick was born to Leonard and Arlene (Fath) Pick on June 4, 1944, in Lismore. He attended St. Anthony's Grade School and Adrian High School.

After high school he attended and graduated from Worthington Junior College and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Sioux Falls. Leon began his teaching career at Hills-Beaver Creek and



taught English and social studies for 31 years. He also started Pick Painting in 1968 and ran that business for 38 years. His son, Dan, worked with him for several years.

Leon was an elected leader of his teacher profession for 23 years, including six years as chairman of MEA's State Negotiation Council and six years as a member of MEA's Board of Directors. He was named H-BC Teacher of the Year twice. In 1986 he was a state finalist in the Teacher of the Year contest.

Leon was treasurer of the Rock County DFL for six years and also treasurer for the Minnesota Sixth District DFL (26 counties) for six years. He ran sev-

eral legislature campaigns in Southwest Minnesota and was a co-coordinator for Hubert Humphrey and Walter Mondale in the 1970s and 1980s.

Leon was a member and officer of the Luverne Eagles 3403. He was the local secretary and was re-elected state secretary in 2005.

Leon was a member of St. Catherine's Catholic Church in Luverne and a member and past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus. He was also a 4th Degree member of the Knights of Columbus in Marshall. He and his wife Mary started L&M Housing in 1988 and Leon was a real estate salesperson.

Leon enjoyed being with his wife Mary, watching the Twins, Yankees and Vikings. He liked being with friends at their Lake Benton cabin and traveling, especially to

Las Vegas and Hawaii.

Leon is survived by his wife Mary; children Daniel (Diane) Pick of Luverne, Julie (Craig) Becker of Sioux Falls, and Jackie Pick of Sioux Falls; stepchildren Rob (Hollie) Arp of Jackson and Jodi (Jason) Bosch of Luverne; grandchildren Thomas and Sydney Becker of Sioux Falls; step-grandchildren Nicholas and Kayla Arp of Jackson and Cole (Bryan) Bosch of Jefferson, Gracie (Erik) Ode of Brandon, South Dakota, and Luke Bosh of Luverne; one great-stepgrandchild; and a brother, Duane (Jana) Pick of Edgerton.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

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

(0302 F)

Joseph Rowe

Joseph W. "Joe" Rowe, 77, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, died Monday, Feb. 20, 2023, after a battle with cancer.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 4, at St. Katherine Drexel Catholic Church (1800 S. Katie Ave.).

Visitation with family present will be from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, March 3, at Miller Funeral Home - Southside Chapel (7400 S. Minnesota Ave.) with wake beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Joseph Rowe was born



on March 7, 1945, to Burdell and Alma Rowe in Adrian. When he was three, the family moved to Luverne. Joe graduated from Luverne High School in 1963.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in animal science from the University of Minnesota, Joe started his first job at Swift Meat Packing as a salesman before being drafted into the U.S. Army in August 1968. He served two years before being honorably discharged to care for the family business. He

worked for his father at Rowe Quarter Horses, showing and training quarter horses for 11 years. Joe also worked full time for John Morrell & Co. for 30 years as a sales manager from 1971 to 2010.

Joe married Carrie Erickson on June 1, 1968, and they had two daughters, Chris and Kate.

In retirement, Joe worked for Vern Eide Honda, picking up cars and other vehicles from around the country. Joe also became a show judge for horse shows. He had a long relationship with the McCrossan Boys Ranch. He loved horses and mentoring

young people.

Joe is survived by his wife, Carrie; his daughters, Chris (Joe) Wallraf and Kate (Jim) Glogowski; grandchildren Jake, Maddie, Ben and Samantha Glogowski and Sy Wallraf; sister Shirley Vandenhoeck; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brother-in-law Bob Vandenhoeck; and his parents-in-law, Don and Bernice Erickson.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to McCrossan Boys Ranch.

(0302 F)

Bits/continued from page 6A

at Ellsworth in 1906, when Mr. Mitchell was assigned as yardmaster there. Ellsworth was then a booming railroad town.

The Mitchell children were small then, and during the years she lived there, Mrs. Mitchell states that she worked the hardest she has ever worked. Baking and sewing for several children never gave her time to get into mischief, she states.

From Ellsworth, they moved to Watertown, and in 1918, they came to Luverne, which has since been their home.

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell had seven children, six of whom are living now. They are Lawrence, of Minneapolis; Gertrude, of Napa, Calif.; Harold, of Luverne, Dorothy (Mrs. Sam Bly) of Valley Springs; James, who

is serving somewhere in the China-Burma-India war theater and Delmar, who lives in Luverne.

Mrs. Mitchell also has 10 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. One grandson, Edwin, makes his home with the Mitchells.

Of a family of five, Mrs. Mitchell, and one brother, Daniel Brode, of Myrtle Point, Ore. are the only ones living.

During the time she has lived in Luverne, Mrs. Mitchell has been an active member of the Methodist church, and at present is a member of the Fireside Circle, a women's organization of the church. She is also a member of the Eastern Star.

Her hobby is doing fancy work of all kinds. At one time, she raised canary birds as a hobby, but has discontinued that during latter years.

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LHS wrestlers compete in Section 3A tournament in Jackson

DJ and Sam Rock advance to individual state competition

By Greg Hoogeveen

Luverne High School sent nine wrestlers to Jackson Saturday, Feb. 25, to wrestle in the individual sectional tournament.

Of those, five placed and two advanced to state competition.

"We had five placers out of nine wrestlers with two going to state," head coach Jordan Kopp said.

Senior DJ Rock qualified for state at 160 pounds, taking first place.

Junior Sam Rock qualified for state at 170 pounds, taking second place.

They will advance to the state wrestling meet at the Xcel Energy Center March 1-4 in St. Paul.

Sophomore Masy Akkerman took third place at 285 pounds.

Eighth-grader Brody Kopp took sixth place at 113 pounds.

Eighth-Grader Matthew Gangestad took sixth place at 120 pounds.

"Saturday was a tough tournament, but our guys wrestled well, and we had a couple wrestlers that fell just short of placing," head coach Jordan Kopp said.

"State qualifier DJ Rock pinning his way through the section tournament is quite an accomplishment, and Sam Rock had one loss in the finals to a highly ranked wrestler."

Match breakdown by wrestler are as follows:

Brody Kopp, 113 pounds:

Sixth Place
Champ. Round 1 - Brody Kopp (Luverne) received a bye
Quarterfinals - Travis Weiss (Adrian Area) over Brody Kopp (Luverne) (Fall 3:00)
Cons. Round 2 - Brody Kopp (Luverne) received a bye
Cons. Round 3 - Brody Kopp (Luverne) over Marshal Willhite (Red Rock Central) (Fall 3:29)
Cons. Semis - Brayden Gillb (Fulda-Murray Cty Central) over Brody Kopp (Luverne) (MD 13-0)
5th Place Match - Troy Gillette (Tracy-Milroy-Balaton-Westbrook-Walnut-Grove) over Brody Kopp (Luverne) (Fall 1:28)

Matthew Gangestad, 120 pounds:

Sixth Place
Champ. Round 1 - Matthew Gangestad (Luverne) received a bye
Quarterfinals - David Schuh (Tracy-Milroy-Balaton-Westbrook-Walnut-Grove) over Matthew Gangestad (Luverne) (Dec 7-2)



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0302 wrestling sections.

The Luverne boys' wrestling team traveled to Jackson Saturday, Feb. 25, to compete in the Section 3A boys' individual wrestling tournament. The Cardinals placed five wrestlers, and DJ and Sam Rock qualified for state competition.



Above left, Senior DJ Rock won four matches by pin, placing first at sectionals. Above right, Sam Rock muscles his opponent to the mat during sectionals taking second place. Both wrestlers qualified for the individual state wrestling competition March 3-4 in St. Paul.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0302 dj rock.

Cons. Round 2 - Matthew Gangestad (Luverne) over Jonah Skarupa (Red Rock Central) (Fall 4:15)
Cons. Round 3 - Matthew Gangestad (Luverne) over Kaden Landsman (Fulda-Murray Cty Central) (Fall 1:28)
Cons. Semis - Ashton Weidemann (Wabasso) over Matthew Gangestad (Luverne) (Dec 11-4)
5th Place Match - Charger Erlanson (Adrian Area) over Matthew Gangestad (Luverne) (Fall 3:25)

Leif Ingebretsen, 126 pounds: Eighth Place
Champ. Round 1 - Leif Ingebretsen (Luverne) received a bye

Quarterfinals - Devin Carter (Tracy-Milroy-Balaton-Westbrook-Walnut-Grove) over Leif Ingebretsen (Luverne) (Fall 1:15)
Cons. Round 2 - Leif Ingebretsen (Luverne) received a bye
Cons. Round 3 - Caleb Wolf (Adrian Area) over Leif Ingebretsen (Luverne) (Fall 4:49)
7th Place Match - Haden Mulvihill (Pipestone Area) vs. Leif Ingebretsen (Luverne)

Hudson Hough, 132 pounds: DNP
Champ. Round 1 - Hudson Burnett (Pipestone Area) over Hudson Hough (Luverne) (TF 18-1 4:32)



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0302 lhs over windom.

The Luverne boys' hockey team celebrates their 5-2 Section 3A quarterfinal win over Windom Friday, Feb. 24, on home ice.

LHS boys' hockey team headed to Section 3A Championship game

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne boys' hockey team won two big section games to advance their postseason play.

The Cardinals beat Windom 5-2 at home Feb. 24 and Mankato East/Loyola 6-2 in St. Peter Feb. 27.

LHS was scheduled to play against New Ulm Wednesday, March 1, at the Lund Center in St. Peter for the Section 3A Championship.

LHS 5, Windom 2

The LHS boys' hockey team faced off against Windom Feb. 24 at home for the Section 3A Quarterfinals game and beat the Eagles 5-2.

"Great team effort, start to finish. Everyone worked hard and did their job," said head coach Phil Paquette.

"That is the kind of steady effort and solid mentality we'll need to continue to win in the playoffs."

The Cardinals and Eagles played all three periods with only one penalty

going to the Cardinals for slashing.

Luverne tested the Eagles goalie, putting 53 shots on goal in the game.

Windom had 15 shots on junior Tyler Arends. Arends stopped all but two in the game.

The first period went to Windom, scoring one goal at 13:24 at even strength.

Luverne answered with two goals of their own in the second period.

Senior Brady Bork scored for Luverne at 6:29 in the second assisted by sophomore Blaik Bork.

Senior Brock Behrend got the second goal at 16:24 assisted by juniors Tucker Dammann and Henry Hartquist.

LHS was up 2-1 after two periods of play.

In the third period Behrend got his second goal at 8:09 assisted by sophomore Layke Miller.

Boys' hockey team/p.12A

Luverne girls' basketball team wins second round Section 3A game at home

By Greg Hoogeveen

The No. 1-seeded Luverne High School girls' basketball team hosted the No. 8 seed Minnesota Valley Lutheran Saturday, Feb. 25, in the second round of the Section 3A tournament.

The Cardinals handily beat the Chargers 87-19 to move on to a scheduled quarterfinal game against St. James Tuesday, Feb. 28, to be played in Windom at 6 p.m.

"We came out firing on all cylinders and really took control of the game early on," said head coach TJ Newgard. "We never allowed them to get comfortable on the offensive end."

"We knew going in that we had some mismatches and we did a very nice job of exploiting them."

At the half, LHS led the Chargers 46-8 and was able to sub in their entire bench in the second half for valuable playoff experience.

"Kira John played like we all know she can and that is something we need to see every night we step on the court from here on out," Newgard said.

John, a junior, posted a team-leading double-double in the game. She had 21 points and 10 rebounds with one assist and three steals.

"Christina Wagner did a great job attacking and looking to score more," Newgard said.

Wagner, a senior, posted 14 points with six rebounds, two assists and one steal.

Senior Elizabeth Wagner netted 12 points, two rebounds, two assists and one blocked shot.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0302 gbb john.

Luverne junior Kira John makes a lay-up against Minnesota Valley Lutheran Saturday, Feb. 25, in Luverne. The Cardinals won the subsection game 87-19 over the Chargers.

Serie, a junior, made eight points, three rebounds, one assist and one steal

"Tori was excellent while filling in for Elizabeth in the starting lineup," Newgard said.

Senior Lauren Hansen and junior Sarah Stegenga added six points each.

Hansen also had one assist and one steal, and Stegenga grabbed five rebounds and one steal.

Seniors Emma Beyer, Averill Sehr and junior Kiesli Smith added four points each to the win.

Beyer also had three assists, Sehr had two rebounds, four assists and one steal, while Smith grabbed four

rebounds, one assist and one steal.

Senior Jocelyn Hart and junior Josie Voorhees added three points each.

Hart had five rebounds, three assists and three steals. Voorhees had one rebound and two assists.

Junior Dennie Sandbulte added two points and two rebounds in the game.

"We are happy with the way we played, but as soon as the game ended, our focus moved to Saint James," Newgard said.

"We know they present some challenges for us so we are going to need to be at our best."

Cons. Round 1 - Hudson Hough (Luverne) received a bye
Cons. Round 2 - Andrew Pankonin (Red Rock Central) over Hudson Hough (Luverne) (Dec 6-4)

Cameron McCrary, 138 pounds: Eighth Place
Champ. Round 1 - Cameron McCrary (Luverne) received a bye
Quarterfinals - Thomas Freking (Jackson County Central) over Cameron McCrary (Luverne) (Fall 0:57)
Cons. Round 2 - Cameron McCrary (Luverne) received a bye
Cons. Round 3 - Aiden Lorenzen (Fulda-Murray Cty Central) over Cameron McCrary (Luverne) (MD 17-5)
7th Place Match - Carlos Ulloa-Castillo (Adrian Area) vs. Cameron McCrary (Luverne)

DJ Rock, 160 pounds: First Place - State Qualifier
Champ. Round 1 - DJ Rock (Luverne) over Ashton Squires (Tracy-Milroy-Balaton-Westbrook-Walnut-Grove) (Fall 1:32)
Quarterfinals - DJ Rock (Luverne) over Lucas Thooft (Pipestone Area) (Fall 1:46)
Semifinals - DJ Rock (Luverne) over Breyer Hieronimus (Adrian Area) (Fall 3:32)
1st Place Match - DJ Rock (Luverne) over Trey Rossow (Jackson County Central) (Fall 1:27)

Sam Rock, 170 pounds: Second Place - State Qualifier
Champ. Round 1 - Sam Rock (Luverne) received a bye
Quarterfinals - Sam Rock (Luverne) over Bode Bruns (Pipestone Area) (Fall 1:44)
Semifinals - Sam Rock (Luverne) over Micah Bullerman (Adrian Area) (Fall 3:00)
1st Place Match - Dylan Withers (Jackson County Central) over Sam Rock (Luverne) (Dec 6-0)
2nd Place Match - Sam Rock (Luverne) over Gage Struchen (Tracy-Milroy-Balaton-Westbrook-Walnut-Grove) (MD 16-2)

Jacob Madison, 182 pounds: Eighth Place
Champ. Round 1 - Chase Irlbeck (Wabasso) over Jacob Madison (Luverne) (Fall 0:23)
Cons. Round 1 - Jacob Madison (Luverne) received a bye
Cons. Round 2 - Jacob Madison (Luverne) over Damian Honeman (Springfield) (Fall 3:14)
Cons. Round 3 - Austin Cowan (Red Rock Central) over Jacob Madison (Luverne) (Fall 2:52)
7th Place Match - Carson Klein (Fulda-Murray Cty Central) vs. Jacob Madison (Luverne)

Masy Akkerman, 285 pounds: Third Place
Champ. Round 1 - Masy Akkerman (Luverne) received a bye
Quarterfinals - Masy Akkerman (Luverne) over Rylan Klein (Fulda-Murray Cty Central) (Fall 5:03)
Semifinals - Cameron Wieneke (Adrian Area) over Masy Akkerman (Luverne) (Fall 5:06)
Cons. Semis - Masy Akkerman (Luverne) over Richer Yang (Tracy-Milroy-Balaton-Westbrook-Walnut-Grove) (Fall 3:59)
2nd Place Match - Cameron Scholten (Jackson County Central) over Masy Akkerman (Luverne) (Fall 1:12)
3rd Place Match - Masy Akkerman (Luverne) over Willie Curry (Saint James Area) (Dec 3-1)

H-BC girls' basketball team ends season

By Greg Hoogeveen

The H-BC girls' basketball team traveled to take on Tracy-Milroy-Balaton in subsection play Saturday, Feb. 25, losing 53-39 to the Panthers.

Though their season has ended, head coach Dylan Gehrke had praise for his team.

"Our girls left it all out there, and I could not be prouder of them," Gehrke said. "This was a great learning experience for our girls and myself as a coach. I am hoping that this drives their motivation during the offseason to come back better than ever next year."

H-BC will be without seniors Olivia Bork or Taylor Huisman next year but will gain five new leaders from their juniors.

"TMB's offensive, rebounds, second chance points, and our turnovers really hurt us," Gehrke said. "We also ran into some heavy foul trouble in the first half and early in the second half."

The Patriots led 18-17 in the first half with about five minutes left in the half when TMB went on a 12-5 run and closed the half leading by eight.

TMB extended

their lead to double digits in the second half, but the Patriots cut TMB's lead to 10 with 10 minutes to play.

"We had a little momentum going our way, but couldn't trim the lead down anymore for the rest of the game," said Gehrke.

Eighth-grader Olivia Deelstra led the Patriots in scoring with 15 points. She also grabbed seven rebounds, had two assists, three steals and one blocked shot.

Juniors Lanae Elbers and Layla Deelstra added nine points each.

Elbers helped with seven rebounds, one assist and two blocked shots. Deelstra grabbed nine rebounds, had two assists and three steals in the game.

Sophomore Emma Deelstra and freshman Abbie Harris each contributed two points. Deelstra also had three rebounds, and Harris grabbed three rebounds, had two assists and one steal for the Patriots.

Juniors Larissa Steinhoff and Claire Knobloch both added one free throw each, and junior Brynn Rauk added two rebounds and one assist.



Above left, Kassidy Saarloos (6), Macie Edstrom (16), Tenley Behr (3) and Isabella Steensma (4) fight for the puck in front of LHS goalie Mallory Von Tersch against Orono in the Class A quarterfinals game in the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul on Feb. 22. **Above right**, Eighth-grader Tenley Behr (3) helps defend Luverne's net with Von Tersch (1). The Spartans blanked LHS 6-0 and advanced to play a Class A Semifinal game against Proctor/Hermantown Feb. 24. (photo courtesy Jason Wachter, The Rink Live photo/0302 ghoc defense)

Luverne girls' hockey team plays hard at state against Orono and Mankato East but loses both games

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne girls' hockey team played two tough opponents in the opening rounds of the state hockey tournament.

The Cardinals faced off against Orono in the quarterfinals at the Xcel Energy Center Feb. 22, losing 6-0 to a seasoned Spartan team.

For their consolation semifinal game, Luverne faced a familiar Mankato East team at TRIA Rink in St. Paul Feb. 23, falling 5-3 to the Cougars.

The Luverne girls finished the year 23-8 in regular and post-season play.

The Cardinals were the Section 3A Champs this year with a 14-0 Big South Conference record.

Class A Quarterfinal Orono 6, LHS 0

The Luverne girls' hockey team took on the 24-3-4 Orono Spartans in the Class A Quarterfinal hockey game Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul, losing 6-0 to a tough team.

"Orono is a very good team," LHS head coach Tony Sandbulte said. "Their

team depth was very impressive and ultimately the difference in the game."

Luverne entered the game 23-6 with a young team consisting of three seniors, one junior, two sophomores, five freshmen, six eighth-graders and one seventh-grader.

Orono senior goalie Celia Dahl faced only 13 shots from the Cardinals in the game.

Luverne's attempted goals came from eighth-grader Tenley Behr with three, freshman Ella Apel with one, senior Mallory Nelson with one, sophomore Payton Behr with two, seventh-grader Ellie Van Batavia with one, senior Kamryn Van Batavia with three, eighth-grader Macy Edstrom with one and eighth-grader Rylee Kurtz with one shot.

Luverne's goalie, senior Mallory Von Tersch, defended 39 shots in the game, letting six pucks slip through for goals.

Scoring for Orono in the first period were Mae Grandy at 5:43, Macy Rasmussen at 7:07 and Zoe Lopez at 11:12

In the second period Maddy Kimbrel scored at 5:21 and Zoe Lopez got her second goal at 10:09.

In the third period Maddy Kimbral added Orono's last goal at 12:40.

The Spartan win sent them to a Class A Semifinal game against Proctor/Hermantown Friday, Feb. 24 in the Xcel Energy Center.

Luverne's loss sent them to a consolation semifinal game against Mankato East at the TRIA rink Thursday, Feb. 23.

Class A Consolation Semifinal Mankato East 5, LHS 3

In the Cardinals' second hockey game of the tournament, they faced a familiar opponent, Mankato East, Feb. 23, at the TRIA Rink in St. Paul.

Having played the Cougars twice this year already, losing close games 3-4 Dec. 10 and 1-2 Dec. 28, Luverne was aware of changes they may need to make to win.

Unfortunately, plans and execution do not always come together.

Luverne lost to Mankato East 5-3 and ended the Cardinals' state hockey experience this year.

"Mankato East had our number this year. I felt we played really well; however, we didn't get the bounce or calls in this one," Sandbulte said.

Girls' hockey team/p.12A

Patriot boys' basketball team to play postseason game March 4 against MCC

By Greg Hoogeveen

The H-BC boys' basketball team finished 1-1 in the last two games of the season.

H-BC lost 69-34 to RTR on the road Feb. 24 and beat Adrian 72-47 at home Feb. 27.

The Patriots are scheduled to play MCC in Worthington on Saturday, March 4, at 12:30 in post-season play.

RTR 69, H-BC 34

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team lost to conference opponents RTR on the road Friday, Feb. 24, 69-34.

"I thought our guys did a nice job competing hard for 36 minutes," head coach Kale Wiertzema said.

"RTR is a very tough, experienced team, and if you give them extra possessions, they are going to take advantage."

Sophomore Beau Bakken led the Patriots with nine points, five rebounds and three blocked shots.

Sophomore Sawyer Bosch posted five points, two rebounds, two assists and two steals.

Freshman Micah Bush netted five points with one assist and one steal.

Senior Brock Harnack added four points, one rebound and one assist in the game.

Junior Riley Tatge and sophomore Cameron Allen each added three points for H-BC.

Tatge had five rebounds, two assists, two steals and one blocked shot.

Allen grabbed three rebounds, with three assists and two steals.

Senior Eli Taubert and freshman Jamin Metzger contributed two points each.

Metzger added two rebounds and one assist against RTR.

Freshman EJ Wegener made one free throw, had one rebound, and added one steal and a blocked shot.

Senior Brayden Metzger



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0302 brayden.

H-BC senior Brayden Metzger runs after a loose ball against Adrian Monday, Feb. 27, at home. The Patriots beat the Dragons 72-47 in their final home game of the season.

"Our guys did a tremendous job on the defensive end in the first half. On the offensive end we finally broke out and had one of our highest shooting percentages of the year."

— H-BC head coach Kale Wiertzema

was held from scoring but had three rebounds, one assist and three steals.

Senior Josh Wiersema and sophomore Jackson Gacke both contributed one rebound in the game.

H-BC 72, Adrian 47

The H-BC boys' basketball team finished off their regular season at home with a win over Adrian 72-47 Monday, Feb. 27.

"Our guys did a tremendous job on the defensive end in the first half. On the offensive end we finally broke out and had one of our highest shooting percentages of the year," said head coach Kale Wiersema. "We did a nice job staying patient in our half-court offense and attacking downhill in transition."

Senior Brock Harnack had a tremendous night for the Patriots. He posted 27 points including five of nine 3-point shots and grabbed six rebounds.

Sophomore Sawyer

Bosch added nine points, two rebounds and six assists in the win.

Sophomore Cameron Allen posted eight points, six rebounds, two steals and one assist.

Sophomore Beau Bakken and freshman Jamin Metzger each added six points.

Bakken helped H-BC with seven rebounds and one steal while Metzger had seven rebounds, one blocked shot and one steal.

Junior Riley Tatge contributed five points and four rebounds.

Freshman Micah Bush and senior Brayden Metzger had four points each.

Bush added four rebounds, two steals and eight assists, while Metzger had two rebounds, two steals and one assist in the game.

Gacke contributed two points, and senior Eli Taubert added one point.

LHS boys' basketball team to play Subsection 3A game at home

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne boys' basketball team went 1-1 in the last two games heading into postseason play.

The Cardinals beat Tri-City United 60-50 in Waseca Saturday, and they lost to Lakeview 62-46 at home Monday.

Luverne is scheduled to play Redwood Valley at home Saturday, March 4, in a postseason subsection game.

LHS 60, Tri-City 50

The LHS boys' basketball team traveled to Waseca Saturday, Feb. 25, beating Tri-City United 60-50 in a Big South Conference Showcase game.

"I was really happy with the energy that the kids showed during the game. We played well in the first half defensively but had too many turnovers," said head coach John Sichmeller.

"We started the second half really well and built an 18-point lead that we were able to maintain for most of the rest of the game."

Senior Gannon Ahrendt had a big day with 27 points, six rebounds, six assists, four steals and seven blocked shots.

Junior Gavin DeBeer posted 13 points, nine rebounds, two assists, three steals and one blocked shot.

Sophomore Carter Sehr added 12 points, three rebounds, two assists and three steals.

Senior Marcus Feit netted five points along with two rebounds, one assist, two steals and one blocked shot.

Senior Tyson Cowell contributed three points, one rebound and five assists in the game.

Senior Riley Sneller was held from scoring but grabbed four rebounds, one assist and one steal.

Sophomore Landon Ahrendt had one assist and one steal and sophomore



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0302 gannon.

Luverne senior Gannon Ahrendt positions himself for a shot against a Lakeview opponent Monday, Feb. 27, at home. Luverne took a 62-46 loss against the Lakers.

Elijah Woodley added one rebound, two assists and one blocked shot for Luverne.

Senior Ja'Shon Winter came off the bench to snag a rebound in the win over the Titans.

Lakeview 62, LHS 46

The Luverne boys' basketball team took on Lakeview at home Monday, Feb. 27, losing 62-46.

"We had a bad ending to

the first half that gave them a lead, and we weren't able to get back ahead the rest of the game," Sichmeller said.

"It was a good game for our kids to play against a good, physical team as we move into the playoffs."

Gannon Ahrendt scored 17 points, Sehr 15 points, DeBeer 12 points and Cowell had 2 points in the game.

As of Star Herald press time, no other stats from the game were available.

SENIOR ATHLETE of the Week



Kaleb Hein
Sport: Hockey
Parents: Chris and Becky Hein
Other extracurricular activities/hobbies: Football, weight-lifting
Favorite Class: Peer helping
Future Plans: Attend a college in Minnesota to major in Physical Therapy

SunshineGas
 North Highway 75, Luverne
 (507) 283-4889

Godfather's Pizza Express
 (507) 449-0335

Fear not!

“Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10

I was driving home from college when it happened. I had been on that road more times than I could count. I had seen everything there was to see on that road. There was never anything new.

On a Saturday morning I set off for home. Leaving school behind, I was looking forward to seeing my family. I turned on a tape and away I went. The road provided nothing new and I stared out the front windshield as I drove.

I am not exactly sure when, but at some point as I stared at the road ahead, I quit paying attention. Before I knew it, I was just a couple of miles from home. I thought to myself how did I get here. I had just been driving 50 miles and couldn't remember any of them. The roads were so familiar, that I didn't pay attention. I just went through the motions. It is like I was on auto-pilot and not really conscious of my surroundings.

I think there is a tendency to go through life like that. Things are just so familiar to us that we just quit paying attention. We take life for granted without even realizing it. We live on auto-pilot until something happens that awakens us and jolts us into paying attention.

Fear can do that kind of thing, and fear is a tool that Satan uses to control. The world we live in and the people we live around have been victimized by fear. Covid-19 has awoken me to this fact.

How can Christians, people who believe in the one true God, be victims of fear? Isaiah 41 commands us not to fear and for good reason. We don't need to fear because God is with us. There is nothing that

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Jeremy Wiersema, Reformed Church of Steen

Things are just so familiar to us that we just quit paying attention. We take life for granted without even realizing it. We live on auto-pilot ...

anyone or anything in this world can do to us that will take us out of God's loving care.

Satan is trying to control us with fear. He is trying to make you and I believe that we need to be worried. Satan wants us to live scared. He wants us to refuse to trust each other and ultimately convince us not to trust in God.

We can't let this happen. As followers of Jesus, we need to live into the truth we find in scripture. Fear not and do not be anxious about anything; instead live within the peace of God.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

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/stccluverne/videos/>. Visit 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.luverneccrc.com — office@luverneccrc.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, March 2: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Sunday, March 5: 9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Fellowship Coffee. 10 a.m. Sunday School and Drums. Monday, March 6: 7 p.m. Grace Circle meeting. Tuesday, March 7: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, March 8: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 5-6:30 p.m. Lenten supper. 6:45 p.m. Lenten Service. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are available. Online worship: Sundays 9 a.m. at 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

Sundays: 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. Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Lenten Vespers. 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, March 4: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. Sunday, March 5: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. 10:50 a.m. Sunday School. Wednesday, March 8: 5:30 p.m. Midweek meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Clubs and Youth Groups. CommServices 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 110th 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 3-6th grade—Nursery. Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m. Midweek Service—Kids age 3-6th grade.

United Methodist Church

109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4529

Saturday, March 4: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Sunday, March 5: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible Study. Monday, March 6: 6:30 p.m. Genesis to Revelation Bible Study. Tuesday, March 7: 1:30 p.m. God's Circle (PD-LLP in Mankato). 7 p.m. Scouts. Wednesday, March 8: 9 a.m. — 7 p.m. Prayer Chapel. 6:15 p.m. FUEL. 6:30 p.m. Confirmation. 7 p.m. Lenten Service at Presbyterian Church. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Pizza Ranch takeout. 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. Holy Communion is offered on 2nd and 4th 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. 2nd 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.

Ben Clare United Methodist Church

26762 Ben Clare Ave., Valley Springs, S.D.
igtwlb@WOW.net
Bill Bates, Pastor

First Lutheran Church

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

Sunday, March 5: 10:30 a.m. Worship at First Lutheran Church. 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. Wednesday, March 8: 7 p.m. Lenten Service at First Lutheran Church. All are welcome. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @FirstLutheranValleySprings; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish.

Palisade Lutheran Church

211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — palisadchurch@alliancecom.net
www.palisadelutheran.org

Sunday, March 5: 9 a.m. Worship Service at Palisade Lutheran Church. 10 a.m. Sunday School. Thursday, March 9: 1:30 p.m. Palisade WELCA meeting. 7 p.m. Palisade Council meeting. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @PalisadeLC; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish.

First Presbyterian Church

201 S. 3rd 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: magnoliannumc@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

These weekly church page messages are contributed to God's Work through the Church and by these concerned and responsible citizens & businesses:

Call Rick to place your ad!

283-2333

Read us online!

Rock County
STAR HERALD
www.Star-Herald.com

Trust in Him



<p>Papik MOTORS 283-9171 PAPIK.COM Luverne • Rock Rapids • Sibley</p>	<p>SECURITY SAVINGS BANK bankwithssb.com 507.449.6000 Member FDIC Luverne, MN</p>
<p>HSS HILLS STAINLESS STEEL & EQUIPMENT CO., INC. 506 W. Koehn, P.O. Box 987, Luverne, MN PHONE 507-283-4405 Church is Important - Please Attend!</p>	<p>HARTQUIST Funeral and Cremation Services Pipestone • Luverne • Lake Benton • Jasper • Tyler www.HartquistFuneral.com</p>
<p>Buffalo Ridge INSURANCE 507-283-2381 www.buffaloridgeins.com E-mail: info@buffaloridgeins.com</p>	<p>Pizza Ranch 110 E Main, Luverne 507-283-2379</p>
<p>McClure Electric Alan M. Aanenson, owner Farm, Home & Commercial Wiring Luverne, MN Phone 507-283-4716</p>	<p>CWG Business Insurance. Tri-State Region Period!</p>
<p>TUFF MEMORIAL HOME A HOME WITH A HEART! Hills, MN • 507-962-3275</p>	<p>MANLEY TIRE & OIL SERVICE Manley Minnesota 1-800-615-3704 Open six days a week - Closed on Sundays To God be the Glory.</p>
<p>MINNWEST BANK 116 East Main Street • Luverne • 507-283-2366 Hwy. 75 • 800 South Kniss • Luverne • 507-283-9131 www.minnwestbank.com • Member FDIC • MoneyLine 888-616 BANK</p>	<p>Luverne ANNOUNCER</p>
<p>Advertise Here</p>	<p>First Farmers & Merchants We believe in you. Member FDIC. And the community. 303 E. Main, Luverne, MN 507-283-4463 www.ffmbank.com</p>

Jansma probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ROCK

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Estate of
Warren Jansma
Decedent

Court File No. 67-PR-23-24

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on March 13, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 204 E. Brown Street, Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated February 3, 1989, and codicil(s) to the Will dated and separate writing(s) under Minnesota Statutes section 524.2-513 ("Will"), and for the appointment of Delinda Jansma, whose address is 421 200th Ave., Ellsworth, Minnesota 56129-4075 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an unsupervised administration.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 501B.41, subdivision 5.

Date Filed: February 15, 2023 /s/ Terry S. Vajrt
District Court Judge

Attorney for: Personal Representative
Benjamin Vander Kooi, Jr.
Vander Kooi Law Offices, P.A.
127 E. Main Street, PO Box 746
Luverne, MN 56156
Attorney License No: 0112124
Telephone: 507-283-9546
FAX: 507-283-9629
Email: lawkooi@gmail.com

Court Administrator

(02-23, 03-02)

**The DEADLINE FOR
PUBLIC NOTICES
IS MONDAY AT 10 A.M.**

Mortgage foreclosure sale set for April 21

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: June 24, 2021
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$78,780.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Noah D. Meyer, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 1005210-0808093166-7
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Plains Commerce Bank

SERVICER: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed June 30, 2021, Rock County Recorder, as Document Number 200387

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: PennyMac Loan Services, LLC
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

The South Sixty (S 60) feet of Lot Five (5) in Block Three (3) in Barck, Adams, and Howe's Addition to the City of Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 703 N Spring Street, Luverne, MN 56156
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 20-0258-000
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$87,487.88

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; 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: April 21, 2023, 10:00 A.M.
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, West Side Sheriff Dept, Front Step, Luverne, MN 56156

to pay the debt 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 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

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 October 21, 2023, or the next business day if October 21, 2023 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday..

"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 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

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Assignee of Mortgagee

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THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR
(03-02, 03-09, 03-16, 03-23, 03-30, 04-06)

Public notice of Kwik Trip Inc. proposed project

Preliminary Public Notice for Potential Impacts to Floodplains

Kwik Trip Inc. intends to seek financial assistance from USDA, Rural Business Service (RBS) for the construction of a new convenience store. The proposed project consists of construction of a new convenience store, parking lot, fuel pumps, and tanks. The location of the Kwik Trip convenience store is 2.88 acres at the corner of Highway 75 and West Gabrielson Road, Luverne, MN 56156. If implemented, the proposed project may convert a portion of a floodplain within the project area of potential effect.

In accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management and USDA Departmental Regulation 9500-3, Land Use Policy, the purpose of this notice is to inform the public of this proposed conversion or effect and request comments concerning the proposal, alternative sites or actions that would avoid these impacts, and methods that could be used to minimize these impacts.

The environmental documentation regarding this proposal is available for review at 375 Jackson Street, Suite 410, St. Paul, MN 55001. For questions regarding this proposal, contact Ron Omann, State Energy/Environmental Coordinator at (651) 602-7796, ron.omann@usda.gov. Any person interested in commenting on this proposal should submit comments to the address above by March 3, 2023.



(02-23, 03-02)

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The Minnesota Department of Transportation tweeted this photograph Friday morning of a plow driver clearing a large drift that had blocked two lanes of I-90 near Adrian.

Blizzard/continued from page 1A

ration leading up to the event," Oldre said.

"The National Guard had soldiers staged in Luverne for both rescue and shelter purposes, and the state and weather service had daily briefings to ensure everyone was on the same page."

Local schools pivoted to e-learning during those days and started late on Friday. Before last week's storm, districts were already planning to make up lost classroom time before the school year ends in May.

Many businesses announced closures in order to keep employees safe and to discourage customers from traveling.

When the wind finally quieted and snow stopped flying late Thursday and into Friday morning, it became abundantly clear why travel wasn't advised.

Social media posts showed 4-foot-deep drifts blocking driveways and curling up against garage doors and shop entrances. MnDOT tweeted photographs Friday morning of a monster drift stretching across two lanes of I-90 near Adrian.

While the sun was shining and winds were calm Friday morning, it took snow removal crews days to make roads passable.

And once they were opened, winds picked up again Saturday, drifting snow back in where it had just been cleared.

Many county and township road crews had just caught up from the last



Luverne's Jon Lusty shared this photograph on Snapchat Thursday morning of West Warren Street blocked by snow.

heavy snowfall that built up steep snowbanks in ditches and road shoulders.

After working to push those snowbanks farther off the roads, this last storm put them back to Square 1.

Staying ahead of snow

In Beaver Creek Township, Stan Steensma is the road maintenance supervisor and operates the snowplow after blizzards.

This winter he's getting help from seasonal township hire Matt Sorenson, who's running the township's recently purchased used snowblower on a leased John Deere tractor from C&B.

The two work in tan-

dem to stay ahead of blowing and drifting. Steensma plows a swath down the roads, and Sorenson follows up with the snowblower to widen the path and open intersections.

"It's done wonders for the roads," said Beaver Creek Township Clerk JoElen Benson.

She said the township board had considered buying extra snow removal equipment in previous years, but wondered if it would be a good investment.

"Well, look at this year," Benson said. "I know our township residents are very happy with it."

She said the township board used some federal pandemic relief funds to cover the extra snow removal expenses.

"That was a very good use of ARPA money," Benson said, referring to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Rock County Highway Engineer Mark Sehr said his department is getting by with existing staff, but he said this winter is getting expensive.

"I would say that at this time, we have easily spent double of what we averaged over the last five years," he said.

In addition to overtime and equipment maintenance and repair, he said inflation is affecting his budget with diesel fuel, salt, sand and replacing carbide steel cutting edges (heavy plates that protect the snowplow from road friction).

"Everything has escalated in price," Sehr said.

He said it's been a long and more severe winter than most people have become accustomed to over the last five to 10 years.

"For anyone working in the snow removal business, many hours have been put in and we appreciate our employees' efforts," Sehr said.

"Our residents, schools and businesses have felt the effect of the exceptional snowfall amounts and the frequency of 'high wind' events. We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding while these events occur."



Lori Sorenson photos/0302 blizzard

Beaver Creek and Springwater township road crews made several passes over gravel roads in western Rock County last week following the Feb. 21-23 blizzard. Here, Matt Sorenson takes another swipe with the Beaver Creek Township snowblower through a narrow pass north of Beaver Creek.

LHS gymnasts compete at state meet Saturday

By Greg Hoogeveen

Two outstanding Luverne sophomore gymnasts competed at the state gymnastics individual tournament at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul Saturday, Feb. 25.

"I'm very proud of the girls' performances at state. I thought they did a great job," head coach Phoebe Flom said. "It's a lot of pressure to go up against the best of the best."

Sophomore Ella Reisdorfer made her fourth appearance at the state tournament, and it was her second consecutive year competing in the all-around competition.

Sophomore Amira Cowell competed in her second state gymnastics tournament.

"Ella and Amira should both be very proud of their performance at state and of their season as a whole," Flom said.

"I can't believe it's over; it seems to have flown by so fast. We had such a cohesive group of girls who just made the whole season a dream. ... We accomplished all of our goals so I would say it was a success. I'm already looking forward to next year."

Reisdorfer's all-around score Saturday was 34.337 placing her 24th overall and beating her 2022 all-around score of 32.950.

In the vault she scored a 9.250, up from last



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0302 state gymnastics Sophomores Amira Cowell (L) and Ella Reisdorfer (R) during the opening ceremony at the 2023 state individual gymnastic competition in the Roy Wilkins Auditorium, St. Paul on Saturday, Feb. 25.

year's 8.900, and on the bars she scored a 7.975, up from last year's 7.125.

Reisdorfer has competed in the bars event for the past four years.

In 2021 she posted a bar score of 8.900 and in 2020 she scored a 7.875.

On the balance beam her 8.950 was a significant bump over her 7.775 beam score last year.

On the floor Reisdorfer tried a few new skills and scored an 8.125, down from last year's 9.150.

"I know Ella was disappointed in her floor," Flom said. "We had worked all week on adding some new skills so when it didn't go as expected she was bummed."

... We had good vaults and I thought the girls did great bar routines. The scoring was a little tight so that is hard to swallow."

Cowell scored 9.050 on the vault, beating her 2020 performance of 8.975, and on the uneven parallel bars Saturday she scored 7.775.

Flom reflected on what she described as an exceptional season.

"The best part of the state experience is to be on the same team as the other girls in your section," she said.

"The girls you usually compete against are now on the same team, and they support and cheer each other on."



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0302 state gymnastics

At left, sophomore Ella Reisdorfer (left) competed in the all-around competition at the 2023 individual state gymnastics meet in the Roy Wilkins Auditorium on Saturday, Feb. 25, in St. Paul. This was her fourth consecutive year qualifying for state. At right, sophomore Amira Cowell competed on the uneven parallel bars and vault at the 2023 individual state gymnastics meet. It was her second time competing at the state level.

LHS boys' hockey/continued from page 8A

Junior Elliot Domagala made the score 4-1 at 10:40 assisted by Brady Bork.

Junior Owen Sudenga made Luverne's final goal at 13:14 in the third assisted by Hartquist.

Windom was able to sneak in one more goal at 16:09 in the third period to make the final score Luverne 5, Windom 2.

LHS 6, Mankato East/Loyola 2

The Luverne boys' hockey team defeated Mankato East/Loyola 6-2 Monday, Feb. 27, in the Section 3A semifinal game

at St. Peter.

Luverne put 20 shots on the Mankato goalie, beating him six times.

Mankato tested LHS junior goalie Tyler Arends with 27 shots and only two sliding by his pads.

In the first period Blaik Bork scored first on a power play at 16:40 assisted by Behrend.

Behrend followed up with a score at 16:55 assisted by Kroski and Elliot Domagala, giving LHS a 2-0 lead after one period.

Mankato tied it up 2-2 in the second period with two goals of their own.

In the third period the Cardinals opened up scoring four times to advance to the Section 3A finals.

Behrend got his second goal at 0:39 into the third period assisted by Sudenga.

Elliot Domagala scored at 7:54 assisted by Sudenga.

Blaik Bork made his second goal of the game at 8:08 assisted by Kroski and Behrend.

Behrend got his third goal, hat track, on an empty netter at 14:30 assisted by Sudenga.

LHS girls' hockey/continued from page 9A

"They scored a couple of early power-play goals that gave them leverage the rest of the way."

The Cougars started the game strong with Luverne on their heels after building a 3-0 lead in the first period.

In the second period senior Kamryn Van Batavia scored a power play goal for Luverne at 12:15 unassisted.

After two periods Luverne was on the board but still trailed Mankato East 3-1.

In the third period the Cougars scored at 4:43 to go ahead 4-1.

Not to be outdone, Ka-

mryn Van Batavia scored her second goal at 7:02 on another power play to cut the lead in half, 4-2.

Eighth-grader Isabella Steensma scored at 15:46 in the third period assisted by fellow eighth-grader Macie Edstrom, bringing Luverne one goal closer to tying the game at 4-3.

At 16:38 in the third period, on a power play, Mankato East slipped in one more goal to ice the contest and dash any hopes the Cardinals had of going into overtime.

"Overall, I'm very proud of our hockey team

and the season they had," Sandbulte said. "It was another fun and memorable season."

The Cougars had 14 total shots on goal in the game. Senior Mallory Von Tersch had three get past her in the first period, two on power plays.

After that Von Tersch hunkered down and was able to stop several breakaways by a quick Mankato East team.

Luverne was able to get 41 shots on the Cougar goalie in the game, with only three getting past her pads.

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Spring 2023 ISSUE

Rock County celebrates 75 years of conservation

Rock County's roots in soil and water conservation date back to 1945 when five local environmentalist farmers set goals for saving and improving soil to protect future farming.

... Page 5B

Southwest Minnesota farmland values increase nearly 28 percent

The annual survey of farmland sales in 14 southwestern Minnesota counties shows values increased nearly 28 percent in 2022 to an average \$8,673 per acre. Rock County's average farmland value is nearly \$10,000 and climbing.

... Page 7B

Don't stockpile antibiotics on your farm

'Guidance 263' makes over-the-counter medications available for purchase only from a veterinary clinic. Rock Veterinary Clinic DVM Erin deKoning dispels rumors about the need (there isn't) to stockpile antibiotics on the farm.

... Page 9B

Local soybean farmers 'step up' by donating shoes to MJB

Rock County Soybean Growers donate soy-based shoes to staff at Mary Jane Brown Good Samaritan Center through 'Step Up' program.

... Page 13B

Considering backyard chickens for cheaper eggs? Don't forget biosecurity to protect against avian flu

Ehlers family gets chickens to teach responsibility while helping budget

By Mavis Fodness

As the cost for a dozen eggs exceeded the price of a gallon of gas in 2022, many people are considering raising their own backyard chickens and eggs this spring.

For Lisa and Mark Ehlers of rural Luverne, the investment in laying hens eight years ago is paying off — especially for their existing customers.

"We bought six laying hens just to have eggs and to give the kids something to do," Mark said.

Since then, the family flock has grown to 21 in a mixture of Rhode Island red and Golden Comet hens.

Lily is a senior at Luverne High School and continues to collect eggs each day just as she did when she was in elementary school.

She's been the hens' primary caretaker while her brother, Seth, a fourth-grader, fills in when she needs backup help.

"It has definitely taught me responsibility," Lily said. "I go out every day to feed and water them, and sometimes they need their feet cleaned as they pick up clumps when



Mavis Fodness photo/0302 ag tab chickens

Lily Ehlers, a senior at Luverne High School, collects eggs each day. She's been the hens' primary caretaker while her brother, Seth, a fourth-grader, fills in when she needs backup help.

they walk around in the pens."

The hens produce 10 or more eggs a day, which is

more than the Ehlers family of four uses, so they sell their extras for \$2.50 a dozen.

This is well under the

"It has definitely taught me responsibility. I go out every day to feed and water them, and sometimes they need their feet cleaned as they pick up clumps when they walk around in the pens."

— Lily Ehlers
Chicken caretaker at Ehlers family farm

supermarket price that has reached as much as twice that amount, but they said it still pays for the expenses of caring for the hens.

"We are not charging an arm and a leg," Lisa said. "We don't want to take advantage of people."

They have, however, capped orders at two dozen each week to ensure there's

Chickens/see page 3B

Corn-fed deer

Heavy snow cover sends wildlife searching for food in nearby feedlots

By Lori Sorenson

Heavy snow this winter is putting an unexpected burden on livestock producers who are feeding hungry deer alongside their cattle.

According to Jeff Ahrendt, the deer show up each afternoon at his feed bunker near the Blue Mounds State Park.

"They're starving," Ahrendt said. "I feel bad for them, but it's money out of my pocket, especially when you're feeding \$7 corn."

He said it's not unusual to see deer on the farm, but harsh winter conditions over the few months have made it difficult for the deer to access their usual food sources that are now buried under a hard layer of ice and snow.

"Around Christmas I noticed about a dozen, but in the past few weeks there have 75 or more," Ahrendt said.

"It's like clockwork. They wait for us to get done feeding in the afternoon, and then they start coming in a single file."

One day Ahrendt said he turned off his machinery after feeding and waited with his cell phone video camera recording.

Dozens of deer filed past him on their way to the feed bunker to fill their bellies. He said it's difficult to know how



Jeff Ahrendt shared videos and images of deer invading his cattle feedlot near the Blue Mounds to eat cattle feed. He's been working with DNR wild game specialists on ideas to keep them at bay, but the reality of this winter is that the deer are simply hungry, because their food sources are buried under a heavy cover of snow and ice.

much feed he's losing, but he estimates each deer eats a pound or two per day, and they leave behind droppings that mix with the feed that his cattle end up eating. "Losing feed is one thing, but my main

concern is parasites or disease that the cattle could get from ingesting the deer feces," Ahrendt said.

Deer in cattle feedlots/see page 2B

Winter-hungry deer search for food in nearby cattle feedlots/continued from page 1B

“We haven’t had a winter like this since 2013. The deer can dig through the snow, but it’s more difficult this year. They’re lazy eaters; they go looking for food, silage piles and alfalfa bales that are easy sources.”

— Bill Schuna, DNR

According to Dr. Erin deKoning at Rock Veterinary Clinic, this is a real concern.

“There are multiple internal parasites that can cross back and forth between deer and cattle,” she said.

“This can especially be a concern because the deer are defecating in the feed storage areas where they are also eating. So, when Jeff is loading feed, he cannot help but load the deer feces into his feeder wagon.”

She also empathized with cattle farmers losing money to hungry deer.

“The price of hay right now is quite high, so it is rather expensive to be feeding the deer,” she said.

Ahrendt reached out for advice from the Minnesota DNR, who suggested scaring the deer away with a propane-powered canon.

He said it worked on the deer, but it also spooked the cattle. “The cattle about went through the fence,” Ahrendt said. “And the deer came back anyway.”

DNR Wildlife Manager Bill Schuna said he’s dealt with many cases of deer encroaching on livestock operations this winter.

“We haven’t had a winter like this since 2013,” he said. “The deer can dig through the snow, but it’s more difficult this year. They’re lazy eaters; they go looking for food, silage piles and alfalfa bales that are easy sources.”

The DNR can provide emergency abatement measures to deter deer. For example, an Ellsworth livestock producer reported that deer broke through the plastic on his earlage.

“In that case we put a bag around the pile that the deer couldn’t get through,” Schuna said. “The farmer said the deer were a bit frustrated when they came back.”

Generally speaking, he said the best solutions are to provide physical barriers. In the case of the Ahrendts, he suggested they use their moveable



“There are multiple internal parasites that can cross back and forth between deer and cattle. This can especially be a concern because the deer are defecating in the feed storage areas where they are also eating. So, when Jeff is loading feed, he cannot help but load the deer feces into his feeder wagon.”

— Dr. Erin deKoning
Rock Vet Clinic

“It’s like clockwork,” Jeff Ahrendt said about the invading deer. “They wait for us to get done feeding in the afternoon, and then they start coming in a single file.” One day he said he turned off his machinery after feeding and waited with his cell phone video camera recording. Dozens of deer filed past him on their way to the feed bunker to fill their bellies ... and poop in the cattle feed.

“That’s just salad to them. Why would you settle for an appetizer if you can come in here for the main course?”

— Jeff Ahrendt about trying to
distract deer from feed with hay

cattle panels to encircle the feed bunks.

Also, Schuna said deer don’t eat cornstalk bales, and he encourages farmers to create walls out of their cornstalk bales to protect feed sources such as alfalfa and hay that deer often eat.

He also said the Ahrendt feedlot is particularly vulnerable near the park.

“Deer have their traditional wintering areas, and the Rock River is a traditional wintering area,” Schuna said.

“Deer move into this area and the park from over 10 miles away, and they go looking for food.

He said he’s discussed options for the annual special youth hunt in the Blue Mounds, possibly expanding it in order to cull more deer.

Meanwhile, until this winter’s snow cover melts, farmers will need to be creative about keeping wildlife out of their feedbunks.

Ahrendt said he placed some haybales between the feedlot and the park as a decoy of sorts — hoping the deer would eat the less expensive hay instead of his livestock feed.

“That’s just salad to them,” Ahrendt said. “Why would you settle for an appetizer if you can come in here for the main course?”




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Raising chickens for cheaper eggs — be sure to protect against avian flu/ from page 1B

enough product for all 10 of their customers.

This spring the Ehlers family is considering adding another 15 hens to the former pig nursery turned chicken coop on their acreage. More chickens means they will add new customers.

Last year's outbreak of the avian flu eliminated many commercial poultry flocks, and the Ehlers family has made sure their small egg production flock is protected.

"All our hens are inside," he said. "We've built coops in a former hog nursery. They have plenty of room."

The two large coops inside the nursery house the laying hens, who are separated based on their breed.

He's made sure no wildlife enter the barn to prevent the spread of disease. "Especially no sparrows," he said.

Fans that were installed when the building housed pigs are still used, and they circulate the air for the laying hens.

Spring is popular time to buy chicks

The Minnesota Board of Animal Health notes that spring is a popular time of the year to find chicks at local feed and supply stores.

State veterinarians are encouraging all poultry owners to learn more about biosecurity measures to keep poultry safe from the most recent outbreaks of the avian influenza.

As of Dec. 1, 633 flocks were confirmed with avian flu in 2022 in 46 states and involving 52.7 million birds. The number surpasses the avian flu outbreak in 2015 when 21 states were affected.

The Board of Animal Health anticipates cases will continue to climb since the avian flu is still detected in the wild bird

Protect Your Small Flock from Avian Influenza

1 Avoid contact and shared spaces between wild birds and waterfowl with your poultry. Song birds, sparrows, starlings, etc. are low risk.

2 Limit or halt travel with your birds to sales, shows, and swaps.

Ensure you have clean hands, clothes, and footwear before handling your birds if you attend events. **Do not** allow others to handle your birds.

3 Limit your birds' visitors.

If someone must visit your birds:

- Discuss where they have been.
- Have them wash their hands and wear clean clothes and footwear.

Call your veterinarian if your flock shows signs of influenza or you suspect exposure.
No veterinarian? Call Minnesota Avian Influenza Hotline at 833 - 454 - 0156.

Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has been confirmed in the United States. Introduced by migrating wild birds, HPAI risk increases during spring and fall migration, and can affect all domestic poultry: small and urban flocks and commercial industries.



Poultry with HPAI do not survive the illness. Vaccines for HPAI are not readily available.

Signs of Avian Influenza

- Extreme depression
- Very quiet
- Difficulty breathing
- Decrease in feed or water intake
- Swelling or purple discoloration of head, eyelids, comb, wattle, and hocks
- Decrease in egg production
- Sudden unexplained death

Biosecurity is your best option to prevent HPAI from entering your small or urban poultry flock.

- **Give birds shelter. Provide a coop for the birds to roost overnight.**
- **Keep your distance as well as isolate birds from visitors and other birds.**
- **Clean shoes, tools and equipment used around the birds to prevent germs from spreading.**
- **Don't haul disease home. Change clothes before caring for birds or entering the coop.**
- **Don't borrow disease; avoid sharing tools and equipment with others.**



Mavis Fodness photo/0302 ag tab chickens

Lily Ehlers takes care of the hens, which produce 10 or more eggs a day. This which is more than the Ehlers family of four uses, so they sell their extras for \$2.50 a dozen. This is well under supermarket price, but they said it pays for expenses of caring for the hens.

population. Experts suggest that avian flu is on its way to becoming a resident virus and is in the state to stay.

Biosecurity can prevent the avian flu from spreading.

Biosecurity is the process for protecting animals from infectious diseases and is used to protect a wide variety of species including poultry.

Anyone wanting to keep their laying hens (or ducks and geese) healthy should follow these biosecurity steps:

- Give the birds shelter. Provide a coop for the birds to roost overnight.
- Keep your distance as well as isolate birds

from visitors and other birds.

• Clean shoes, tools and equipment used around the birds to prevent germs from spreading.

• Don't haul disease home. Change clothes before caring for birds or entering the coop.

• Don't borrow disease; avoid sharing tools and equipment with others.

State epidemiologists indicate the most common risk factor appears to be building integrity.

Older buildings with failing roofs, holes in screens and ground level breeches are more likely to be a site for infected birds.

Buildings that are fully enclosed and environmentally controlled have less risk of infection.

A secondary factor is proximity to wetlands where migratory waterfowl are seen flying overhead, landing in nearby fields and even walking near barns.

A third factor is wild birds roosting on barn tops or near feed sources where droppings can be left and exposure to domestic poultry can occur.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services developed the "Defend the Flock" program to prevent avian influenza from establishing itself within the U.S. poultry population.

"Defend the Flock" outlines free tools and resources to help everyone who works with or handles poultry to follow biosecurity measures and to alert local veterinarians about unexpected illness or sudden death within flocks.

The program can be accessed through the USDA website: aphis.usda.gov

In-town residents should check with their city clerks to see if poultry is permitted in their city limits.

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Lori Sorenson photo/0302 ag edition spring 2023 cattle at sunset

Blac-X cattle west of the Bakken feedlot gather at sunset north of Beaver Creek during a recent February evening. Grain, hay, and livestock can all be protected by various forms of insurance. Multi-peril crop insurance can protect both the production and revenue risks. Hay and pasture ground can be covered by Pasture, Rangeland and Forage insurance that is designed to indemnify the producer against a shortage of rainfall in the grid area. LRP and LGM are available to put a floor under cattle and swine prices.

Protect your income and shield your assets

Having the right insurance coverage can be a powerful tool to help you keep doing what you love

By Barbara J Anderson Cattnach Insurance

Insurance is an essential part of any business operation, and it's especially true in agriculture.

However, there are better ways than others to make your insurance work for you — not the other way around.

Identify your sources of income and determine ways to protect them.

Grain, hay, and livestock can all be protected by various forms of insurance. Multi-peril crop insurance can protect both the production and revenue risks.

Hay and pasture ground can be covered by PRF (Pasture, Rangeland and Forage) insurance that is designed to indemnify the producer against a shortage of rainfall in the grid area.

LRP and LGM are available to put a floor under cattle and swine prices. With all these resources available to producers at a subsidized rate, one of the most critical decisions is choosing an experienced agent to guide you through the process.

The agents at Cattnach Insurance Agency have a combined 85-plus years of experience managing risks for farmers.

Identify your important assets and verify that you have adequate insurance coverage.

Livestock feeding barns, equipment and shops can be insured, and it is essential to understand the perils that are covered to ensure you can continue earning a living. Verifying that buildings and equipment are insured to

value will ensure that you are compensated adequately to rebuild.

Do you need coverage for replacement costs (waiving depreciation), collapse from the weight of ice and snow for vulnerable buildings, "ingestion of foreign object" coverage for harvest equipment, etc?

Proper liability coverage is the key to protecting assets from lawsuits and potential negligence, liability umbrellas, care custody and control for livestock and employer's liability.

Mitigate your risks without overspending.

We can help you evaluate your risks, determine the perils to protect against, and do this without wasting your hard-earned dollars.

We recognize that the

margins are often very narrow in livestock and grain production and that you must use your insurance dollars wisely.

Just because you are spending a lot doesn't necessarily mean you are well-protected. In many cases, it's just reallocating your insurance premium to work better for you.

Take advantage of the subsidies offered, and review the history of the area's yield losses, revenue losses, and rainfall totals.

One of the essential tools we offer our clients is the annual review as a minimum.

Whether it's property and liability, auto, or crop insurance, it's vital that you update coverages, remove obsolete or unused equipment and vehicles and keep values up to date.

Insurance helps you do what you love

Insurance coverage can be a powerful tool to protect your income and assets so you can keep doing what you love.

A trusted adviser is key in determining what is important to you and your operation and custom-fitting an insurance plan.

Cattnach Insurance Agency has been helping customers find the best protection without wasting their hard-earned income on unnecessary coverages.

We operate on the motto of our founder, Wallace Cattnach, when he said, "Take care of the customer first."

This means that we always put the customer's needs ahead of our own agenda because it's not about making the most money, but doing what is right.

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Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District still working to preserve local natural resources more than 75 years later

By Mavis Fodness

Conservation of soil and water in Rock County continues to evolve as the local district celebrates seven decades of conservation delivery.

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources quietly recognized the Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District in 2020 for 75 years of partnering to preserve natural resources for future generations.

In 1945, as federal and state legislators pushed farmers to use practical tillage methods to prevent further dust storms from reoccurring, five local producers stepped forward to serve on the first Rock County SWCD board.

News accounts have Jacob Sells, Harold Crawford, Roger Pengra, L.J. Hofelman and E.J. Wilroth meeting with representatives from the regional Soil Conservation Service and U of M Extension Service in early July 1945.

They outlined "... five dangers which must be overcome if Rock County is to retain its agricultural productivity." The five dangers were:

- soil fertility, which has been depleted by intensive war production the past few years.
- gullies.
- loss of topsoil by erosion.
- weeds.
- poor drainage in certain areas.

The board tasked themselves with introducing new soil conservation practices that

- established grass waterways to prevent gullies,
- contoured cultivation to prevent erosion of

In 1945, as federal and state legislators pushed farmers to use practical tillage methods to prevent further dust storms from reoccurring, five local producers stepped forward to serve on the first Rock County SWCD board. They outlined "five dangers which must be overcome if Rock County is to retain its agricultural productivity."

topsoil,

- seeded more legumes and grasses to build soil fertility and
 - establish several terracing demonstrations.
- The group first met on July 25, 1945, as the state's newest Soil Conservation District.

In the 1960s the word "water" was official added to SCDs in the state, becoming Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD).

The groups met monthly for more than seven decades. Rock County is still comprised of five supervisors, one from each district in the county. They serve four years and are selected through a general election. Current supervisors are Roger Hoff, Gene Cragoe, Jim Veldkamp, Josh Ossefoort and Dave Esselink.



Mavis Fodness photo/Ag Tab Spring 2023 Rock SWCD 75th Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors pose with the plaque from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources in recognition of 75 years of bringing soil and water management and conservation to the county. Pictured (front, from left) are Dave Esselink, Josh Ossefoort, (back) Jim Veldkamp and Gene Cragoe. Not pictured is Roger Hoff.

SWCDs established due to Dust Bowl

Persistent drought conditions on the Great Plains caused widespread crop failures, exposing soil to the blowing wind in the early 1930s. The Dust Bowl continued for six years.

In 1932 President Franklin D. Roosevelt made conservation of soil and water resources a national priority during his New Deal administration.

The Soil Conservation Service was created in 1935, later renamed the Natural Resources Conservation Service in 1994.

The first Minnesota SWCD was established in 1939, the Root River SWCD in Houston County.

At first, SWCD boundaries were based on the watershed, later

changing to a county basis. The last SWCD to be officially formed was Winona County in 1986.

SWCD work is 'evolutionary process'

While the Rock County SWCD supervisors

The five dangers to be overcome in 1945 order for Rock County to retain its agricultural productivity included:

- soil fertility, which had been depleted by intensive war production the previous few years.
- gullies.
- loss of topsoil by erosion.
- weeds.
- poor drainage in certain areas.

oversee the implementation of state statutes and rules, the day-to-day work is completed through the Rock County Land Management Office.

Eric Hartman has been director since 2002.

"The 75 years of the Rock SWCD is probably not so much about specific project(s)," he said.

"It has been, like most everything else, an evolutionary process and adoption to a changing landscape with every changing need."

As the county progressed away from the Dust Bowl, the SWCD has worked with individual farmers with implementing less tillage practice, controlling water drainage, promoting ways to farm safely around drinking water areas, and improving soil health.

For decades each project was completed with limited funding, with farmers cost-sharing in the improvement.

A stable funding stream was created in 2008 through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

A portion of the state's sales tax is dedicated to clean water, outdoor preservation, arts and cultural heritage, and parks and trails.

SWCD/see page 8B

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consideration with the **Luverne Area Community Foundation**

WHAT IS IT?
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IS IT RIGHT FOR YOU AND YOUR AG OPERATION?
Preserve the value of highly appreciated assets: For those with significantly long-term appreciated assets, including non-income-producing property, a CRT allows you to contribute that property, (machinery, livestock, land) to the trust and when the trust sells it is exempt from tax.
Income tax deductions: With a CRT, you have the potential to take a partial income tax charitable deduction when you fund the trust
Tax exempt: The CRT's investment income is exempt from tax. This makes the CRT a good option for asset diversification.
Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust: Provides an annual income stream for a period of time as set up by the trust terms.

WHAT ASSETS MAY BE DONATED TO A CRT?

- Real estate
- Certain complex assets (i.e. farm machinery or livestock)
- Cash
- Publicly traded securities
- Some types of closely held stock (no S-Corp)

WHAT'S IMPORTANT?

- A Charitable Remainder Trust has tax saving advantage.
- The Charitable Remainder Trust must be set up in advance of any sale.
- Who needs to be involved to set up a CRT? A lawyer that works with CRTs, a financial advisor, accountant and possibly an auctioneer.
- Charitable annuity trust gives an income stream.

Donor → 1. Gift: → **Charitable Remainder Trust** → 2. Tax Deduction → **Luverne Area Community Foundation** → 3. Fixed Payments → **Beneficiary**

4. Remainder → **Beneficiary**

Talk to your financial advisor about whether a **Charitable Remainder Trust** is a good choice for your Ag operation, particularly if you are planning your exit strategy.

Luverne Area Community Foundation can be the charitable vehicle to assist financial goals.

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Farmers should consider 'enhanced coverage options'

By Shirley Top Kozlowski Insurance

The Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) was a new supplemental insurance program that became available in 2021. ECO is an option that can only be added to an underlying individual plan of insurance and provides area-based coverage like the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO).

ECO can be purchased at either a 95-percent or 90-percent coverage level. Coverage extends from the selected level down to 86 percent, the point where SCO begins to offer coverage. (See Figure 1)

ECO uses a county-based trigger. ECO could result in indemnities being paid when individual losses are not realized.

Similarly, individual losses could be triggered without leading to an ECO indemnity payment.

Farmers Mutual Hail has available to farmers ECO + "yield protection", "revenue protection" or new in 2023 "forward plus protection" which provides harvest price upside protection.

Farmers can purchase ECO+ that will provide coverage for individual losses from 86 percent to 95 percent. ECO+ can be purchased with 75-percent, 80-percent or 85-percent multi-peril coverage.

ECO+ is always optional unit coverage no matter if you have enterprise units on your underlying coverage.

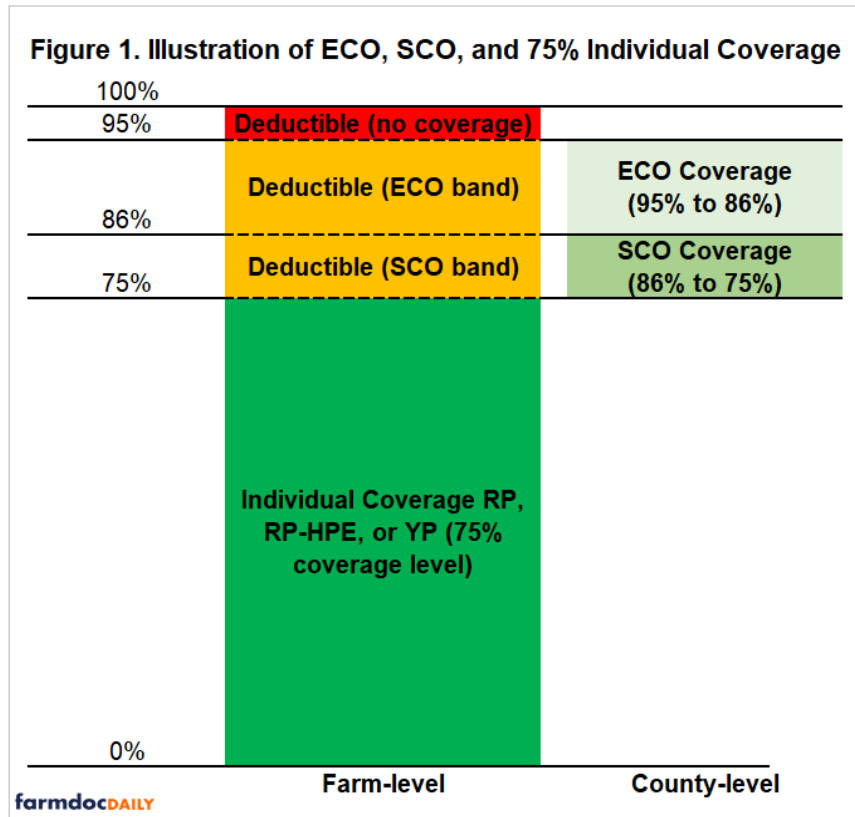
All my farm clients who chose ECO in 2021 elected 86-95 percent ECO Revenue coverage. I love giving my farmers all their options. For those of who know me you know my love for spreadsheets.

It took me a weekend to "revise my default spreadsheets for the 2023 crop year.

Also new in 2023 is purchasing hail, green snap, wind, and extra harvest expense ala carte. In prior years you

In 2023 farmers' expenses have skyrocketed. I have found with the appointments I have that they are looking for options like Enhanced Coverage Option Plus that provides individual coverage above enterprise units. If history repeats itself where corn is less than \$4 and soybeans less than \$10, growers need revenue protection.

needed to purchase hail to purchase the green snap, wind and extra harvest expense. In 2023 they can purchase the combination, or they can purchase hail with wind OR green snap OR extra harvest expense.



ECO can be purchased at either a 95-percent or 90-percent coverage level. Coverage extends from the selected level down to 86 percent, the point where SCO begins to offer coverage.

Summary

ECO allows producers to further supplement the coverage offered by their underlying individual plan of insurance.

Like SCO, ECO coverage mimics the underlying indi-

vidual plan, and payments are made based on county-level triggers.

While SCO provides coverage across a band of 86 percent down to the underlying plan of insurance, ECO provides coverage

from either 90 percent or 95 percent down to 86 percent of expected county revenue or yield.

To be eligible for ECO and SCO coverage, producers must purchase an individual plan of insurance (RP, RP-HPE, YP).

While SCO use is limited to acreage enrolled in the PLC program, ECO can be used on acres enrolled in both PLC and ARC.

ECO premiums will be subsidized at a rate of 51 percent if used with individual yield coverage or 44 percent if used with individual revenue coverage.

SCO is subsidized at a rate of 65 percent.

Compared with SCO, ECO offers even higher coverage options to cover a wider band of the deductible value, and use is not limited by farm program choice.

In 2023 farmers' expenses have skyrocketed. I have found with the appointments I have that they are looking for options like ECO+ that provides individual coverage above enterprise units.

I have also found that farmers are definitely concerned about downside prices. If history repeats itself where corn is less than \$4 and soybeans less than \$10, growers need revenue protection.

When the harvest price is less than the spring price, their bushel guarantees increase.

Why? They need to collect sooner because it will take more bushels to pay for their expenses, and their expenses will not decrease.

Federal law limits the authority for Federal Crop Insurance to insure individual farm yields at 85 percent.

ECO can offer coverage up to 95 percent, at a county level to enhance your total coverage.

In 2023 Farmers Mutual Hail ECO+™ provides individual yield protection up to 95 percent.

Give me a call at 507-283-3704 to determine what best meets your individual risk management needs.

My best education was being raised on a river farm with a family of nine. Light soil required ample regular rains to get a crop.

Wishing all farmers a safe, healthy, and prosperous 2023.

Year	CORN RP	SBEAN RP	Oct for Dec	SBEAN RP	Oct for Nov
2012	\$ 5.68	\$ 7.50	Oct for Dec	\$ 12.55	\$ 15.39
2013	\$ 5.65	\$ 4.39	Oct for Dec	\$ 12.87	\$ 12.87
2014	\$ 4.62	\$ 3.49	Oct for Dec	\$ 11.36	\$ 9.65
2015	\$ 4.15	\$ 3.83	Oct for Dec	\$ 9.73	\$ 8.91
2016	\$ 3.86	\$ 3.49	Oct for Dec	\$ 8.85	\$ 9.75
2017	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.49	Oct for Dec	\$ 10.19	\$ 9.75
2018	\$ 3.96	\$ 3.68	Oct for Dec	\$ 10.16	\$ 8.60
2019	\$ 4.00	\$ 3.90	Oct for Dec	\$ 9.54	\$ 9.25
2020	\$ 3.88	\$ 3.99	Oct for Dec	\$ 9.17	\$ 10.55
2021	\$ 4.58	\$ 5.37	Oct for Dec	\$ 11.87	\$ 12.30
2022	\$ 5.90	\$ 6.86	Oct for Dec	\$ 14.33	\$ 13.81

When the harvest price is less than the spring price, their bushel guarantees increase. Why? They need to collect sooner because it will take more bushels to pay for their expenses, and their expenses will not decrease.

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Southwest MN farmland values increase 27.9 percent

Dave Bau, U of M Extension Educator

The annual survey of farmland sales in 14 southwestern Minnesota counties shows values increased nearly 28 percent in 2022 to an average \$8,673 per acre.

The survey collects bare farmland sales to non-related parties for the first six months of each year.

Land values had been steadily increasing until 2014 after reaching record high prices in 2013 (\$8,466 per acre average) and then declining through 2017 to an average \$6,340 per acre.

The counties in this study include Chippewa, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lac qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Martin, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Redwood, Rock, Watonwan and Yellow Medicine counties.

This year the increase across the 14 counties averaged 27.9 percent from \$6,780 to \$8,673. (The highest year-to-year increase of 35.6 percent in 2013).

There was a lot of variability in the numbers from 2021 to 2022.

The largest increase was in Cottonwood County with an increase of 86.77 percent while Pipestone County experienced the largest decrease of 8.1 percent for the sales that met the bare farmland to non-related party transaction requirements.

Nobles County had the

County	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Chippewa	\$6,578	\$6,460	\$6,336	\$6,231	\$6,812	\$6,333
Cottonwood	\$7,266	\$7,322	\$8,064	\$5,811	\$4,839	\$9,033
Jackson	\$7,399	\$6,671	\$6,361	\$7,334	\$6,750	\$9,300
Lac qui Parle	\$5,111	\$5,105	\$5,049	\$4,684	\$4,719	\$6,733
Lincoln	\$4,415	\$5,312	\$5,806	\$3,853	\$6,350	\$7,092
Lyon	\$6,057	\$5,358	\$5,607	\$5,509	\$6,902	\$8,787
Martin	\$6,370	\$6,120	\$6,915	\$8,894	\$7,479	\$9,127
Murray	\$6,135	\$6,406	\$5,446	\$6,055	\$6,622	\$8,038
Nobles	\$7,132	\$8,548	\$8,152	\$6,664	\$7,680	\$11,025
Pipestone	\$5,478	\$6,211	\$6,914	\$7,119	\$9,008	\$8,282
Redwood	\$6,852	\$7,114	\$6,600	\$6,858	\$7,082	\$10,534
Rock	\$7,545	\$8,656	\$8,851	\$8,698	\$7,854	\$9,935
Watonwan	\$6,588	\$7,373	\$6,006	\$5,948	\$6,671	\$9,918
Yellow Med.	\$5,830	\$5,584	\$5,959	\$5,533	\$6,158	\$7,284
Average	\$6,340	\$6,589	\$6,576	\$6,371	\$6,780	\$8,673

highest average sale price of \$11,025 per acre and Chippewa County had the lowest at \$6,333 per acre.

Each year sales vary. Within a county, land location could affect these average values, as could quality of the land sold. The number of sales in each county varies greatly from year to year. The 27.9-percent increase is above historical increases of 1 to 2 percent.

There are several factors that affect land values. Farm incomes, grain prices, interest rates, return on other investments and 1031 exchanges are often mentioned as reasons

for the increase.

Farm average incomes improved in 2019, 2020 and 2021, and are projected higher in 2022.

In a 1031 exchange, property owners who sell land in an area of increased value purchase like property or farmland at a more reasonable price elsewhere to avoid paying taxes on large gains from the sale of the higher valued land.

This increases rural farmland demand and land values.

The overall reason for increases or decreases in farmland sale prices is a combination of all of these factors.

Which direction farmland values will go depends on several factors.

- Supply and demand will determine this.
- The simple return on investment, which is determined by rental rates will determine how competitive farmland is compared to other investments and this will determine a value for farmland.
- Corn and soybean prices were high in 2022 and remain high starting in 2023. This should have an impact on profits, farm rental rates and eventually farmland values.
- The government program payments decreased in 2021

Which direction farmland values will go depends on several factors:

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- Corn and soybean prices were high in 2022 and remain high starting in 2023. This should have an impact on profits, farm rental rates and eventually farmland values.
- Government program payments decreased in 2021 and 2022.

The two-page document on the trends in farmland sale prices is available at local Extension offices at any of the 14 southwest Minnesota counties. The U of M Extension Regional Office is in Worthington, 507-372-3900.

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SWCD — celebrating 75 years of soil and water conservation in Rock County/from page 5B



“Drowning in Dirt: Joseph Hutton and the Dust Bowl” exhibit is on display through fall of 2024. It explores life during the 1930s through the eyes of a soil scientist trying to save family farms by preserving the land. The photo above was taken by Joseph Hutton in 1936 in South Dakota.

‘Drowning in Dirt: Joseph Hutton and the Dust Bowl’ exhibit tells history of soil conservation

The South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum in Brookings presents its latest exhibit, “Drowning in Dirt: Joseph Hutton and the Dust Bowl.”

This exhibit, on display through fall of 2024, explores life during the 1930s through the eyes of a soil scientist trying to save family farms by preserving the land.

Professor Hutton, one of the first soil scientists in South Dakota, researched and taught at SDSU from 1911 to 1939.

He brought a new concept that not all soil was the

same and that different soils required different farming practices to be sustainable.

For Hutton, soil became a sacred living entity in which sprang all life.

During the drought of the 1920s and 1930s, Hutton saw the devastation that loss of healthy farmland had on families and their surrounding communities.

He dreamed of a time when man was akin with nature and not the destroyer of it.

“The ideas he implemented a hundred years ago are the same fundamentals

of soil health still promoted today by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition,” said Gwen McCausland, director of the South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum.

“It is not a new concept but a very important one that needs to be repeated.”

This exhibit is funded in part by a grant from the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and by the Friends of the Museum membership fund.

The amendment continues through 2034.

The flood and rainfall event of 2014 increased the interest and investment in local conservation practices.

“At the time I started here, the NRCS staff was successful and able to keep up with the demand for services,” Hartman said.

“A number of good practices were already in place.

“No one could prepare for Mother Nature with more than 22 inches of rain over eight days, which is becoming more common.”

The weather event renewed interest in conservation practices that limited the impacts of rain events.

“Past practices and efforts seemingly were no longer adequate for the changes that we were experiencing in our rainfall events,” Hartman said.

“The trend has been toward greater amounts of rainfall and more of that rain coming in thunderstorm events and less in gentle showers.”

Declared a disaster, Rock County received \$1.7 million to fix the 2014 flood damages. More funding in 2016 helped ramp up local technical staff when the demand for ground and structural practices locally greatly increased.

1W1P expands focus on a regional area

When Rock County joined forces with six neighboring counties in 2017 to develop a comprehensive management program for the Missouri River Basin, the move harkened back to when

conservation districts were organized regionally.

As a member of the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P), Rock County shares in \$1 million in state funding allocated every two years for projects focused on improving the quality of groundwater, surface waters, and fish and wildlife habitat.

The plan also educates and has an outreach focused on land stewardship. The current 10-year plan is in effect through 2028.

Through 1W1P and flood relief dollars, nearly 160 project sites have been completed since 2017 in Rock County. That includes over 90 grass waterways and 220 structures, such as water and sediment control basins and terraces.

The current conservation plan continues to address the “five dangers” Rock County SWCD supervisors identified in 1945, while evolving into a concentrated focus on soil health and use of cover crops.

“This approach is certainly different from what we have generally been accustomed to, but success is being seen by establishing a living cover on cropland when that cropland is at its most vulnerable state after harvest, through the winter and into spring,” Hartman said.

“I cannot help but think back to my early childhood when so much farmland was aggressively tilled and, in dry springs especially, we saw soil loss in the wind, and in wet springs and in snowmelt, we saw soil loss with the water running off the landscape.”

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Don't stockpile antibiotics for livestock

Dr. deKoning dispels rumors about farmers' ability to purchase antibiotics in the future

By Erin deKoning, DVM
Rock County Vet Clinic

We've had a number of concerned clients reach out to the clinic about the upcoming Guidance 263 that will be fully enforced on June 12, 2023.

I had written an article in the fall Ag Tab about Guidance 263, but now felt the need to further clarify some of the questions that have arisen.

Several clients have called the clinic with the intention to panic-buy or stockpile antibiotics, very similar to toilet paper and Covid-19.

Guidance 263 is far from a pandemic situation.

Furthermore, toilet paper doesn't have an expiration date, but antibiotics do, so there is no need to waste money stockpiling antibiotics unnecessarily.

Why did the government decide to create Guidance 263? To help slow down the incidence of bacterial infections that are resistant to treatment with commonly used antibiotics.

According to the government, drugs like penicillin, tetracycline and sulfa are all considered medically important for both human medicine as well as veterinary medicine and horticulture.

To help insure that these antibiotics are used judiciously, the government has decided to no longer allow these drugs to be sold over



Guidance 263 makes over-the-counter medications available for purchase only from a veterinary clinic. In short, producers will not be able to purchase any antibiotics from any type of farm store. However, for those producers with a working relationship with a veterinarian, nothing will change.

the counter (OTC). Now, all antibiotics will have a label that states that the antibiotic will only be sold and used "by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian."

If you have a working relationship with a veterinarian, Guidance 263 will not affect you in any way whatsoever.

You will still be able to walk into a veterinary clinic and purchase whatever antibiotics you may need.

But you will only be able to purchase medicines as long as you have an established VCPR – Veterinary Client Patient Relationship.

What is a VCPR with a

veterinarian, you ask?

In the past year did you ever have a veterinarian on your farm for any reason? Or have you brought a production animal into a veterinary clinic for treatment? If you have had a veterinarian provide you with veterinary services in the past year, then you have an established VCPR.

What does not constitute a VCPR?

Simply having a veterinarian driving past your farm does not constitute a VCPR. Seeing a veterinarian in the grocery store and asking him or her a veterinary question does not establish a VCPR.

Calling a veterinarian on the phone and asking questions does not create a VCPR.

To fully establish a VCPR, a veterinarian needs to physically treat your production animals or have actual "boots on the ground" on your farm.

So what are the benefits to establishing a VCPR?

In return for allowing me to work on your production animals to set up a VCPR, I, as a veterinarian, agree to be your primary contact for all of your veterinary needs.

I also assume responsibility for making clinical decisions for your operation. I am your hotline for all of your

veterinary questions.

Our local Bomgaars has wonderfully knowledgeable and helpful employees, but none of them are licensed veterinarians that can assist you with the proper advice for treating your animals with the medications for purchase there.

Also, I highly doubt that those employees will be on call should you need a calf pulled in the middle of the night.

When Guidance 263 is fully enforced, what changes will producers experience?

Well, for those few individuals that are accustomed to purchasing things like penicillin, tylosin, lincomycin, oxytetracyclines, and sulfa boluses at their local farm store, Bomgaars, Runnings, TSC, etc., they will find the shelves bare.

Guidance 263 takes all the over-the-counter medications (OTC) and makes it so they are only available for purchase from a veterinary clinic.

In short, producers will not be able to purchase any antibiotics from any type of farm store.

However, for those producers with a working relationship with a veterinarian, nothing will change.

If you would like to set up a VCPR or need to purchase antibiotics after June 12, 2023, feel free to contact any of us at Rock Veterinary Clinic.

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Agriculture priorities are being debated in Minnesota House

By Rep. Joe Schomacker, Luverne, District 21A

An aggressive start to the 2023 legislative session has left us many politically driven, headline grabbing sessions. Unfortunately, the issues important to the economy that drives our state, agriculture, don't often grab headlines.

On a variety of topics important to the business of agriculture in Minnesota, bills are being considered.

Regarding clean energy and sustainability, the Minnesota House majority approved and Governor Walz signed a bill into law requiring electric utilities in the state to generate or acquire 100 percent carbon-free energy by 2040.

I'm an advocate for renewable energy because it improves the checkbooks of so many in southwestern Minnesota. But when my utility providers tell me that storage capacity isn't there yet, it's clear the state shouldn't be setting this mandate at this time.

I applaud the goal of 100 percent carbon-free energy. Without infrastructure behind it though, we risk higher rates for energy, grid failure which will lead to blackouts, and unsafe conditions when these blackouts occur.

Regarding the health care accessibility priority, I am personally sponsoring three bills to make improvements. The first bill closes the gap on mental health operating costs, keeping rural settings open. This is necessary to make up for the lack of coverage by consumers and low commercial insurance utilization.

The second proposal allows Minnesota nurses the opportunity to practice in all states that are part of the Nurse Licensure Compact. Doing so makes it easier for hospitals to provide health care and makes it easier



"I applaud the goal of 100 percent carbon-free energy. Without infrastructure behind it though, we risk higher rates for energy, grid failure which will lead to blackouts, and unsafe conditions when these blackouts occur."

for nurses to practice in their field.

My third proposal establishes the Minnesota Health Policy Commission, a non-partisan group complete with economic experts that have the expertise to dig deep into the details of determining how to provide the best health care policies for Minnesota.

Rural vitality is critical to all of us who live in the southwestern corner of our state. To address this, I have introduced workforce legislation that would create more opportunities for businesses to offer apprenticeships.

Once approved, this allows Minnesota to compete with South Dakota and its Build Dakota scholarship program which puts more students into technical careers.

Our region's need for reliable and clean drinking water continues on my agenda. I recently signed onto a bipartisan proposal that leverages federal dollars to help replace lead water pipes throughout the state.

Many of our communities continue relying on Depression-era infrastructure and securing funding allows our cities to modernize the delivery of clean drinking water to their residents. I'm also sponsoring legislation that authorizes bonding proceeds for construction of the Rock County water tower.

Access to child care contin-

ues as a top issue to our region and throughout the state. The Minnesota House recently approved two bills increasing the rates for the child care assistance program (CCAP). State audits uncovered the program has been plagued with large scale fraud. Personally, I support the additional funding, but we cannot throw good money after bad with no guardrails on future fraud.

I met with the ag education programs in Pipestone earlier this month to hear their support for beginning and emerging farmers, along with research and investment.

I am doing what I can to ensure that the MAELC (Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council) has the funding it needs to continue being a success to recruit new instructors and help potential farmers get into the business. I also support extending the young farmer tax credit as a package of tax reform bills move through session later this year.

As the session is only a few weeks old, I am expecting legislation that will address other areas of interest will come up as it so often does.

It remains my honor to serve the interests of Rock County farm families at the Capitol. Not every legislator gets the privilege of representing such dedicated and hard-working people.

State Fair and Farm Bureau accepting Century Farm applications

Deadline is March 6, 2023

Minnesota families who have owned their farms for 100 years or more are invited to apply for the 2023 Century Farm Program.

Produced by the Minnesota State Fair in conjunction with the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, the Century Farm Program was created to promote agriculture and honor historic family farms in the state.

More than 11,000 Minnesota farms have been honored since the program began in 1976.

A family farm is recognized as a Century Farm when three requirements are met.

- The farm must be:
- 1) at least 100 years old according to authentic land records;
 - 2) in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years (continuous residence on the farm is not required); and
 - 3) at least 50 acres and currently be involved in agricultural production.

A commemorative certificate signed by Governor Tim Walz, the State Fair Board of Managers President Joe Scapanski and Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation President Dan Glessing will be awarded to qualifying families.

They will also receive an outdoor sign signifying Century Farm status.

Applications are available online at mnsf.org

To qualify, a farm must be:

- 1) at least 100 years old according to authentic land records;
- 2) in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years (continuous residence on the farm is not required); and
- 3) at least 50 acres and currently be involved in agricultural production.

statefair.org/about-the-fair/awards-and-recognition/; at fbmn.org.

Applicants can also call the State Fair at 651-288-4417; or contact statewide county extension and county Farm Bureau offices.

The submission deadline is Monday, March 6.

Recipients will be announced in the spring. Previously recognized families should not reapply.

Information on the Century Farm Program will be available at the Minnesota Farm Bureau exhibit during the 2023 Minnesota State Fair.

A Century Farm database is also available at fbmn.org.






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There are many issues to consider as spring farming season approaches; take time to weigh your options

**By Rob Andringa
Professional
Ag Marketing**

As the days fly by, we find ourselves hoping we are through the worst of my least favorite season, winter.

As I am writing this, we are over one third of the way past the shortest day of the year. The mornings seem brighter and the evenings longer.

As we look forward to the changing of the seasons as the snow melts, buds begin to form, birds make the trip back north (often to experience some snow first), and a new unique growing season begins.

As we look back into last year, the one word many of us would use to describe it would likely be drought. The past two years have been unusually dry for many of us in the west and south.

This has created its challenges. Lower yields and dried up pastures have created the lowest beef cow herd since 1962. Levels on the Mississippi were also depleted making barge logistics a challenge.

Drought over the year greatly reduced corn yields making a tight corn stocks to use ratio. However, weather was not the only challenge facing U.S. grain.

High inflation globally has caused an increase in the U.S. dollar, making U.S. grain prices less competitive



in the global market.

Inflation has affected the U.S. consumer with high grocery prices and energy cost slowing demand, especially on gasoline consumption.

Lower cattle on feed, lower hogs on feed, lower exports, and lower ethanol production has greatly reduced demand.

What does this mean looking forward? While it is impossible to know with certainty, there are a number of things to consider, starting with a positive.

Forecasters pay a great deal of attention in the U.S. to water temperatures in the Pacific as these temperatures affect the amount of moisture pumped into our jet stream.

Water temps are rising from where they were back in December of 2021.

Warmer water is making its way west, indicating a much greater probability of a change in weather patterns from La Nina to El Nino.

Drought, demand, inflation, yield increases, interest rates, potential improved weather patterns ...

What does this mean looking forward?

Consider using options to take some risk off while allowing some upside potential. Consider the opportunities offered today, ... and remember every season is unique.

These probabilities increase starting in June through late season of 2023.

Historically, 10 out of the past 13 years this switch has generated above trend line yields.

Better yields, improved pastures, while it would greatly aid the cattle feeder building back a herd, takes a great deal of time.

January's U.S. inflation data showed inflation at 6.4 percent, down from its high back in June of 2022 at 9.1 percent.

While this is a move in the right direction, the Fed has indicated a target to bring inflation back down to 2 percent. Fed interest rates have risen at a pace not seen since the 1970s.

The current rate sits at 4.75 percent with the anticipation of more than prior expectations to come until inflation target is met.

Higher interest rates put a lid on expansion, particularly in the livestock business. Inflation also hits the consumer. We have started

to see a decrease in M2 money supply, the money supply of cash, checking, and other types readily converted into cash.

Personal saving rate has reduced down to 3.4 percent. The producer price index rose 0.7 percent in January over the 0.4 percent expectation, largely due to higher food and energy prices.

It is difficult at this time to expect the consumer to become more active, increasing demand.

Global pork production was lower in 2022 and is expected to remain flat in 2023 as high input cost and demand uncertainty remain due to inflation.

Where does this leave us? A higher probability of improved moisture, a smaller cattle and hog inventory, less money supply, and inflation concerns around the globe.

With that said, it is difficult to assume an increase in demand.

This makes managing

risk a priority today!

Over the past several years, marketing a crop ahead of harvest hasn't performed well, while waiting for harvest has had better results than in years past.

This has caused many of us to be all too complacent.

With the potential for an improved weather pattern and an unlikely increase of overall demand, grains could be looking at a decent setback.

Crop insurance this year will not be protecting a profit, making marketing grain ahead of harvest a more pressing priority.

Take some time to look over your crop insurance options. Look into options such as yield protection in comparison to revenue protection. Look at price targets for new crop sales.

Consider using options to take some risk off while allowing some upside potential. Consider the opportunities offered today, and remember every season is unique.

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Updated Minnesota Groundwater Protection Rule Map available

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has issued an updated map that will help farmers across the state comply with the Groundwater Protection Rule.

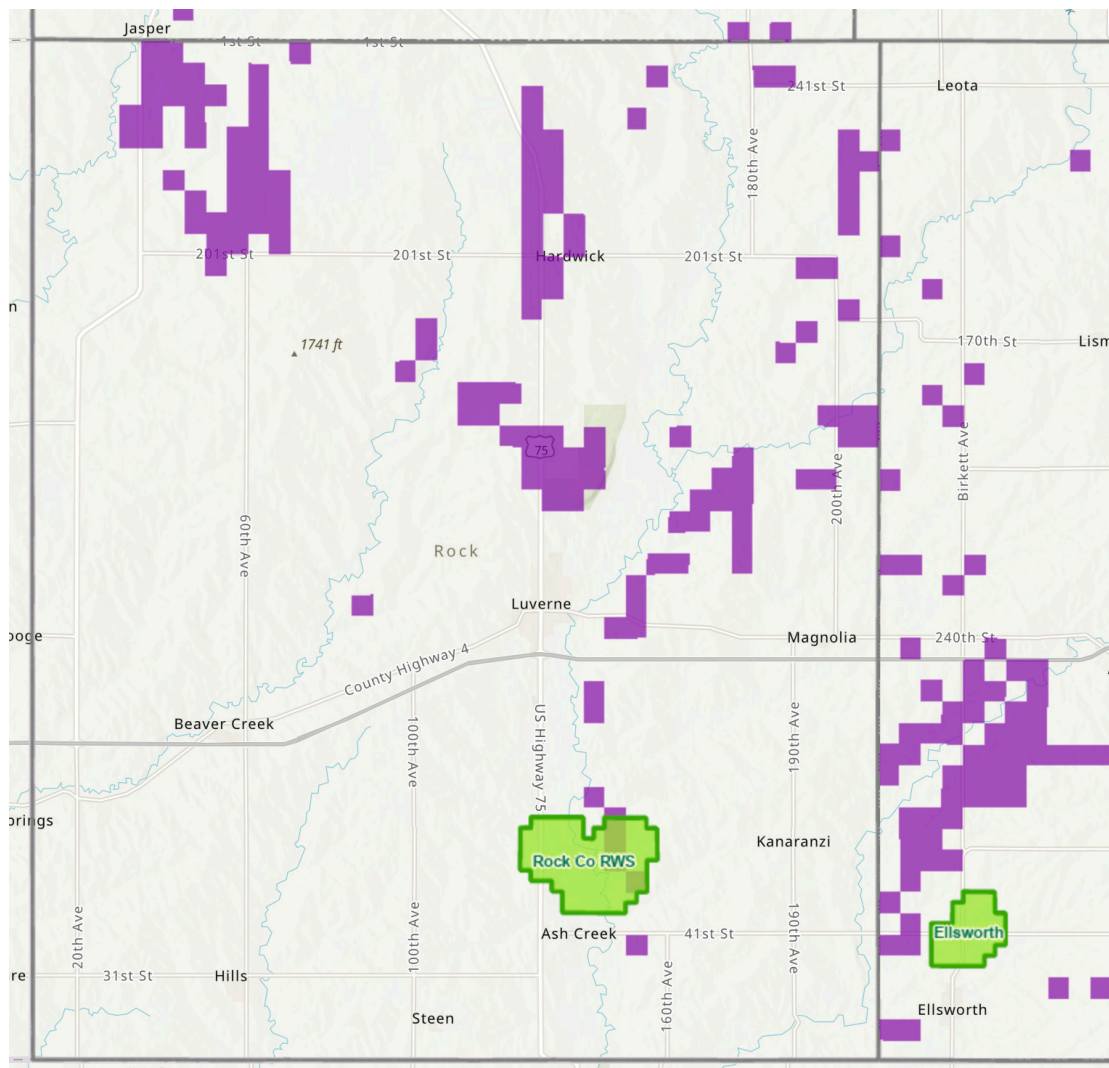
The rule restricts fall application of nitrogen fertilizer in areas vulnerable to contamination, and it outlines steps to reduce the severity of contamination in areas where nitrate is already elevated in public water supply wells.

The MDA has made changes to the Fall Nitrogen Fertilizer Application Restrictions map which is accessible on the MDA website.

There have been changes to the Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMA). One DWSMA was removed and two DWSMAs had boundary changes.

Additional information on the fall application restrictions and exceptions to the restrictions can be found on the MDA's website.

The restriction of fall application of nitrogen fertilizer on these acres will begin Sept. 1, 2023.



The restriction of fall application of nitrogen fertilizer on acres identified in the updated maps will begin Sept. 1, 2023. The application of nitrogen fertilizer on cropland in the fall or on frozen soils will be restricted in vulnerable groundwater areas.

Farmers are encouraged to check the new map prior to the fall of 2023 to determine if their fields are subject to these restrictions.

The application of nitrogen fertilizer on cropland in the fall or on frozen soils will be restricted in vulnerable groundwater areas.

This includes quarter-sections of land where 50 percent or more of the quarter-section is in an area with vulnerable groundwater and in DWSMAs that have nitrate-nitrogen concentrations at or in excess of 5.4 mg/L nitrate-nitrogen.

An area with vulnerable groundwater is an area where nitrate can move easily through soil and into groundwater, contaminating drinking water sources.

Some portions of the DWSMAs have low and very low vulnerability; those areas are not subject to the fall restriction. Vulnerable areas for Part 1 of the rule are defined as:

- coarse textured soils based on USDA NRCS soils maps.
- shallow bedrock based on USDA NRCS soils maps.
- karst geology based on MN DNR map.

Consider manure application guidelines this growing season

By Brandon Bosch, Rock County Land Management Office

The upcoming growing season will kick off with many producers applying manure to their crop ground.

Livestock manure offers several nutrient and soil health benefits, and proper use of manure as a fertilizer minimizes nutrient pollution to water resources.

Collective following of best management practices limits the risk for expanding restrictions and can stretch the value of manure as a fertilizer source.

Manure application setbacks place emphasis on special protection areas, especially during winter months.

It is important to map setbacks in each field prior to application – intermittent streams are often overlooked as a protected surface water source.

Other sensitive features to consider are open tile intakes, DNR waters, protected wetlands, drainage ditches, and lakes/ponds.

Non-winter setbacks for manure application in special protection areas (within

Setbacks for land application of manure

Table 3. Minimum manure application setbacks (in feet) near sensitive features

	Winter frozen or snow-covered soils	Non-Winter with immediate incorporation (<24 hours)		Non-Winter not incorporated within 24 hours	
		With phos. mgmt.	No phos. mgmt.	vegetated buffer	Inadequate vegetated buffer
Lake, stream	300	25	300	100	300
Intermittent stream, *DNR protected wetland, ** drainage ditch w/o berms*	300	25	300	50	300
Open tile intake	300	0	0	300	300
Well, mine or quarry	50	50	50	50	50
Sinkhole with no diversion berm	Downslope 50' Upslope 300'	50	50	Downslope 50' Upslope 300'	Downslope 50' Upslope 300'

300 feet of lakes, streams, intermittent streams, public waters wetlands, and drainage ditches w/o berms) depend on application methods, vegetated buffer widths and phosphorus management practices.

They are outlined as follows:

Non-winter setbacks can be reduced from 300 feet to 25 feet if the manure is immediately incorporated and the rate

and frequency of manure application will not result in long-term soil phosphorus build-up (e.g. over any six-year period) on soils with phosphorus test levels exceeding 21 ppm Bray P1 or 16 ppm Olsen.

Crop removal rates of phosphorus can be used as a guide for limiting phosphorus rates until subsequent soil testing results

are available to determine if phosphorus build-up is occurring.

Non-winter setbacks can also be reduced along waters where permanent vegetative buffers are established.

Where vegetated buffers are at least 100 feet wide along lakes and streams and 50 feet wide along wetlands, intermittent streams, and unbermed drainage ditches,

the setbacks can be reduced to 100 and 50 feet, respectively.

The surface water setback for manure applied by a traveling gun or other irrigation equipment is 300 feet.

Open tile intakes;

All manure and process wastewater must be injected or immediately incorporated when applied within 300 feet of an open tile intake.

Mines, wells and quarries

Do not apply to land within 50 feet of a mine, well or quarry.

Road ditches

The feedlot rules specifically prohibit manure application into road ditches.

Additional information about manure application, storage, and stockpiling requirements can be found on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website.

Contact the Rock County Land Management Office if you have any questions about manure application requirements.

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Stepping Up:

Rock County walks the walk with soy-based shoes

Area soybean farmers donate soy-based shoes to frontline health care workers

From farm to frontline, the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council (MSR&PC) is taking another giant leap forward to highlight environmentally friendly investments from the soybean checkoff.

Rock County soybean farmers in partnership with MSR&PC, which directs the state's soybean checkoff resources, are launching the Stepping Up campaign.

It amplifies farmer profitability and promotes the value-added uses of the "miracle bean" while making community connections.

Coming on the heels of the successful Driving Soy promotion, Minnesota counties have laced up to promote renewable, value-added soy products and give back to frontline health care workers in their counties.

Since Stepping Up began in Summer 2022, more than 50 counties across the state have participated in the campaign, donating more than 3,000 pairs of shoes.

"We are so glad to make this donation of soy-based Skechers shoes to the Good Samaritan Society of Luverne staff," Rock County Corn and Soybean Growers board member Lucas Peters said.

"With this donation, we were able to give them a well-deserved thank you for what they do for our community."

As part of the Stepping Up promotional effort, Rock County donated 50 pairs of Skechers soy-based GO shoes to the Good Samaritan location in Luverne.

"The staff were very appreciative of the donation," Good Samaritan Luverne Mary Jane Brown Administrator Kiona Rogers said.

"It was a great mood booster and safetywise we have a lot of staff who have worn out their shoes and these are good



Rock County Corn and Soybean Growers Board members Lucas Peters (far left) and Ryan Hoff (far right) donate soy-based shoes to various staff at Mary Jane Brown Good Samaritan Center on Jan. 12 as part of the Soybean Growers' "Stepping Up" program.



quality. They were excited and it is very appreciated. We're grateful to have the Rock County Corn and Soybean Growers be so involved in the local organization."

The Stepping Up campaign ran throughout the summer.

The statewide effort strives to inform both farming and non-farming public on soy's environmental advantages and the myriad uses of soybean oil.

County leaders also want to show their appreciation to health care workers in their community.

"We know how much health care workers sacrifice for others in communities throughout Minnesota, es-

pecially in the past couple of years. I've seen it firsthand," said Council Chair Joe Serbus, whose wife, Doreen, has worked in health care for more than 40 years.

"This campaign is an investment in both value-added soybean products and in the selfless health care professionals who keep us safe and healthy."

A step above the rest

In 2020 Skechers released its GO line of footwear, which uses soybean oil to improve grip, stability and durability.

Skechers is using the same checkoff-supported technology featured in Goodyear Tire Company's line of sustainable soy-based tires, which incorporated soy into its rubber technology.

Kurt Stockbridge, Skechers vice president of Product Development and Innovation, said the company and the soy-

bean checkoff are stepping up to create a superior shoe and reduce their environmental footprints.

"Discovering ways to make product more sustainable is top of mind for Skechers," Stockbridge said.

"Though we were aware of the sustainable qualities of soybean oil, we were surprised to learn what the oil could do to improve our outsole rubber performance."

For each dollar, Rock County soybean farmers pay toward checkoff resources, growers receive an estimated \$12.33 in return value.

Today, more than 1,000 commercially available products – ranging from shoes to machinery lubricants to asphalt – use commodity and high oleic soybean oil.

"Once that soybean hits the mill, it's local, it's national – it's everywhere," said Belinda Burrier, a United Soybean Director who helped oversee the partnership with

Skechers.

"The money farmers make back on the checkoff is fantastic."

About the Rock County Corn and Soybean Growers Board

Rock County is affiliated with the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council, a 15-person, farmer-led board that oversees the investment of checkoff dollars on behalf of the nearly 28,000 soybean farmers in Minnesota.

The Council is governed by the rules of a federally mandated checkoff program requiring all soybean producers to pay a fee on the soybeans they sell.

This money is used to promote, educate and develop market opportunities for soybeans.

Follow the Stepping Up social media campaign at #SoySteppingUp and by visiting mnsoybean.org/stepping-up.

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American Farm Bureau predicts ag income will fall

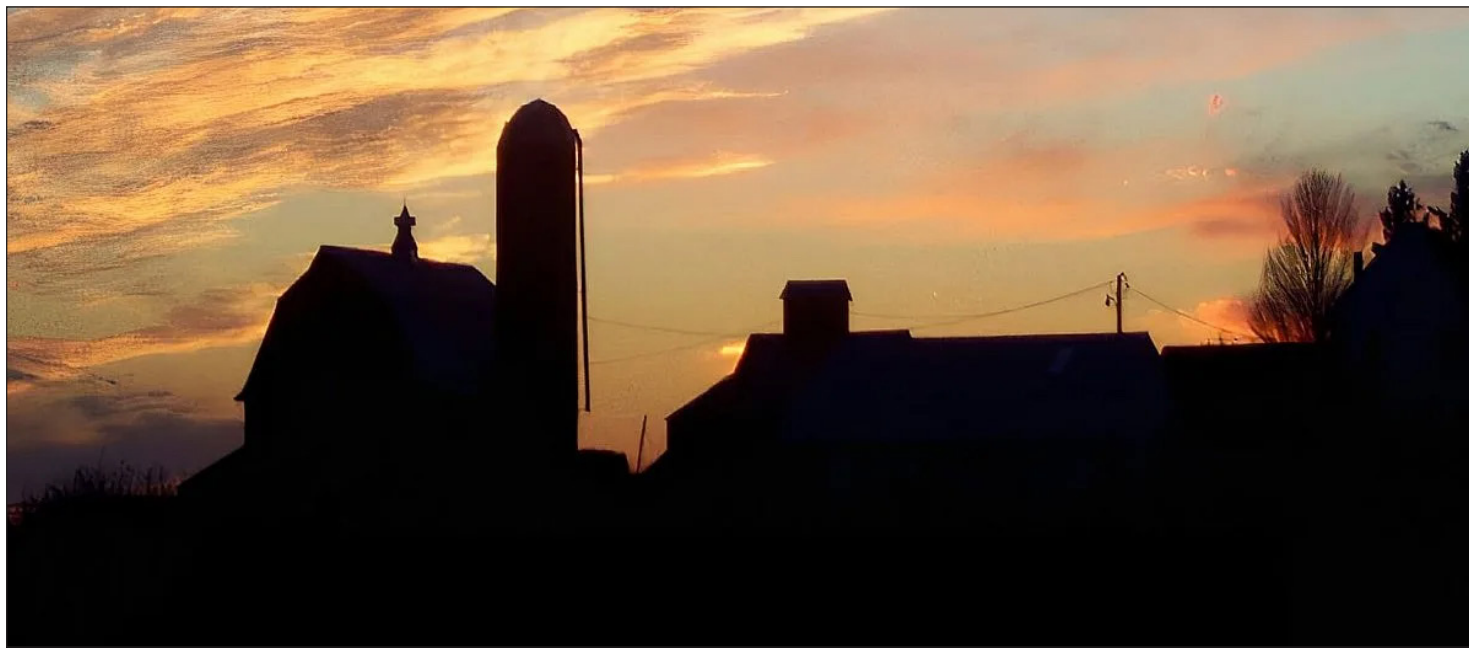
While America's families continue to deal with record-high grocery prices, farm families can expect to see a drop in income in 2023.

American Farm Bureau Federation economists analyzed USDA's Farm Sector Income Forecast in their latest Market Intel report.

U.S. net farm income is forecast to fall almost 16 percent from last year, while costs are expected to increase more than 4 percent, on top of a record increase in production expenses last year.

Increased operating costs, lower prices for livestock and crops, and the end of pandemic-related assistance are among the factors that will contribute to a loss in farm income, down to \$136.9 billion.

While fuel and fertil-



U.S. net farm income is forecast to fall almost 16 percent from last year, while costs are expected to increase more than 4 percent, on top of a record increase in production expenses last year.

izer costs are expected to decline somewhat from record highs, marketing, storage and transportation costs are forecast to increase 11 percent.

Labor costs are

projected to increase 7 percent.

"The farm income forecast is a stark reminder that America's farmers and ranchers are not reaping big benefits from higher prices at the

grocery store," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall.

"Although some commodity prices are rising, farmers are being hit by circumstances beyond their control, from the cost of supplies and labor

to drought and avian influenza. That's why the farm bill is so important and must be passed this year. Farm bill programs enable farmers to manage the risk and weather the storm of challenges

to continue stocking the pantries of America's families."

Adding to the challenges, interest rates are rising, and farm sector debt is projected to increase \$31.9 billion to a record \$535 billion.

According to the Market Intel, "Nearly 70 percent of farm debt is in the form of real estate debt, for the land to grow crops and raise livestock.

Real estate debt is projected to increase \$26.79 billion to a record-high \$375.8 billion, largely due to an increase in land values across the country.

Non-real estate debt, or debt for purchases of things like equipment, machinery, feed and livestock is projected to increase by \$4.4 billion to a record \$159.1 billion."

USDA releases farm sector income forecast for 2023

Farm sector income is forecast to fall in 2023 following two years of strong growth.

Net farm income, a broad measure of profits, is forecast to decrease by \$25.9 billion (15.9 percent) from 2022 to \$136.9 billion in calendar year 2023.

This expected decrease follows an annual increase of \$46.5 billion (49.2 percent) in 2021 and a forecast increase of \$21.9 billion (15.5 percent) in 2022.

Net cash farm income is forecast to decrease by \$39.4 billion (20.7 percent) from 2022 to \$150.6 billion in 2023, after an annual increase of \$32.7 billion (28.0 percent) in 2021 and a forecast increase of \$40.4 billion (27.0 percent) in 2022.

In inflation-adjusted

dollars, net farm income is forecast to decrease by \$30.5 billion (18.2 percent) in 2023 and net cash farm income is forecast to decrease by \$44.7 billion (22.9 percent) compared with the previous year.

If realized, both income measures would remain above their 2020 level and 2002-2021 average (in inflation-adjusted dollars).

Summary findings

•**Overall, farm cash receipts are forecast to decrease** by \$23.6 billion (4.3 percent) from 2022 to \$519.9 billion in 2023 in nominal dollars.

Total crop receipts are forecast to decrease by \$8.9 billion (3.1 percent) from 2022 levels to \$276.9 billion.

Receipts for soybeans

and corn are forecast to decrease while receipts for wheat and hay are forecast to increase.

Total animal/animal product receipts are expected to decrease by \$14.7 billion (5.7 percent) to \$243.0 billion, following declines in receipts for milk, eggs, broilers, and hogs.

•Direct government farm payments will decrease.

They are forecast at \$10.2 billion in 2023, a \$5.4 billion (34.4 percent) decrease from 2022 levels.

Direct government farm payments include federal farm program payments paid directly to farmers and ranchers but exclude U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) loans and insurance indemnity payments made by the Federal Crop

Insurance Corporation.

Much of this decline is because of lower supplemental and ad hoc disaster assistance to farmers and ranchers compared with 2022.

•**Total production expenses**, including those associated with operator dwellings, **are forecast to increase** by \$18.2 billion (4.1 percent) in 2023 to \$459.5 billion.

Interest expenses and livestock/poultry purchases are expected to increase in 2023 while spending on feed and fuels/oils is expected to decline relative to 2022.

•**Farm sector equity is expected to increase** by 5.0 percent in 2023 to \$3.5 trillion in nominal terms.

Farm sector assets are

forecast to increase 5.2 percent in 2023 to \$4.0 trillion following expected increases in the value of farm real estate assets.

Farm sector debt is forecast to increase 6.2 percent in 2023 to \$535.1 billion.

Debt-to-asset levels for the sector are forecast to worsen from 13.09 percent in 2022 to 13.22 percent in 2023.

After increasing in 2021 and 2022, working capital is forecast to fall 11.2 percent in 2023 relative to 2022.

Suggested citation for linking to this discussion: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. Farm Sector Income & Finances: Farm Sector Income Forecast, Feb. 7, 2023.



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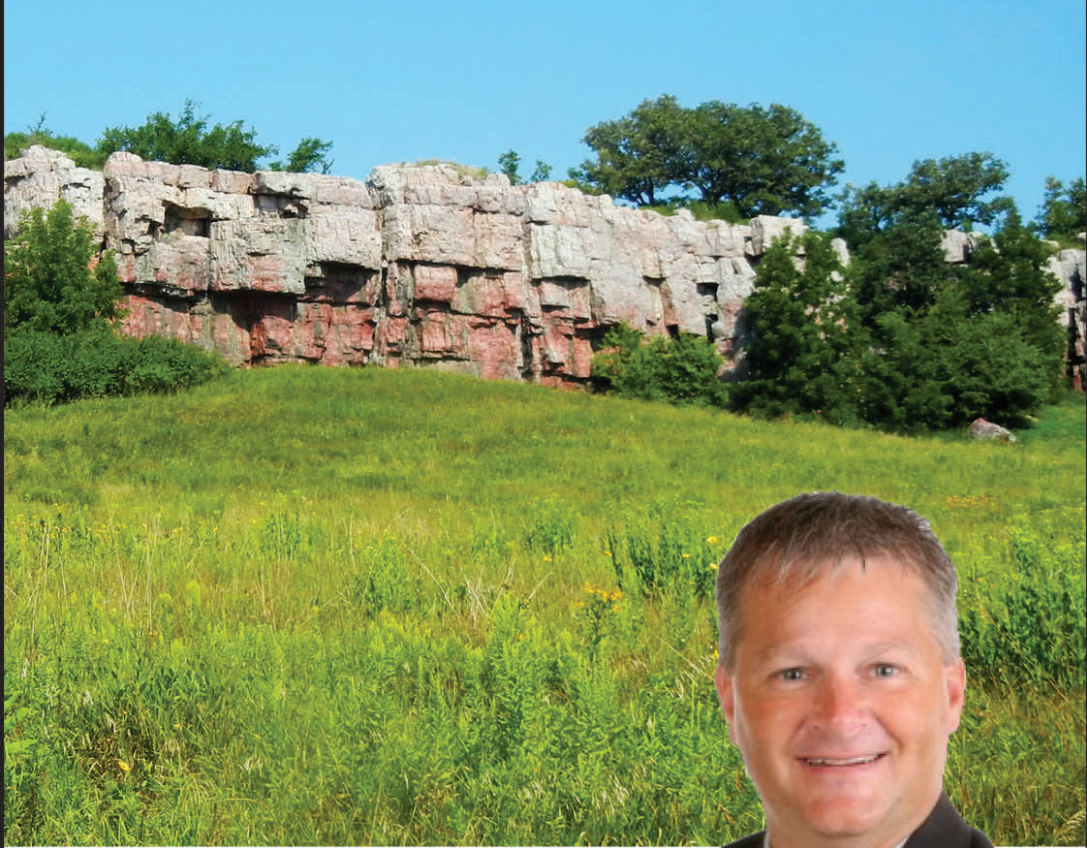

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What's that growing in your field?!

Consider cover crops for problems with weeds, washouts and more

By Lee Tapper,
Rock County Land
Management Office

Are you noticing these following issues in your fields: weeds, washouts, gullies, or even standing water in wet years?

If you have livestock, are you looking for another cost-friendly way to feed them?

If you answered yes to either of those, come visit with us at the Rock County SWCD/Land Management Office and discuss different cover crop and soil health options.

We are here to assist you with choosing the right cover crop options that will work for your farming operation.

You can also bring your agronomist to help you make good herbicide choices.

The Land Management Office offers different cost-share for trying cover crops and soil health practices on your farm.

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The Rock County



Cover crops solve weed problems in row crops and offer additional feed for livestock.

Soil Health Team is made up of farmers in Rock County who have implemented cover crops into their farming practices.

They are willing to answer your questions and to share their experiences.

Give our office a call at 507-283-8862 or come in the Land Management building to sit down and chat with us.



Minnesota Farmers Union calls for MinnesotaCare public health care option

Recently Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU) testified before the Minnesota House Commerce Committee in support of House File 96, Representative Jamie Long's bill to expand MinnesotaCare with a public option.

"Unaffordable health insurance forces many family farmers to seek off-farm jobs in order to access affordable health insurance for their families," said MFU President Gary Wertish.

"Our members have consistently placed affordable health insurance and accessible health care atop their list of policy priorities. This is the year to make it happen."

MinnesotaCare provides health insurance coverage to people who do not have access to affordable health insurance.

Most members pay a monthly premium and the premium is based on the member's income.

The public option allows all Minnesotans to buy into this health insurance. Farmers' incomes are typically variable, ris-

ing when product prices are high and falling when product prices fall. This means farmers may qualify in some years and not others.

Danny Lundell, who farms near Cannon Falls with his wife, Mary, said the rising cost of purchasing health insurance on their own forced them to seek other options.

"At one point, we had a \$20,000 deductible and were allowed \$100 to use for wellness visits," Lundell said.

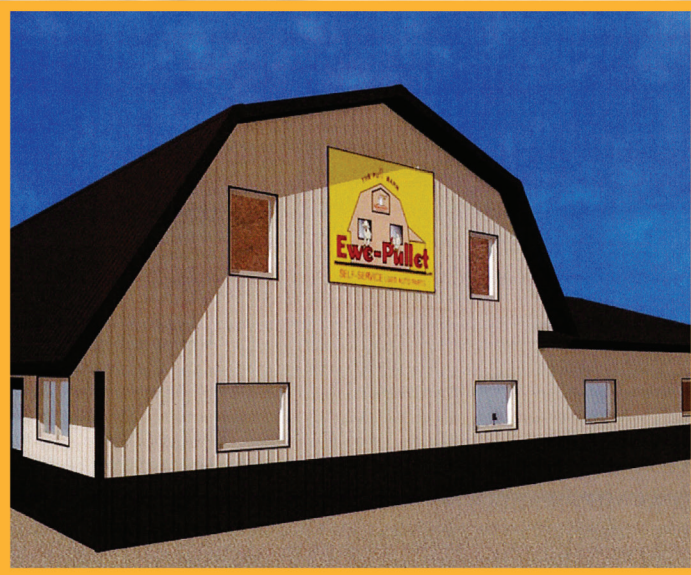
"That didn't cover the doctor's visit, let alone any lab fees."

Now Mary is employed off the farm to provide health insurance coverage for the couple.

"A MinnesotaCare buy-in option would provide health care insurance that we and other farmers could actually afford to purchase and use while providing high-quality care," Lundell said.

"It would allow the next generation of family farmers the ability to live and work in rural communities. Let's get this done."

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