



\$1.25

Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, April 20, 2023

Hills-Beaver Creek bond referendum passes with narrow margin

By Mavis Fodness

A little more than half of the Hills-Beaver Creek School District voters approved both bond referendum questions in a special election April 11.

Question No. 1, to build a new elementary school in Beaver Creek, passed with 53 percent approval. Vote totals were 345 "yes" and 311 "no."

Question No. 2, to improve the Hugo Goehle gymnasium site in Hills, passed with 56 percent approval. Vote totals were 367

Question No. 1, to build a new elementary school in Beaver Creek, passed with 53 percent approval 345-311. Question No. 2, to improve the Hugo Goehle gymnasium site in Hills, passed with 56 percent approval 367-285.

"yes" and 285 "no."

Overall, 54 percent of the district's registered voters cast ballots April 11.

The approved \$29.975 million referendum means a new \$26.5 million elementary school will be built in Beaver Creek and \$3.475 million will be spent to expand the parking lot at the current second-

ary school, demolish the former high school in Hills, and improve the Hugo Goehle gymnasium site currently attached to the former school.

School board members canvassed the tabulated results by the Rock County Auditor's Office vote during their regular meeting Monday night.

Members commented on the historically low turnout numbers.

Superintendent Todd Holthaus pointed out 237 fewer people voted in last week's special election than in the 2009 special election to build the new secondary school.

Despite the low numbers, board members said they appreci-

ated the positive vote and what the building projects will mean for the district.

"Now the work begins," said Chairman Arlyn Gehrke. "With a positive outcome to both referendum questions, we can be more future-focused in our long-term building maintenance plans instead of piecemealing necessary upgrades together if the referendum was unsuccessful."

"We thank the H-BC district

H-BC bond passes/see page 3A



Lori Sorenson photo/0420 beaver creek cidery

Sean McFarland operates an orchard with 2,000 heirloom cider apple trees at his Blackshire Farms business near Beaver Creek and is hoping to establish a cidery in the Springbrooke golf and events facility in Beaver Creek. He would lease the building from owner Rick Gourley.

Orchard owner proposes cidery in Springbrooke Council denies permit request, agrees to consider additional options

By Lori Sorenson

A Beaver Creek horticulturalist is hoping to establish an orchard and cidery at the Springbrooke events facility and golf course.

Sean McFarland applied for a conditional use permit requesting an ag classification for the property so he can grow apples for cider and wine under a Minnesota Farm Winery License.

The application was submitted April 3 by Springbrooke owner Rick Gourley.

McFarland would lease the prop-

erty — including the restaurant, bar, event center and part of the golf course — from Gourley to operate his agritourism business.

Beaver Creek City Council members heard McFarland's proposal at their Wednesday, April 12, meeting.

"Successful wineries operate all around the region," he told council members. "However, no true cideries operate within 200-plus miles of Sioux Falls."

"True" cider is made from pure pressed cider-specific apples and has no

added sugar or flavors.

"Beaver Creek has the opportunity to offer a winery and pumpkin- and apple-picking experience where none exists in the immediate area," McFarland said.

The cider presses would be in the current Springbrooke building or in a newly constructed building nearby.

A tasting room would be in the lower-level existing bar, and McFarland would use Gourley's existing liquor license,

Cidery in Springbrooke/see page 2A

Hardwick City Council deals with 'dog poo' concerns

By Mavis Fodness

Hardwick City Council is considering enforcement of its public nuisance ordinance after a resident submitted a written complaint.

City clerk Tammy Johnson read the letter at the council's April 11 meeting.

"There are many people in town with dogs," wrote Cindy Moerke. "Most of them pick up their pets' poo, but there are some who do not."

She said pets often leave excrement on lawns of residents who do not have pets.

"This summer could be bad if this continues," she said.

Dog excrement is not the only nuisance council members have observed, and they're considering possible enforcement in the community of 186 residents.

"And not just dogs. Cat poo. I see cigarette butts all over town. Garbage blowing around," Mayor Tom Haas said.

The council adopted its current nuisance ordinance in 2016, primarily due to the accumulation of materials piled against garages and outside homes.

The ordinance defines public nuisance as intentional acts that affect the health, morals and decency, peace and safety of city residents.

The city can enforce compliance and misdemeanor charges.

Council members took no action on Moerke's letter at their meeting.

Health officials: Pet excrement poses no human health hazards

Environmental health manager Jason Kloss said Monday that natural deposits by pets on lawns generally pose

Hardwick dog poo/see page 3A

'Coach Stig' to bring 'whole team' message to Palace Theatre May 1

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne Initiatives For Tomorrow will bring John Stiegelmeier to the Palace Theatre on Monday, May 1.

"Coach Stig" formerly coached the South Dakota State University football team and is known as the winningest football coach in the history of SDSU.

He served as the head coach from 1997 to 2023, compiling a record of 199-112, recently leading the Jackrabbits to a national championship before announcing his retirement.

Stiegelmeier will bring his message, "It Takes a Whole Team to Win," to the Palace at 5:30 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public.

LIFT is selling tickets for a VIP reception at Sterling's Café and Grille for \$50 per person as a fundraiser for its community projects.

The reception includes "food, beverage, fellowship, and inspiration," and \$20 of the ticket



John Stiegelmeier, former SDSU football coach, will speak at the Palace Theatre on May 1.

purchase is a tax-deductible donation.

Tickets for the VIP event and reserved Palace seating are available only with advance purchase at the Chamber. Call 507-283-4061. The deadline to buy advance tickets is April 25.

Mexican restaurant coming to South Highway 75 in Luverne

By Lori Sorenson

At their Tuesday, April 11, meeting, Luverne City Council members approved annual liquor and Sunday on-sale licenses for Los Bravos, LLC, the Mexican restaurant coming to South Highway 75.

The owner of Los Bravos, Luis Abundes, purchased the former 75 Diner restaurant from Codie Deutsch and requested liquor licenses for the period April 12 through Dec. 31.

Abundes closed on the purchase Monday and plans to open for business in a month, just after Mother's Day.

Deutsch will serve as the resident manager for Abundes,

who lives in Jackson; however, she said she'll have no role in the operation of the new restaurant.

Abundes also owns Fiesta Brava Mexican Restaurant in Jackson. Another Fiesta Brava operates in Rock Rapids, Iowa. He also owns several other restaurants in other states.

According to council information, all materials have been submitted (copy of restaurant license, certificate of insurance and fees) and the background checks for Abundes and Deutsch were favorable.

Those applications will be sent to the state for approval as well.



Opinion Page 4A Sports 1B
Obituaries Page 7A Public notices 6B

www.star-herald.com

Volume 148, Number 16
Luverne, MN 56156 USPS 468-040

How to reach us

507-283-2333 PO Box 837
editor@star-herald.com Luverne, MN 56156

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Meetings

Kenneth Cemetery Association annual meeting will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 6, in the Kenneth Community Center. Members and non-members are encouraged to attend.

LHS to perform Addams Family

The Luverne High School Drama Department will present four performances of the "The Addams Family: A New Musical Comedy," on April 27, May 4, 5 and 6 in the performing arts center. Curtain opens at 7 p.m.

Kindergartners perform April 28

The kindergarten students of Luverne Elementary will perform "Getting Down with Mama Goose" 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 28, in the performing arts center. The performance will also be livestreamed from the schools' social media site.

SAIL classes in Hills

SAIL classes meet in Hills Monday and Thursday mornings now through June 22. The classes, Stay Active and Independent for Life, improve strength and balance. They meet from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Game Plan 4 Hope, 312 W. 3rd St. in Hills. There is no cost to attend, but pre-registration is required by calling volunteer class leaders Carol Gerhke, 507-220-1116, or Nelva Behr, 507-962-3413.

LWML Spring Rally April 22

The Pipestone Zone Lutheran Women's Missionary League Spring Rally will be Saturday, April 22, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pipestone. Registration is at 9 a.m. with coffee and rolls. Guest speaker is the Rev. Dr. Armand Boehme on the topic, "I am spiritual, but not religious. Millennials and the church." Gifts from the Heart are personal care items for the Pipestone County Hospice. Lunch will follow program. Call Linda Wenzel, 507-220-8194.

A.C.E. starts 'Matter of Balance' classes April 24

A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota will offer a new six-week round of "Matter of Balance" classes starting Monday, April 24, at the Magnolia Post Office. The classes will continue meeting at 1 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays through May 17. There is no cost, but re-registration is required and donations are accepted. Call Linda, 507-283-5064, or Connie (507) 220-3584 or online at <https://yourjuniper.org/Classes/Register/3978>

Online BQA certification April 25

University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota Beef Council will host a free online Beef Quality Assurance training from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 25, for producers to earn a three-year BQA certification. The training is free, but registration is required at <https://z.umn.edu/BQAApril25>

State park naturalist offers programs April 29

The Blue Mounds State Park naturalist will offer two programs on Saturday, April 29, at the picnic shelter. "Predator vs Prey," from 10 to 11 a.m. is designed for ages 6-12, but all ages are welcome. From the smallest insect to the largest fish in the river, every animal plays a role in the ecosystem. "Beavers: Nature's Engineers" from 3 to 4 p.m. is about America's largest rodent. Discover how these critters use unique adaptations to impact the landscape. The program will conclude with a short walk to the creek to look for beaver activity. Contact park staff at bluemounds.statepark@state.mn.us or 507-283-6050 with questions.



Lori Sorenson photo/0420 beaver creek cidery

Sean McFarland has been busy pruning 2,000 heirloom cider apple trees at his Blackshire Farms business near Beaver Creek. He approached the Beaver Creek City Council April 12 about a conditional use permit that would allow him to establish a cidery in the Springbrooke golf and events facility in Beaver Creek. He would lease the building from owner Rick Gourley.

Cider proposed in Beaver Creek's Springbrooke/from page 1A

pending his own background checks and other paperwork clearing.

Apple trees would be planted in tight rows in and around the golf course "adding to the beauty and increasing the golf course's playability by creating obstacles and hazards," McFarland wrote in the permit application.

There would be roughly 1,000 trees that would take up about 2 to 3 acres of the 52-acre property. Pumpkin patches would grow among them.

"The community will benefit from a business that welcomes and attracts all people of all ages, interests and incomes," he said. "Local businesses will benefit from increased visitors to our city."

Blackshire Farms

McFarland and his wife, Marcella, have operated Blackshire Farms since 2016 west of Beaver Creek near the intersection of County Road 4 and 70th Avenue.

The farm has a pick-your-own pumpkin patch, honeybees, heirloom raspberry patches, rhubarb and strawberry beds, asparagus and personal produce gardens.

The Blackshire orchards include 2,000 heirloom cider apple trees that are maturing on schedule

"Successful wineries operate all around the region. However, no true cideries operate within 200-plus miles of Sioux Falls."

— Sean McFarland, horticulturalist

for a half crop this year and a full crop next year, when they plan to start pressing for cider.

"I have a vision for a cidery, and we've been working toward this for 10 years," McFarland said.

When Springbrooke became available for rent, he said it was an opportunity worth exploring for his own business and to benefit the community.

"Increased visitors may increase demand for vacant lots in city limits," McFarland said.

"The city government will benefit from increased tax revenue. The building itself will benefit from increased revenue that will ensure upkeep and renovations through the years."

Farm winery license requires farming in town

Farm wineries are given a special status in Minnesota's liquor laws to encourage and support the fledgling farm winery industry.

He said a farm winery license would allow him to

harvest apples and sell the fruit and cider, but statute requires licensees to operate on land zoned or permitted for ag use.

In order to have a farm winery at Springbrooke, the property would need to be zoned or permitted for agriculture use. It's currently zoned residential and industrial, and Beaver Creek's ordinance doesn't allow zoning for agricultural purposes.

For council members to accommodate McFarland's request, they'd have to change the city ordinance — a costly and time-consuming measure that would require public notices and public hearings. (Gourley has offered to share those costs.)

At that point, the council could act on McFarland's request for a conditional use permit, which also requires public notice and comment.

Conditions would include, among other things, no commercial livestock and no industrial farming activities except those directly relating to production of cider and wine.

Part of the property near the pumphouse and maintenance shed is already zoned industrial and could possibly allow for McFarland's retail pumpkin growing and selling.

However, the Springbrooke building and golf course are zoned residential, and a farm winery license would require rezoning it for ag use.

Council denies request

McFarland's proposal is backed by a detailed business plan and was advised by Flaherty and Hood municipal attorney Alyssa Harrington, who specializes in ordinances and permits.

He shared her contact information with the council.

Council members listened with interest to the proposal, and among other questions they wanted to know if the golf course would remain a golf course.

"Out of respect for the people building homes there, it would be fair for it to remain a golf course," council member Al Harnack said.

McFarland assured them he had no intention of changing the golf course, which Gourley intends to redevelop after 15 years of being closed.

Mayor Josh Teune said he'd discussed McFarland's proposal with Beaver Creek's city attorney Jennifer Reinke of Eisma and Eisma, who advised the city to deny the request for now.

"I think for now we have to follow our attorney's advice and deny the permit," Teune said. "That doesn't mean we can't revisit it."

Harnack suggested tabling the request until the council had more information, but Teune said there wasn't time for that.

The April 2 conditional use application request would automatically go into effect as submitted if it's not acted on within 60 days.

Because the ordinance and permit process would take nearly two months, the council opted to deny the request for now.

"It doesn't hurt my feelings not having it approved tonight," McFarland said at the meeting.

"So long as we can talk about it again in a future context. ... I'm a squeaky wheel; you'll be hearing from me."

#TellUsTuesday Results

Scan Here to Vote for this Week's Survey!

Which Lie Do You Tell The Most Often?

5 more minutes	20%
I'm on my way	16%
I'm listening	8%
I didn't see your text/hear my phone	36%
I have no idea	20%

Rock County STAR HERALD

AVAILABLE NOW 24 HOUR Online Access ONLY 99¢

No Subscription?? Want to read a story? ...NO PROBLEM!! Get access to the Star Herald E-Edition for 24 hours for just 99¢. Pay online with your credit card. www.star-herald.com

Click the button online to get started.

24 Hours for 99¢

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

DR. MICHAEL SMITH

ROCK COUNTY CHIROPRACTIC

Laser Therapy • Custom Orthotics
Men, Women & Children's Health
Athletic Care • Massage Therapy
Work & Auto Injuries • Postural Restoration

WWW.ROCKCOUNTYCHIROPRACTIC.COM
283-2561 • 103 E. MAIN, LUVERNE

• Chiropractic

Viking Electric LLC

Tim Gangestad
Owner

(507) 290-2595

Conquering all of your electrical needs!
Residential • Commercial • Agricultural

• Electrician

Luverne MINNESOTA City Offices

Love the life!

PO Box 659, Luverne, MN 56156
507-449-2388 (24 hour voice mail)

www.cityofluverne.org

• City

LUVERNE HEALTH & WELLNESS

Codie Zantenhorst, DC
LuverneChiro.com

Chiropractic Acupuncture Massage
Auto, Work, and Sports Injuries

109 S Freeman Ave Luverne, MN
507.449.4400

• Chiropractic

Health officials issue alert for canine influenza

The H3N2 strain of canine influenza has been confirmed in the recent Twin Cities animal shelter outbreak.

This strain tends to be more virulent, spreads faster and easier, and tends to make dogs sicker than the H3N8 strain. Dogs shed the virus for 28 days after becoming infected.

Vaccines may be in short supply, especially bivalent varieties. H3N2 specific, mono-valent vaccines may be available and are recommended until the bivalent supply is restocked. Animals at high risk

for severe clinical disease (young, old, other medical conditions) should be prioritized, as well as dogs in high-risk settings.

Any dog with upper respiratory signs should be quarantined for 30 days to help prevent the spread of influenza, even with a negative test result.

Veterinarians are urged to follow simple precautions with suspected patients in clinics. Patient physical contact should be limited to only what is necessary, and staff should always wash their hands before and after handling patients.

Hardwick dog poo/from page 1A

no health hazard.

“Animal feces on lawns typically does not meet the definition of a public health nuisance, unless the accumulation is particularly excessive,” he said.

“It’s just negligence by the pet owner. It’s not fun to see.”

Hardwick is not the only community experiencing pet excrement on lawns after cold weather begins to abate.

“In winter it is difficult to manage the routine cleanup,” he said. “In the springtime, responsible pet owners will clean up their pets’ messes.”

In larger cities, where there are more person-

nel to enforce nuisance ordinances, pet owners are required to submit DNA samples.

Excrement found and traced to the pet leads to fines to the owner.

Kloss said many smaller communities cannot afford such enforcement measures.

These towns rely on the cleaning up after one’s pet as being a “good neighbor.”

“Go by the ‘Tall Grass Rule,’” he said. “If there’s tall grass, especially along the township road, where pets can do their business, no one cares. If it’s on a manicured lawn, it’s not acceptable and pick it up.”

H-BC bond passes/from page 1A

voters in supporting our long-term plans.”

Due to receiving a favorable review from the State Department of Education for the proposed referendum, the two questions needed a simple voter approval to pass.

Before the polls opened at 7 a.m., there were 1,186 registered voters in the H-BC district which includes the cities of Hills, Beaver Creek and Steen and all or portions of Martin, Clinton, Beaver Creek and Springwater townships.

A total of 657 ballots were cast on the day of the special election, including 29 voters who registered at the election site. Also included were 30 voters casting absentee votes.

Residents had two polling places in which to cast ballots until the 8 p.m. deadline.

Results were different between the two precincts.

Vote totals for Question No. 1 indicated 216 voted “yes” in the first precinct (Hills, Steen, Clinton and Martin townships) with 190 voting “no.”

In the second precinct (Beaver Creek, Springwater and Beaver Creek townships) results were 108 “yes” and 112 “no.”

Question No. 2 had

238 “yes” votes and 164 “no” votes in the first precinct. Second precinct votes had 109 “yes” votes and 111 “no” votes.

Elementary to open for 2025-26 school year

If construction goes as planned, the new H-BC Elementary School will be complete for the start of the 2025-26 school year.

Construction is expected to start in spring 2024.

Preston Euerle with R.A. Morton of St. Cloud is the construction manager.

He said the next couple of months will have the architects, AST&R out of Sioux Falls, preparing plans for the bid process, estimated to take place in October or November.

Demolition of the former high school is expected to be completed next summer.

The current elementary school in Beaver Creek is also slated for demolition once the new school is finished.

According to information presented at Monday’s school board meeting, bonds for the \$29.975 million project will also be sold at two separate sales. The first sale will take place this spring or summer, with the second sale set for the first of the year.



Mavis Fodness photo/0420 H-BC Walkathon 2023

Kindergartners at Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary School tally 1.2 miles during the walkathon Friday afternoon through the streets of Beaver Creek. The annual schoolwide fundraiser raised \$6,000 for the Parent Teachers Organization to be used to pay for various activities throughout the school year. Students enjoyed fair weather and only a little rain.



Above, kindergartners Tamie Krull (left) and Elias Blank spend time making faces at each other during the H-BC PTO fundraiser walkathon. **At left**, Addison Sammons (left), Charlie Wilsey and Jordyn Rauk embrace in friendship while they walk. **Below left**, fourth-graders (in front from left) Gage Spykerboer and Jason Vandeberg lead the trek around the H-BC Elementary school during their 1.4 total miles.

H-BC Elementary students raise \$6,000 by walking

By Mavis Fodness

Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary students spent Friday afternoon walking a combined eight miles to raise nearly \$6,000 for the school’s parent-teacher organization.

Kindergarten through fifth-grade students walked outside during their physical education class times.

Teacher Darin DeBoer said each class walked as a group for the same amount of time.

Classes and their distances were:

- 1.2 miles kindergartners.
- 1 mile first-graders.
- 1.3 miles second-graders.

•1.87 miles third-graders.

•1.4 miles fourth-graders.

•1.3 miles fifth-graders.

Temperatures were in the upper 50s with occasional rain showers.

DeBoer said first-graders were interrupted by a downpour that lasted a few minutes. They sheltered in a Beaver Creek resident’s garage.

Brianna Leuthold, treasurer of PTO, conducts the annual walk-a-thon fundraiser.

She said donations help to sponsor activities such as Puppy Relays, fall festival, year-end celebration, I Love to Read Month and others.

Stay connected to community events with a subscription to the Rock County Star Herald!

www.star-herald.com
507-283-2333

GET THE STAR HERALD SUBSCRIPTION THAT fits your lifestyle!

<u>Get the Star Herald Online</u>	
12 months	\$46
24 Hour Access	99¢
<u>Print Edition Only</u>	
In County: 12 months	\$79
In County: 6 months	\$59
Out of County*: 12 months	\$96
Out of County.* 6 months	\$73
<u>Online + Print Edition</u>	
In County: 12 months	\$96
Out of County*: 12 months	\$120

Rock County STAR HERALD

*Mailed as periodicals. Allow up to 2 weeks out of state.

Thank you, dear readers, for the 30-year journey of telling Rock County's story

We had cake in the office Tuesday to celebrate my 30 years as Star



Herald editor. I love what I do, and I cherish the role of a weekly paper in a community, so it's definitely worth celebrating.

Thirty years sounds impressive, but it's just on par with countless feature stories we've written about people in their jobs for 30 or more years.

When I started at the Star Herald in April 1993, Charlie Braa was still running the County Auditor's Office — and the County Board, too, from what I could tell.

Bill Weber had just replaced Gordy Gits as Luverne mayor, and Andy Steensma was representing us in the State Capitol where Arne Carlson was governor.

In my first months on the job, I wrote about Kyle Oldre starting as county personnel director (now administrator) and Dr. Diane Kennedy starting at Luverne Community Hospital (when it was still located downtown).

I wrote about Betty Mann's retirement from 25 years of teaching. Norm Miller was school superintendent and Ed Salzer was elementary principal in the three-story brick building in the middle of town. Magnolia elementary students still attended classes in Magnolia.

The Veterans Home had just opened in 1993 and the Evergreen housing additions were still part of the city's long-range plan.

I came to Rock County after writing for the U of M campus daily in Minneapolis and at the Worthington Daily Globe.

Lynn Taylor was the out-

ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

going editor and Carole Olson was the reporter who became my mentor and dear friend.

We were still photographing on film, which we developed in the darkroom where we printed images on paper in chemical trays. We pieced together the weekly editions one strip of waxed news copy at a time on pages that were driven to a press room 30 miles away.

Today we're digitally produced and sent to printers online. We still circulate news on paper, but many of our subscribers like the E-edition.

What hasn't changed in 30 years, however, is our approach to local news.

We're more committed than ever to telling the stories of Rock County — the schools, governments, businesses and, of course, the citizens.

In the name of journalism, I've had rare opportunities to get close to people and families I may have never otherwise met, and I'm a better person (and better journalist) for knowing them.

If this job has taught me anything, it's that we're all human, and everybody hurts.

And more than that, I'm repeatedly impressed by the resiliency of our people and the generosity of our community when someone needs help.

It's what sets us apart from other communities, and it's what makes my work so rewarding.

I consider it an honor and privilege to have been documenting Rock County's history for 30 years, and Lord willing, I'll be here many more.

Thank you, dear readers, for the journey and for allowing me to tell your story.

Severe Weather Awareness Week is this week, April 17-21

Statewide tornado drill to test outdoor sirens April 20

Are you ready for severe weather? Each year Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in collaboration with the National Weather Service, sponsors Severe Weather Awareness Week in Minnesota.

The week is designed to remind and educate the public about the seasonal threats from severe weather and how to avoid them.

It's also a good time to make and practice emergency plans and check emergency preparedness kits.

The most important events during Severe Weather Awareness Week are the two annual statewide tornado drills.

In Minnesota the 2023 statewide tornado drills are scheduled for Thursday, April 20. Outdoor warning sirens will sound in a simulated tornado warning.

The first drill is intended for institutions and businesses. The evening drill is intended for second shift workers and families.

Minnesota experiences an average of 29 tornadoes per year.

In 2021 Minnesota recorded 64 tornadoes, including 22 on Dec. 15 alone. They were the latest reported tornadoes on record.

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

A record was set in 2010 with 113 tornadoes touching down across the state.

Understanding this threat and knowing what to do when a tornado is approaching can save lives.

Take advantage of Severe Weather Awareness Week to review your own and your family's emergency procedures and prepare for weather-related hazards.

The week observes different aspects of weather awareness.

For example, severe thunderstorms produce large hail or winds of at least 58 mph. Some wind gusts can exceed 100 mph and produce tornado-like damage. That's why many communities sound outdoor sirens for damaging straight-line winds.

In terms of floods, nearly 200 lives are lost nationally to flooding each year, and 300,000 people are forced from their homes due to property damage in excess of \$2 billion. In 2019 six out of the

nine state and federally declared disasters in Minnesota involved some sort of flooding.

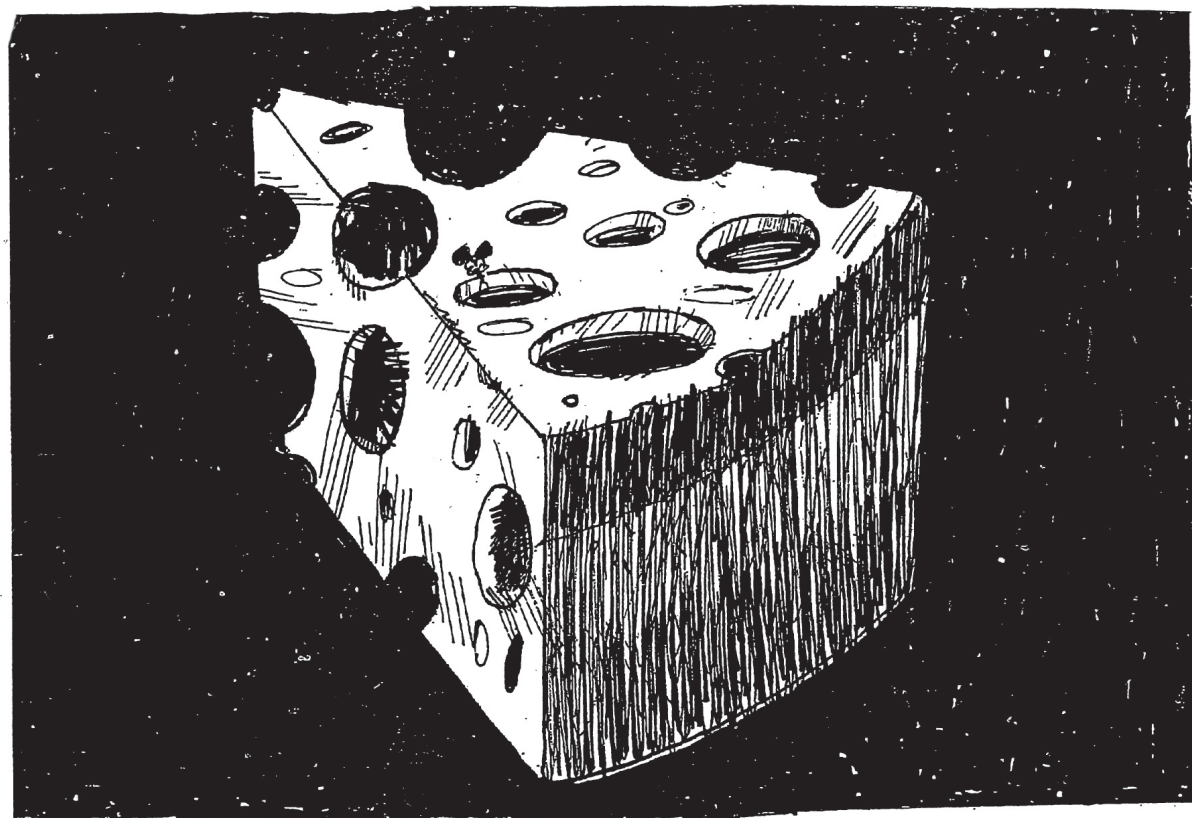
About 75 percent of flash-flood deaths occur at night. Half of the victims die in automobiles or other vehicles. Many deaths occur when people drive around road barricades that clearly indicate that the road is washed out ahead.

Severe Weather Awareness Week also focuses on heat. According to the Department of Health, from 2000 to 2016 there were 54 deaths directly attributable to extreme heat in Minnesota.

On July 19, 2011, an all-time heat index record was set in Minnesota with air temperatures at 93 degrees and the heat index reaching 130 degrees in Moorhead.

The National Weather Service places high priority on alerting the public to heat wave hazards.

More information about Severe Weather Awareness Week is at dps.mn.gov.



Section of a Minnesota road

Treasures will appear on boulevards as annual citywide cleanup draws near

Spring rummage sale (May 3-6) and the citywide spring cleanup (May 1-5) are just around the corner.

The citywide cleanup event is one of the nicest perks the city offers. There are rules to follow as to what you can place by the curb for free pickup. The citywide cleanup also draws a fair number of out-of-town treasure seekers as well as locals.

Truth be told, I've harvested a treasure or two over the years.

Now for the rules for the spring cleanup. Don't put out tires, chemicals, electronics, batteries, light bulbs or



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, general manager

paint cans. If you do, they will be left at the curb. Don't start hauling your junk out too early. One week prior to pickup

would be appreciated.

The city is running ads in today's Star Herald and this weekend's Luverne

Announcer with a schedule of neighborhood pickup dates.

Your garbage and recycling routes will remain the same.

It would be a good idea to set your containers away from your curbside items.

If you have a few of the hefty items such as appliances and mattresses, the city crew will pick those up on Friday, May 5. There is a cost for this, however. Appliances cost \$15 each and the mattress/box springs cost \$30 each. You must prepay and register at city hall before the pickup, and no refunds will

be issued.

As you should know by now, our city crews operate like a well-oiled NASCAR pit crew, and if they hit your "hood" before the scheduled date, don't worry. They make a return visit.

Branch pickup will start on Monday, May 8. Put the branches parallel to the curb, and they are to be no more than ten feet long.

Don't lollygag on this one — get your branches to the curb by 7 a.m. or you'll be hauling them to the burn site yourself. The city crews will make one pass through the city to pick up branches.

E-mail: editor@star-herald.com Web site: star-herald.com

Phone: 507-283-2333 Fax: 507-283-2335

Published Thursdays by Tollefson Enterprises

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
117 West Main, P.O. Box 837, Luverne, MN 56156.

Periodicals postage paid at Luverne,
Permit #33 and at additional mailing offices.

General manager: Rick Peterson

Sales: Wyatt VanSteenberg

Office manager: Deb Lusty

Office assistant: Jennifer Nelson

Production Manager: Heather Johnson

Production: Brooke Huisman

News staff:

Lori Sorenson, editor

Mavis Fodness, reporter

Esther Frakes, copy editor

Greg Hoogeveen, sports editor

Rock County
STAR HERALD
Rock County's newspaper since 1873

(ISSN 0889-888X)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$79 per year in Rock County; \$96 per year all other areas.
Single copies \$1.25

Entire contents copyrighted by
Tollefson Publishing Roger Tollefson, publisher

The *Star Herald* encourages letters to the editor expressing the opinions of readers and intends to print all letters. Letters not meeting the guidelines will not be printed. The *Star Herald* will verify the authenticity of all letters. Letters must have the name of the writer, a signature and address. Unsigned letters will not be considered. The *Star Herald* will edit for grammar, spelling and clarity. Any letters containing offensive language, libelous or slanderous material, or misleading or false information will be rewritten before being published. The *Star Herald* will not publish letters written with the sole intent to advertise or serve as a thank-you. Letters with more than 300 words may be edited. The deadline for letters is Monday 10 a.m. They may be delivered or mailed to the editor, *Rock County Star Herald*, P.O. Box 837, 117 W. Main St., Luverne, Minn. 56156.

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

April 7
 •A warrant was issued in Lyon County.
 •Road closure on 60th Avenue, from 41st Street to 61st Street, Hills.
 •Complainant on N. Freeman Avenue reported disturbing the peace issue.

April 8
 •Complainant on E. Lincoln Street reported suspicious activity.
 •Complainant on U.S. Highway 75, Luverne, reported suspicious activity.
 •Complainant on 191st Street, Hardwick, reported a fire.
 •Complainant on Highway 75 and County Road 16, Luverne, requested roadside assistance.
 •Complainant on 180th Avenue, Ellsworth, reported property damage.
 •Complainant reported an outage.
 •Complainant on 180th Avenue and 211th Street, Hardwick, reported flooding.
 •Complainant on S. Church Avenue, Hills, reported a civil issue.
 •Complainant on 161st Street and 100th Avenue, Luverne, reported suspicious activity.

April 9
 •Complainant on 140th Avenue, Hardwick, reported suspicious activity.
 •Complainant on Highway 75, Hardwick, reported trespassing.
 •Complainant on 141st Street requested roadside assistance.

April 10
 •Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue requested assistance from another department.
 •Complainant on 141st Street requested roadside assistance.

April 10
 •Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue requested assistance from another department.
 •Complainant on W. Main Street reported prop-

erty damage.
 •Complainant on County Road 4 and 81st Street, Beaver Creek, reported an abandoned vehicle.
 •Complainant on N. Estey Street and Luverne Street reported burning.
 •Complainant on 170th Avenue and 251st Street, Edgerton, reported flooding.
 •Complainant on Church Avenue, Hills, reported a parking issue.
 •Complainant east-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 8, Luverne, reported a miscellaneous public assist.

April 11
 •A warrant was issued on W. Hatting Street.
 •Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue requested assistance from another department.
 •Complainant on W. Main Street reported trespassing.

April 12
 •A warrant was issued at W. Hatting Street.
 •A fire was reported at 60th Avenue, Hills.
 •An outage was reported at Highway 75 and Fletcher Street.
 •Complainant on W. Luverne Street reported suspicious activity.
 •Complainant reported an outage.

April 13
 •Complainant at Red-bird Field reported suspicious activity.
 •Complainant on W. Interstate Drive reported a driving complaint.
 •Complainant reported drugs.
 •Complainant reported narcotics.

In addition, officers responded to 2 motor vehicle accidents, 1 vehicle in the ditch, 2 transports, 1 escort, 8 ambulance runs, 5 paper services, 3 animal complaints, 29 burn permits, 11 purchase and carry permits, 34 traffic stops, 18 abandoned 911 calls, 1 OFP and 1 follow-up.



The Luverne Fire Department puts out a barn fire at 1371 120th Avenue near Luverne Monday afternoon. The blaze was caused by a burning tree pile that got out of control and spread to the barn structure. (Lori Sorenson photo)

Crews fight grass, barn and truck fires

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne firefighters had a busy Monday when they were dispatched to a barn and grass fire on the heels of a truck fire. At around 10 a.m. the Luverne Fire Department and emergency responders were sent to a truck fire west of Luverne on County Road 5. The driver of the Buffalo Ridge truck, Jason Lindquist, of Pipestone,

said he heard a clunking sound under the hood as he was driving down the road. He discovered a fire and attempted to put it out with an extinguisher but ended up calling for help. By the time firefighters arrived, the semi was fully engulfed in flames, and it took them about a half hour to completely extinguish

the blaze. Only a few hours later, the Luverne Fire Department was dispatched to a blaze northwest of Luverne that was reported as a grass/barn fire at 1371 120th Ave. Luverne. The fire, reported at 1:45 p.m., was caused by a burning tree pile that got out of control and spread to the barn, which appeared to be a total loss.



The Luverne Fire Department puts out a semi fire on County Road 5 west of Luverne Monday morning. In the photo at left, the semi driver Jason Lindquist, Pipestone (right), talks to Buffalo Ridge Luverne plant manager Tyson Facile (left) about what led up to the fire. In the photo at right, they inspect the charred remains of the semi tractor engine and cab.



Driver cited in pickup vs home crash

By Lori Sorenson

The driver of the pickup truck that hit a garage last week in Luverne was issued a citation for reckless driving, according to Sheriff Evan Verbrugge. He said 44-year-old Jesse Cody, Brandon, missed the curve on West Main Street Tuesday morning, April 11, and barreled across the boulevards to the northeast. The 2020 Chevy pickup took out a light pole across the street from Rock County Opportunities and hit a tree at Main and Walnut streets before crashing through the garage wall on Davidson

Street and landing inside the structure on its side. Law enforcement and emergency responders were dispatched to the crash scene where they found Cody walking away from the twisted, mangled vehicle. Verbrugge said Cody had been in Brandon 20 minutes prior to the crash. He'd been working out at a fitness facility but doesn't remember how he ended up in Luverne or why. "It's possible there was some kind of medical thing going on with him," Verbrugge said Tuesday, April 18, after reviewing the

report. EMS personnel tended to Cody at the scene, and he was taken to Sanford Luverne ER by ambulance where he was treated and released. The property is owned by Lowell and Roni Feit who weren't there at the time of the crash. No one else was injured. The Rock County Sheriff's Office reported speed as a factor in the crash. A reckless driving citation can result in fines and fees up to \$1,000. Verbrugge said Cody and his auto insurance will be responsible for property damage.

Sparks ignite bales near Hills

By Mavis Fodness

The Hills Area Fire Department spent four hours at the Norm Sjaarda farm north of Hills fighting a fire involving large hay bales. Fire chief Jared Rozeboom said his department received the call at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 12. The farm is located along County Road 6 near 51st Street in Martin Township. The Beaver Creek Fire Department provided mutual aid. "The downside of a hay fire is that you can't put them out without a whole lot of work," Ro-

zeboom said. He surmised a piece of metal in one of the bales went through the bale grinder at the feedlot, providing the spark for the fire. "They're pretty sure it wasn't a mechanical failure, just metal went through the grinder," he said. Firefighters prevented the fire from spreading as the bales were opened and allowed to burn themselves out. No livestock was affected by the fire. A hoop building near the grinding area was lost.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
LEROY FICK
 turns **80**
 on **April 25**
 Greetings may be sent to:
 1034 110th Ave,
 Luverne, MN 56156

READ THE NEWS ONLINE!
 Subscribe to the online edition of the **Star Herald**

PALACE THEATRE UPCOMING EVENTS

	John Wick: Chapter 4 R
	Friday, April 21 7:00 pm
	Saturday, April 22 7:00 pm
	Sunday, April 23 2:00 pm
	Tickets: \$5 for kids age 3 - 12 th grade, \$7 for adults
	Afternoon Escape: Jesus Revolution PG-13
	Thursday, April 27 2:00 pm
	\$5 Admission

104 E. Main St. • Luverne, MN 56156 • 507.283.4339
 WWW.PALACETHEATRE.US

Celebrating 10 YEARS LUVERNE STREET MUSIC

Annual Spring Showcase
 Saturday, April 22
 Two recitals: 4:00 pm and 6:30 pm
 at the American Reformed Church, 304 N Fairview Dr

luvernestreetmusic luvernestreetmusic@hotmail.com

Luverne's Citywide Rummage Sale

May 3 - 6 Wed. - Sat.

Choose your own dates and times
 Hundreds of rummagers converge in Luverne for this annual event!

ONLY \$30 SIGN UP NOW!
 Registration deadline - April 25

Registration fee includes:
 • Detailed listing in 2,000 printed rummage sale flyers
 • Your location on a printed map
 • Local & regional print/radio advertising
 • Detailed listings posted on LuverneChamber.com
 • Listing posted on Facebook
 • 2-sided official citywide rummage sign

Registration forms available at:
 Casey's, Sunshine Gas and Pizza Ranch
 Luverne Area Chamber
 213 East Luverne Street, Luverne MN 56156
 507-283-4061
 www.luvernechamber.com
 Open: M-F 8am - 5pm and Sat 10am - 5pm

Sponsored By **Luverne Area Chamber & CVB**



Mavis Fodness photos/0420 Library Folk Singers

Skally Line performs original songs at Rock County library

Fred Keller (left, above and at right) and Bill Cagley perform original folk songs about Minnesota's early history to audience members at the Rock County Library Wednesday afternoon, April 12. The duo, called "Skally Line," are part of Deep North Programs, which combines music and historical storytelling in a variety of educational options. The Luverne stop was Skally Line's 13th on the tour of Plum Creek libraries. Their tour is sponsored by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.



MENU AT GENERATIONS

Monday, April 24: Chicken ala king, brown rice, broccoli cuts, fruit cocktail, cookie.
Tuesday, April 25: Pasta in meat sauce, green beans, pineapple chunks, bread stick, dessert.
Wednesday, April 26: Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, pears, bread, bar.
Thursday, April 27: Roast turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, California Normandy, bread, fresh fruit.
Friday, April 28: Chicken ala king, brown rice, broccoli cuts, fruit cocktail, cookie.

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.

1943: Scotts make rural Hardwick their home in 1905

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 September 16, 1943.

(Continued from last week.)

Mr. and Mrs. Scott (Abraham and Lou) were married at Gettysburg, Pa., March 3, 1890, and then moved to Dixon, Ill., where they lived 16 years, seven of which they lived on a dairy farm owned by the Borden Company. They milked 36 cows by hand and when they were done, they had 11 ten-gallon cans filled to capacity. Their morning milking would be done by 6 a.m. and then Mr. Scott would load the cans into a wagon and drive to Dixon where the condensed milk factory was located.

"I really had some cold trips sometimes," Mr. Scott recalls. "In the winter time, especially when the wind was cold, I really hated to cross the bridge there at Dixon, as that seemed to be colder than any other place in the country."

Mr. and Mrs. Scott worked in partnership with I.B. Countryman in Illinois, and it was he who induced them to come to Minnesota to live. He had a farm near Hardwick, and in 1905, they moved there. They were almost ready to turn back after their first year, because it was such a change from what they were accustomed to in either Illinois or Pennsylvania. Their first corn crop turned out to produce nothing but husk, and the



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann,
Rock County Historian

land was not as desirable as it later was because it had not been tiled. Conditions improved the following year, and they finally made up their minds to stay.

They farmed until 1920, and then moved to Hardwick, which has since been their home. It was there they observed their golden wedding anniversary three years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott were the parents of four sons, only one of whom is now living. He is Byron J. Scott, of Hardwick. They have five grandchildren.

Mrs. Scott has two brothers living. They are Frank Manahan, of Dayton, Ohio. There were five in the family at one time. Mr. Scott has two sisters living. They are Mrs. Mary De Lapp, and Elizabeth Scott, both of Harrisburg, Pa. There were seven children in the Scott family.

Donations to the Rock County Historical Society can be sent to the Rock County Historical Society, 312 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156.

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to manned@iw.net.

Completing those extra spring tasks lead to plusher lawns, healthier perennials and delicious strawberries

Earlier in March I gave you nature indicators when to plant what for your vegetable garden.



KNOW IT AND GROW IT

By George Bonnema, Luverne Horticulturalist

If you're on schedule, the lilacs don't and won't lie!

If you have summer- to fall-blooming perennials that need to be thinned or moved, ie: asters, daylilies, phlox, ornamental grass, hosta, sedum, mums, etc., get that job done in the next week, or wait until late summer. For spring-blooming perennials like peonies and bearded iris, wait to transplant or thin until mid-August.

While cleaning up your flower garden, if you have had a problem with iris borers in your German bearded iris, now is when you want to do a

thorough cleanup of ALL of last year's stems and leaves. The borers lay their eggs in the leaves, and that carries them into the next season. Getting rid of all of those leaves now will likely eliminate most reinfections by the pest.

If you have a strawberry patch that is getting too thick, you can thin it now.

My experience is that after the plants have been producing for four years, they tend to become too thick, resulting in a decline in production and quality of the berries. I plan for this by rooting runners in 1-quart pots of soil in August. After

about four to six weeks, those new plants will have become established and those babies can be planted in a new area.

It is best when renewing strawberries to move the patch to a new area to eliminate root and leaf diseases that can and will plague older plants. Thus, my thinning is actually a total renewal.

Yes, it is work but if I'm after quality berries, it is so worth the effort.

I grow a variety called Seascape, which is an everbearer, meaning that the plants bloom and produce a crop in June and then come back into production in August and continue their ripening.

Bonnema is a gardening enthusiast and former greenhouse owner. He can be reached at flowergb@iw.net.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2013)

•Stacy Riphagen, owner of Luverne's newest business at 206 E. Main St., is busy unpacking boxes for her store opening at the end of April.

Her store, Dragonfly, will feature home décor, lighting and furniture.

Riphagen said she and her husband, David, and sons Spencer and Carter have worked hard to repurpose much of the former Renfro Variety Store furnishings.

Plaster has been removed to expose original brick walls, the oak floor has been refinished and a bead board ceiling was discovered after two lower ceilings were removed.

Old shelving has been turned into baseboards. Riphagen said one "bittersweet" aspect of the restoration was repurposing the front desk that Margaret Vegge used for her 50-some years at Renfro's.

The Dragonfly first day open will be Saturday, April 27, and a grand opening is planned for later this spring.

25 years ago (1998)

•With prom only a week away, Luverne School Board members were faced with a difficult decision about after-prom plans at their Thursday, April 23, meeting.

Students approached board members about excusing them from class on Monday, April 27, because they'll be tired from prom and after-prom activities.

Students attending after-prom activities will spend Sunday, April 26, at the Worlds of Fun amusement park in Kansas City. Roughly 120 students will board three chartered buses at about 2 a.m. Sunday after their Saturday night dance wraps up at 1 a.m.

They plan to arrive in Kansas City at about 9:30 a.m. Sunday, so they can enter the park when the doors open at 10 a.m.

50 years ago (1973)

•Mr. and Mrs. Henry Smith of Hills, Minn., were among more than 100 farm couples who

attended a national farm business conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, recently, sponsored by Farm Wife News magazine.

The conference consisted of special seminars on farm management techniques, goal setting and agri-estate planning, plus tours of selected livestock and cropping facilities.

The farm couples flew to Hawaii in a giant 747 jumbo jet and stayed at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel, located on Waikiki Beach at the edge of the Pacific. The conference included a mid-week flight to the island of Maui, where the farm group toured the research facilities of a major seed firm, and viewed no-tillage plots especially planted for the conference to show no-till crops in the growing state.

75 years ago (1948)

•Burglars netted \$75 in two break-ins Sunday night at Kenneth.

At the Farmers Elevator Co. office the burglars broke a padlock on the office door and then opened the safe. They took \$60 in cash but left the checks, according to L. Dietrich, manager of the elevator.

At the Kenneth Liquor store the thieves gained entrance and then took \$15 from the till. No liquor was stolen according to Floyd Fritz, owner of the store.

100 years ago (1923)

•Luverne's high school this year will have the smallest graduating class in recent years. The seniors now number twenty-five, the greater majority of whom are girls, and even though all of the class should be granted their diplomas, which at this time is considered doubtful, it would still fall below the average-sized graduating class of this school.

Class honors were announced on Thursday evening of last week. Ruth Engelking, having the highest average, is the valedictorian; Ella Anderson won the place of salutatorian by holding second rank, and Emma and Effie Anderson received their and fourth places, respectively. These honors are determined by computing the average of all studies taken up during the four years of high school, up to the second semester's work in the senior year.

OBITUARIES

Patricia 'Patti' Swenson

Patricia LaVon "Patti" Swenson, 66, of rural Beaver Creek, died peacefully on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at the Sanford Luverne Hospice Cottage in Luverne.



A funeral service was Friday, April 14, at Palisade Lutheran Church, rural Garretson, South Dakota. Burial followed in Palisade Lutheran Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the Rock Ranch for the Equine Assisted Therapy Program.

Patricia Wenzel was born on June 1, 1956, to Arnold and Jessie (Ellefson) Wenzel in Luverne. She grew up on a small family farm near Hardwick and attended Luverne Public School. She was baptized and confirmed at the Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick. She graduated from Luverne High School and then moved to Worthington, and then to Rochester, where she worked as an LPN at St. Mary's Hospital.

In February of 1977, Patti traveled to Porta Velho, Brazil, as a missionary nurse on base with Paymui Tribe with Wycliffe Bible Translators. She returned to Sioux Falls, South Dakota

in August of 1977, working as an LPN for Avera McKennan Hospital on 1E. In May of 1978, Patti transferred to a Central Plains family practice clinic with Dr. Clark, where she remained until January of 1981.

In October of 1979, Patti married David Swenson at the Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick. The couple moved to Luverne. Patti began working as a receptionist for Rock County Family Services while she obtained her RN (registered nurse) degree at Augustana University. After becoming a licensed RN, Patti worked at Avera McKennan Hospital in the hematology, oncology, and bone marrow transplant units.

In December of 1989 she moved to her home in Beaver Creek, where she remained through the rest of her life. She continued working at Avera until March of 2020.

After retirement, her love and passion for horses continued. She had been serving as a volunteer at Rock Ranch and upon retirement she took the necessary training to become an

equine therapist. As this passion grew, she started caring for the horses at Valley Springs Farms and became part of their family.

Patti was an active member of the Palisade Lutheran Church in rural Garretson, South Dakota, serving as a deacon, attending Bible studies and retreats, and serving as a delegate to the church-wide synod assemblies. She volunteered riding lessons at the Rock Ranch and deeply enjoyed riding horses. She also enjoyed shade gardening and worked hard to sow beauty into everything she did. She was especially fond of her family and loved to spend time with them.

Patti is survived by her husband, David Swenson of Beaver Creek; siblings Dean (Linda) Wenzel of Luverne, Richard (Deb) Wenzel of Garretson, and Paulette (Randy) Richters of Luverne; and many nieces, nephews, Avera family, and horse-loving friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Robert Wenzel.

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

(0420 F)

Cloyce Smith

On Aug. 1, 1946, I was born in the hospital in Luverne, Minnesota, to John and Margaret (Moore) Cooney and joined my big brother, Judd. I attended Luverne Public School and graduated in 1964, the year Luverne won the Minnesota state basketball tournament. Upon graduation I attended the Minneapolis School of Art and Design and finished my art education at Mankato State University. I received my Bachelor in Art Education and later I added elementary education to my resumé.



While growing up in Luverne, I worked at the Blue Mounds State Park as a lifeguard and one summer traveled to Estes Park, Colorado, with relatives who had a cabin. I worked as a maid in a motel, which brought me to the realization that this was something I was not going to pursue.

After graduating from college, my first teaching job was in Ellsworth, Minnesota. I had a great teaching experience in this smaller school and the job in Ellsworth expanded to Magnolia. I then moved to Luverne where I expanded my love of

teaching art to elementary and middle school students. I found teaching art to be my passion until my retirement in 2009.

My husband, David, and I were married on July 11, 1970, and enjoyed 52 years together.

We loved to travel and spent a number of vacations in Estes Park. Our special travels included the fall colors in Vermont and New Hampshire and enjoying our 25th anniversary touring the coast of Maine, and a cruise to Alaska, followed by two vacations to Hawaii. Our marriage also brought us wonderful changes with the birth of our two children, Carrie and Mark. Mark left us too early but the addition of three grandchildren by Carrie and her husband Chad have been a true blessing that brightens up our lives.

I have been blessed by the experiences of my lifetime and the wonderful people I have met. I have especially enjoyed coffee every Wednesday with a group of wonderful ladies that share their stories, laughs, and friendship. I hope that I will be remembered for my love of art and my willingness to

share it with others.

My greatest joy is my family that have supported me and been at my side through the good times and bad. Our two children, Carrie and Mark, were always very special and although Mark left us too early, he is always with us. Chad has been there for constant help and support along with Nathan, Connor, and Zachary, who have been a very special part of my life, and I hope they feel the same.

Surviving me are my husband, David; my daughter, Carrie, and her husband, Chad Overgaard; grandsons Nathan, Connor and Zachary Overgaard; and my brother, Judd Cooney of Castina, Iowa.

My parents and son, Mark, have preceded me in death.

A time of fellowship will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, April 27, at Dingmann Funeral Home in Luverne. A memorial Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 28, at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to 2184 Legacy fund.

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

(0420 V)



Mavis Fodness photos/0420 Tree Seminar

'Wait and see'

Most trees and shrubs will need to be replaced after excessive bark loss due to hungry deer and rabbits over the winter. However, U of M Extension educator Gary Wyatt (above, in front holding a damaged tree branch) of Mankato suggests a "wait and see" attitude when it comes to replacing woody perennial plants. Wyatt led a seminar Wednesday afternoon, April 12, at the Rock County Courthouse commissioners' room with a tour of actual damage at the food forest on North Blue Mound Avenue. He said this past winter's heavy snow cover prompted many animals to seek trees as food, the worst he has seen in his many decades working in forestry. He suggested waiting before removing the weedy plants to see if only the surface bark layer was damaged and not the underlying nutrient-carrying layer, which may mean the plant can recover. The seminar was sponsored by the Rock County Master Gardeners and the Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District.

At right: Too much bark has been removed by hungry deer and rabbits for this apple tree and shrub (below right) to survive.



Mickey David, the AmeriCorps volunteer working at food forest in Luverne, talks about the graft point on an apple tree April 12 during a seminar about tree and shrub damage this winter by hungry deer and rabbits. David may cut the tree down to the graft point to see if the tree will sprout new branches.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Lee Alexander

A memorial service for Lee Alexander, a longtime resident of Luverne, who passed away in January 2022 in Rolla, Missouri, will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22, at the Luverne United Methodist Church in Luverne.

(0420 DN)

Evelyn Harmsen

Evelyn Harmsen, 95, Luverne, died Thursday, March 23, 2023, at the Good Samaritan Society - Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne.

Visitation will be from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, April 22, with a memorial service to follow at 11 a.m. at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. A private burial will be arranged by the family at a later date.

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

(0420 DN)

Minnesota Horse Expo 2023
 April 28-30
 Presented by the Minnesota Horse Council
 MN State Fairgrounds

Enjoy **FREE** Pony & Wagon Rides, Shop 200+ Vendors,
 Watch the Daily Parade of Breeds & Stallion
 Presentations, Attend All the Riding & Training Demos.

2 PRCA RODEOS • Fri. & Sat. 7:30pm
 Rodeo Admission is in addition to Expo Admission

Huge Tack & Clothing Consignment Sale
IT'S THE 41st EXPO!

Visit MNHorseExpo.org or Call
 952-356-2029 for Ticket & Schedule Info

GENERAC

Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN • LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE
 CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE
(855) 984-8982

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*
 - A \$695 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

Easter Bunny visits Beaver Creek Elementary School

Beaver Creek community volunteers and HBCS (Helping Build Communities Stronger) filled 2,000 plastic eggs with candy for an Easter egg hunt Saturday afternoon.

The elementary school gymnasium floor was strewn with multi-colored eggs and wrapped candy with the centerline dividing children into ages 0-6 on one side and 6 and older on the other.

As egg hunters scrambled to fill their baskets, a costumed Easter bunny strolled among them, posing for photographs when asked.

Pictured at right, Liila Leuthold takes a systematic approach to her egg-gathering.

Pictured below, Greyson Hoime greets the Easter bunny with high fives.

Lori Sorenson photos/
0420 beaver creek easter egg hunt



Leo Engelkes poses with the Easter Bunny in the elementary school cafeteria in Beaver Creek following the Easter Egg hunt in the gym.

At left, a barrel of plastic egg shells remain after the hunt was over. They will be reused for next year's Easter event.



Pictured above, Alaina and Szaun Bruesch help Mikayla open her plastic eggs to return the shells. In the middle photo, Rollie Sandbulte fills his bucket with eggs, two at a time. Pictured in the photo at right, Damon Metzger runs out of room in his bucket.

SPRING

CLEAN UP

May 1-5

PLEASE TAKE NOTE
GARBAGE ROUTES REMAIN THE SAME
Please set containers away from curbside items!
VERY LARGE UNSORTED PILES OF JUNK WILL NOT BE PICKED UP

PICK-UP SCHEDULE

- **MONDAY, MAY 1** — — — Route 1: Main Street and to the South
- **TUESDAY, MAY 2** — — — Route 2: Main Street to Dodge Street
- **WEDNESDAY, MAY 3** — — — Route 3: Dodge St. to Barck Avenue
- **THURSDAY, MAY 4** — — — Route 4: Barck Avenue and to the North
- **FRIDAY, MAY 5** — — — Appliance / Mattress Pick-up

**CITY-WIDE
RECYCLING**
on Friday also

APPLIANCE: \$15 EACH • MATTRESS/BOX SPRING: \$30 EACH
Must register and pay fee before Friday pick-up.
NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED.

ITEMS SHOULD BE SET CURBSIDE NO EARLIER THAN ONE WEEK PRIOR TO CLEAN UP WEEK.

WHAT WILL NOT BE PICKED UP Tires, toxic or hazardous chemicals, TV's, electronics, computers, batteries, light bulbs, oil and paint will NOT be picked up and should be disposed of properly. Additionally, large quantities of building materials from construction or remodeling should be disposed of as part of your project and will not be picked up by the City during Spring Clean-Up. It is your responsibility to take these items to the Transfer Station. The Rock County Transfer Station is located ¾ mile East of Luverne on Rock County Road 4, and ¾ mile North on Rock County Road 9.

Crews may work ahead of schedule, but will return to each route on the scheduled day to pick up remaining items.
Call 449-2388 with questions.

Luverne

MINNESOTA
Love the life!

24/7... Rain or shine ...

Your local, independent agent will be there.

Working for you - meeting your needs.

Buffalo Ridge

INSURANCE

Auto-Owners

INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Cory Blomendaal, CIC

Steve Smedstad, CIC

Sadie Steen

South Hwy. 75, Luverne, MN | 507-283-2381

GO GREEN

SAVE THE PLANET

More can be recycled than your papers!

You can also recycle:

- + Metal
- + Plastic
- + Glass
- + Paper
- + Cardboard
- + Aluminum

Thank You!

Congratulations Lori!

Celebrating
30 years of
Star Herald News

30 YEARS WITH THE STAR HERALD

LOCAL. DIGITAL. ADVERTISING.

170,000 monthly impressions!

Advertise YOUR business on 55" digital screens in 11 locations!

For more information contact:

Rick Peterson

507-290-0924

bluemounddigital@gmail.com

Wyatt VanSteenberg

507-220-1994

wyatt.bluemounddigital@gmail.com

507-283-2333 (Star Herald)



blue mound digital

Rock County **STAR HERALD**

Luverne **ANNOUNCER**

ROCK COUNTY VETERANS

Do you have questions about:

- LEGISLATIVE CHANGES
- WARTIME SERVICE VS PEACE TIME
- DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR SERVICE CONNECTED INJURY OR ILLNESS
- ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR DISABLED VETERANS
- PENSION
- SPOUSE OF A VETERAN WHO DIED FROM SERVICE CONNECTED CONDITION
- DEATH PENSIONS TO SURVIVING SPOUSE OR CHILDREN
- BURIAL BENEFITS
- HEALTHCARE BENEFITS
- DENTAL BENEFITS
- CHAMPVA
- TRICARE AND TRICARE FOR LIFE
- VOCATIONAL REHAB AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICES
- VET CENTERS
- EDUCATION BENEFITS
- LIFE INSURANCE
- HOME LOAN GUARANTIES
- AGENT ORANGE (Vietnam and Blue Water Navy)
- POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER
- BENEFITS FOR FEMALE VETERANS
- STATE BENEFITS
- OBTAINING MILITARY RECORDS AND AWARDS
- CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS
- NATIONAL GUARD VS ACTIVE DUTY

Veterans Linkage Line
 minnesotaveteran.org | 1-888-LinkVet (546-5838)
 Help for veterans and families

Help Support the **Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Rock County**
 by calling the Luverne Chamber of Commerce or the Veterans Services Office.

Rock County Veterans Services
 507-283-5061
 M-F: 8 a.m. to Noon
 Rock County Courthouse

HAPPY Earth DAY Local Investment. Jobs. Clean Energy.

NEXtera ENERGY RESOURCES



Follow us on Facebook so you don't miss out! Watch for polls, newsbreaks, sports updates and more!

Rock County **STAR HERALD**