



Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, March 23, 2017

Local hay delivered to wildfire victims out west

Rock County area farmers donate 150 tons of round bales to ranchers whose pastures burned

By Lori Sorenson

Dozens of farmers from the Rock County area donated 150 tons of hay to ranchers out west where wildfires destroyed pastures and grassland.

Brad Van De Berg, Hills, was among seven farmers who delivered six semitrailers loaded with hay — more than 200 round bales — to Haxton, Colorado, last week.

"At first I gave some hay, but then they had so much donated hay I decided to go along to help deliver it," Van De Berg said.

His uncle, Dave Van De Berg, rode with him in a convoy of five other loaded semis headed west March 8.

The other drivers were Nathan and Kyle Braun, Kade Nussbaum, Brad Benson and Matt Anderson. They're all farmers and truckers who empathized with ranchers' losses and didn't think twice about going.

"It's just what you do," Van De Berg said. "You heard what was going on out there, losing so much. I don't know — you just put yourself in their shoes."

In Texas and Oklahoma alone more than a million acres of pastureland were destroyed by wildfires. "It was dry, and then the wind is what got it going," Van De Berg said.

Fueling the fire in some places were last year's wheat fields with 2-foot-tall stubble. In pastures and grasslands dry vegetation was quickly devoured by flames.

"Here if we have a wildfire the grass comes back pretty quick and it's greener than ever," he said.

"Out there, the grass burns off and it's just sand. It blows around; the ditches had thick sand in them. If you're used to heavy black soil, that was really different to see."

It will take three to four years —



Brian Bieseemeier photo/0323 hay donation group

Seven local farmers and truckers hauled six semi loads of hay — 150 tons — to a fire-ravaged area in Colorado last week. Pictured by one of their semis are (from left) Dave Van De Berg, Matt Anderson, Kyle Braun, Nathan Braun, Brad Benson, Kade Nussbaum and Brad Van De Berg. Ranchers in that part of the state lost 30,000 acres of grassland and pastures, leaving no feed for the cattle that survived.

possibly decades — for pastures out west to reestablish growth, and for most ranchers in the affected areas, the wildfires claimed their entire livelihood.

"Our farming here is diversified — hay, feedlots, corn and soybeans," Van

De Berg said. "These guys, stock cows and pasture are all they have. They sell cattle and get one paycheck per year."

The ranchers whose cattle survived now have nothing to feed them. "One guy we talked to said it will take 45 semi loads of hay just to

get him through the summer," Van De Berg said.

By some estimates, nearly 50,000 head of cattle were destroyed in the fires that burned roughly 3 million acres in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas and neighboring states. In addition,

six people lost their lives.

The local hay ended up with ranchers in Colorado.

"We initially were headed to Oklahoma, but then we heard that

Hay donation/continued on 5A



Lori Sorenson photo/0323 green earth players dixie

"Dixie Swim Club" characters (from left) DJ Luethje, Terri Ebert, Elaine Hansen, Manda Steensma and Colette Hansen rehearse a scene at the Palace Theatre Monday night. The first show opens Friday night.

Friends bond over wine on Palace stage

GEP to perform 'Dixie Swim Club' March 24-26 and March 31-April 2

By Lori Sorenson

The Green Earth Players community theater group will open their spring production of "Dixie Swim Club" this weekend at the historic Palace Theatre in Luverne.

Show times are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday for two weekends, March 24-26 and March 31-April 2.

The plot centers on five Southern women whose friendships began many years ago on their college swim team.

Every year they set aside a long weekend in August to recharge these relationships at a beach cottage on North Carolina's Outer Banks.

The characters are played by Terri Ebert, Manda Steensma, Elaine Hansen, DJ Luethje and Colette Hansen.

"The small cast has been fun," said Sue Sandbulte, director of the comedy. "The girls are great. We're having a

lot of fun together."

She said the characters drink wine and "do things you'd expect them to do for a weekend at the cottage."

Assistant Director Hayley Koeritz said the cast and crew have enjoyed a bottle of wine for each rehearsal — 30 of them — to get into their roles.

"We had 30 practices at the building, but it's hard to say how many bottles," she said.

"Elaine, true to her character, would make sure everyone was topped off. We eventually moved on to the larger bottles and a couple of boxes."

The Blue Mound Area Theatre Board has a liquor license and will serve wine and beer during the event. "We've basically been having girls' night three times a week since January," Koeritz said.

"Now, the audience gets to join in on the fun."

'Dixie Swim Club' at Palace/continued on page 2A

Board approves 2017-18 Luverne school calendar

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne School Board officials approved the 2017-18 school calendar in a special meeting Thursday night, March 16.

School will be in session for 174 days beginning Sept. 5 and ending May 25.

"We are making an attempt to end classes before Memorial Day," said Superintendent Craig Oftedahl.

Three additional school days — May 30, 31, and June 1 — have been added to the current school year to make up for snow days.

The 2017-18 schedule will be similar to this year, but snow days

could push classes past Memorial Day to May 29, 30, 31, and June 1, 2018.

The complete calendar is available at www.isd2184.net.

Oftedahl said he finalized the staff development speaker before bringing the school calendar to the board for approval.

The district is implementing a K-12 standards-based grading system with consultant Garnet Hillman.

Elementary staff is using the system that grades students on demonstrated learning skills. Middle- and high-school staff are in the implementation process.

Minneapolis firm chosen to study Springbrook Bridge

By Mavis Fodness

The Beaver Creek City Council accepted the low bid of \$39,800 for an engineering study of Beaver Creek's historic Springbrook Bridge.

The council accepted the bid from WSB & Associates of Minneapolis at their March 8 meeting.

Last fall the city received a \$40,100 engineering grant from the Minnesota Historical Society, because the bridge was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989.

"These funds are only for engi-

neering costs," said city clerk Jane Blank after the meeting.

"The city will need to apply for another grant for construction costs when the time comes."

The process to study how the 1911 bridge, located on the east side of the city, can be rehabilitated is estimated to take 12 months.

Rock County Highway Department personnel completed the bidding process, and county engineer Mark Sehr reported the results from the March 3 bid opening.

Stonebrooke Engineering of Burnsville was the other bidder.

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The Star Herald is Rock County's oldest business, documenting the news of its citizens since 1873

Article 12: Community grows under influence of its many churches

This is the 12th in a series that shares the rich history of Luverne as it celebrates 150 years. This information comes from Historian Betty Mann and Star Herald archives:

The first known religious service in Rock County was August 12, 1868. It was conducted by a Presbyterian minister, Dr. Rice. He had accompanied a group of government surveyors and found a few scattered settlers. The audience was about a dozen including the surveyors. He preached from the Mounds, giving

Luverne celebrates 150 years/continued on page 3A

This week's moment in time is sponsored by:



Member FDIC

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Town and Country Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 28, at the Southwest Health and Human Services meeting room. Tim Olson will speak about bees and flowers. Call 507-597-6378. Everyone welcome.

Pink Ladies of Sanford Luverne Hospital will meet at noon Monday, April 10, in the Blue Mound Room for a potluck salad luncheon and regular meeting. Bring utensils.

Hardwick Goal Seekers meet every Monday in Hardwick City Hall for the purpose of support and encouragement for weight loss journeys. Weigh-in begins at 6 p.m., and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Call Glenda, 449-0568.

Vienna Township meets at 7 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the Kenneth Community Center.

Narcotics Anonymous will meet every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Steen Reformed Church. Contact Robert for more information 507-329-2642.

Women's Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. Mondays in the United Methodist Church.

Al-Anon meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the Buffalo Ridge Meeting Room (lower level) at the Sanford Medical Center in Luverne. Call Stephanie at 507-449-1246.

Narcotics Anonymous meets at 7 p.m. Fridays and for basic text study at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays in the basement of St. Catherine Catholic Rectory, 203 E. Brown St., Luverne. Use east door. For more information call 507-220-0137.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays in the United Methodist Church, Luverne. Call 605-321-4324.

Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon meet from 8 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday in Runals Memorial Hall, Edgerton. Call Naomi, 507-215-2956, with questions.

'Time Out for You' classes canceled

The "Time Out for You" classes for caregivers, sponsored by ACE of Southwest Minnesota have been canceled and will be rescheduled soon. Call 507-283-5064.

Blue Ribbon Gardening

Master Gardener Tim Olsen will offer information to grow champion vegetables at a 3-hour class Thursday, March 23. Fee is \$20. Call 283-4724 for more information.

Kindergarten Roundup March 23

Luverne Kindergarten Round-Up will be Thursday, March 23, at Luverne Elementary School. Session 1 for new kindergarten parents will begin at 5:30. Session 2 is an informal "meet and greet" from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Children must be 5 years old before Sept. 1, 2017, to register for kindergarten. Call the elementary office, 283-4497.

Figure Skaters show March 24-25

The Blue Mound Figure Skaters will present their 25th Annual Spring Ice Show, "The Game of Life," at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 24-25, at the Blue Mound Ice Arena in Luverne. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for students (K-12).

Feature band performance March 27

The Luverne High School Band will perform a concert featuring solo ensembles and the Jazz Band at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 27, at the American Reformed Church.

Pro-life rally March 27

The Southwest Minnesota Citizens for Life Spring Rally will be at 7 p.m. Monday, March 27, in the Southwest Christian High School gym in Edgerton. Speaker is Ruby Kubista.

ATLAS of Rock County

banquet set for March 30

ATLAS of Rock County extends an invitation to their spring fundraising banquet Thursday, March 30, at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne. The evening begins with a social hour at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:30 and a local speaker to follow. For ticket information call the ATLAS office at 507-449-5777.

Sign up for bus trip to

'Grease' by March 31

Reserve your seats now for the most popular, fun-filled musical, "Grease," at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater on April 22. Register for this chartered bus trip by March 31 by calling Luverne Community Education at 507-283-4724. Cost of bus and dinner theater ticket is \$110.



Lori Sorenson photo/0323 green earth players dixie

The Green Earth Players' production of "Dixie Swim Club" opens this weekend at the Palace Theatre. Cast members are (from left) DJ Luethje, Elaine Hansen, Terri Ebert, Colette Hansen and Manda Steensma.

Green Earth players 'Dixie Swim Club'/continued from page 1A

Koeritz said the cast and crew will also imbibe during performances.

"We had six bottles of wine (appropriately named 'Skinny Dipping') donated by Round Lake Winery, for use on stage," she said.

"And with the cast and audience enjoying a glass, I didn't want to feel left out. So, I'll be backstage with my glass too."

Cast chosen with friendship in mind

Sandbulte has been musical director for other plays, but this is only the second

one under her direction.

The GEP board selects the plays, but the director casts the characters.

"When I casted these five gals, I wanted to make sure they felt close and bonded together," Sandbulte said.

"And they did. It's been wonderful."

She said she looks forward to sharing this experience with the audience.

"They're a very close group and you'll feel that in the play," Sandbulte said.

Scene 1 opens in 1984, Scene 2 is set five years later

in 1989. Scene 3 is five years later, and the final scene is 23 years later in 2017.

"As their lives unfold and the years pass, these women increasingly rely on one another, through advice and raucous repartee, to get through the challenges (men, sex, marriage, parenting, divorce, aging) that life flings at them," is the story synopsis in the play folder.

"The Dixie Swim Club is a hilarious and touching comedy about friendships that last forever ..."

Koeritz said this play is

a good example of how relationships form during theater productions.

"It allows you to express yourself, understand others, work as a team, build relationships that will last beyond the closing curtain ... it's therapy," she said.

"Thank you to the cast for just being wonderful human beings. I hope we'll be friends 'as long as there are any of us left.'"

Tickets are on sale now at the Palace box office at 104 East Main Street. The phone number is 507-283-4339, or visit palacetheatre.us.

Land Records prepares for accreditation changes

By Mavis Fodness

Over the next four years, workers in the Rock County Land Records office will be going back to school.

The job of placing a value on a home, barn and other structures for property tax purposes will be the same for all assessors whether they work here or in the Twin Cities.

Land Records Director Tom Houselog said his office is currently working toward the state-mandated accreditation.

By July 1, 2019, anyone who appraises or physically inspects real estate for property tax purposes must have an Accredited Minnesota Assessor license.

The four-year accreditation involves completing about 400 hours of continuing education plus successful completion of each of the tests.

"Legislation painted everyone with the same brush stroke ... everyone has to have the same training/accreditation in Rock County as they

"Legislation painted everyone with the same brush stroke ... everyone has to have the same training/accreditation in Rock County as they have for downtown Minneapolis."

— Tom Houselog, Rock County Land Records

have for downtown Minneapolis," Houselog said.

After recent retirements in the Land Records Office the county has hired individuals

Houselog/See page 8A



Mavis Fodness Photo/0323 Tom Houselog

Tom Houselog, with more than 40 years of assessing experience, was recently reappointed to another four-year term as the county assessor. Commissioners also negotiated a two-year salary contract for 2017-18 at 4-percent increases each year.



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Soil health workshops set for March 28 and 29

The USDA will host regional soil health workshops on March 28 in Comfrey and March 29 in Marshall.

Both events are free, and participants are encouraged to bring a soil sample to test at the workshop.

The March 28 workshop in Comfrey will be at the Community Center, 120 Brown St. East.

Registration is required by March 24 by calling Cottonwood SWCD/NRCS at 507-831-1153 ext. 3 or emailing Kelly.pfarr@mn.usda.gov.

The March 29 workshop in Marshall will be at the Marshall Golf Club, 800 Country

Club Dr. Registration is required by March 20 by calling Jennifer Hahn at 507-537-0541 ext. 4271 or emailing Jennifer.hahn@mn.usda.gov.

On the day of the event, registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with the workshop beginning at 10 a.m. The event will end at 3 p.m.

Ohio farmer David Brandt is the guest speaker. He will discuss the economic, operational and conservation benefits of soil health from operating his own no-till operation.

Participants will be able to test their own soil sample for soil structure.

EZ Guarantee Loans available to small-scale operators

A streamlined version of USDA's guaranteed loan program is now available and tailored toward smaller-scale farms and urban producers.

The program, called EZ Guarantee Loans, uses a simplified application process to help beginning, small, underserved and family farmers apply for loans of up to \$100,000 from USDA-approved lenders to purchase farmland or finance agricultural operations.

A new category of lenders will join traditional lenders, such as banks and credit unions, in offering USDA EZ Guarantee Loans.

Micro lenders, which include Community Development Financial Institutions and Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, will be able to offer their customers up to \$50,000

of EZ Guaranteed Loans, helping to reach urban areas and underserved producers.

Banks, credit unions and other traditional USDA-approved lenders, can offer customers up to \$100,000 to help with agricultural operation costs.

EZ Guarantee Loans offer low interest rates and terms up to seven years for financing operating expenses and 40 years for financing the purchase of farm real estate.

USDA-approved lenders can issue these loans with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) guaranteeing the loan up to 95 percent.

More information about the available types of FSA farm loans can be found at www.fsa.usda.gov/farmloans or by contacting the Rock County FSA Office at 507-283-2369.

Luverne celebrates 150/1A churches influence community

an exposition of Christ's "Sermon on the Mount."

The first church organization was founded by the Methodists. A group from Beaver Creek and a group from Luverne established a church society in June 1873.

The early ministers were circuit riders and served many churches at a time in this area.

The oldest church building now standing in Rock County is the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church built on the corner of Cedar and Luverne Streets in 1891. This church is on the National Register of Historical Sites.

The first church structure was a sod house built in 1875 where the Pleasant View Church used to be south and west of Luverne.

In 1884 a cyclonic storm hit Rock County, damaging the church in Hills and the Palisades Church near the west border of Rock County.

The Blue Mound Church had been built one mile north and one mile west of its present location. For some reason the members were not happy that it was on the west side of the railroad tracks.

When the storm hit, it lifted the church off the foundation, moved it across the railroad tracks and set it down without jamming a door or breaking a window. It was in the center of the section, so it was moved to the location it is now.

The early pastors received about \$60 a year. People brought food, grain, hay and bedding for pastors' horses.

In many of the churches the women sat on the right and the men on the left side of the church.

A doctrinal controversy split the Palisades Church and for some years there were two churches a mile apart. The altar, altar rail, pulpit and baptismal font in the Palisades Church is from the church that stood one mile west.

There were several Norwegian Lutheran

churches in Rock County, but they had little to do with each other. In many of the early records of these Norwegian churches when they listed their membership it was recorded: 171 members, two Danes and one Swede. Services were held in Norwegian until the 1920s in many of these churches.

The German Lutherans began their services in 1880, and there was large German settlement in Denver Township near Hardwick. Later churches were built in Luverne and Hardwick.

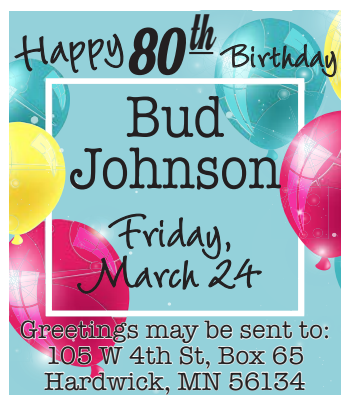
The Unity Congregational Society Church was a temperance society organized in 1886. In 1908 they did not have regular church services but the Sunday School was the largest Unitarian Sunday School in the state of Minnesota. The church was on the corner of Freeman and Lincoln streets. The church disbanded and in 1920 they sold the building to the Masons.

One of the worst fires Luverne has had was on New Year's Eve in 1940 in the St. Catherine Catholic Church. The fire gutted the church destroying many valuable statues and artifacts.

Another memorable occasion was moving the former brick rectory over Highway I-90 to its current location south of town.

Usually a town is built and churches are formed thereafter.

In Hills the church was built in 1884 (where the Bethlehem Lutheran Church stands now) on a hill and later the town was built around it in 1890.



Happy 80th Birthday
Bud Johnson
Friday, March 24
Greetings may be sent to:
103 W 4th St, Box 65
Hardwick, MN 56134



Submitted Photo
Ten Cardinal speech team members were recognized at the SMSU tournament Saturday in Marshall. Pictured are Shelbie Nath (front, left), Seno Chanthalangsy, Rylee Anderson, Chance Tunnissen, (back) Brianna Jonas, Knute Oldre, Cameron Wessels and Xavier Carbonneau. Not pictured are Samantha Ykema and Dylan Thorson.

Cards head into subsection competition; two earn all-conference honors

The Cardinal speech team finished the regular season with the Big South Conference in New Ulm Thursday, March 16, and the SMSU Invitational in Marshall Saturday, March 20.

Five Cardinal speakers made it to the final round of competition in New Ulm.

Dylan Thorson and Knute Oldre won first place in extemporaneous speaking and discussion respectively and earned Big South Conference All Conference honors.

Earning All Conference Honorable Mention for her second-place finish was Samantha Ykema in discussion.

Earning sixth place was Shane Berning in extemporaneous speaking. Marisol Hartshorn took fourth place in storytelling.

At the SMSU Invitational in Marshall Saturday, six students brought home individual medals.

They include Dylan Thorson, first, extemporaneous speaking; Knute Oldre, first, and Samantha Ykema, second, both in discussion; Chance Teunnissen, fifth, extemporaneous speaking; Xavier Carbonneau, fifth in storytelling, and Seno Chanthalangsy, sixth, in humorous.

Earning ribbons of excellence were Shelbie



Submitted Photo
Earning recognition at the Big South Conference meet March 16 in New Ulm were (from left) Shane Berning, Knute Oldre, Marisol Hartshorn, Dylan Thorson and Samatha Ykema.

Nath and Cameron Wessels in creative expression, Brianna Jonas in drama, and Rylee Anderson in great speeches.

Coach Caroline Thorson said the team faced some new competition at the meet, with participating schools as far away as Underwood. "Because of the

music clinician at the high school this past weekend, we only took 21 speakers to the final invitational (in

Marshall)," Thorson said. The Cardinals will compete at subsection Tuesday, March 28, in Adrian.

Rock County Corn & Soybean Growers Association



FREE TO ALL Corn & Soybean Members!
Memberships available at the door

Annual Meeting
Tuesday, March 28
9:30 a.m. meeting
Pizza Ranch, Luverne

SPEAKER:

Bryan Biegler, Lake Wilson - using cover crops in southern Minnesota

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Brought to you by the Rock County Corn and Soybean Growers and their checkoffs

Happy 100th Birthday!
Ann Wagley
March 29

Greetings may be sent to:
Parkview Manor Apt. 28A
308 W. Sherman Ave.
Ellsworth, MN 56129



Prairie Rose Minnesota Community Fund Grant and Scholarship Opportunity

The Prairie Rose Minnesota Community Fund supports local projects and initiatives through grants, donations, gifts or contributions, related to the areas of environmental, biodiversity, amateur athletics, arts and cultural activities, education, health and wellness, disadvantaged individuals, community infrastructure improvements and community capital assets in the communities connected to the townships of Rose Dell, Denver and Springwater including the City of Hardwick in Minnesota and deemed eligible by the Prairie Rose Minnesota Community Fund Board of Directors.

Who can apply for a grant? If your non-profit organization is located within the footprint of the Prairie Rose Wind Farm (townships listed above) you are probably eligible to receive grants from the PR Community Fund.

Who can apply for a scholarship: Applicants must meet two of the following four criteria:

1. Be a resident of Rose Dell, Denver, or Springwater townships, the City of Hardwick or the portion of Jasper located in Rock County, Minnesota.
2. Be a landowner or a child of a landowner in Rose Dell, Denver or Springwater Townships, the City of Hardwick or the portion of Jasper located in Rock County, Minnesota.
3. Be a graduate of a local high school.
4. Non-traditional students must reside in Rose Dell, Denver or Springwater Townships, The City of Hardwick or the portion of Jasper that is located in Rock County, Minnesota.

Grant & scholarship recipients are determined by the Board of Directors of the Prairie Rose Minnesota Community Fund.

Applications can be obtained from on the Luverne Area Chamber website at www.luvernechamber.com or by emailing Tammy Johnson, Board President, at tjanbatavia@gmail.com.

Applications must be received by May 22, 2017 to be considered eligible for awards.

Taking a chance on Chance

We fell in love on Day 1 of two-week 'trial period'

When our beloved golden retriever died two years ago, we were heartbroken.



ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor



Ginger's absence in our home left a hole in our hearts in more ways than we could have imagined.

We missed all the things that dog companions often take for granted — a wagging tail to greet us at the door, a wet tongue to "rinse" yogurt cups and peanut butter jars, and general pet affection that adds another dimension to a home.

It took a long time to heal, and we weren't eager to open our home (and our hearts) to another dog.

Opportunities came and went, but none of the potential companions felt right. We decided we'd know when the time was right.

So our home remained dogless.

Until last week.

Beth Capistran is an avid pet adoption advocate and she's also been known to play Cupid in the delicate process of matching pets with their forever homes.

Her arrow hit the bull's-eye last week when she connected us to a dog named Chance.

The adoption website described him as a 4-year-old yellow lab-Pyrenees mix who was friendly and easy-going.

"He's sweet, loving and very well behaved," his website link said.

"He's in a foster with kids, dogs and cats and is great with everyone."

His photo showed a forlorn lanky yellow dog with sad eyes peering through a patio door.

We had doubts, but we went ahead with the application process.

After all, applying didn't mean adopting. It wasn't a commitment.

But through the remainder of the week, I couldn't get Chance off my mind. We decided it wouldn't hurt to at least meet him.

A meeting, after all, was not

a commitment.

Sara, Chance's foster mom, also described him as a nice dog. "The perfect pet."

That was Wednesday. The meeting was set for Saturday.

Anticipation mounted in the following days, and by Friday we arranged for Chance to come back with us for a "trial period" for us to see if we were right for each other.

It was a trial period. Not a commitment.

It was hard not to speed on Saturday when Carson and I traveled to Slayton to meet our potential new family member.

We weren't disappointed. Chance was waiting for us in the driveway, tail wagging and ears perked, and Carson was out the door before the Trailblazer came to a stop.

It was love at first site. Tears welled as I watched Carson wrap his arms around Chance's big furry neck.

He somehow felt right.

By the time we got home, we knew it was meant to be. By the end of the weekend, Matt agreed he might be the one.

Sara told us she'd hold our check for the adoption fee until the end of the two-week trial period.

We told her that wouldn't be necessary.

Our hearts were pet happy once again. We'd take a chance on love again and let Chance into our home — and into our hearts.

What can we do to help today's kids?

Luverne Schools are taking steps forward

About 100 interested community members attended Friday's showing of the documentary film, "The Bad Kids," at the Palace Theatre.

The 1-hour, 40-minute film followed 1984 Luverne High School graduate and now alternative school principal Vonda Viland through a single school year.

The Black Rock Continuation High School is located in Yucca Valley, California, and is the last opportunity for about 120 juniors and seniors to achieve a high school diploma.

The documentary showed a glimpse in three students' lives and their journey to finish school.

Two students overcame many hurdles to achieve a diploma. One didn't.

Viewers' emotions ranged from relief to sadness to potential empowerment for those in education to continue helping students to remove barriers toward graduation.

The documentary is airing on Public Broadcasting System stations this month.

We at the Star Herald hope our communities are inspired by Viland's

mission.

One caring adult may be all that leads a struggling child to make more positive life decisions and be willing to strive for those goals.

It may just take a little time — to engage with our local school districts and partner in the success of our students.

Last fall a group of community leaders traveled to Marshall for the "Grow Our Own" summit, which focused on the "opportunity gaps" emerging between today's youth and youth of a decade ago.

No longer can the younger generation just physically work a bit harder to achieve a better life than their parents.

Economics is the largest hurdle. Summit speaker Robert Putnam wrote about that hurdle based on 25 years of research. He also found school districts contribute directly to one of the opportunity gaps.

The gap deals with students not having access to extra-curricular activities because of fees.

The Luverne School District has been working to improve that access.

Last week school board members spent an hour discussing activity fees and gate admissions.

A survey is being developed to find specific obstacles to a student's participation in an activity.

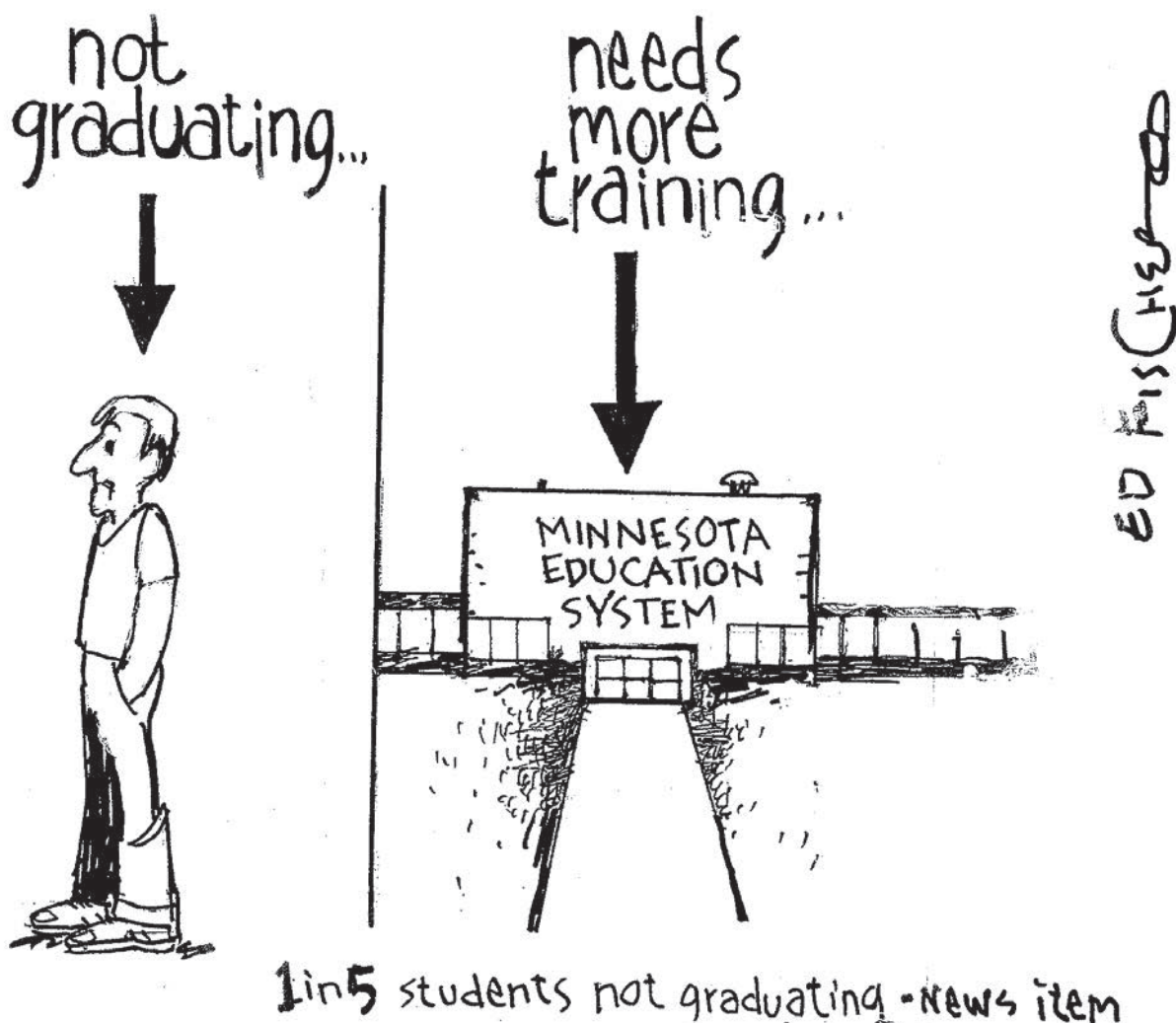
In the meantime the school board is considering letting middle and high school students attend school activities free of charge.

We like the idea. More students at events develops school pride and encourages camaraderie. More broadly, students may develop an interest in participating in the team or group event.

Our school wants all students to have opportunities. As a community, we should too.

Viland says she is coordinating with Luverne Schools to be an in-service speaker as local staff prepare for the new school year this August.

We're hoping she will inspire our community to help all students achieve a diploma and dream big.



Alcohol consumption illegal for both driver, passengers on public roads

Question: Can you talk about the open bottle law in Minnesota? Can a person have an alcoholic beverage while operating a boat on a lake? How about if you are a passenger in the back of a motor home?

Answer: It is against the law for any person to consume alcohol in any vehicle while on a public road. Public highways are any road, paved or not, that are open to the public for vehicular traffic.

The law also applies to open alcohol containers that are accessible to the driver and passengers. To transport open alcohol containers legally, it must be kept in the trunk or an area that is not readily accessible to occupants of the vehicle.

The driver of a motor vehicle can be cited for allowing an open bottle, even if they are not in possession themselves.

The same law applies in a motor home. No person may legally consume alcoholic beverages whether they are



ASK A TROOPER

By Sgt. Troy Christianson, Minnesota State Patrol

the driver or passenger, regardless of where they are in the motor home, while on a public road.

All occupants must use good judgment when in a motor vehicle. An open alcohol container is a clue we look for when investigating a possible DWI. An operator of a motor vehicle can be arrested for DWI anywhere within the state of Minnesota if found to be under the influence.

Drinking and driving could have a deadly outcome for you, your

passengers and other motorists sharing the road.

The following motorized vehicles are exempt from Minnesota's open container law:

- Off-road vehicles (ATVs) — unless they are being operated on roadways or shoulder of a roadway that is not part of a grant-in-aid trail or trail designated for that vehicle
- Motorized boats
- Buses operated by a hired driver
- A vehicle providing limousine service

service

Boat operators are exempt from this law, as they are not being operated on a public road; however, if you are consuming alcohol on the water, the best practice is to have a sober driver because alcohol impairs judgment. There have been many tragic stories on our lakes and rivers where an impaired boat operator has caused a fatal or serious crash. It is important to note that boat operators can be cited for operating under the influence.

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

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

This is your page!

Your opinion matters.

This is your place to express your opinion on matters of community importance. A strong opinion page in a community newspaper is a sign of a strong and cohesive community. The Star Herald Letters to the Editor policy appears each week in the space below, outlining letter length, content, deadlines and contact information.

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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

March 10

- Complainant reported a lost black debit card.
- Complainant reported a white pickup parked at location for five or six days. Nobody knows to whom it belongs.
- Complainant reported his old roommate moved his property to a different apartment and stole his TV. He said he owed him because the roommate got a charge when he was arrested.
- Complainant requested an ambulance for a person they believe is having a seizure.
- Driver called in requesting his purple tote. Tote is in dispatch.
- Complainant requested to speak to a deputy. She was told before by a deputy not to step foot on the property. Civil issue.
- Complainant reported they are releasing subject, contact information for victim does not work, negative contact.
- Complainant reported she is getting threatening texts.
- Complainant reported he will be repossessing a Pontiac G-6 around 9-10 p.m.
- Complainant requested transfer from SHL to SHSF. Paged ambulance.

March 11

- Pipestone County Sheriff's Office arrested subject for probation violation and transported subject to Nobles County Jail.
- Complainant reported he is stalled. Contacted G&S.
- Complainant reported a tip on a burglary.
- Complainant reported a vehicle not stopping headed our way. Stopped at MM 40.
- Received 911 call. Location covered the entire city.
- Complainant reported small red pickup with a white tail gate has been raising heck this afternoon. It's a Ranger or S-10 size, unable to get plates.
- Complainant reported fraud or embezzlement.
- Complainant reported a 2014 black Hyundai driving around. They may be impaired or drunk. Asked for location. Caller hung up.

March 12

- Stopped vehicle at location. G&S towed to impound.
- Complainant requested a non-emergency transport.
- Complainant requested a welfare check on his dad.
- Complainant reported

someone tried to break into the pop machine. Machine is a Pepsi machine. Did not get into it. Snow covered and unable to get contact info.

- Complainant reported a family had an accident in Worthington. Met deputy at McDonald's and requested we take them to South Dakota.
- Deputy requested G&S
- Complainant requested Sioux Valley Blvd. be plowed; reports on 4WD vehicles having troubles traveling.
- Complainant reported a vehicle off road at loc. No injuries. Contacted patrol.

March 13

- Complainant reported that a tractor moving snow at location is loud and woke up his family.
- Complainant reported medical alarm activation. Paged ambulance.
- Complainant reported two loose cows. Complainant called back to report he has locked the cows in a pen on his property. Complainant called back to report owner found.
- Complainant reported subject attempted suicide and is at SHL.
- Complainant reported speeding vehicle. Transported to state patrol.
- Complainant reported a scam call. No personal information was given.
- Complainant reported streetlights out in three-block radius.

March 14

- Complainant received 911 hang up call.
- Complainant reported deer has fallen through the ice into the river. Paged Luverne Fire Department. They reported deer retrieved.
- Complainant reported lost call phone. Phone was recovered and complainant will be coming to RSCO to pick up.
- Complainant reported barn fire.
- Complainant requested escort for female back to group home. Wearing black coat, blue pajama pants, is northbound on Blue Mound.
- Complainant reported Lifeline activation at location. Lifeline negative contact with subject.

March 15

- Complainant reported Emergency response unit call out.
- Deputy served eviction summons.
- Complainant reported

a bag of garbage dumped at location. Found a couple of names.

- Complainant reported subject's dogs are barking all the time.
- Complainant reported a speeding car.
- Deputy posted notice to quit.
- Complainant reported subject has left several people at the office voice mail saying she will find a way to see her granddaughter. Unsure what she means by it but she may go over to the grandfather's and cause problems.
- Deputy served order for protection.
- Activation of Lifeline. Complainant reported an ambulance was needed at the next apartment. Ambulance paged.
- Complainant reported streetlights out on Cedar Street. Left note to call city in the morning.

March 16

- Received abandoned 911 call. Call back said Siri told her to do something and it dialed. Felt uncomfortable giving out her name.
- Deputy served HRO.
- Complainant requested ambulance for her husband. While on the phone, he said they would drive. Advised SHL.
- Complainant reported suspect is at location. He does not want her there. He thinks she is intoxicated. Called back and said she kicked the door but there wasn't any damage and she left.
- Complainant reported a possible suicidal male at loc.
- Complainant reported that she hit a deer at location. Vehicle is drivable. Complainant reported for insurance purposes.
- Complainant reported damaged vehicle in ditch at location. Complainant party paged fire and rescue to location.
- Complainant reported subject has chest pain. Paged ambulance.

In addition, officers responded to 39 traffic stops, 1 background check, 4 escorts, 9 ambulance runs, 1 animal complaint, 5 log/alarm sheets, 1 POR registration, 1 UA test, 3 transports, 1 abandoned 911 call, and issued 4 purchase/carry permits and 14 burn permits.



Brian Biesemeier photos/0323 hay donation

One of the Rock County semis touted an American flag. Seven local farmers delivered six semitrailers loaded with hay — more than 200 round bales — to Haxton, Colorado, last week.

Hay donations/continued from page 1A

nobody was getting anything in Colorado, so we went there," Van De Berg said.

Many people supported the cause with cash or hay, but he said the advantage of the personal delivery was meeting the people. "That was kind of neat; I'm really glad we went." "They're just so grateful. We made a bunch of new friends."



Rural Haxton rancher Brian Biesemeier received some of Rock County's hay. "We lost all our grass," he said. "We have 3,500 acres of grass and the fire went right through the middle of it."

He described the relief efforts as overwhelming. "I tell you, it's pretty amazing, the outpouring from people," Biesemeier said. "It's crazy what these guys did."

He didn't lose any live-stock because his 300-head cow-calf herd was at his home place a distance from the wildfires.

Now he's been donating cow-calf pairs to neighbors who lost their cattle. "Keep paying it around," he said.

Van De Berg said his group of semis stopped at a small café on their way home about 10 miles down the road and they received royal treatment for their role in helping the ranchers. "They said, 'Bless you guys,' and we sat down and our meals were paid for,"

Van De Berg said. In all, they put 1,100 miles on their trucks from their departure at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 8, to their return at 1 a.m. Friday, March 10.

Van De Berg said they're among many others in the Midwest who are also giving generously. A Facebook group garnered two semi loads of hay in the first hours from Rock County and the surrounding area.

"I couldn't believe how easy it was to get stuff donated," he said. "After we got back, there were a bunch more who wanted to donate."

In addition, there have been dozens of other local

relief efforts ranging from auctioneers to cattle sale barns to veterinarians.

To join the effort, visit the National Cattlemen's Beef Association website at beefusa.org.

Van De Berg said the best part of the trip was when they were traveling home Thursday night and met a westbound trucker who reached out to them on CB radio.

"He asked us, 'How are you guys going to make any money bouncing around empty?'" and Matt (Anderson) said, 'We were paid so well we can afford to drive back empty,'" Van De Berg said.

"And he's right."

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6:00 p.m. Registration/Advising

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Mavis Fodness Photo/0316 Sincerely Yours

Felicia Hanson (left) and Tracey Houg reopened for business Tuesday, March 14, after completing a 10-day makeover of Hanson's Sincerely Yours beauty salon. Missing is what Hanson called the Berlin Wall (pictured below), a partition that divided the salon area and had beautician stations on each side. Lower left: The back wall during the remodel.

Sincerely Yours undergoes transformation thanks to makeover lasting 10 days

By Mavis Fodness

Sincerely Yours reopened March 14 after a 10-day renovation to the 134-year-old building on Main Street in Luverne.

"We needed new flooring," said Hanson, who has owned the beauty shop and tanning salon for almost 17 years. "And we hated the wall."

For decades a six-foot-high wall divided the salon in half and was often referred to as the Berlin Wall. Its removal gives the salon an open floor plan.

Ten- to 12-hour days were necessary to complete the remodeling project in time for the Tuesday reopening.

Seven layers of flooring were removed before the new hardwood floors were installed, according to stylist Tracey Houg.

Hanson said electrical and plumbing systems were updated, walls were repainted, new shelving was installed and tin and wood accents were added.



CELEBRATIONS

Open Houses

Orval (Orv) Sundem will celebrate his 80th birthday with an open house at the American Legion Building in Hills from 4-7 p.m. Saturday, March 25. Greetings may be sent to him at P.O. Box 171, Hills, MN 56138.

Card Showers

Ann Wagley will celebrate her 100th birthday March 29. Greetings may be sent to her at Parkview Manor Apt. 28A, 308 W. Sherman Ave., Ellsworth MN 56129.

SENIOR MENU

Monday, March 27:
Hamburger, baked beans, cole slaw, bun, pudding.

Program: pinochle.

Tuesday, March 28:
Pork loin with gravy, mashed potatoes, creamed peas, dinner roll, cake.

Program: Two-buck Tuesday Exchange State Bank. Senior Board Meeting.

Wednesday, March 29:
Italian meat sauce, spaghetti, lettuce with dressing, cauliflower, breadstick, apricots.

Thursday, March 30:
Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, stewed tomatoes,

bread, fruit cobbler.

Program: Anniversary of 40 years of Senior Dining.

Friday, March 31:
Lemon pepper fish, tri-tators, creamed peas, bread pudding.

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

Bring a friend or make new ones.

Call Lori Teunissen at 283-9846 to make dining reservations or for home-delivered meals.

1892: Goose catching, food inspector visit reported in local news

The following items appeared in the Rock County Herald in 1892:

March 8, 1892:

Will Delamater caught a large wild goose about a mile and one-half south of town Monday. The bird was flying low with the flock and struck a telegraph wire and broke a wing. Will saw the casualty and went immediately to the rescue, and secured the bird after a short chase.

August 19, 1892:

J. V. Wilson, inspector in the state dairy and food department, came to Luverne from St. Paul Saturday evening and inspected goods handled by our merchants. His chief aim this visit was to see that the baking powders sold here were properly labeled, especially if they contained alum or were otherwise impure. He reports that nothing out of the ordinary was found in Luverne and no complaints were made. Mr. Wilson took his departure Monday.



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann,
president Rock County
Historical Society

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 mannmade@iw.net.

SCHOOL NEWS

South Dakota State University announces Fall 2016 graduates

Several students graduated after the Fall 2016 semester at South Dakota State University in Brookings.

David Cook and Bridget Kramer, both of Adrian, received their Bachelor of Science degrees in agriculture and biological sciences.

Brandon Klein, Luverne, earned his Bachelor of Science in nursing.

Kristen Scheidt, Luverne, received her Bachelor of Music Education in arts and sciences.

Smedsrud named to dean's list at Saint Mary's University

Kynzie Smedsrud, Luverne, was named to the Fall 2016 dean's list at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona. The list includes undergraduate students who earned a grade point average of 3.60 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Make the dean's list?
Let us share the news

The Star Herald strives to recognize all academic accomplishments of students from its coverage areas, and our news department relies on multiple sources (colleges, students, parents, etc.) for that information.

Send school news to editor@star-herald.com or call 507-283-2333.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Zwaan named winner in Asgrow® National Soybean Yield Contest

Rock County Farmer Monte Zwaan was recently recognized as a top soybean producer in the U.S. as a winner in the 2016 Asgrow® National Soybean Yield Contest.

Zwaan achieved a yield of 94 bushels per acre with Asgrow AG1636 Brand. He was among 52 farmers from 21 states named winners in the annual yield competition, which is open to all farmers who plant Asgrow brand soybeans.

Zwaan, along with other winners, recently attended the 2017 Commodity Classic March 2-4 in San Antonio, Texas, where they attended an awards banquet and private concert featuring country music star Josh Turner.

"We congratulate these winners for their management skills and hard work in achieving these impressive yields," said Jesse Hamonic of DEKALB® Asgrow.

"The Asgrow brand is proud to offer leading soybean products that provide high yield potential and consistent performance to help support farmer success."

The national yield contest encourages soybean producers to challenge their peers in pushing yield limits.

The contest also provides farmers the opportunity to learn more about the latest seed technologies and production practices, which contribute to overall advances for farmers across the country.

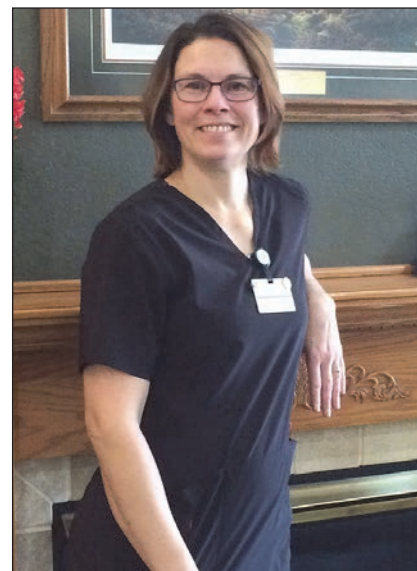
Gust completes Gerontological Nursing Board certification

Luverne registered nurse Karis Rieke-Gust, completed her gerontological nursing board certification through the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

Gust oversees the clinical care and services provided at The Oaks and Poplar Creek Estates senior living communities, which are part of the Good Samaritan Society-Luverne campus.

According to the ANCC, the certification provides a reliable assessment beyond the entry-level clinical knowledge and skills of registered nurses in the gerontological specialty.

"I sought out this certification because the general nursing curriculum de-



votes little attention to the specific care needs of the elderly," Gust said.

"I realized that there was much I did not know about how the body ages and what changes are due to aging versus lifestyle/chronic illness. I learned that much of what we generally consider to be symptoms of 'old age' are actually a result of lifestyle choices and can be mitigated, reversed, or prevented with appropriate interventions."

Gust said she will use her knowledge and training to further design health care programs and interventions that will serve the quality of life for residents living at Poplar Creek Estates and The Oaks.

Read us online!

www.star-herald.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Story Hour and Laptime at library

Story Hour for ages 4-5 meets from 10 to 11 a.m. every Thursday through April 13. It includes stories, songs, crafts and more. Register by calling the library at 449-5040.

Laptime for ages birth-through 3 with an adult meets from 10:30 to 11 a.m. every Friday through April 14. It includes stories, songs, crafts and more. No registration is needed for this free activity.

Grief support begins April 3

Sanford Luverne Hospice will offer a five-week grief support group for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one. Meetings are from 5-6:30 p.m. every Monday for five weeks beginning April 3 at Sanford Luverne Blue Mound Room. Meetings are free and confidential. Call Jill Roemen at 507-283-1805 to register.

American Red Cross blood drive April 3

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive at Grace Lutheran Church on Monday, April 3, from 1-7 p.m.

To make an appointment or for more information, download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767.

A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood.

Bank Night movie 'Sing' April 6

The free Bank Nite movie, "Sing," rated PG, will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 6, at the Palace Theatre in Luverne.

Sponsored by First Farmers & Merchants National Bank and Papik Motors, a free, family-friendly movie is shown on the first Thursday of every month as it was done for "Bank Nite" in the 1930s. A cash prize drawing will follow the movie. Must be present to win.

Hospice Charity Dinner and Auction

The annual Hospice Charity Dinner and Auction is planned for April 22 at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne. Tickets are on sale at the hospice office at 211 E. Main Street in Luverne and can also be purchased with VISA or Master Card by calling 507-283-1805.

Zumba 'Spring into Fitness' April 12

A "Spring into Fitness" zumba party will be at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 12, at the City Centre Apartments. Cost is \$1 and prizes and awards will be given away. Contact Janelle Conklin at raymondandjanelle@gmail.com or on her Facebook page.

Community Ed announces classes

Register for the Minnesota Wild chartered bus trip on March 23. Fee is \$118.

Experience what losing your memory feels like when ACE volunteers offer "Virtual Dementia" on March 24. Fee is \$5.



Lori Sorenson photos/0323 concert band and choir clinic

Making music with the best

Luverne High School band and choir students performed a concert Saturday night for the community after working with guest conductors from Augustana University and Northern State University. The conductors, sponsored by the Luverne Music Boosters, worked with students Friday and Saturday to challenge them with difficult music and musical concepts. Dr. Rolf Olson (**above**) directs members of the concert band during Saturday night's performance in the high school gym. Dr. Russell Svenningsen (**below**) directs members of the concert choir. He also directed the ninth-grade girls' choir.



OBITUARIES

Mavis Berkhof

Mavis Loretta Berkhof, 81, Steen, died Saturday, March 18, 2017, at the Hospice Cottage in Luverne.



A funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 24, with visitation beginning at 9:30 a.m., all at the Reformed Church of Steen. Burial will follow at Eastside Cemetery near Steen.

Mavis Loretta Sanderson was born Dec. 10, 1935, to George and Gladys (Rollag) Sanderson at her parents' home in Steen.

She was baptized on March 30, 1936. She attended primary school in Steen and graduated from Hills High School in Hills in 1953.

On Jan. 6, 1955, Mavis married Bastian Berkhof at the Evangelical United Brethren Church in Steen.

The couple lived on the farm. Their first daughter, Valerie Renae, died on Feb. 3, 1959. The couple was then blessed with six more children. Mavis loved being a mother, homemaker and farm wife. Her husband died on June 14, 2009. She continued to reside on the farm.

Mavis was a member of the Steen Reformed Church in Steen. She loved cooking and sitting down for family meals. Mavis was a talented seamstress and sewed clothes for her children and doll clothes for her grandchildren. She also enjoyed crossword puzzles and cross stitch.

Mavis is survived by her children, Susan (Jim) Clark, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Lori (David) Deragisch, Luverne, Melanie (Merle) Boeve, Clive, Iowa, Bradley (Carey) Berkhof, Sioux Falls, Jeffrey (Jill) Berk-

hof, Hudson, Wisconsin, and Gregory Berkhof, Minneapolis; 15 grandchildren, Travis (Lindsey) Clark, Jesse Clark, Brent Clark, Danielle (Nathan) Wright, Brandon (Lyndsie) Deragisch, Kaitlyn (Michael) Strassburg, Hilary Deragisch, Jameson Boeve, Kylie Boeve, Jayden Berkhof, Hannah Berkhof, Benjamin Berkhof, Jordan Hulstein, Cody Hulstein, and Halle Hoekstra; six great-grandchildren; a sister, Noreen Berkhof, Lakewood, California; and a sister-in-law, Judy Berkhof, Mitchell, South Dakota; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bastian; a daughter, Valerie Berkhof; her parents; and a sister, Gwendolyn Harsh.

Arrangements are through the Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne, www.hartquistfuneral.com.

(0323 F)

Calvin Morrison

Calvin Morrison, 59, Luverne, died Wednesday, March 15, 2017, at the Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



A private family service will take place at a later date.

Calvin was born July 11, 1957, in Marshalltown, Iowa, to Jerry and Majorie (Ellis) Morrison. He graduated from high school.

Calvin married MaryAnn Zoller on July 9, 1996.

The couple lived in Luverne all of their married lives.

Calvin first worked as a truck driver. In 1978 he began

working at the carnival for Serie Fun Shows, which later became Family Fun Shows. Calvin began working as an engineer for Rock County Rural Water in 2000. After retiring from the rural water, he began working at the Luverne Country Club as a groundskeeper. Calvin later retired because of health reasons.

He was an active member of the Luverne Country Club and a 25-year member of the Luverne Eagles Club. Calvin loved to golf. He enjoyed billiards, darts, camping, working for Rock County Rural Water and especially spending time

with family and friends. Calvin is survived by his wife, MaryAnn Morrison, Luverne; a son, Jeffrey Morrison, Luverne; three daughters, Kassie (fiancé Matt) Morrison, Tea, South Dakota; Kalee Morrison, Luverne; and Angi Morrison, Waseca, four grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and four sisters, Sandy Overman, Tama, Iowa; Sherry Roe, Marshalltown, Iowa; Carla Morrison and Connie Morrison, both from Rhoads, Iowa.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

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

(0323 F)

DEATH NOTICE

Bryce Smiens

Bryce Smiens, 59, Luverne, died Saturday, March 11, 2017, at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills. A time of fellowship will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, March 25, at The Howling Dog. A private family committal of remains will be at a later date.

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

(0316 DN)

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Coffee at the Exchange

9:00 am - 11:00 am Exchange State Bank
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2017 Coffee at the Exchange Schedule: Coffee & goodies served.
Tuesday, March 28, 2017

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SANFORD HEALTH

018019-00179 2/16



Mary Lou Mulligan waves a gloved hand as she drops candy out the partially closed window of St. Catherine Church's parade entry.

Green apparel, rosy cheeks at St. Pat's Parade

Faces were painted with flushes of pink among the green clothing during Luverne's annual St. Patrick's Day parade as strong winds chilled the upper 30-degree temperatures Friday, March 17.

Children dressed in winter coats and hats mixed with adults in short sleeves as they gathered candy on Luverne's Main Street.

Pictured at right, candy was freely distributed during the 15-minute parade by entries like Teal's Market store manager Sherri Thompson (center), who refilled Maddie Dinger's cauldron.

At far right, Emma Lusty holds the sign reading "Everybody's Irish on St. Patrick's Day" in front of the Rock County Star Herald parade entry.

Newspaper personnel decorated their Christmas displays for the event and named the nutcrackers Lucky McCrackin and Knut O'Cracker.

Mavis Fodness Photo/0323 St. Patricks 2017



Houselog prepares for accreditation/continued from page 8A

committed to completing the education requirements for assessing.

"It is difficult to get assessors to come out to rural Minnesota," he said. "The pay is so much higher in the cities."

Jeff Sehr, Rachel Jacobs and Scott Adams are in various stages of accreditation, Houselog said.

The Land Records Office

also records real estate transactions and handles birth certificates, marriage records and other vital records.

Assessing takes the majority of the office time.

The office is currently contracted to handle about 3,500 parcels. More contracts may be handled in the office as the 2019 accreditation deadline draws closer.

Local townships currently contract with independent assessors. These assessors may choose not to pursue the new accreditation standards.

"If the township can't find an assessor, the county has to be responsible for it," Houselog said.

However, deadline changes and a waiver system may be added to the licensure

requirements with legislature currently under consideration.

Both the House and Senate bills move the license completion deadline to 2022 or over a period of five years.

The bills also provide a waiver to the new accreditation standards for assessors licensed in 2004 or before.

Both bills are now in committee.

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Not-for-profit organizations (either singly or as a consortium), government agencies, academic and research institutions located within Rock County are among the organizations eligible to request support from the Luverne Area Community Foundation.

The Luverne Area Community Foundation invites applications that will enhance the quality of life in the following areas:

- Arts & Humanities
- Social & Economic Growth
- Environment
- Education
- Community & Civic Affairs
- Nutrition
- Recreation
- Community Health & Wellness including physical & mental health

How to apply?

Find an application and instructions on our recently updated website!

www.luvacf.org

or contact Emily Crabtree at 507-220-2424 or emily@luvacf.org

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"I appreciate JJ, Derek and Kris. There was no way I could have helped get everybody started."

— *Luverne High School Instructor Dennis Moritz*



Luverne High School Junior Derek Fodness (**left**) leans against his latest welding project of turning a car into a mobile fish house. **Below:** Fodness cut two holes in the car's floorboards for access to the ice for his fishing lines. Plastic covers fit over the holes and the front seat can be reinstalled for the car to be driven on the road. **Far below:** Fodness solders wires in welding class for lights he will add to his project of making a car into a mobile fish house.



Peer learning advances lessons in welding

Luverne High School junior Derek Fodness uses skills to convert car into mobile fish house



Mavis Fodness Photos/0323 High School Welding
Luverne High School Senior JJ Dooyema (center) works on his own project in last week's welding class.

By Mavis Fodness

When Luverne High School instructor Dennis Moritz needed an extra hand in the welding shop, he didn't have to search very far.

Through personal trial and error, LHS junior Derek Fodness has become a student expert in bonding metal together.

His most recent educational project is the conversion of a small passenger car into a fish house.

"I got a pretty good understanding of how things go together," Fodness said.

The self-taught welder said he learned a few techniques in class, but it has been in building the fish house he began mastering various welding techniques.

The project started as an affordable and convenient way for Fodness to carry ice fishing equipment to the

frozen lake.

But before his 1994 Geo XFi became a mobile fish house, it was a \$100 purchase from Craig's List.

"We have eight Geos so we have plenty of parts," he said.

Fodness and his dad, Fred, a former auto mechanic, rebuilt the transmission and repaired the crash damage on the body.

Then the welding began.

Fodness recently added a lift kit to the car's front end in order to attach snow chains more easily under the lightweight vehicle's tires. He's cut two holes in the floorboards for fish lines and is able to attach a canvas tent.

"This is a whole new level," said senior Dylan Reisch of Fodness' welding. "This is art!"

Reisch was one of the 39 students in Moritz's two welding classes. While he

knew the basics of welding, Fodness showed him some advanced techniques.

"He's pretty smart," Reisch said. "He knows what he is doing."

Seniors JJ Dooyema and Kris Severson also assisted Moritz.

"You get a feel for it and then it's a lot easier to learn," Dooyema said.

Students have also learned to weld stainless steel and aluminum from a community expert. Each metal reacts differently when heated.

"You have to be steady and in control — a lot more touch," Dooyema added.

For Moritz the students helped get their peers' welding skills going in the right direction.

"I appreciate JJ, Derek and Kris. There was no way I could have helped get everybody started," Moritz said.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2007)

•Rock County Commissioners Tuesday discussed a grievance filed on behalf of county highway workers.

During the recent blizzard, county offices were closed and those workers were paid for hours missed, essentially an extra paid vacation day.

The personal policy dictates that essential employees who have to work during bad weather should be paid overtime starting at the time other offices close and those nonessential workers are paid.

In this case, the grievance asks for that overtime plus holiday pay.

The current county policy, which has been in place for five years, says that when Interstate 90 closes, the county offices close. This is the first time the policy has been tested.

25 years ago (1992)

•The Luverne City Council Monday agreed to paint only the inside of the city's water reservoir tank, after discovering a more extensive paint job would cost \$250,000.

The estimated cost of painting the inside is \$50,000.

At the last meeting, Public Utilities Coordinator Red Arndt

told Council members that painting the inside and outside of the two-million gallon tank would cost \$200,000 more than the city had budgeted.

The unsuspected increase is due to state mandates, which require that the paint be contained, which costs about \$100,000. A sample of the old paint has to be tested. If it has more than 5 percent leachable lead, it must be shipped to a special hazardous waste landfill, which would cost the city another \$100,000.

50 years ago (1967)

•Rock County NFO members followed suit Monday with other members in Minnesota and across the nation, dumping their milk in a field on the John Hubbling farm just west of Hardwick at the Highway 75 intersection.

There was 50,000 pounds of milk dumped during the afternoon, according to estimates made by NFO officials on hand.

75 years ago (1942)

•The U.S. Department of Agriculture this week passed along the word through the Luverne AAA office a request from the national War Production board that farmers save all anti-freeze solutions for the next year, instead of throwing them away.

Solutions should be drained as soon as possible before warm weather and kept in a container securely closed, to prevent evaporation. Saving anti-freeze will lessen future demands on the farmers' supply of it, as chemicals contained in it are necessary for war purposes.

100 years ago (1917)

•Railroad traffic throughout this section of the country was completely demoralized from Thursday night until Tuesday morning by the severe snow storm that began Thursday evening and continued until Friday evening. Partial service was restored on the Omaha and Rock Island lines on Sunday, but it was not until Tuesday that general service was resumed, and then many of the trains were running very late. ...

At one o'clock in the morning the section men were roused from their beds to shovel the snow from the turn table so that the expected engine could be turned about.

After the completion of this job at 2 o'clock word came that the train had been annulled, as it was not deemed safe to attempt the trip to Worthington, the officials fearing the train might get stuck in a cut between stations so that the passengers could not be cared for.

Figure skaters to present weekend ice shows

By John Rittenhouse

The Blue Mound Figure Skating Club is set to present its 26th annual ice show at the Blue Mound Ice Arena Friday and Saturday nights.

This year's presentations of "The Game of Life" are slated to begin at 7 p.m. both nights.

According to one of the skating instructors, Cathy Shearer, the skaters will perform to a wide range of music about life and all of its ups, downs and inner workings.

Skaters between the ages of 3-19 will display solo and group numbers beginning with a large production number involving 35 skaters from the freestyle levels.

Admission to the shows is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for students.

Silent auctions will be staged for both shows full of fun and interesting items to bid on.

Drawings also will be staged during the intermission both nights, and the winners need not be present to win.

Skaters in the BMFSC come from many area communities from the states of Minnesota and South Dakota.

The club supports a vast range of skill levels as well as three synchronized skating teams.

The skaters attend large team competitions in Minnesota and South Dakota during the winter months.

The BMFSC offers skating lessons from October through January and from April through May on a yearly basis.



Skaters in Lifesavers is one of the numbers that make up the 26th annual ice show set for Friday and Saturday at the Blue Mound Ice Arena. Participating in the number are (front row, from left) Brylee Zebe, Marisa Thier, (back) Grace Schneekloth, Augusta Papik, Alysha Wieneke and Emma Schneekloth.



Submitted photo

Strong finish

The Blue Mound Figure Skating Club wrapped up its competition schedule by attending the Sioux Falls Ice Classic March 11-12. The finale proved to be a good one for the 21 skaters representing the BMFSC as it claimed the team championship with 565.5 points. Hutchinson and New Ulm placed second and third respectively, while South Dakota teams from Brookings and Yankton competed as well. The local competitors include (front row, from left) Mara Thier, Morgan Bain, Marik Thier, Emma Baker, Brooke Top, Anisa Vanden Bosch, Brylee Zebe, (second row) Sophie Eisma, Reese Henning, Marisa Thier, Katharine Kelm, Lauren VerSteeg, Jayden Zebe, (back) Elisabeth Kelm, Zayda Holmgren, Maranda Thier, Eilzabeth Spiegelhoff and Riley Severson. Missing are McKenzie Engwicht, Hannah Henning and Ciana Vanden Bosch.

FINAL BSC STANDINGS

BSC girls' hockey		Worthington	0-16
New Ulm	14-0	BSC West boys' hoops	
Marshall	12-2	Marshall	12-0
Luverne	6-6-2	JCC	9-3
Fairmont	6-6-2	Pipestone	6-6
Waseca	6-7-1	Worthington	6-6
SP-L-H-TCU	5-6-3	RWW	6-6
Windom	4-10	Windom	2-10
Worthington	0-14	Luverne	1-11
BSC boys' hockey		BSC West girls' hoops	
Luverne	14-2	Pipestone	12-0
Marshall	12-3-1	Marshall	9-3
Waseca	11-4-1	Worthington	9-3
New Ulm	10-6	JCC	5-7
SP-L-H-TCU	9-7	Luverne	4-8
RWW	9-7	Windom	2-10
Windom	3-13	RWW	1-11
Fairmont	3-13		

BOWLING CLIPBOARD

Monday Night Bowling League

March 13
Games won: Rock Vet Clinic, 3; Luverne Lanes, 1.
High Scratch Game: Pat Weerheim, 171; David Weis, 185; Brendon Kurrasch, 160.
High Scratch Series: Pat Weerheim, 469; Brendon Kurrasch, 422; Marie Oheim, 381.
Team High Scratch Game: Luverne Lanes, 510; Rock Vet Clinic, 446.
Team High Scratch Series: Luverne Lanes, 1403; Rock Vet Clinic, 1281.
Team High Handicap Game: (tie) Rock Vet Clinic, 733; Luverne Lanes, 733.
Team High Handicap Series: Rock Vet Clinic, 2142; Luverne Lanes, 2072.

Thursday Night Bowling League

March 16

Games won: PD's Bar Flies, 4; Mark's Electric, 3; Kruser's Bruisers, 3; Billy Goats, 1; The Troublemakers, 1.
High Scratch Game: Zach Runia, 219; Glen Vanderpoel, 206; Jeremy Gehm, 204.
High Scratch Series: Zach Runia, 601; Jeremy Gehm, 567; Glen Vanderpoel, 521.
Team High Scratch Game: The Troublemakers, 687; Kruser's Bruisers, 657.
Team High Scratch Series: The Troublemakers, 1895; Mark's Electric, 1644.
Team High Handicap Game: Kruser's Bruisers, 844; The Troublemakers, 840.
Team High Handicap Series: The Troublemakers, 2354; Mark's Electric, 2349.

Golden Gophers give reason to believe in Minnesota basketball again

While many onlookers were disappointed with the Minnesota Golden Gophers' early exit from the NCAA Tournament Thursday, I wasn't one of them.



I wouldn't say it was a banner season for the Maroon and Gold, but it was entertaining enough to capture my attention for the past couple of months.

At the very least, it was a vast improvement over the 8-23, train-wreck of a campaign in 2015-16.

For that reason alone, I commend coach Richard Pitino and his charges for making college basketball relevant in our state again.

It did take me awhile to

FROM THE SIDELINES

By John Rittenhouse, sports editor

jump back on the team's bandwagon this winter.

A 12-1 start to the regular season was a positive beginning, but wounds of 2015-16 were too fresh for me to put a lot of stock into the team's success against non-conference opponents.

A home win over Michigan State in the Big 10 opener on Dec. 27 would have made me more of a believer.

The Gophers lost that game, and it cast a shadow over my expectations even though they bounced

back to win their next three league games.

My doubts about the team grew stronger when the mini-run was followed by a five-game slide, leaving the Golden ones with a 3-6 conference record with nine games remaining.

Then what I thought was the impossible happened. Minnesota reeled off eight consecutive Big 10 wins to up their league record to 11-6, and my interest in the team increased with every conquest.

The team sputtered again by dropping two of its final

three regular season games.

My optimism remained intact through that negative stretch because it did include a win on the road against Michigan State, which left the team with a double bye for the annual conference tournament that ended with a loss to eventual champion Michigan in the semifinals.

My view of the team did change when it dropped three of its last five regular season games.

I didn't see the same swagger and confidence displayed by the players

during the eight-game run, and the loss of starting guard Akeem Springs only made the situation worse.

Minnesota was anything but a deep team, and not having Springs on the court left me believing the season wasn't going to end well for the Gophers.

Needless to say, it did not.

The team was sluggish during the Big 10 tournament loss to Michigan and looked completely out of sync when it was ousted from the NCAA field by Middle Tennessee State.

Regardless of what hap-

pened during those games, I'm more optimistic about Gopher basketball now than I have been in a long time.

In fact, I think the 2017-18 season will be even better for Minnesota.

I don't know what type of recruits Pitino has lured into the program for next year, but I do know this.

With the exception of Springs, all of the key players who helped the Gophers win 24 games this winter are returning with a valuable experience.

For that reason alone, I feel another solid season and more than a token appearance in the NCAA tournament awaits the Golden Gophers next winter.

St. Catherine Catholic Church
203 E. Brown St., Luverne
St. Catherine Ph.: 283-8502

St. Mary Catholic Church, Ellsworth
Thursday, March 23: 4 p.m. Vets Mass. 6:30 p.m. St. Catherine Stations.
Friday, March 24: 3:30 p.m. St. Mary Stations. Saturday, March 25: 5:30
p.m. Mass at St. Catherine. Sunday, March 26: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary.
10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Catherine; Sunday School and CLW. 6 p.m. LCF.
7:30 p.m. Bible Study. Monday, March 27-Wednesday, March 29: DOW
Priests Retreat. Monday, March 27: 7 p.m. Divorce Recovery. Tuesday,
March 28: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study. Wednesday, March 29: 10 a.m. Mass at
Mary Jane Brown Home. 3:30 and 7 p.m. Faith Formation. 6:30 p.m. RCIA.

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

Roger Sparks, Pastor
Sunday March 26: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. 11 a.m. Sunday School
and Catechism Classes. 6:30 p.m. Worship Service. Monday, March 27:
9 a.m. PERK UP at Edgerton. 7 p.m. Friendship Class. Tuesday, March
28: 9:30 a.m. Coffee Break/Story Hour.

First Baptist Church
1033 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne
Ph. 283-4091; email: fbcluv@iw.net — www.fbcluverne.org

Walt Moser, Pastor
Thursday, March 23: 6 a.m. Men's Bible Study at FBC. 9:30 a.m. Women's
Bible Study at FBC. 7 p.m. Worship Service on Channel 3. Sunday, March
26: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Morning Service. 6 p.m. Evening
Service. Tuesday, March 28: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study at FBC. Wednesday,
March 29: 6:55 p.m. Awana. Thursday, March 30: 6 a.m. Men's Bible Study
at FBC. 7 p.m. Worship Service on Channel 3.

Grace Lutheran Church
500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4431; www.graceluverne.org — Nichols-glc@live.com

Ron Nichols, Pastor; Cole McCormick, Interim Pastor
Thursday, March 23: 9 a.m. Naomi Circle at Grace; Rachel Circle at Grace.
1:30 p.m. Lydia Circle at Grace. 2 p.m. Sarah Circle at Mary Jane Brown
Home. 4:30 p.m. Book Study. 7 p.m. Priscilla/Elizabeth Circle at Grace.
Friday, March 24: 6:30 p.m. Worship on Vast Channel 3. Saturday, March
25: Noon Bea Rogness 80th birthday. 5:30 p.m. Worship. Sunday, March 26:
8:15 a.m. Radio Broadcast; Worship. 9:15 a.m. Coffee. 9:30 a.m. Sunday
School and Adult Study. 9:50 a.m. Fifth grade First Communion. 10:45 a.m.
Worship. Fifth-grade bread-making following worship. Monday, March 27:
4:30 p.m. Worship on Vast Channel 3. 5:45 p.m. Echoes. Tuesday, March
28: 7 a.m. Dorcas Circle at The Bean. 9 a.m. Staff meeting; Assemble
Grace Notes. 1:30 p.m. Communion at Mary Jane Brown Home. 2:30
p.m. Communion at Poplar Creek. 3:30 p.m. Communion at Minnesota
Veterans Home. 7 p.m. Mary/Martha Circle. Wednesday, March 29: 7 a.m.
Men's Bible Study. 3:30 p.m. Faithweavers. 5:30 p.m. Lenten meal. 6:45
p.m. Lenten Worship. Thursday, March 30: 4:30 p.m. Book Study.

Bethany Lutheran Church
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 507-449-0291 or 605-215-9834

pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor
Sunday, March 26: 9 a.m. Sunday School. 9:15 a.m. Bible Class. 10:15 a.m.
Worship with Communion. Wednesday, March 29: 3:45 p.m. Catechism.
6 p.m. Soup Supper. 7 p.m. Lent Vespers. 7:45 p.m. Catechism Class.

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

Mike Aitena, Pastor
Friday, March 24: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. Sunday, March
26: 9:30 a.m. Worship. 10:50 a.m. Family Education. 7 p.m. Junior RCYF;
Senior RCYF. Tuesday, March 28: 10 a.m. Staff meeting. 6:45 p.m. Bible
Study Fellowship. Wednesday, March 29: 5:30 p.m. Midweek Meal. 6:30
p.m. Pioneer Clubs. 6:45 p.m. Rachel Circle; YEL. 7 p.m. Magnify Praise
Team. 8 p.m. Choir. Thursday, March 30: 5:30 a.m. Breakfast at The Banquet.

First Assembly of God Church
1075 110th Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4
Kenneth and Gloria Kashner, Pastors

Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School. 10 a.m. Morning Worship. 6:30 p.m.
School of the Holy Spirit. Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Kids Connection; Men's
Bible Study with Pastor Ken; Women's Bible Study with Pastor Gloria.

Magnolia United Methodist Church
501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia
Church Ph. 283-9698; cell 227-7821

adrmagumc@frontiernet.net — www.adrianmagnoliaumc.com
Kristi Franken, Pastor
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship. Wednesday,
March 22: Lenten Service in Adrian. 6 p.m. Soup. 6:30 p.m. G1 in Adrian.
6:45 p.m. Service.

United Methodist Church
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4529; email: luvernumc@iw.net

Dorie Hall, Pastor
Thursday, March 23: 10 a.m. Rock County Ministerial Association. 1-3
p.m. Rock County Food Shelf. Saturday, March 25: 8 p.m. AA meeting
in Upper Room. Sunday, March 26: 9 a.m. Traditional Service. 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour and Adult Sunday School. 11 a.m. Come As You Are Service.
4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelations Bible Study. 6 p.m. A.L.I.V.E. Youth Group.
Monday, March 27: 6:15 p.m. Sanctuary Care meeting. 7 p.m. Worship
and Music Meeting. 8 p.m. AA meeting in Upper Room. Tuesday, March
28: 9 a.m. Messenger Folding Team. Wednesday, March 29: 5:30 p.m.
Meal for F.U.E.L. and Confirmation families. 6 p.m. F.U.E.L. Children's
Ministry/Confirmation. 7 p.m. Lent Service at United Methodist. 8 p.m. AA
meeting. Thursday, March 30: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf.

First Presbyterian Church
302 Central Lane, Luverne
Ph. 283-4787; email: Firstpc@iw.net — www.fpcluverne.com50

Jason Cunningham, Pastor
Sunday, March 26: 9 a.m. Sunday School. 10:15 Worship. Monday, March
27: 5-6 p.m. Weight Watchers.

St. John Lutheran Church
803 N. Cedar St., Luverne
Ph. 283-2316, Dial-A-Devotion Ph. 283-4005

email: stjoh@iw.net — www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org
Gary Klatt, Pastor
Thursday, March 23: 9 a.m. Little Lambs Devotions. 9:45 a.m. Rock
County Ministerial Association. Saturday, March 25: 5:30 p.m. Worship
with Communion. Sunday, March 26: 9 a.m. Worship with Communion.
10:15 a.m. Christian Education Hour. 11:15 a.m. Junior Choir Rehearsal.
4 p.m. Junior LYF. Tuesday, March 28: 11:15 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednes-
day, March 29: 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Little Lambs Devotions. 9:30 a.m. Bible
Study. 6 p.m. Worship. 6:30 p.m. Supper (Mom's Night Out.) 7 p.m. KFC/
Catechism; High School Bible Study; Senior Choir. 8 p.m. Youth Board
Meeting. Thursday, March 30: No Little Lambs.

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

Billy Skaggs, Pastor
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship; Kids Rock Children's Ministry. 6 p.m. Youth
Ministry. Life groups meet throughout the week.

New Life Celebration Church
110 N. Oakley, Luverne
Ph. 449-6522; email: newlifecelebration@gmail.com

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship at 110 N. Oakley. Every third Thursday: 5
p.m. Food give-away at Senior Citizens Center. Bible Study groups meet
at various times and days.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
305 E. 2nd St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick
Ph. 669-2855; email: revmumme@gmail.com — www.zionlutheran-
hardwick.com

Mark W. Mumme, Pastor
Thursday, March 23: 3:30 p.m. Zion Worship airs on cable 3 TV. Friday,
March 24: 3:30 p.m. Zion Worship airs on Cable 3 TV. Sunday, March 26:
9 a.m. Sunday School; Adult Bible Study, 10 a.m. Mentor Program, 10:30
a.m. Worship/Communion/Sunday School sings. Monday, March 27: 1 p.m.
Quilting. Tuesday, March 28: 7 p.m. Women's Bible Study. Wednesday,
March 29: 6 p.m. Confirmation, 6 – 6:45 p.m. Lenten Luncheon; 7 p.m.
Lenten Worship Service; 7:45 p.m. Choir practice. Thursday, March 30:
3:30 p.m. Zion worship airs on Cable 3 TV.

Ben Clare United Methodist Church
26762 Ben Clare Ave., Valley Springs, S.D.
igtwb@WOW.net

Bill Bates, Pastor
Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Sunday School
for all ages.

First Lutheran Church
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.
Ph. (605) 757-6662

Intern Pastor Laura Phillips
Sunday, March 26: 9 a.m. Worship Service. 10 a.m. Sunday School.
Wednesday, March 29: 7 p.m. Lenten Service with Pastor Trisha Bose
at First Lutheran.

First Presbyterian Church
201 S. 3rd St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek
Ph. 507-935-5025

Email: lori.firstpres@gmail.com
Worship Leader Michael Blank
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship. 10:30 a.m. Sunday School. Third
Wednesday: Deborah Circle.

God's forgiveness is amazing

I sat one day trying to picture my sinfulness before a Holy God. The more I tried, the more I realized how impossible it was.

How do we, as finite beings, picture Jesus becoming our righteousness and so be able to stand before our holy, infinite God? It is an impossible task. We can't fathom God's holiness and we can't know the depth of our sinfulness.

That is especially true when we are so full of our own "goodness." We continually compare ourselves with other people's sinfulness (of course only those whose sin exceeds ours) and come out just a bit better, believing we are OK. We choose to ignore the fact that "there is none righteous, no not one; no one understands; no one seeks after God." Romans 3:10-11.

We are completely unholy and God is completely holy. Since we cannot comprehend this, we must trust that God's word is true and believe it. In Romans 4:3-5 we find, "For what does the scripture say, 'Abraham believed God and it was

BUILT ON A ROCK

**By Pastor Walt Moser,
First Baptist Church,
Luverne**

counted to him as righteous. Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness."

When we believe God and come to him just as Abraham did being "fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised" (Romans 4:21) and forgive us of our sin, we are then covered with Christ's righteousness.

This is when we can stand before our holy God not needing to understand how it can happen but being convinced of it.

Have you believed God for forgiveness of your sins and stand before God clothed in Christ's righteousness?

Palisade Lutheran Church
211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net

Intern Pastor Laura Phillips
Thursday, March 23: 1:30 p.m. WELCA regular meeting. Sunday, March
26: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship. Wednesday, March 29:
7 p.m. Lenten Service with Pastor Trisha Bose at First Lutheran.

Steen Reformed Church
112 W. Church Ave., Steen
Ph. 855-2336

Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship; service broadcast on KQAD. 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School. 6 p.m. Youth Group. Evening worship at 6 p.m. first
and third Sundays. Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Midweek.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pastor Maggie Berndt-Dreyer
112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 962-3270

e-mail: bethlehemluth@alliancecom.net
Maggie Berndt-Dreyer, Pastor
Sunday, March 26: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 9:30 a.m. Sunday
School; Reading the Bible at Trinity Chapel. 10:30 a.m. Communion
at Bethlehem. 7 p.m. Grades 6-8 Youth Night. Tuesday, March 28: 2:30
p.m. Bible Study at the Tuff Home. 3:15 p.m. Bible Study at the Village.
Wednesday, March 29: 9 a.m. Quilting. 6-6:45 p.m. Meal (Board of Edu-
cation). 7 p.m. Lent Service.

Hills United Reformed Church
410 S. Central Ave., Hills
Office Ph. 962-3254

hillsurc@alliancecom.net
Alan Camarigg, Pastor
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship Services.

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EMPLOYMENT

The Luverne United Methodist Church is seeking a Children's Ministry Coordinator for 20 hours per week. This is a high energy, fulfilling position which works with our Family Ministry Team to provide children's programming. Coordinator will have a strong team and leadership available to them. Please send resume to 109 North Freeman Ave. Luverne MN 56156 (3.12-3.29)

FamilyU, Luverne's School Aged Child Care program, is seeking applicants for a part-time Child Care Assistant for Summer 2017, and possibly school year after-school care. Qualified candidates must be a high school sophomore or older, have experience working with K-5 children, and demonstrate positive behavior management skills. Weekday hours vary from 15-40 hours per week, June 1 through August 25. Apply at Luverne Community Education, 709 N Kniss Ave, Luverne. Application deadline - April 10. EOE (3.12-3.29)

New Prairie Insulation of Beaver Creek has a full-time Insulation Installer position available. Monday through Friday, health insurance, vacation, holiday, bonus opportunities. Will train. Call Dean at 605-376-3006 or 507-673-2548. (tc)

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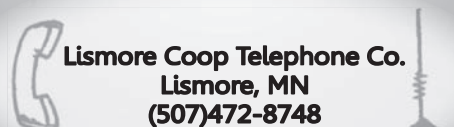
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ROCK COUNTY SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Rock County is accepting applications for summer help positions at the Highway Department. The positions are full-time temporary/seasonal and will work with a variety of projects in providing assistance with the following activities: general maintenance duties at the Highway Department and Transfer Station; may also provide assistance with the engineering department of the Highway Department. Applicants must be 18 years of age, possess a valid driver's license and have the ability to stand for long periods of time, along with bending, stooping and the operation light equipment; minimum pay is \$10.01 per hour. Job applications are available at www.co.rock.mn.us/ employment or by contacting the Rock County Administrator's office at the Rock County Courthouse in Luverne, Minnesota at 507-283-5065 or by email to susan.skattum@co.rock.mn.us. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Applications will be accepted until all positions are filled.

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The Rock County Administrator is now accepting applications for the position of **Equipment Operator** at the Rock County Highway Department until March 30, 2017 at 5:00 pm. Applicants must possess the following: a High School Diploma or equivalent, the ability to obtain a MN Class "A" commercial driver's license within six months and a combination equivalent to 2-4 years experience in the operation and service of a variety of heavy and light highway maintenance, construction, or related equipment. Applicants are required to participate in county's random drug and alcohol testing program and are required to successfully complete a pre-employment drug and alcohol test. The position will be full time with a beginning hourly wage range of \$16.68-\$18.04 DOQ with full paid benefits to include health and life insurances, health savings account and pension. A detailed job description and an application form for this position can be accessed at <http://www.co.rock.mn.us/employment.html> or by emailing susan.skattum@co.rock.mn.us or by phone 507-283-5065. An Equal Opportunity Employer



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Sioux Valley Energy is accepting applications for a mechanic intern to assist with the maintenance and repair work on trucks and trailers and off-road equipment in Colman, SD. Hourly rate. Graduation or at least one year of education from vocational/technical school in specific training in general mechanics, hydraulic and electric systems, and welding experience required. Experience as a mechanic may be substituted for vocational/technical education.

Candidates must submit an SVE application to be considered. They are available on-line at www.siouxvalleyenergy.com or by calling 1-800-234-1960.

Applications will be accepted until April 3, 2017

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2017 GMC Terrain AWD SLE-2 Stock #203799G \$7,000 OFF MSRP \$32,520 Papik Price \$25,520	2017 Buick LaCrosse Essence Stock #135444B \$7,000 OFF MSRP \$41,675 Papik Price \$34,675	2016 Dodge Challenger Hellcat Stock #335703D \$7,000 OFF MSRP \$67,480 Papik Price \$60,480	2017 Chevrolet Traverse AWD 2LT Stock #246117C \$7,000 OFF MSRP \$43,565 Papik Price \$36,565

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2017 Jeep Cherokee Latitude Stock #508195J \$8,000 OFF MSRP \$27,435 Papik Price \$19,435	2017 Chrysler Pacifica Limited Stock #553833Y \$8,000 OFF MSRP \$47,475 Papik Price \$39,475	2017 Chrysler Pacifica Touring L Plus Stock #75448Y \$8,000 OFF MSRP \$40,480 Papik Price \$32,480	2015 Chevrolet Impala Stock #118622U \$8,000 OFF MSRP \$24,990 Papik Price \$16,990
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