



Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, April 12, 2018

Child care shortage 'especially acute' in rural towns

Luverne EDA director testifies in St. Paul for bills that would offer help

By Lori Sorenson

Every region in Minnesota has a gap between the number of children needing child care and the number of spaces available.

That's according to a new report from the Center for Rural Policy and Development that was reviewed at Monday's meeting of the Luverne Economic Development Authority.

LEDA director Holly Sammons shared details from that study, which showed disparity is especially acute in rural Minnesota where 15,377 licensed child care spots were lost between 2006 and 2015.

This compares with the number of spots in the metro area, which grew by more than 3,200 over the same time period.

Sammons pointed out that child care shortages affect more than families.

"Businesses and communities cannot grow and thrive unless they can attract new employees and residents," Sammons said.

"But business won't expand and families are reluctant to take a job if there is no child care available in the area."

She said it's already affecting growth in many areas.

"This is not just a 'family' issue; it is also an economic development issue," she said.

"Child care is a critical part of the social and economic infrastructure of a healthy community."

A committee of local leaders has been discussing the issue with businesses, child care providers, government officials and others to understand the problem from all perspectives.

"This issue has the attention of every young family, every current and future provider, employers, and state and federal government officials," Sammons said.

She said there's no easy fix, but she pointed to three proposals

Child care shortage/see page 3A



Luverne's Marlin Roberts shovels his sidewalk Monday morning after more than six inches of snow blanketed Rock County and southwest Minnesota. (Lori Sorenson photo)

Things could always be worse ... It could be an ice storm like 2013

By Lori Sorenson

Area residents groaned over the weekend when yet another winter weather system moved through the region and deposited six to eight inches of snow.

Travel became treacherous and area emergency personnel responded to numerous crashes and vehicles off the road.

Students slept in Monday morning when area districts delayed class starts by two hours, and spring sports were canceled or postponed (see page 2B).

After the weekend winter storm, Rock County and southwest Minnesota has so far had nearly a foot of snow for the month of April and more than 50 inches for the season, which is several inches above normal.

For anyone keeping track, this year's April is closely resembling April 2013, which was the snowiest on record with over

20 inches that month alone.

Monday this week marked the five-year anniversary of the April 9, 2013, ice storm that wreaked havoc on Rock County and its communities.

A slow, freezing drizzle formed a thick layer of ice, that was followed by gusty winds. The combination of elements caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to property and infrastructure, including a mile of downed power lines near Hills.

The most devastating and heartbreaking losses for many residents was the destruction of trees, both large and small, that snapped like twigs under the weight of the ice.

Few people were happy about shoveling this week, and more snow is in the forecast for this weekend, but locals are repeating, "It could always be worse. ... It could be ice."

Locals tour tru Shrimp in Balaton; preview of I-90 campus

By Mavis Fodness

Rock County officials viewed firsthand how tru Shrimp's Luverne Bay Harbor will operate when construction is finished in 2020.

Local leaders joined officials from Nobles, Murray, Lyon, Lincoln and Pipestone counties at the Wednesday, April 4, facility tour organized by the Association of Minnesota Counties District 8 Land Use Committee.

The visitors toured inside the tru Shrimp technology campus in Balaton and the training center currently under construction at the same location.

Robert Gervais, director of operations and government relations for tru Shrimp, explained current shrimp industry standards and how tru Shrimp's idea for production is safer for consumers and the environment.

For example, he said outdoor ponds currently used to raise commercial shrimp aren't sustainable.

Located along coastal shores, large dykes or hollowed-out ponds are constructed and filled with seawater.

Over time, these ponds become "dead," meaning the ponds can no longer sustain shrimp production. The dead land becomes unusable, as experienced by shrimp production companies in China.

"That soil becomes inactive. It's worthless," Gervais said. "These ponds continued to grow and grow and move, and more and more land becomes worthless to use."

In cropland-rich southwest Minnesota, tru Shrimp's system will raise shrimp inside large indoor concrete production facilities on relatively small areas of land.

At the Balaton research facility, tru Shrimp tour/see page 5A

Commissioners approve gravel permits with conditions

By Mavis Fodness

Rock County commissioners approved requests at their April 3 meeting from two companies for five conditional use permits.

Duininck Inc. of Prinsburg requested four conditional use permits, and Reker Construction of Adrian submitted one request.

Four of the five permit requests received no public comments at

the Rock County Planning and Zoning Commission's March 25 public hearing.

One of the Duininck requests raised questions about environmental and reclamation plans.

The company wants to renew a permit to extract, stockpile and process gravel in Section 21 of Battle Plain Township, and that request prompted an email prior to the

hearing.

Eric Hartman, Land Management Office director, presented information from the hearing to the commissioners.

"There was a fair amount of discussion raised by the email," he said.

The email pointed to the county's developing One Watershed One Plan to preserve local natural resources, raising concerns an open gravel pit

has on the environment and nearby Rock River.

Duininck has been allowed to extract gravel in the pit for several years and currently has exposed about 30 acres. Duininck hasn't used or made attempts to reclaim portions of the former farmland in several years.

Commissioners agreed to grant

Gravel permits/see page 3A

Ladies Expo lives up to expectations

By Lori Sorenson

The second annual Love the Ladies Expo expanded its seminar spaces into exterior tents and into the Grand Prairie Events kitchen Saturday in order to free up more space for vendors and shoppers.

It turns out that was a good call, because a steady crowd of people streamed through the building most of the day to take in 46 vendors and more than a dozen seminars.

Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere said she was pleased by the turnout and vendor participation, both of which were higher this year.

"Everybody I visited with seemed to enjoy it and was satisfied," she said.

"Our original thoughts in hosting the Expo were to have an event to introduce people to the things we have in Luverne. I think that for many women it was a shopping day.

Ladies Expo/see page 8A



Lori Sorenson photos/0412 ladies expo gardening

Kay Umbreit (left) and Ruth Barber stop at the Sweet Savannah Cupcakes booth with Jessica Glanzer, George, Iowa. Glanzer said she sold out of all 17 dozen cupcakes she brought to Luverne.

Human services requests county bailout funds

By Mavis Fodness

Southwest Health and Human Services may see a budget shortfall next month and has asked its six member counties for a \$2 million loan.

Rock County Commissioners agreed at their April 3 meeting to support the request, but only if the money is absolutely necessary.

Commissioners Sherri Thompson and Greg Burger represent Rock County on the SWHHS board, which met March 21. Other member counties are Pipestone, Lyon, Redwood, Murray and Lincoln.

The loan would be repaid in June 2019.

Rock County's loan portion would be \$279,600.

"We are not in a cash position ... to write a check for nearly \$280,000," County Administrator Kyle Oldre said.

"That is a large chunk of money."

Instead commissioners supported advancing a portion of their bi-annual distribution early if necessary.

For the past four years SWHHS has experienced dips in its operating budgets in May and October, before receiving levy distributions from its member counties.

In 2014 and 2015 SWHHS covered its payroll shortfalls through budget reserves. However, in May 2016 Lyon County (SWHHS fiscal host) advanced \$1 million to the social service agency to cover expenses.

In 2017, with no reserves and no advance in funds, SWHHS operated in the red by almost \$1 million in April and May, before that number reached over \$3 million in June.

Human services funds/see 3A



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Lady Luverne Red Hats will meet at 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 13, at the Green Lantern in Hardwick for lunch followed by cards and games. Call Donna at 507-283-8019 by April 11 to RSVP.

Parkinson's Support Group will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne. Speaker Gary Pauley PWP will speak on the journey of Parkinson's disease. Call 507-530-3307 with questions.

MS Support Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19, at Southwest Health and Human Services in Luverne. All persons with MS, family and friends are invited. Call 283-2069 or 283-2964.

Narcotics Anonymous meets at a new time: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays in the basement of St. Catherine Catholic Rectory, 203 E. Brown St., Luverne. Use east door. Call 507-220-0137 with questions.

National Library Week April 8-14

To celebrate National Library Week April 8-14, the Rock County Library will host an open house from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday, April 12, with refreshments and drawings for prizes.

On Saturday, April 14, a special treat for children will be Jim Oliver's presentation of the puppet show, "The Singing Children," at 10:30 a.m.

The Locals perform at Palace April 14

The Locals, a group of local musicians, will perform "One Hit Wonders" at the historic Palace Theatre at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 14. The event is a fundraiser for the Luverne Optimist Club. Tickets are available online at www.palacetheatre.us or at the box office at 106 E. Main Street, or by calling 507-283-4339.

Silent movie at Palace April 15

The silent movie, "The Freshman," will be shown at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 15, at the historic Palace Theatre in Luverne, featuring Leona Hoek on the classic theater organ. Admission is \$7 for adults and \$5 for children.

Free Southern Gospel Concert April 15

The American Reformed Church in Luverne will sponsor a free Southern Gospel Concert at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 15, at the church. The group "Triumphant Sound Quartet" will perform from 3 to 5 p.m. Refreshments follow.

Free food April 19

New Life Celebration Church will offer free food — fresh produce, bread and meat — **from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.** Thursday, April 19, at the Luverne Senior Center for those having trouble putting food on the table. Bring your own bags or boxes. Call 283-4366 with questions.

More food shelf hours

Rock County Food Shelf will add additional hours on the third Thursday of the month. The food shelf is open every Thursday from 1 to 3 p.m. and will also be open from 5 to 6:30 p.m. April 19, May 17, and June 21. The food shelf is located at the United Methodist Church, Luverne, with alley access. Call Mary at 507-227-5548 with questions.

Libraries host author Brian Freeman

•The Adrian Branch Library will sponsor "An Evening with award-winning Minnesota author Brian Freeman" at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 17, in the Adrian Elementary School.
•The Rock County Library in Luverne will host Minnesota Author Brian Freeman at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 26, at the library.

Community Ed

Community Ed contact info: C.Arends@isd2184.net or 507-283-4724.

Cyber Security - Educate Yourself Now class on April 23 will cover a wide variety of basic information to protecting children from online dangers to home security. Fee is \$12.

Take time to learn tips from Prairie Rehab PT's at **Balance and Falls** class on April 25. Take the balance assessment to see if you are at risk for falls. Fee is \$5.

A **Refresher Defensive Driving Class** will be offered on May 4. Fee is \$20 prepaid.

Join Luverne Community Education's bus trip to see the **Minnesota Twins** take on Texas Rangers on June 23. Fee is \$96/person which includes a soda and hot dog at the game.



Lori Sorenson photo/0412 walz vitality summit

Congressman Tim Walz addresses a group of local leaders in Luverne Monday for what he called a "Regional Vitality Summit" in Grand Prairie Events. It was one of three events in southern Minnesota to discuss the future of the region's 21 counties.

Walz hosts 2018 Regional Vitality Summits

Following listening tour to all 21 counties in the First District, Walz convenes southern Minnesotans to identify federal policy solutions

By Lori Sorenson

Congressman Tim Walz addressed a group of local leaders in Luverne Monday for what he called a "Regional Vitality Summit" in Grand Prairie Events.

Discussion focused on federal policies that matter to southern Minnesota, but Walz also pointed out that Luverne is among the most vital small towns in his district.

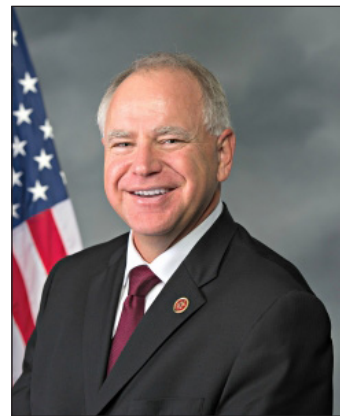
"People are choosing to live here because there are amenities that they're looking for," Walz said. "Thank you for your optimism. This truly is a special place."

Walz represents District 1 in the U.S. House of Representatives. That district encompasses the southernmost counties across the state from the South Dakota border to Wisconsin.

He said greater Minnesota shares similar challenges, such as workforce shortages, child care shortages, transportation funding and more. "We need to figure out how government plays into that," Walz said.

But he also praised the innovation, collaboration and resilience of rural communities.

"Who would have told the Mayo brothers they would



"People are choosing to live here because there are amenities that they're looking for. ... Thank you for your optimism. This truly is a special place."

— Rep. Tim Walz

carve out the medical community in Rochester? Who would have told us Luverne would be the shrimp capital of the nation?" Walz said.

"We need to celebrate these achievements, but we need to have the federal resources that go with it."

He said it's the government's responsibility to make sure communities have economic opportunities.

"People get cynical about government, and there are some things we can't control," Walz said. "But the things we can control we should control."

He said those things include funding for transportation, education, broadband, health care and the environment.

Walz said he advocates

two important ways to "fix the government" — nonpartisan redistricting and campaign finance reform.

A good share of Monday's vitality summit focused on how greater Minnesota can position itself for future success, especially in light of globalization.

For example, keynote speaker David Beurle of Future IQ pointed to current tariff threats between the United States and China and the immediate effects it has on farmers.

He also shared information about the U.S. shrinking economic influence at a time when the Asian middle class buying power is growing.

"What does this mean to southern Minnesota?" Beurle

asked, pointing to the fact that many hog production companies are already owned by foreign interests.

"What will they be buying? Who's going to own what?"

Local panelists who contributed to Monday's discussion included:

•Holly Sammons, Economic Development Director, City of Luverne.

•Terry Gaalswyk, President, Minnesota West Community and Technical College.

•Katie Kouba, Community Concierge, Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce.

•Irineo Diaz, Policy Council Member/Parent, Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council.

•Velma Matias, Policy Council Member/Parent, Southwestern Minnesota Opportunity Council.

The Vitality Summit in Luverne was one of three such events Walz hosted in southern Minnesota to invite District 1 discuss the future of the region's 21 counties.

DFL Congressman Tim Walz has represented southern Minnesota in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2007.

He's the current frontrunner on the DFL side in the Minnesota governor's race.

Library hosts writers contest; enter by June 30

The Minnesota library system is looking for the best self-published books in the state of Minnesota.

This year's contest began April 1 and original local entries will be accepted through

June 30, 2018.

Multiple submissions are welcome.

Books must be self-published, in an adult or young adult fiction genre, written by a Minnesota resident, and be

available in either ePUB or PDF file.

Winners of the contest receive \$1,000 each in adult and young adult categories.

Prizes are sponsored by the Minnesota Library Foun-

dation and BiblioLabs.

Winners also receive other gifts and recognitions for participating.

Works may be submitted at indieauthorproject.libraryshare.com/minnesota



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Human services funds/ continued from page 1A

This May, SWHHS projects the shortfall to be more than \$1 million.

Four of the six county administrators met last month to map out month-by-month projected balances. According to their figures the agency would end May with a balance of \$533,938.

"If these figures are accurate, there won't be a reason for an advance at all," Oldre said.

If a safety net is necessary, Burger recommended advancing no more than \$500,000 of county funds to SWHHS. That amount would be subtracted from the following month's June distribution of \$641,829.

"Rather than loaning them the money, we need to continue to push this thing out and see where we end up at year-end," Burger said.

Commissioners voted 4-0 to support an advance to SWHHS if necessary. Commissioner Jody Reisch was not in attendance.

Burger serves on the SWHHS finance committee and is requesting information about what led to the spending down of \$8 million in reserves over four years.

One management error has already been found, and steps are being taken to correct the error as the agency goes forward.

"They were budgeting income that just didn't happen,"

Burger said.

The committee is working with director Beth Wilms, who took over SWHHS nine months ago.

She met with local commissioners in Luverne last November. At that time she prefaced the possible budget shortfall of \$2.5 million.

Wilms instituted a hiring freeze, and SWHHS has 13 fewer employees since last quarter. In the last two years, the agency added as many as 40 employees to its payroll, which also put a drain on the reserve budget.

The finance committee is also advocating more budget-saving measures for 2018.

"The budget is going to be a good one this year," Burger said. "We are going to stay within its confines."

But he said it will take time to rebuild reserves.

"It has taken us four to five years to get into this predicament and we are not going to get out of it in a half year or even a year," Burger said.

SWHHS operates under a joint powers agreement between the six-member counties.

Since 2012 the agency has managed the social services, public health, child support and financial assistance in each of the member counties.

For 2018, SWHHS has a budget of \$31.8 million.

Gravel permits approved/ continued from page 1A

Duininck's conditional use permit with one stipulation.

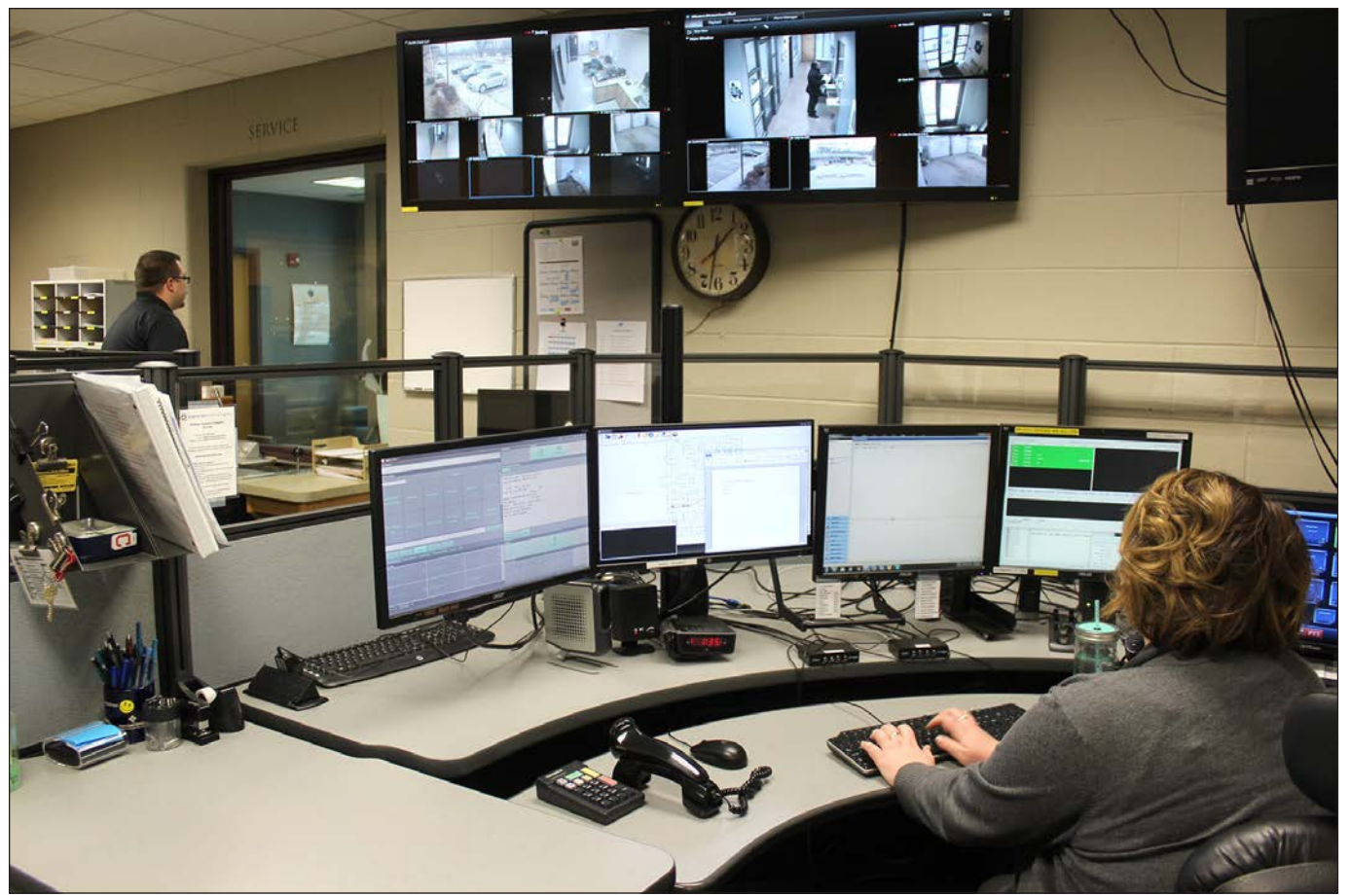
"We would like to see them do some cleanup," said Commissioner Greg Burger.

Commissioners also voted 4-0 (Commissioner Jody Reisch was absent) to grant permits for Duinick to operate a temporary hot mix asphalt plant in Section 21 of Battle Plain Township and in Section 14 of Denver Township.

A permit to mine, wash, stockpile and process aggregate in Section 14 of Denver Township was also granted.

Reker Construction of Adrian received approval to extract, stockpile and process gravel in Section 12 of Vienna Township.

Conditional use permits for aggregate extraction are good for five years. Operations of a hot mix plant are requested annually.



Mavis Fodness photo/0412 Dispatchers Week

Lead dispatcher Aaron Blank (far left) handles inquiries at the window as dispatcher Brooke Walgrave watches the monitors and answers calls last week at the Rock County Sheriff's Office. This week is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, a time to thank dispatchers for their hard work and dedication.

Local dispatchers honored during telecommunicators week

By Mavis Fodness

Behind the 8,394 phone calls to the Rock County Sheriff's Office in 2017 are five dispatchers who made sure requests for help were relayed correctly.

This week, April 8-14, is National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, designated in 1981 to celebrate and thank those serving the public.

Locally, Sheriff Evan Verbrugge said the department's dispatchers are the first voice a person hears during calls for assistance.

"When people call 911, I don't think they know they are calling here," he said.

"Here" is the dispatch center located inside the sheriff's office on North Blue Mound Avenue in Luverne.

Lead dispatcher Aaron Blank, along with full-time dispatchers Joan Foote, Maggie Petit, Ryan Connor and Brooke Walgrave and part-time

dispatcher Katie Overvaag man the phones 24/7.

Verbrugge said the dispatch center receives well over 8,900 calls a year but not all of them require the dispatch of additional help. The dispatchers' responsibility is to screen calls to make sure the caller needs emergency assistance before alerting other emergency services personnel.

This past January, local dispatchers received an additional tool when the county updated its equipment to a computer-aided dispatch system.

The CAD system uses personal computers in patrol cars and provides an electronic avenue for written communication.

Previously the dispatcher would relay information over the radio verbally.

In many instances officers can access information themselves and finish reports inside their vehicles.

All correspondence is completed in one computerized location and is relayed to the correct departments electronically.

"A lot of paperwork is done quicker and faster," Verbrugge said.

At the hub of the new electronic monitoring and reporting is the dispatcher.

Brooke Walgrave began as a Rock County dispatcher more than a year ago.

"There can be periods of quiet and calm followed by periods of 'go time,'" she said.

This week, Verbrugge thanked dispatchers for their service and their embrace of the new telecommunications system.

"The public needs to know how dedicated our dispatchers are," he said. "Our dispatchers are the ones who are sending all the resources to you in an emergency."

There is still time to be counted in Census of Agriculture — NASS to follow up with producers who have not responded

By Fraser Norton
County Executive Director

Farmers and ranchers still have time to be counted in the 2017 Census of Agriculture, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Although the first deadline has just passed, NASS will continue to accept census information through the spring to get a complete and accurate picture of American agriculture that represents all farmers and ranchers.

Federal law mandates that everyone who received the 2017 Census of Agriculture questionnaire complete it and return it even if not currently farming. NASS will continue to follow up with producers through the spring with mailings, phone calls and personal visits.

To avoid these additional contacts, farmers and ranchers are encouraged to complete their census either online at www.agcounts.usda.gov or by mail as soon as possible. Responding online saves time by

skipping sections that do not apply and automatically calculating totals.

The online questionnaire is accessible on desktops, laptops, and mobile devices.

For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture, visit www.agcounts.usda.gov.

For questions or assistance filling out the census, call toll-free (888) 424-7828.

Important Dates

May 1: 2018 NAP Ornamental Nursery sales deadline; 2018 NAP Asparagus

acreage certification deadline.

May 15: Final RMA Small Grain Planting Date; CRP Primary Nesting and Brood Rearing Season begins; 2017 Strawberry Acreage certification deadline.

May 28: FSA Office closed for Memorial Day.

May 31: 2017 Corn and Soybean Loan and LDP request deadline; 2018 NAP Ornamental Nursery Crops Acreage certification deadline; Final RMA Corn for Grain planting date.

Ongoing: Continuous CRP sign-up.

FSA offers ways to use Direct Farm Ownership Loans for Construction

The USDA Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Direct Farm Ownership loans are a resource to help farmers and ranchers become owners-operators of family farms, improve and expand current operations, increase agricultural productivity, and assist with land tenure to save farmland for future generations.

Depending on the applicant's needs, there are three types of Direct Farm Ownership Loans: regular, down payment, and joint financing. FSA also offers a Direct Farm Ownership Microloan option for smaller financial needs up to \$50,000.

Among other purposes,

Direct Farm Ownership Loans can be used to construct, purchase or improve farm dwellings, service buildings or other facilities and improvements essential to an operation.

To do this, applicants must provide FSA with an estimate of the total cost of all planned development that completely describe the work prior to loan approval and must show proof of sufficient funds to pay for the total cost of all planned development at or before loan closing. In some instances applicants may be asked to provide certified plans, specifications or contract documents. The applicant cannot incur any debts for

materials or labor or make any expenditures for development purposes prior to loan closing with the expectation of being reimbursed from FSA funds.

Construction and development work may be performed either by the contract method or the borrower method.

Under the contract method, construction and development contractors perform work according to a written contract with the applicant

or borrower. An applicant for a direct loan to finance a construction project must obtain a surety bond that guarantees both payment and performance in the amount of the construction contract from a construction contractor.

There are other important details, so call the Rock County FSA Office at 507-283-2369 for those details and for more eligibility requirements and information about FSA Loan programs.

Notice To All Bidders

Springwater Township is accepting bids for mowing the township hall and the cemetery. Bids should be per mowing. Bidder will furnish their own equipment and fuel. The Township board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

A certificate of insurance MUST ACCOMPANY all bids!
Please contact a board member or e-mail springwater@alliancecom.net, concerning insurance liability limits.

Bids must be submitted before Tuesday, May 1st, 2018 to:
Teresa Kramer, Clerk
137 131st St.
Garretson, SD 57030
or presented at the township board meeting that evening at the home of the clerk.

Teresa Kramer
Springwater Township Clerk

ROCK COUNTY VETERANS

Did you serve on Active Military Duty?

Do you have an honorable discharge?

Contact your veteran services officer to discuss eligibility for federal and state benefits.



Help for veterans and families

Rock County Veterans Services

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

GRAVEL BIDS: MAGNOLIA TOWNSHIP

Magnolia Township will be accepting gravel bids for gravel to be applied on township roads. Bids must be received by April 18, 2018.

Send to: Magnolia Township
1581 121st St.
Luverne, MN 56156

Magnolia Township Board

Maplewood Cemetery Association

ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

Lot owners meet at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Directors meet at 7 p.m.

at the Remax office conference room

Girls, girls girls *New arrival is granddaughter number four*

Our fourth granddaughter was born on Good Friday, making it a very good Friday indeed. She weighed in at 8 pounds, 15 ounces, which puts her in first place among the cousins in the “heaviest at birth” department.



THE NORTHVIEW

By Brenda Winter,
Columnist

“As you parent, may God give you the confidence and humility you need to raise them well. And maybe just maybe — someday — one more girl.”

petting the cat and baking. The baby sisters haven't yet made their mark in the world.

Five-month-old Granddaughter Number Three seems like a very happy person — just like her daddy. She smiles and giggles and then smiles some more. She goes to bed early, sleeps all night and wakes up smiling.

We don't know much about the new one yet. It's only been 14 days.

It's fun to compare and contrast the girls to each other and to their parents. Our wild child is now the parent of a wild child. Our bookworm now parents a bookworm. (Yes, there is justice in the universe!)

Of our own children we've always said, “God gave us the first to give us confidence, and He gave us the second to keep us humble.”

We pray that same thing for our kids and their spouses as they parent these four girls. “As you parent, may God give you the confidence and humility you need to raise them well. And maybe just maybe — someday — one more girl.”

Enough is enough; put away distractions and just drive

In a matter of seconds, a driver's choice to take their eyes off the road can have fatal consequences.

More than 300 law enforcement agencies statewide will be conducting extra distracted driving enforcement April 9 - 22 to protect Minnesotans from those deadly decisions. The effort is coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (DPS-OTS).

Sheriff's deputies, police officers and state troopers will participate in the extra distracted driving enforcement campaign. Law enforcement uses overtime funding provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and distributed by DPS-OTS, to keep Minnesotans safe from the dangers of distraction.

“Enough is enough,” said Mike Hanson, Office of Traffic Safety director.

“We are such a plugged-in, always-on society that focusing only on the road while driving takes effort. But trying to multitask behind the wheel takes even more effort. If you're trying to do two things - like drive and text, or stream or post - you're not focused on driving. Those decisions can have severe consequences. Please pay attention, and speak up if you're with a driver who's distracted.”

Distracted driving is dangerous driving

•Texting citations climbed nearly 23 percent from 2016 to 2017.

•Distracted driving contributes to one in five crashes in Minnesota.

GUEST EDITORIAL

By the Minnesota Department of Public Safety

Extra enforcements on Minnesota Roads April 9-22

•Distracted driving contributes to an average of 59 deaths and 223 serious injuries a year (2012 - 2016).

During the 2017 distracted driving extra enforcement campaign, law enforcement cited 1,017 people for texting and driving. This was a two-week campaign compared to one-week campaigns in previous years.

During the 2016 campaign, 972 people were cited for texting and driving.

During the 2015 campaign, 909 people were cited for texting and driving.

Distracted driving has consequences

Minnesota's “No Texting” law makes it illegal for drivers to read, send texts and emails, and access the web while the vehicle is in motion or a part of traffic.

That includes sitting at a stoplight or stop sign.

The penalty is \$50 plus court fees

for a first offense and \$275 plus court fees for a second and/or subsequent offense.

If you injure or kill someone because of texting and driving, you can face a felony charge of criminal vehicular operation or homicide.

Do your part

Put the phone down, turn it off or place it out of reach.

Pre-program radio stations and arrange music in an easy-to-access spot. Adjust mirrors and ventilation before traveling.

Map out the destination and enter the GPS route in advance.

Avoid messy foods and secure drinks.

Teach children the importance of good behavior in a vehicle and model proper driving behavior.

Passengers need to speak up to stop drivers from distracted driving behavior and offer to help with anything that takes the driver's attention off the road.



Questionable driving habits can test anyone's kindness skills

Last summer Mary and I went to the Tim McGraw and Faith Hill concert in Sioux Falls, and ever since, Mary has been hounding me to work on my humble and kind skills. Now Mary and I may differ on my level of progress in these two areas, but I think I am making strides in the right direction.



I will admit I need considerable improvement with my grumpy attitude. It's easy to attribute my spontaneous

grumpiness to any number of things like the recent winter storm in the middle of April. However, the thing that redefines my grumpy meter more than anything else lately is the unbelievable bad driving habits of so many drivers.

First of all, when has it become fashionable for semis to park on either side of Highway 75 and run into Casey's for something? Hey, everyone, they

put turn signals in your vehicle for a reason.

The stop signs on Oak Drive and Pine Drive are there for a reason. Hopefully the driver that darn near ended up in the creek at the end of Oak Street learned their lesson.

I don't even know where to start on the whole distracted driving thing other than to say it's out of control. Just this morning

on the way to work, a lady driving down Oak Street coming to the stop sign was eating something out of a cup with a spoon. Now, maybe she has three arms and had her third hand on the steering wheel.

One of my coffee buddies and I are having an ongoing discussion as to which stop sign gets run the most, the one at Oak Street and Warren Street or the

one at the intersection of Veterans Drive and Blue Mound Avenue.

All of the afore-mentioned bad driving habits pale in comparison to texting and driving. All the public service announcements and law enforcement efforts seem to have little if any impact on texting and driving.

What really drives me crazy is the number of drivers I see texting and driving with a car full of kids driving down the interstate passing me like I am standing still.

Now that I got that off my chest, I feel a little less grumpy.

But I'm headed out to my car, so we'll see how I feel later in the day.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, General Manager, Tollefson Publishing

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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.

County tours tru Shrimp in Balaton/contined from Page 1A

the company has successfully raised various-sized shrimp in indoor shallow-depth basins in indoor shallow-depth basins since September 2015.

Currently a training reef (a stack of eight basins) is under construction adjacent to the research facility in Balaton.

While the training facility will house one reef, Luverne's bay harbor will house 32 reefs.

When finished, the training reef will have eight grow basins with 12 inches of water flowing through 12-foot-wide "super shallow water raceways" that are 150 feet long.

In Luverne those basins will be lengthened to 600 feet long. Basins will be stacked on top of each other to increase production capacity without increasing the production facility's footprint.

Gervais said 7.5 million pounds of shrimp will be produced at the Luverne Bay Harbor when it is fully operational, more than three times the amount produced using the traditional pond method.

According to the company's website, the 60-acre campus near Interstate 90 will house the Luverne Cove Hatchery, a free-standing shared water treatment facility and Luverne Bay Harbor.

Luverne Cove Hatchery is projected to employ 20 people and the Harbor will employ 115.

Along with responsible land use, Gervais said tru Shrimp is concerned with water quality and conservation.

The company will manufacture its own salt water. A filter and reclamation plant will remove tank wastes and salt before possible reuse.

"Every ounce of water that we use in our system we want to reutilize," he said.

Bioresecurity

Learning from disease control measures in the poultry and swine industries, tru Shrimp will also emphasize bioresecurity.



Mavis Fodness photo/0412 County TruShrimp Visit

John Griffin with Miron Construction out of Neenah, Wisconsin, gives a tour of the 12,000-square-foot tru Shrimp training facility currently under construction in Balaton Wednesday morning, April 4. Pictured from left are Griffin, Lincoln County Environmental Services Director Robert Olsen and Rock County Commissioners Gary Overgaard and Greg Burger.

Gervais said measures will be put into place to limit outside exposure to disease. Plans include employees showering in and out of the facilities and undercarriage and wheel washing of trucks entering the Luverne bay harbor facility.

Tru Shrimp will also utilize local commodities as feed sources for its shrimp production.

Soybean, corn, hard red wheat along with fishmeal and other ingredients are ground for the shrimps' diet.

Soybeans comprise 45 percent of a shrimp's diet, and tru Shrimp plans to purchase the grain locally.

"One harbor could potentially impact the soybean market here in southwest Minnesota 5 to 15 cents a bushel," Gervais said.

"We are continuing to look at corn to help that market as well."

The AMC District 8 Land Use committee focuses on



The water treatment and feed storage facilities are made from precast concrete and are attached to the concrete walled reef, where the growing shrimp will be housed. Inside the facility (from left) are John Griffin with Miron Construction, Assistant County Administrator Susan Skatum, County Administrator Kyle Oldre, Bob Koehler, Gene Metz, Commissioner Greg Burger, Robert Olsen (hidden) and Commissioner Gary Overgaard.

practices of ground utilization and disposal of material in southwest

Minnesota. Commissioner Gary Overgaard is the Rock County representative.

Rock County Opportunities at risk of funding cuts

The state of Minnesota is considering more funding cuts for a complex disability service system that could leave Rock County Opportunities in Luverne and other providers struggling for years.

The Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation (MOHR), its service provider members and the families and individuals with disabilities they serve are facing a 7 percent cut in funding.

"All we are looking for is for some sense of long-term stability," said Mike Burke, president of MOHR.

"Stability in a system that will allow us to pay our staff competitive wages, which ultimately helps thousands of people with disabilities across the state who rely on our services for their quality of life."

Bills have been authored in the Minnesota Legislature to correct the problem.

A direct threat to service providers, the cuts involve complex formulas that determine rates paid to disability service providers which are tied to an inflationary factor and funding agreements with the federal government, he said.

A House bill led by Rep. Joe Schomacker, Luverne, and Senate bill authored by Sen. Paul Utke, would alleviate the problem, which, if left unaddressed, could mean damaging cuts that are permanent.

MOHR is a member of Best Life Alliance, a state-

RCO already struggles to hire and retain workers as private sector puts pressure on staff recruitment and retention.

wide coalition of people with disabilities, their families and providers of home and community-based services. The group of more than 1,000 rallied at the Capitol in March to draw attention to this situation.

Burke said the rally was an excellent opportunity to help state leaders meet and hear stories from the people who will be affected by these cuts.

"It's important for senators and representatives to hear from individuals with disabilities, their families and the people who work closely with them," said Burke.

Individuals are also speaking out in their own communities.

More information is available at mohrmn.org. Representing more than 100 providers in the state, MOHR members provide skills training, employment services, community involvement, behavioral supports and life enrichment activities to more than 26,000 individuals with disabilities in Minnesota.

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

March 30

•Accidental 911 call on Oakland Avenue.

•Complainant reported someone harassing her on Cottage Grove Avenue.

•Welfare check requested in Mead Court.

•Follow-up in Mead Court.

•Deputy requested to speak with male subject who reported someone trying to break into his house in Mead Court.

•Report of suspicious activity on Hatting Street

•Complainant reported a child sitting in the road on Warren Street with no adult watching.

•Report of injured person on Warren Street. Caller indicated that person was OK and to disregard call.

•Complainant reported 4-wheeler mudding by the wellheads.

•Complainant reported harassing communication.

March 31

•Arrest for probation violation in Jasper.

•Reserved for offender violation investigation in Jasper.

•Report of trailer parked on Carol Street.

•Complainant reported a possible drunk driver in Steen.

April 1

•Complainant requested a welfare check on subject on East Park Street.

•Report of wrong-way driver in Jasper.

•Complainant reported kids tried to rob him and hit him in the face on Lincoln Street

•Complainant reported

her daughter is not answering her phone on East Park Street. She is really worried.

April 2

•Reserved for theft investigation.

•Mail theft in Hills.

•Complainant reported a break-in and theft of vehicle on 131st Street.

•Complainant reported vehicle fire in Beaver Creek.

•Complainant requested a warrant check on himself.

•Complainant reported mail theft in Hills.

•Complainant reported a stolen package in Hills.

•Complainant reported her exis not returning the kids.

April 3

•Deputies conducted a search on Warren Street.

•Complainant reported footprints up to home in the

snow on Oakley Street.

•Vehicle in ditch on I-90. No injuries.

•Deputy checked on semi in ditch on I-90.

•Complainant conducted a warrant check on Spring Street.

•Complainant reported car in the ditch on Blue Mound Avenue.

•Received a 911 hang-up from number on Warren Street.

April 4

•Reserved for theft investigation on Interstate Drive.

•Complainant reported an abandoned vehicle in Jasper.

•Complainant reported an abandoned vehicle in Jasper.

•Complainant requested a welfare check on Brown

Street.

•Complainant reported a follow-up on Warren Street.

•Complainant reported a bike on Hatting Street.

•Complainant reported a possible shoplifter on Interstate Drive.

•Report of pedestrian on Highway 75. Caller requested deputy to check on subject.

•Deputy conducted a follow-up on Interstate Drive.

•Subject reported scam on Veterans Drive.

April 5

•Reserved for narcotics information.

•Request for welfare check on Oakley Street.

•Complainant reported parking complaint on Pine Drive.

•Complainant reported narcotic information on Oak-

ley Street.

•Complainant found property on Luverne Street

•Complainant requested to speak to deputy about his dog being killed.

•Complainant reported a two-vehicle accident with injuries on Blue Mound Avenue.

•Complainant reported a Toyota minivan almost stopping at random places on Brown Street.

•Deputy out with a car at the interpretive center.

In addition, officers also responded to 2 motor vehicle accidents, 2 transports, 7 escorts, 17 ambulance runs, 18 burn permits, 4 drug court tests, 10 permits to purchase/carry, 36 traffic stops, 4 fingerprint requests, 1 paper service, 1 background check, 2 child maltreatment reports and 1 DWI.



Papik picks of the week...



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JUST IN

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LHS students excel at sub-section speech event

The Luverne speech team walked away with the Sub-Section 10 championship Wednesday, April 4, in Adrian.

A total of 17 members of the team qualified for section competition Saturday, April 14, at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

Twenty-eight members of the Luverne team competed in the Sub-Section 10 championship. The top four winners in each category move on to section competition, and the fifth-place winners will also attend as alternates.

Those who placed in the top six are as follows:

- Creative expression: Cameron Wessels, first.
- Discussion: Alexa Chesley, first, and Melanie Rittenhouse, second.
- Duo interpretation: Isabelle Hoiland and Gretchen Jacobsma, third.
- Extemp reading: Nicole Hoogland, second and Destiny Matthiesen, fifth.
- Extemp speaking: Chance Tunnissen, first and Shane Berning, second
- Great Speeches: Rylee Anderson, fourth.
- Humorous: Gunnar Oldre, first; Luke Thorson third; and John Miller, fifth.
- Poetry: Jacinda Hustoft, fourth; Adriana Gonzalez, fifth; and Grace Sweeney, sixth.
- Prose: Sage VerSteeg, second; Josie Golla, fourth.
- Storytelling: Xavier Carbonneau, first; Jonah Louwagie, second; Julia Ferguson, third; Hannah Baker, fifth.
- Drama: Torri Hemme, sixth.



Submitted photo

The Luverne High School speech team earned Sub-section 10 honors April 4 in Adrian. Team members who placed sixth or higher include (front row from left) Adriana Gonzalez, Grace Sweeney, Jacinda Hustoft, Gretchen Jacobsma, Isabelle Hoiland, (second) Rylee Anderson, Josie Golla, Nicole Hoogland, Julia Ferguson, Shane Berning, Chance Tunnissen, (third) Hannah Baker, Melanie Rittenhouse, Sage VerSteeg, Jonah Louwagie, Alexa Chesley, (fourth) Torri Hemme, Xavier Carbonneau, Cameron Wessels, Destiny Matthiesen, (back) John Miller, Gunnar Oldre and Luke Thorson.

MENU

Senior Citizens

Monday, April 16: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, corn, bread, pineapple.

Tuesday, April 17: Roast turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, cranberry relish, bread, fruit shortcake.

Program: Two-buck Tuesdaysponsored bySalon 75.

Wednesday, April 18: Mandarin chicken salad, fresh fruit, cucumber salad, muffin.

Program: Site Council Meeting.

Thursday, April 19: Lasagna, country blend vegetables, lettuce salad with dressing, garlic bread, bar.

Program: Food give-away.

Friday, April 20: Barbecued pork chop, tritater potatoes, green bean bake, dinner roll, fruit crisp.

Program: Birthday Party; Kitchen Band.

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

Gift certificates are available at the meal site or online at www.lssmn.org/nutrition.

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

OBITUARIES

Frances Sandager

Frances Jane Sandager, 101, Hills, died Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills.



A funeral service was Saturday, April 7, at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills. Burial followed at Flowerfield cemetery near Hills.

Frances Cragoe was born Oct. 5, 1916, to Sidney and Estella Mae (Bennett) Cragoe in Rock County. Fran grew up in the Beaver Creek area and graduated from Beaver Creek High School. Her sister Donna Mae and brother Randall passed away at an early age. Fran attended Normal teacher's college in Luverne and taught in a country school for three years. She then attended Mankato State College and taught in Garden City for two years.

She married Victor Sandager on Aug. 20, 1942, and they farmed in the Hills area. Fran's life of 101 years was blessed by her teaching profession and her family. She was a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church where she taught Sunday School, sang in the choir and was active in Bible studies and women's circle. She taught sixth grade at a mission school while serving a volunteer year in New Guinea with Vic and her family. She enjoyed participating in the Norse Glee Club Auxiliary and served on the Southwest Minnesota District Board of the American Lutheran

Church. Her travel to many places and hosting exchange students from around the world provided unique and memorable experiences. She was passionate about her family and friends.

Fran is survived by her children John (Julie) Sandager of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Mark (Karen) Sandager of Hills, Jane (Daryl) Schubert of Mitchell, South Dakota, and James (Louisa) Sandager of West Des Moines, Iowa; a foster son, Edward (Linda) Hartog of Sacramento, California; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; a stepbrother, Ron (Barb) Cragoe of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; brothers and sisters in-law, Sheldon Sandager of Hills, Lee (Betty) Sandager of Marine on St. Croix, Anita Johnson of Wayzata; numerous nieces, nephews and other extended family members.

Fran was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Victor; a son, David at age 14; a brother, Randall; a sister, Donna Mae; her stepmother and friend Eva Cragoe; brothers and sisters in-law Bob and Lenore Hansen, Henry and Leona Goehle, Merle and Marie Muckala, Elnora Sandager, Paul Sandager, Harold Johnson; and special friends Howard and Carolyn Crawford.

Memorials are preferred to Lutheran World Relief or Global Health Ministries.

Arrangements were provided by Jurrens Funeral Home of Hills, jurrensfuneralhome.com (0412 F)

Shirley Mollberg

Shirley Ann Mollberg, 89, Luverne, died Friday, April 6, 2018, at the Sanford Luverne Hospice Cottage.



A funeral Mass was Wednesday, April 11, at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. Burial was in the St. Catherine Cemetery in Luverne.

Shirley Marthaler was born May 15, 1928, to John and Dorothy (Woeste) Marthaler in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. In 1941 Shirley moved with her family to Brooten, where she later graduated from high school. After graduation she moved to Luverne and began working at the Rock County Bank.

Shirley married Arnie Mollberg on May 12, 1948, at St. Donates Catholic Church in Brooten. The couple lived in Luverne before moving to Centerville, South Dakota, in 1952. In 1955 they moved back to Luverne. She returned to work after her children were in school and worked at First National Bank, Frakes Water Treatment, Nelson Department Store and the Rock Vet Clinic for 16 years before retiring in 1990.

She was a member of St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne, the LCCW, charter Eucharistic Adorer, past member of the Luverne Country Club, and the Sewing Club. Shirley enjoyed EWTN daily rosary and Mass, reading,

knitting and crocheting, dancing at the VFW, all sporting events (in person or on the radio), get-togethers with friends, and spending time at the cabin on Lake Sarah. She was known for her potato salad and potato sausage.

Shirley is survived by five children, Diane (Terry) Gonnerman, Luverne, David (Linda) Mollberg, Luverne, Mary (Terry) McDowell, Brandon, South Dakota, Tom (Carol) Mollberg, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Linda (Jon) Rust, Rock Rapids, Iowa; a son-in-law, Jeff McClure, Brandon; 14 grandchildren, Amy (Mark) Overgaard, Mike (Paula) Gonnerman, Heather (Shane) Roberts, Amber (Tim) Walgrave, Jon (Amy) Mollberg, Jodie (Scott) Swain, Jason McDowell, Nicole (Chris) Miner, Erin (Casey) Helbling, Tanner (Cassie) McClure, Marcus Mollberg, Theresa Rust, Andy (Amanda) Rust, and Alex Rust; 32 great-grandchildren; a brother, Jack (Liz) Marthaler, Valley City, North Dakota; and a sister-in-law, Marge Marthaler, Burnsville.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Arnie, on Nov. 8, 2003; a daughter, Barb McClure, on April 26, 2004; an infant grandson, Christopher McClure; and a brother, Vernon Marthaler.

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

(0412 F)

Stephen Jensen

Stephen (Steve) Andrew Jensen, ETC USN Retired, 70, died Friday, March 23, 2018, after a two-month battle with multiple infections resulting in heart failure.



A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, April 14, at Myrhum-Patten Funeral Home in West Bend, Wisconsin, with visitation from 1-3 p.m.

Stephen Jensen was born June 22, 1947, to Andrew and Irene (Pahl) Jensen in Luverne. He graduated from Luverne High School in 1965. He also attended Northwestern Electronics Institute in Minneapolis.

In 1967 he joined the U.S. Navy and attended boot camp at Great Lakes Naval Base in Illinois. He also trained to be an electronics technician in A school.

He married Charlene Witt in January 1969, and he served his first duty station in Rota, Spain. He was transferred to the USS Brumby FF-104 at the Charleston, South Carolina, Naval Base in March of 1974. He was honorably discharged in March 1977. The family moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he worked as an electronics technician at Globe Union. In May 1986 he reenlisted in the U.S. Navy as a reservist at the Naval

Reserve base in Milwaukee, where he served in the Mobile Inshore Undersea Warfare unit. In February 1991 he was named Sailor of the Year for his command. He retired in August 1997 after serving a total of 21 years.

In retirement he served on the Kewaskum, Wisconsin, School Board, and was a member of the American Legion in West Bend, where he served as finance officer. He enjoyed doing woodworking and projects around the house as his health permitted.

In September 2015 he and his wife moved to Crossville, Tennessee, to live in the mountains.

He is survived by his wife Charlene (Witt) Jensen; a son, Stephen (Kim) Jensen; a daughter, Stephanie (Max Welsing) Jensen; a brother, Jeff (Deanna) Jensen; three granddaughters, Kristen (Mike) Goodwin, Amanda (Brian) Vasquez, and Brittany (Erika) Jensen; six great-grandchildren, Raphael, Ryan, Alyssa, Hayden, Zoey, and Lexi; eight nieces and nephews, as well as numerous other family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Arrangements were provided by Myrhum-Patten Funeral Home, 1315 W. Washington Street, West Bend, WI 53095.

(0412 F)

NOTICES

Ignacio Lomeli

Ignacio "Nacho" Lomeli, 51, Luverne, died Thursday, April 5, 2018, at the Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

A talk, followed by sharing among family and friends, was Monday, April 9, at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne.

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

Vance Ebert

Vance Ebert, 94, Luverne, died Monday, April 9, 2018, at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne.

Arrangements are pending with Dingmann Funeral Home of Luverne, www.dingmannandsons.com.

We are looking for donations of gently-used clothing, furniture and household items for our rummage sale. Sorry, no appliances or electronics please.

All proceeds will go to the Luverne Aquatics & Fitness Update & Expansion Project.

Help us to help the Update & Expansion Project become a reality. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Drop offs can be made at the Luverne National Guard Armory April 23 through 26, between 9am - 4pm. Smaller items may be dropped off at the Luverne Aquatics & Fitness Center during business hours. For larger items or information, please contact Christy Reich at 605-321-8347 or Tanya Light at 507-283-8030.

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Love the Ladies Expo lives up to expectations/contined from Page 1A

I would say 60 to 70 percent of the people walked out of there with some type of package."

Jessica Glanzer, George, Iowa, for example, sold out of her 17 dozen cupcakes she brought to her booth, Sweet Savannah Cupcakes, at the Expo.

"I visited with another lady from Cottonwood and she said she would definitely be back because she had a great day," Lanphere said.

"Three vendors that were here last year from out of town said they sold more this year."

She said her husband, Larry Lanphere, sold 400 bags of Larry's Bretzels, nearly all that he brought to Grand Prairie Events for the Expo.

"I also had several people tell me that the seminars were great," Jane Lanphere said.

"They were very gracious about the cold tent. But who would have figured out that it would have been about 60 degrees colder on April 7 this year than it was on April 8 last year?"



Lori Sorenson photos/0412 ladies expo gardening

Below left, Rock County Master Gardener Lynette Jauert (left) discusses the concept of a "make and take portable salad garden" with Gayle Walgrave (center) and Carol Walgrave.



Luverne artist Jerry Deuschle displays works of his own and of other local artists (such as Nan Kaufenberg, Tom Maras, Kristin Petersen) in his booth at the Ladies Expo.

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Fanta Dopheide (left) sets out drink samples in the Sterling's restaurant booth.

At left, Stacey Rolling (left) gives an Irish cream sample to Nancy Frakes in the Blue Mound Liquor booth. In back are Kenny Rolling, liquor store manager, and Ali Dinger

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Mavis Fodness photo/0412 Atlas Banquet 2018
Trenton Bass (left, with moderator Dan LaRock) explains he is currently attending classes at H-BC High School and is on track to graduate with his classmates in May. He is assisted at school by his older brother, Dalton.

Delivering a message of hope

Trenton Bass family shares story at ATLAS banquet of inspiration, hope for the future

By Mavis Fodness

Hope was the theme of the 2018 ATLAS of Rock County fundraising banquet Thursday night, April 5, and the teen guest speaker epitomized hope in the face of life's adversities.

Trenton Bass, a senior at Hills-Beaver Creek High School, was injured in a Sept. 8, 2017, football game. The impact to his head and neck left him a quadriplegic.

At the ATLAS event, he and his parents, Jeff and Missy, and older brothers, Colton and Dalton, appeared together on stage.

They answered questions of hope posed by family friend and moderator Dan LaRock from Hills.

Trenton narrated a five-minute video about the accident, the Sioux Falls hospital stay, and his three months in rehab in Colorado.

"After it (missed football tackle) happened, I was laying on the ground and I felt a kind of calm," he said. "After the CT scan, I saw my family. At that point it was a little more serious than I had imagined."

Bass spent the months of September through December recovering in the hospital and completing rehab at the Craig Hospital near Denver, Colorado. Craig specializes in neuro-rehabilitation and research of patients with spinal cord injuries.

"Once I got to Craig, I saw that as 'go time,'" Trenton narrated. "It was time to stop sitting around and go do something."

Still images showed Trenton strengthening his shoulders and upper torso on various exercise equipment. The final images showed him sitting upright in a wheelchair.

"Hope is just looking into the future," he said. "I know what one day can do to change your life. So every day is a new day when anything can happen."

Bass carried that positive outlook back with him to his home in Hills this past January, where he resumed attending high school classes.

Three days a week he travels to Sioux Falls for continued therapy. His goal is to become as physically strong as possible in order to lead as independent a life as possible.

Trenton's hopeful outlook has touched each one of his family members.

"Trenton gives me hope because he is handling all of this so well," said his mother, Missy. "Trenton has a smile on his face every day."

Older brothers Colton and Dalton also noticed Trenton's smile.

They admit they and their friends used to play football and wrestle hard with their little brother, who broke his nose during one tussling match.

They are older than Trenton by nine and six years respectively.

"We made him a little tougher," Colton joked.

"I have always known he was a fighter," he added.

"I never in a million years thought he would face a challenge like this. He always has a good attitude and a smile on his face."

The smiles became laughter during the story Colton shared at the April 5 banquet.

While the brothers were recently looking at family photographs, Colton teased Trenton.

"I am thankful now that I am not the shortest sibling anymore," Colton quipped about the wheel-



Mavis Fodness photo/0412 Atlas Banquet 2018
Colton Bass (second from right with microphone) said as the oldest brother he still teases Trenton — most recently about his new height. When recently looking at a family photograph, Colton remarked, "At least I am not the shortest sibling anymore." Trenton replied, "At least I am still as tall as mom in my chair." Pictured from left are Jeff and Missy Bass, Trenton, Dan LaRock, Colton and Dalton Bass.

*"Hope is just looking into the future.
I know what one day can do to
change your life. So every day is
a new day when anything can happen."*

— Trenton Bass,
guest speaker at ATLAS banquet

chair.

Trenton said, "At least I am still as tall as mom in my chair."

More of the brotherly banter is exchanged between Trenton and the middle brother Dalton.

Dalton is a paraprofessional helping Trenton at school.

"It is kind of weird to get bossed around by him now," Dalton said.

In the day-to-day contact, Dalton witnessed Trenton's determination.

"He is making the most out of what he's got," he said. "There is no reason for us to put a limit on Trenton's rehab, if God hasn't put a limit on it. I think he is going to do big things in his life."

Jeff hasn't missed his son's determination either.

"Through all of this I got to know one of the strongest, most courageous, faithful persons I have ever met and it turns out to be my son," Jeff said.

"He is truly my inspiration here on earth and just gives me the courage to fight the fight because if he can do it, we can all do it."

Next month Trenton returns to Craig Hospital for three months in their NeuroRecovery Network or NRN. He will leave shortly after his 18th birthday on May 1.

NRN helps improve functional mobility, independence and quality of life for individuals who sustained a catastrophic spinal cord injury.

"It is still therapy again, but it is a little different approach," Trenton said.



Mavis Fodness photo/0412 Atlas Banquet 2018
Lonna Heideman introduced herself to banquet attendees Thursday night as Atlas' recently hired director and staff mentor.



Mavis Fodness photo/0412 Atlas Banquet 2018
Dressed as church sisters "Marlene and Darlene Brower," Luverne's DJ Luethje (left) and Brenda Winter discuss the purpose of ATLAS and encouraged financial support from banquet attendees.

The goal is to prepare for living independently.

During rehab, Trenton is anticipating returning to Hills in late May to attend his high school graduation ceremonies.

This fall he expects to start classes at South Dakota State University's mechanical engineering program.

"It's going to be a lot of learning for me, and my professors too, just finding the adaptations and some technology to help me in my career and to make going off to college as easy as possible," Trenton said.

Trenton's journey is shared by Missy Bass on the "Pray for Trenton" Facebook site. More than 17,000 people are following the site.

About ATLAS

Overcoming life's hardships through faith and mentoring is at the center of ATLAS of Rock County's mission.

There are 13 ATLAS organiza-

tions nationwide. Luverne's office is located on the second floor at 201 E. Main St.

Lonna Heideman of rural Luverne was recently hired as the organization's new director. Laura Luitjens of Luverne is ATLAS' new office assistant.

Thursday's banquet helps raise funds for ATLAS' annual \$100,000 operating and programming budget.

The group also operates a thrift store on Luverne's Main Street called Redeemed Remnants.

Two ministries operate under the ATLAS umbrella, the Loft and Matthew 6 Outreach Ministry.

The Loft provides crisis housing in Rock County and Matthew 6 supports families both emotionally and financially as they face life-threatening medical crises.

The Bass family is one of more than 50 families who have received more than \$50,000 since the ministry began in 2006.

Unsure about next fall, Nelson braces for playoffs

By John Rittenhouse

By definition, the word limbo means an uncertain period of awaiting a decision or resolution.

For lack of a better description, Luverne High School senior Jaxon Nelson currently finds himself living in limbo due to some recent developments.

Nelson, who gave up his final two years of high school hockey to better himself as a player by joining the Sioux Falls Stampede of the United States Hockey League, made a verbal commitment to play college hockey at the University of Minnesota a couple of years ago.

He always wanted to be a Golden Gopher, and the U of M coaching staff wanted him to be a part of their program.

Unfortunately for Nelson, coaching changes at the Big 10 college may alter the timeline when the Luverne standout joins the Gophers.

"It's still up in the air right now," said Chad Nelson, Jaxon's father.

"He still has a scholarship offer. It just depends upon if it will be (offered) this year or the next."

Jaxon's situation grew murky when former assistant coach Grant Potulny and former head coach Don Lucia bid farewell to the U of M program.

Potulny, who served as an assistant coach for Lucia for eight years, recruited Nelson heavily prior to taking the head-coaching job at Northern Michigan University before the 2017-18 season.

Lucia stepped down as head coach of the Gophers a couple of weeks ago after 19 years of service and has since been

replaced by Bob Motzko, who served as the head coach at St. Cloud State University the past 13 seasons.

Chad Nelson said he had a conversation with Motzko at a recent Stampede game, and the coach said he plans to honor prior recruiting commitments.

"It (Jaxon being offered a scholarship) could still happen this year. We just don't know if it will be this year. It just depends upon how many forwards they will need for next year," Chad said.

To his credit, Jaxon is more focused on the present.

He currently has produced 17 points (eight goals and nine assists) for a Sioux Falls team that already has qualified for the USHL playoffs and has three games remaining in the regular season.

Nelson finished the 2016-17 season with 18 points (seven goals and 11 assists), a year that ended without a playoff appearance for the Stampede.

"It's going a lot better this year," Jaxon said.

"We are playing a lot better as a team, which makes it a lot more fun. We have a good group of guys and we all get along with each other, which is nice."

Nelson should receive more opportunities to add to his point total this season.

After dropping a pair of games to Western Division-leading Waterloo, Iowa, over the weekend, the Stampede are in fourth place in the division standings with 72 points.

Sioux Falls sports a two-point edge over Lincoln, Nebraska, and trails Fargo,



Star Herald file photo

Luverne High School senior Jaxon Nelson, pictured during a Section 3A playoff game in 2016, is bracing for a new experience as a second-season member of the Sioux Falls Stampede. The United States Hockey League team based in Sioux Falls has qualified for the playoffs after missing the cut last season.

North Dakota, by five points.

The Stampede complete their home slate with a game against Sioux City, Iowa, Wednesday (April 11) before capping the regular season with a pair of games in Fargo Friday and Saturday.

Placing first or second in the USHL's Western Division would give the Stampede a bye in the first round of the playoffs set for April 16-19.

The conference semifinals are tentatively set for April

20-28, the conference finals April 27-May 8 and the Clark Cup May 11-23.

Jaxon said the Stampede have defeated every team in the Western Division this season, and he is bracing for what he hopes will become an extended playoff run.

"We have a shot at winning it all," he said.

"The first three series will be the toughest to win because the Western Division is a lot stronger than the Eastern

Division this year. We can beat anyone, we just have to put our noses down and keep on going."

What happens after the playoffs remains unclear.

If the Gophers don't offer a scholarship for next season, another year of playing Stampede hockey is another possibility for Jaxon.

"I never really was recruited by St. Cloud, and I never have talked to the new coach (Motzko) personally," Jaxon

said.

"Hopefully I can build a relationship with him and make it work."

Chad Nelson believes Jaxon will do whatever it takes to live his dream of playing hockey for the Gophers.

"It really doesn't matter to him who the coach is. It's the Gophers atmosphere, and being a Gopher is what he wants," Chad said.



John Rittenhouse photo/0412 court

Some of Sunday's snow that fell in Luverne still covered the high school tennis courts at noon Monday.

Weather is dominating spring sports scene

By John Rittenhouse

The winter-like conditions that have ruled southwest Minnesota during the first two weeks of spring have sidelined the athletes from Star Herald coverage area schools.

According to an unofficial tally, a total of 22 events should have been staged before the sun set Monday evening.

The official tally of completed events stands at one.

The Luverne Cardinal tennis team participated in a doubles tournament at an indoor facility in St. Peter March 31.

To date, that's the lone event on the spring slate that has been completed.

The other 21 events have been cancelled, rescheduled or could be rescheduled in what basically will be reduced to a seven-week time span to stage regular season events.

Track teams from LHS, Adrian, Hills-Beaver Creek and Luverne have taken the

biggest schedule hits to date.

All four squads were scheduled to compete at meets in Luverne on March 27 and April 3, but both events have been cancelled.

The annual Cardinal Relays set for Tuesday in Luverne has been moved to Thursday, and all four schools are expected to participate.

Luverne's baseball and softball teams have had three games rescheduled to date.

The Cardinal baseball team now will play a game in Adrian April 23 (rescheduled from March 29), host Martin County West April 27 (rescheduled from April 3) and play a twin bill in Redwood Falls Thursday (rescheduled from April 5).

The Cardinal softball team, which was scheduled to host Adrian Area to open the season March 27, will play a doubleheader when the teams meet in Ellsworth April 30.

Luverne's softball team now

travels to Edgerton April 16 (rescheduled from April 5) and hosts Fairmont May 7 (rescheduled from April 6).

The Luverne boys' golf team didn't have any outings listed on its schedule prior to April 10, but threatening weather over the weekend probably will force the April 10 meet in Windom to be rescheduled.

The LHS girls' golf squad had their 2018 debut at the Worthington Invitational on Saturday rescheduled for April 20.

Although the LHS tennis team did compete in St. Peter in late March, the Cardinals had two events postponed last week.

LHS now hosts Vermillion Thursday (rescheduled from April 5) and Madison April 17 (rescheduled from April 3).

Along with having the game against Luverne rescheduled, the Adrian baseball team is seeking to find a date to host

Jackson County Central for a game that was postponed Friday.

The Adrian and Hills-Beaver Creek golf teams have had events postponed or cancelled as well.

The Patriot golfers were set to host Southwest Christian for a meet at Meadow Acres Country Club April 3, but the event was cancelled.

H-BC also had meets in Lamberton (Monday), Fulda (Tuesday) and Adrian (April 12) postponed.

No makeup dates have been announced for those events.

Along with the match against H-BC, the Adrian golf teams have had matches in Lamberton (April 6), in Worthington (April 7) and at home against Southwest Christian (April 9) postponed.

Only the Worthington Invitational has been rescheduled (now set for April 20) at this point.

Mother Nature reminds us who is in charge

I surrender.

As a guy who earned respect for Mother Nature when I was young, that's



the only response I can come up with after living through what has been the nightmarish first three weeks of spring in 2018.

Most reasonable people learn not to challenge uncertain weather conditions based on past experiences.

To the best of my recollection, I vowed not to take on Mother Nature ever again during one month of June as a teenager.

One of the Rittenhouse family traditions was to rent a cabin on a lake 45 minutes from our home in Breckenridge twice every summer.

For a guy who loves fishing the spring-fed lakes of Otter Tail County, the vacations were the highlights of my summers.

Our first lake retreat always was planned for the week after Memorial Day, and one never knew what you would receive in terms of early June weather in west central Minnesota.

I learned that lesson the hard way by ignoring the potential of storms brewing during the evening hours of what was a beautiful, sunny afternoon.

Taking advantage of the beautiful late afternoon weather, I got into our rented boat on the south side of Long Lake and traveled to the north side of the body of water.

Since the fishing was good, I ignored the clouds building in the western sky and kept on angling.

I did catch a few more fish, but there was a price to be paid for that when the wind picked up and the ensuing waves turned the lake into an obstacle.

A powerful boat motor

FROM THE SIDELINES

By John Rittenhouse, sports editor

would have solved my problem at that point, but the 2.5 horsepower Elgin latched onto the stern of the boat was anything but explosive.

What should have been a 10-minute mile ride across the water turned into a 40-minute adventure that ended with me nearly kissing the ground in front of our rental cabin.

Needless to say, Mother Nature taught me a lesson I'll never forget.

Nature hasn't challenged me in that way this spring, but it's beginning to break me down both physically and mentally.

As I was writing this column on Monday, I could feel the aches and pains in my muscles from scooping six inches of snow off the driveway and sidewalk twice on Sunday.

From a mental standpoint, I can't imagine a worse vision than looking at one-half of one foot of snow on the ground when we are less than three weeks away from the month of May.

I'm pretty sure the athletes waiting to open the spring sports season in Luverne and the surrounding schools are feeling the same way.

By this time last year, I already had photographed three track meets, one softball game, one baseball game and one tennis match.

In 2018 I've yet to cover my first outdoor event.

The athletes and I know the games will begin eventually, but it won't happen until Mother Nature releases its grip on us all.

Local wrestler places second in Rochester over weekend

By John Rittenhouse

A member of the Luverne Youth Wrestling Club turned in a place-earning performance at the Northland Youth Wrestling State Tournament in Rochester over the weekend.

Kane Akkerman, one of seven members of the Luverne club to participate at the tournament, fell one win short of capturing a state title.

Competing in the 130-pound class for first- and

second-graders, Akkerman compiled a 2-1 record to place second in the division.

Braylynn Altman went 2-2 at the state tournament.

Jade Johnson, Ashton Altman and Jaden Reisch all

went 1-2 in Rochester.

Brody Kopp and Nathan Akkerman dropped both of their matches at the state classic.

The Cardinal wrestlers are coached by Cody Hess.

Rock County Commissioners meet March 6

Herred Board Room 9:00 A.M.
Rock County Courthouse March 6, 2018

The meeting was called order by Chair Thompson with all Commissioners present; also in attendance were County Administrator Oldre and Deputy Administrator Susan Skattum.

Motion by Williamson, seconded by Reisch, to approve the March 06, 2018 County Board agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Burger, seconded by Overgaard, to approve the February 20, 2018 County Board minutes, declared carried on a voice vote.

Southwest Health and Human Services Representatives Tara Vander Steen, Keri Peterson and Jessica Schmit presented an overview of the application process to become a licensed daycare provider; typically it takes two to three months to get licensed with a renewal every two years. Currently, Rock County has 36 licensed daycare providers and they charge on average \$2.50/child. A shortage is anticipated in Luverne due to existing providers reaching retirement age; many younger providers stay licensed short term until their own children reach school age. Daycare shortages are statewide crises.

Petersen and Vander Steen also discussed federal assistance available to qualifying participants, which indicated that the sliding fee schedule has many variables. Assistance also requires additional paperwork for the provider, so the participant would have to find a daycare that is willing to participate with the assistance process. After considerable discussion, the County Board thanked Petersen, Schmit and Vander Steen for their informative presentation.

Doug Bos, Land Management Office Assistant Director presented a 2017 Feedlot recap to include activity and the financial report; requested approval of the 2017 Feedlot Summary Report and the 2017 Annual County Feedlot Officer Report Supplemental Report. Motion by Williamson, seconded by Overgaard, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote. Bos also stated that new construction for 2018 looks very good.

Bos also presented an update regarding One Watershed One Plan, a 14-member entity that has been working under a Memorandum of Agreement to develop a Water Plan for the 14-member area. The organization is proposing a Joint Powers Agreement to determine the governance and to clearly state the intention and function of the organization. The JPA governance structure is identified as Policy Committee, Planning Committee and Advisory Committee. Potential funding for each region for Water Plan development and compliance is \$800,000 - \$850,000.

Mark Sehr, Engineer, reviewed details of the 5-Year Construction Plan 2018-2022 and requested comments or questions; after discussion, motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch, to adopt the 2018-2022 5-Year Construction Plan and to authorize an informational meeting to present the 5-Year Construction Plan scheduled for April 3rd at 1:30PM, declared carried on a voice vote. The informational meeting will be held in the basement of the Rock County Community Library.

The Engineer presented the bid results for SAP 067-599-179, a bridge construction project over the Split Rock Creek in Rose Dell Township:

•Prahm Construction	\$348,380.00
•Structural Specialties Inc.	\$370,552.00
•M & K Bridge Constructin, Inc	\$417,512.00
•ICON Constructors, LLC	\$439,620.00

On a recommendation by the Engineer, motion by Burger, seconded by Williamson, to accept the low compliant bid from Prahm Construction of \$348,380.00, declared carried on a voice vote.

Ashley Kurtz, Auditor/Treasurer, presented Per Diems of \$200.00 and the claims; motion by Williamson, seconded by Burger, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote. A complete listing of the claims is available upon request at the Auditor/Treasurer's office.

MARCH 6, 2018 CLAIMS OVER \$2,000	
AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS INC	2,615.77
SAFEASSURE CONSULTANTS INC	6,136.97
SANFORD HEALTH	4,655.00
SHORT - ELLIOTT - HENDRICKSON INC	2,941.98
62 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	27,771.79
TOTAL	\$44,121.51

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Thompson to approve the Fund Balance report as presented, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Auditor/Treasurer informed the County Board that Rock County has been notified of the 2018 Wind Production Tax for the amount of \$825,431.35, a slight decrease from 2017. The Auditor/Treasurer provided a distribution breakdown which indicated that the county receives eighty percent of the amount with the remaining twenty percent to go to townships that have wind turbines in their township.

The Auditor/Treasurer presented an update of a recent Minnesota Association of County Offices (MACO) conference; MACO membership is County Auditors, Treasurers and Recorders. Overall the conference was good and included discussion pertaining their legislative platform, MNLARS and professional development sessions.

The Auditor/Treasurer information the County Board that Katie Kopp has accepted Rock County's employment offer for Deputy Auditor-Treasurer/Accountant and will begin employment March 26, 2018. Also stated that tax statements are due to be mailed out March 23rd.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Overgaard, to approve Resolution No. 06-18, a request to MN Department of Natural Resources to conduct an Aggregate Resource Study, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Administrator presented a recap of the AMC Legislative Conference identifying the following as priorities: Land Acquisitions, Mental Health Regional Crisis Centers & Supportive Housing, Opioids, Broadband Development funding and Transportation fund.

The Administrator requested authorization to submit an application for Opportunity Zones designation from MN Employment & Economic Development; the designation is not intended to compete with TIF's or any other type of development incentives. Motion by Reisch, seconded by Overgaard, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was reminded of the County Board retreat scheduled for March 20th following the regular scheduled County Board meeting.

The County Board was in receipt of a summary changes to be made to the Plum Creek Joint Powers Agreement; all changes have been through a legal review. Motion by Reisch, seconded by Thompson, to approve the proposed changes to the Plum Creek JPA, declared carried on a voice vote.

COMMISSIONER ITEMS:

Commissioner Reisch stated that he had attended a City/County Liaison meeting.

Commissioner Burger stated that he had attended a Southwest Health & Human Services meeting, AMC Legislative Conference and will be attending the March 16 LIFT meeting/banquet.

Commissioner Overgaard stated that he had attended a One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) meeting, AMC Legislative Conference, Planning & Zoning meeting and City/County Liaison meeting.

Commissioner Williamson stated that he had attended a Rock County Opportunities meeting, 1W1P meeting and Rural Water meeting.

Commissioner Thompson stated that she had attended the AMC Legislative Conference.

The Administrator informed the County Board that an employment offer has been made to Ryan Holtz for the Systems Manager at Rock County Rural Water, effective March 19, 2018.

The Administrator also stated that the needed repairs to the elevator will begin on March 12th and that the elevator will be out of service for approximately two weeks.

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

(4-12)

EMPLOYMENT

FamilyU, Luverne's School Aged Child Care program, is seeking applicants for a part-time Child Care Assistant for Summer 2018, 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 24. Apply at Luverne Community Education, 709 N. Kniss Ave, Luverne. Application deadline - April 17. EOE (4.1-4.12)

Oasis Care Home is now hiring various weekend shifts for CNA. \$13.50 per hour. Call Mandy at Oasis Care Home for more information at 507-449-6156. (3.25-4.12)

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

Help wanted: Someone for general housework and personal care 1 day every 2 weeks for 5 hours a week total. Also for yardman to work 4 hours once a week every week. Call 507-669-2585 (4.8-4.26)

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EMPLOYMENT

Client Community Services, Inc. has openings for Direct Support Professionals in our two homes in Luverne. Currently, we have three positions available (one overnight), all with an average of 35 hours per week. All three positions are health insurance eligible and offer other benefit options. We also have four part-time positions available; one overnight shift. These positions range in hours from 8 up to 20 hours a week depending on the block schedule. All shifts are on a two week rotating schedule with fixed hours. If you are interested in these positions and would like more information, please visit our website at www.clientcommunityservices.org and apply online. We can also be reached at the CCSI offices in Worthington, MN at (507) 376-3171 x 2. (3.25-4.12)

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CARDS OF THANKS

The family of Frances Sandager would like to express our sincere thanks for the wonderful care and support from the Tuff Memorial Nursing Home, Tuff Village, Sanford Hospice and Jurrens Funeral Home. We would also like to thank the community for their support given during this difficult time. Thank you to Pastor Maggie Berndt-Dreyer for her spiritual guidance. (4.12-4.15)

We would like to thank Mary Jane Brown Home and Sanford Hospice for the wonderful care given to Wilma Jeffer. Thank you to the community for all of the support given to us during this difficult time. We would also like to thank Dingmann Funeral Home for the arrangements and Pastor Tom Voigt for the beautiful service.

The Family of Wilma Jeffer
(4.8-4.12)

RENTALS

For Rent: one-bedroom upstairs apartment with carport. No smoking and no pets allowed. Call 507-283-9720. (3.29-4.15)

Office space for rent: close to downtown Luverne, quiet area, single or double office space available. Contact Roni at 605-351-3522. (3.25-4.12)

For Rent: one-bedroom apartment near downtown Luverne. \$290 per month. No Pets. Call 605-201-6427. (tc)

For Rent: Two-bedroom apartment with central air, water and heat, and one car garage included. On-site laundry. Quiet area, no smoking, no pets. Call 507-920-0406. (4.5-4.22)

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To apply, visit sanfordhealth.jobs search "Luverne" in the location search bar.

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Come join our team at the Howling Dog Saloon! We have openings for **part-time bartenders and waitstaff.**

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Pick up an application or email any inquiries to the howlingdogsaloon1@gmail.com.

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CHS Truck Drivers - Seasonal

Wanted- **CHS needs seasonal truck drivers** in the towns listed below. For seasonal truck drivers a CDL and clean driving record are preferred. Also looking for Drivers for evening and weekend shifts. Hazmat and Tanker preferred but not required.

Drivers are needed at the following locations: Colton SD, Garretson SD, Worthing SD, Elkton SD, Magnolia MN, Ruthton MN, Tracy MN, and Marshall MN.

If you are interested in applying, please email your contact info and qualifications to kyle.heronimus@chsinc.com or call 605-582-2415 and ask for Kyle.

To see complete job posting and apply online, visit www.chsinc.com/careers. Click on: Careers / under CHS Opportunities find "CHS career search here" then click Search Openings and enter ID# 11078.

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ADMINISTRATOR (CEO) AVERA MERRILL PIONEER HEALTH ROCK RAPIDS, IA

Avera Merrill Pioneer Health, part of the Avera Health system, is seeking experienced and progressive candidates for the position of Administrator as we build a new 10 bed hospital and clinic scheduled to open in April 2019.

The Administrator is responsible to provide leadership, direction, and administration along with community visibility. A Bachelor's degree in Health Administration or Business Administration and a minimum of 3-5 years of management experience is required. A Master's degree in Health Administration or Business Administration and healthcare experience and/or past hospital CEO experience is preferred. The ideal candidate is a visionary leader who can build effective teams and communicate within the organization and community. We are seeking candidates who will need to be highly visible in the communities and form strong connections to the communities we serve.

Avera Merrill Pioneer Health is a not-for-profit organization committed to providing health care services in extreme Northwest Iowa. The hospital will have surgical rooms, provide emergency services, therapy services, emergency care, outpatient clinics and programs, radiology, lab, inpatient hospice, and chemotherapy.

Rock Rapids, with a current population of 2,600, is a community with many recreational opportunities, such as bike and walking trails, camping, fishing, swimming, sports facility, dirt track racing, golfing, and snowmobiling. Residents enjoy small town living with easy access to larger communities of Sioux Falls, Iowa Great Lakes, the Twin Cities, and Omaha.

Only written or online applications will be considered. You can apply online at www.averajobs.org. Please reference Req. 1802456 when applying.



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Minority/Female/Disabled/Veteran/Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity

DEPUTY AUDITOR/ TREASURER - ACCOUNTANT ROCK COUNTY AUDITOR/TREASURER'S OFFICE

The Rock County Administrator is now accepting applications for the position of Deputy Auditor/Treasurer - Accountant in the Rock County Auditor/Treasurer's Office until April 20, 2018 at 5:00 PM. This position performs difficult professional and administrative work in an office setting, with an emphasis in accounting and finance, in assisting with the daily operations of the Auditor/Treasurer's Office and License Center to include payroll, computation, collection and distribution of real estate, mortgage and deed taxes, elections, audit preparation and financial analysis and reporting. Qualifications for this position are as follows: Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance, with a minimum 2-year experience in Public Accounting (audit) and/or Financial Management or comparable accounting and financial management experience; experience interpreting Governmental Accounting Standards and Publication is desired. This is a full time benefit eligible position; starting hourly wage range is \$19.91 - \$22.40 DOQ with a maximum hourly wage of \$28.34.

A detailed job description and an application form for this position can be accessed at <http://www.co.rock.mn.us/employment.html>. For additional questions, please contact the Rock County Administrator's Office at 507-283-5065 or by email at susan.skattum@co.rock.mn.us

An Equal Opportunity Employer

FIRE APPARATUS ASSEMBLER MIDWEST FIRE

Midwest Fire Equipment & Repair Company is looking for a full time **Fire Apparatus Assembler**. Our team is looking for an individual who has a positive attitude, organizational skills and can work in a fast-paced professional manufacturing environment. Midwest Fire was named one of the 50 Best Places to Work by Prairie Business Magazine in 2015 & 2016.

Duties: Assembling plumbing or electrical subcomponents, assist in implementation and sustainment of SS and lean efforts.
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. This position requires strong work ethic and mechanical aptitude. Experience in the fire apparatus field, and/or plumbing or electrical assembly a bonus, but not required.

Applications are available online at www.midwestfire.com. You may email a resume or completed application to darcie@midwestfire.com or apply in person at our facility located at 901 Commerce Rd, Luverne MN, office hours are 8 am to 5 pm Monday thru Friday.

Southwestern Mental Health Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse

Day shift work schedule, flexibility of either a five-day 8 hour or 4-day 10 hour work schedules; No weekends work schedule; Join our team!

Southwestern Mental Health Center is currently seeking applications for a full-time **Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse** to work in our Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) team. Position is located in our Worthington, MN office.

This position functions as a member of the ACT team, providing comprehensive community-based treatment to persons with mental illness in the five county areas in Southwestern Minnesota.

For full job description, please go online at:
<http://www.swmhc.org>

1. Click on the Careers tab toward the top of the web page.
2. Click on Search for Jobs.
3. In the Quick Search, click on Positions by Facility.
4. Click on Southwestern Mental Health Center and search for this position to apply.

If you need further assistance,
Email: david.vinzant@swmhc.org
Phone: 507-283-9511
EEO/AA



Public Supper

WEDNESDAY
April 18

4:30 - 7 p.m.

Bethany

Lutheran Church
Elevator Available

Hwy 75 Luverne

- Cube beef & gravy
- mashed potatoes
- candied carrots • salads & rolls • desserts & drinks

\$8 Adults \$3 12 & under

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PALACE THEATRE UPCOMING EVENTS

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The Locals present "One Hit Wonders"
Tickets \$20 Adults / \$10 Students
A fundraiser for the Luverne Optimist Club

April 15 (Sunday) • 2 p.m.
Silent Movie - "The Freshman"
Featuring organist, Leona Hoek

April 20 - 22 • 7 p.m. on Fri. & Sat., 2 p.m. on Sun.
Movie - "I Can Only Imagine"

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Palace Theatre Luverne

PALACE THEATRE

104 E. MAIN ST. • PO BOX 541 • LUVERNE, MN 56156 507.283.4339 • WWW.PALACETHEATRE.US

Box office is open • Monday - Friday 12 p.m. - 5 p.m. • 507-283-4339

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