$1.25



Patriots make an appearance at the Marshall Holiday Tourney ... See Page 10

Rock County
STAR HERALD

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Thursday, January 2, 2020

Star Herald ends decade with look back on top news of 2010-2019

Extreme weather, farm economy roller coaster, rural broadband, The Lake and The Loop among top stories of decade

By Lori Sorenson

As Rock County puts another decade in the review mirror, it's helpful to reflect on major events — accomplishments, tragedies and community efforts that affected local residents and shaped their behaviors and leadership policies going into the next decade.

It's cliché to talk about weather in Minnesota, but in the case of recent history, it's fair to say extreme weather events had a major impact on the lives of local residents.

April 2013 ice storm

The April 2013 ice storm stands out as a particularly impactful event for its unusual occurrence and the sheer damage it caused.

Rock County residents are used to ice, snow, wind and rain, but this system moved in as a spring rain that turned to a slow freeze of an inch and a half of ice, followed by nearly 10 inches of snow and driving 40 mph wind.

These conditions were disastrous for trees and power lines, which bent and broke in communities all over the region.

Entire communities were without electricity for nearly a week, and some towns, Hills and Steen, for example, had no landline telephone service or emergency communication.

Downed utility poles — more than 150 in Rock County, snapped like toothpicks under the weight of ice — could be seen on rural roadways all over Rock County and the region.

That scenery was soon replaced by hundreds of utility workers with heavy equipment working around the clock to repair lines and restore power.

The drone of distant chain saws and the backup beeps of heavy equipment were common sounds all over Rock County and southwest Minnesota in the following days as people dug out from fallen trees and branches.

The Spring Storm of 2013 is most remembered for the toll on trees, many of which still bear the scars of damage nearly seven years later.

Thousands of trees of all species

Decade in review/see page 9

Top news of 2019 was story that didn't happen

Tru Shrimp bombs, PIP leads growth, weather trumps all

By Lori Sorenson

As the Star Herald closes the books on 2019, it's helpful to look back on the year's top news in the ongoing quest to record county history.

Weather, business developments and growth dominated headlines in 2019, in addition to setbacks and losses that test resiliency and define community spirit.

Mother Nature has her way

Early in the year, two major snowstorms buried the region, closing roads and shutting down schools and businesses. Roughly 10 inches of snow piled up in Rock County Wednesday, Feb. 20, followed by 35 mph winds and several more inches over the weekend.

Hundreds of motorists were stranded across the state when visibility shrank to zero and truck-sized drifts began forming on roadways.

Most county and township roads were impassable by Sunday, and major thoroughfares like Highway 75 were reduced to one lane in many areas where monster snowdrifts had accumulated.

These February events followed an already snowy winter that prompted local districts to lengthen the school year to cover too many snow days.

It was the winter that seemed to never end. In March local buildings were collapsing under the weight of snow on rooftops, and a spring ice storm in April downed power lines and caused electrical outages that lingered nearly a week in some parts of northwestern Rock County.

These were the same neighbor-

Year in review/continued on p. 3



Luverne Elementary School students enjoyed some free time on the "slopes" west of the school building during one of their final days of school before the Christmas break. Classes were dismissed for all students Dec. 21 through Jan. 2.

Building permits tell story of growth

Staff compiles records for 2019 and compares data for past decade

By Lori Sorenson

A good way to measure growth over time is to track the number of building permits issued for construction.

Luverne building official Chad McClure compiled numbers for 2019, when he issued 169 permits valued at $22.7 million.

Of those, four were single-family home construction valued at $959,253.

Major projects permitted in 2019 were the Premium Minnesota Pork remodel at $4.2 million (of the $31 million total project), the city of Luverne wastewater treatment facility expansion and remodel at $14 million, the McDonald's commercial remodel at $450,000, and the West Barck Street four-plex at $517,450 (based off a permitting formula, not actual construction cost).

The value of the 2019 construction projects was more than twice the value of permitted projects in recent years.

For example, 2018 had 243 permits valued at $6.9 million, 2017 had 245 valued at $10 million, 2016 had 257 valued at $9.6 million and 2015 had 239 building permits valued at $7.2 million.

Decade of growth shows nearly $119 million in permitted construction

McClure tallied permits over the past decade and found 2,277 permitted projects from 2010 through 2019, and these projects had a total

Building permits/see page 2

Utility work complete on former Sharkee's lot

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne City Council members made their final payment in December for utility improvements on the former Sharkee's and Mert's Welding property.

H&W Contracting, Sioux Falls, has been working on utility improvements at the intersection of Highway 75 and Hatting Street.

This project installed water and sewer throughout the area between Highway 75 and Freeman Avenue to the east.

The work is complete except for some tracer wire work that needs to be completed and tested before the project can be closed out.

The city approved final payment in December so that the project can be closed out in 2019.

The final pay certificate of $15,104 covers some of the mobilization costs and bundles up all of the small miscellaneous change orders that were approved by the engineer during the course of the project.

The total cost for infrastructure improvements to the property come to roughly $350,000 in order to prepare the lot for the Towne Square mixed use development.

Project still on track for development of 27-unit, one and two-bedroom apartments

As the lots were cleared and prepared for development, the property became eligible for Opportunity Zone incentives through the federal Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017.

However, that option was stalled by the federal government shutdown, and when DEED offices reopened, the local application was delayed in a paperwork backlog.

Luverne developer Don Jahnke is still working with those investors and their lenders to finalize financing for the project.

The overall plan is to transform the entire six-acre area over the next five years into a commercial and housing neighborhood known as the Towne Square Addition.

Property will be sold off as it is developed into housing and commercial property in the mixed-use development.

Because of the more immediate need for housing, Jahnke and investors will first build a 27-unit, one- and two-bedroom apartment building.

Beaver Creek city sets levy, approves raise for fire chief

By Lori Sorenson

Beaver Creek City Council members approved a $126,342 levy for taxes payable in 2020.

This represents a $146 increase over the current levy, a move that prompted significant discussion at the council's year-end meeting.

The goal was to approve a budget that required no levy increase; however, council members were faced with more than $6,000 in expenses over revenues.

Line by line, they looked for places to cut.

Some budget items, like a $5,000 legal reserve, were flexible. It's a fund set up in case it's needed.

Trimming $3,000 there was an easy step toward halfway.

The council "found" additional savings by adding to revenues, anticipating a larger payment from the county for county road maintenance.

Fire chief salary doubles

A separate agenda item at the Dec. 11 meeting was to increase wages for Beaver Creek Fire Department Chief Jake Rauk.

His current salary is $750 per year and the council approved doubling it to $1,500, which would bring it more in line with fire chief salaries in other cities of similar size to Beaver Creek.

It ultimately meant the city levy would nudge slightly upward in order to cover the expenditure.

Beaver Creek levy/see page 2

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Community calendar

Meetings

Generations meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, in the Generations building. Agenda items include election of board members and approval of revised by-laws.

American Legion Auxiliary #123 will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, in the lower level meeting room of the Minnesota Veterans Home. Call Dianna at 507-283-1934 with questions.

Stateline Cemetery Association annual meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13, at the Rock Rapids, Iowa, Pizza Ranch.

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

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

Alanon will meet from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Nov. 7 and 21, in Sanford Luverne Blue Mound Room and then will go back to meeting the second and fourth Thursdays. Call 507-449-1246 with questions.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 8 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday in Runals Hall, Edgerton. Call Naomi, 507-215-2956.

Watch the Announcer for Winter Community Ed brochure

The new Winter Community Education brochure will be included in the Jan. 5 edition of the Luverne Announcer. It is also on the Community Education page of the school website.

Brain Health seminar Jan. 6

#Luv1LuvAll mental health focus group will meet Monday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m. in the CE Room 802 for **Mental Health Medication Information.** Registration is required for this free class, and continuing ed credit forms are available. Call Community Education, 507-283-4724.

Compassionate Friends to host opening meeting Jan. 20

The first meeting of Compassionate Friends will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20, in the Coffey Contemporary Arts building on Main Street, Luverne. Especially invited are those family members who have dealt with the loss of a child or grandchild. (Teenage siblings or older are also welcome.)

The group will meet the third Monday of every month. Contact Pat Saum at email: Psaum@iw.net with questions.

Dental health clinics Jan. 8 and Feb. 5

Two dental health clinics for ages 0-26 will be at Rock County Health and Human Services at 2 Roundwind Road in Luverne on Wednesday, Jan. 8, and Tuesday, Feb. 5. Call 612-746-1530 to schedule an appointment, or stop at Rock County Health and Human Services for assistance in scheduling. Exams, X-rays, cleanings and more will be provided. All forms of insurance are accepted.

Community Ed

Register by e-mailing C.Arends@isd2184.net or calling 507-283-4724.

Cabin Fever Reliever for ages 0 to 5 and a parent will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Jan. 2.

Men's Basketball will be Wednesday evenings from Jan. 8 through Feb. 26. Cost is $20.

A new series of **ECFE classes** begin the week of Jan. 6. The 90-minute classes offer an opportunity for parents to create memories with their children ages 0-5 with the staff and preschool rooms at school.

Yoga class is at 6 p.m. Jan. 13, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 24, March 2. Cost is $49.

Grades 5-6 Invitational Basketball Tournament will be Saturday, Jan. 25. Registration of girls' and boys' teams is now open. Forms are online on the Luverne Schools website under Community Ed current events.

Discovery Time Preschool classes have openings this winter. Early Learning scholarships are available to families who qualify.

Census Information is needed for preschool children in families new to the community. In order for the district to connect with families about school events and the state-mandated preschool screening for all 3-year-old children. Four-year-old children who have not been screened should call 283-4724 to be screened prior to kindergarten.

Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom is open to families, daycares and visitors to play and learn. The classroom, located on the southwest side of the Luverne school, is designed for preschoolers to learn by discovery and exploration. Call 283-4724.

City of Luverne salaries increase 3.5 percent

By Lori Sorenson

The city of Luverne recently negotiated a new three-year contract with labor unions, and as part of its year-end resolutions approved wage increases for 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The pay plan, effective Jan. 1, will be adjusted to a 3.5 percent increase for 2020, a 3.25 percent increase for 2021, and a 3.25 percent increase for 2022.

Non-union, administrative and department head salaries for 2020 will also increase 3.5 percent for 2020.

The following increases include step and lane changes and account for additional duties where applicable.

City Administrator John Call's salary increases from $127,275 to $131,730.

City Clerk Jessica Mead from $70,220 to $73,715.

Finance Director Barb Berghorst from $107,827 to $112,694.

Accountant Candy Reese from $76,086 to 78,749.

Deputy Finance Clerk Robyn Wessels from $70,220 to $88,400.

EDA Director Holly Sammons from $69,201 to $72,675.

Building Official Chad McClure from $74,048 to 77,709.

Public Works Supervisor John Stoffel from $83,220 to $87,194.

Water/Wastewater Supervisor Al Lais from $91,374 to $95,618.

Pool Manager Sam Honerman from $70,220 to $73,715.

Assistant Pool Manager Michelle DeKam from $46,924 to $51,584.

Liquor Store Manager Kenny Rolling from $68,182 to $71,614.

Electric department salaries are paid from the city's $512,000 contract with Missouri River Energy Services. Those workers — Brian Remme, Mike Gangestad, Dakota Olson, Mike Buss and Jeff Becthold — are MRES employees, and their salary information is not public.

In other year-end action, the council approved a request by the Luverne Fire Relief Association to raise new pension factor from $2,400 to $2,500. This is for each full year of service as an active firefighter, not to exceed 30 years of service.

Building permits tell story of growth/continued from page 1

estimated construction value of $118,843,164.

The construction included 74 single-family homes and individual twin-home units, served with private utilities.

Some major projects valued in excess of $1 million contributed to the 10-year totals of nearly $119 million. They are:

- American Reformed Church addition in 2010 at $3.2 million.
- Three Gevo/Agri-energy expansion projects in 2011 at $2.5 million, 2012 at $21 million and 2013 at $6.9 million.
- Grand Stay Hotel new construction in 2012 at $2.8 million.
- Herman Motor Company new construction in 2014 at $1.5 million.
- Luverne Body Shop new construction in 2016 at $1.3 million.
- C & B Operations (John Deere dealership) addition and remodel in 2017 at $4.1 million.
- Premium Minnesota Pork remodel in 2019 at $4.3 million (of the planned $31 million construction yet to be permitted).
- City of Luverne wastewater treatment facility expansion/remodel in 2019 at $14 million.

Building Permit Report 2019

Comparative Totals:

YEAR	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
PERMITS ISSUED	169	243	245	257	239
VALUATION	$22,709,761	$6,967,764	$10,265,627	$9,577,581	$7,214,847

Notables:

Single-family permits (including individual duplex-units, served with private utilities)

YEAR	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
PERMITS ISSUED	4	17	13	8	4
VALUATION①	$959,253	$3,017,879	$2,198,246	$1,398,138	$658,511
% OF TOTAL VALUATION	4.2%	43.3%	21.4%	14.6%	9.1%

① *Doesn't reflect actual cost; based on formulation for permitting purposes only.*

Major projects permitted in 2019 include:

- Luverne Waste Water Treatment Facility / Industrial Addition/Expansion/Remodel
- Premium Minnesota Pork / Commercial Addition and Remodel
- McDonalds / Commercial Remodel
- 104 W Barck / Residential 4-plex

Beaver Creek City Council levy, fire chief raise/from page 1

The council discussion, however, centered on the value Rauk brings to the community in general.

For example, he routinely secures grants to support the fire department and he frequently supports city maintenance manager Travis Helgeson with routine city work.

"I know what he's done for this town," said Councilman Jeff Dysthe, who made the motion to double Rauk's salary. "Just think what he's saved us in grants."

Councilwoman Pat Bender agreed, but wondered if Rauk would accept the offer.

"He spends an enormous amount of time for the city," she said. "Even if he doesn't accept it, at least he'll know he's appreciated."

By the numbers

Beaver Creek's total annual expenses are $252,491.

This includes line items like $77,447 in wages, $10,628 for insurance, $10,560 for law enforcement (contract with Rock County), $32,300 for roads and equipment, $15,000 for fire protection and more.

Beaver Creek's total annual revenue is $132,149,

It includes $54,184 in Local Government Aid, $25,000 worth of transfers in, and other sources.

The city's $126,342 current levy bridges the gap to cover expenses.

The newly approved levy of $126,342 is effective for taxes payable in 2020.

In other business at the year-end meeting, the city council:

- approved a housing tax abatement request by Elbert and Dianne West, Sioux Falls, for planned construction at 805 Ridgeview Road.
- Approved $200 for councilman Josh Boomgaarden to create Facebook ads to promote the city's tax abatement on new housing construction.

Luverne to raise city levy 9.41 percent

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne City Council members approved a 9.41-percent levy increase for taxes payable in 2020, according to action taken at their Tuesday night meeting.

The $2.1 million levy is about $180,300 more than the current levy and includes $32,334 in debt financing for the recent $14 million wastewater treatment plant upgrade.

Without that, the increase would have been 7.72 percent to cover the $1.9 million general fund and $163,000 for principal and interest on existing debt.

The operating budget included rough outlines of the city's governmental expenses and revenues. The governmental budget includes the general fund, airport, pool and capital projects.

Governmental expenditures for 2020 will be roughly $7.4 million and revenues are estimated at $7.6 million.

They include public safety at $1.32 million — about 18 percent of costs, public works and airport at $1 million — about 13.5 percent of costs, culture and recreation at $1.2 million and capital outlay at $1.3 million.

Governmental revenues come in the form of taxes at roughly $2.06 million — or 28 percent, local government aid from the state at $1.45 million — 20 percent of revenue, and the rest from enterprise funds, fees and other charges.

The council discussed Local Government Aid, which was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1972 to help cities that

Luverne levy/see page 7

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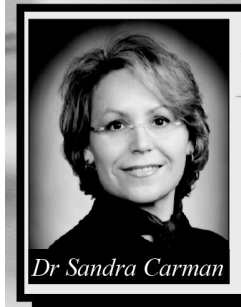

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Who's new? Who's out?

Chamber tracks 10 years worth of business activity

The Luverne Area Chamber tracks local business and commerce and shared the following account of business activity over the past decade.

New businesses in 2010
•Pierce Financial Services
•Elegant Events
•HGS Gallery
•Kids Zone (second-hand)

Closed businesses in 2010
•Furniture House
•Gabe's Clothing & Shoes
•Family Dollar
•Brown Church Antiques

Ownership changes 2010
•Joel and Maggie Johnson buy Wayne's Body Shop

New businesses in 2011
•Health Styles Weight Loss Center
•McKenzie Street Gallery
•Luverne Power Fitness

Closed businesses 2011
•Final Touch
•K&R Used
•Magnolia Steak House
•Curves
•Elegant Events
•Luverne Welding
•McKenzie Street Gallery

New businesses 2012
•Scott's Dumpster,
•Lavish Designs
•Skipper's Pub
•Blue Mound Auto Glass
•The Bluestem
•Barber Lodge
•Four Way Insulation
•Junk in the Trunk
•Restoration Alley
•Cleveringa Town Homes
•Sassy Seconds

Closed businesses 2012
•Renfro Variety
•Skipper's Pub
•Platinum
•April's Bed & Breakfast
•Junk in the Trunk
•Let Bill Do It

New ownerships 2012
•Mark Jacobson to Jaycox
•Luverne Flowers to Kevin Jacobsma
•Jariah to Honeycomb LLB
•Chuck's Barber Shop from Chuck Tweet to Matt Shuey

New businesses in 2013
•Luverne Street Music in Carnegie Cultural Center
•Dragonfly
•Skipper's Cardinal Pub
•Rock Motors Sports
•Grand Stay Hotel
•Smiley's
•The Bean
•Prairie Rehabilitation

Closed businesses 2013
•Korner Gas
•Southwest Auto Sales
•Coffey Haus
•Grapevines
•Skippers

New businesses 2014
•Molly the Trolley
•W-2's Quality Meats
•Luverne Brew Partners (Take 16 Brewing Co.)
•Fish-n-Clips
•Tyana's Boutique
•Schomacker Tire Repair
•The Warehouse

Closed businesses 2014
•Barber Lodge
•Rock County Barbers
•Grapevines
•Palace Video
•Sunrise Motel
•Smiley's & Computer Tutor

New ownerships 2014
•Chit Chat's to Papa's Place

New businesses 2015
•Sterling's Cafe & Grille
•Medi Spa "The Face Place"
•Redeemed Remnants

Closed businesses 2015
•Sears

New ownerships 2015
•Big Tent Rental From Mike Jarchow to Jordan and Stacy Smidt
•Minn-Kota Vet Clinic to Rock Vet Clinic
•Skattum Confinement to Son-D-Farms

New businesses 2016
•RE/MAX Land & Home
•Crossroad Trailers
•Grand Prairie Events
•Luverne Counseling
•Rock River Relics
•Schomacker Appliances

Closed businesses 2016
•The Warehouse
•Smooky's Pizza

New ownership 2016
•HGS Gallery to Rock River Relics
•Loopy's to Four Seasons

New businesses 2017
•Computer Clinic
•Firefly
•Bluestem Catering
•AbadabaDo Salon
•Oasis Care Home
•Lord Grizzly Gallery
•Wildflowers Coffee

Closed businesses 2017
•Blue Mound Banquet Center
•Casey's East Main Street

New ownerships 2017
•Glen's Food Center to Teal's Market
•Aanenson's Locksmith to Harsma Locksmith

New businesses 2018
•Kemp Electric
•Top Notch Car Wash
•Deragisch Insurance
•United Community Action Partnership (Community Transit for Rock County)
•State Farm Insurance
•75 Diner
•Papa Larry's LLC

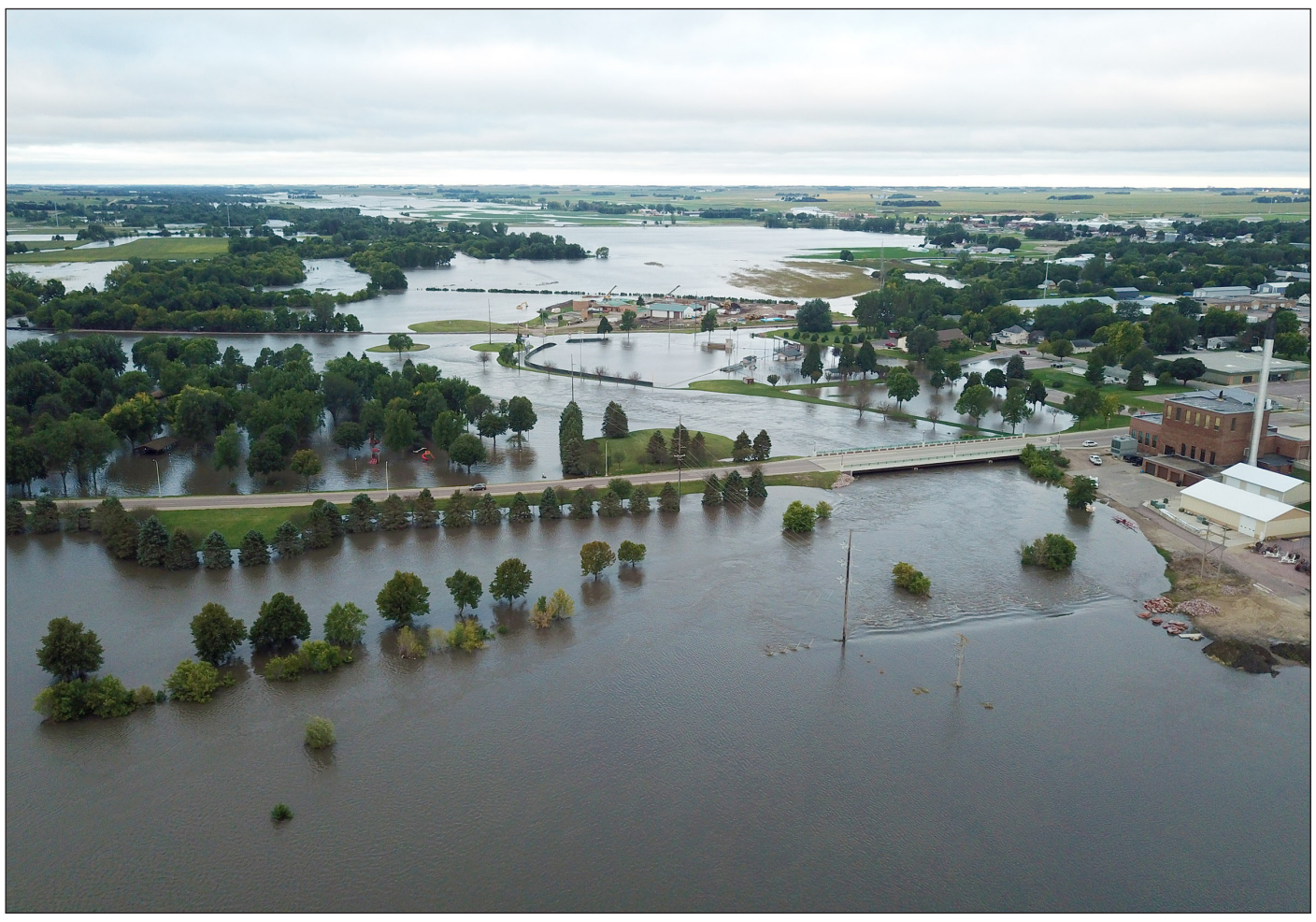
Closed businesses 2018
•Papa's Place
•SW Habitat for Humanity
•Luverne Trolley LLC

New ownerships 2018
•Wayne's Body Shop
•BeMobile Inc. from Sudenga Communications

New businesses 2019
•Alpha Sigma Health Group
•Backdraft Manufacturing
•NextEra Energy
•Healing Path Counseling & Wellness
•Vinnie's Dang Fine Dine – reopened by Leroy Austin
•SpringBrooke Events at the Beaver Creek Golf Course

Closed businesses 2019
•Beaver Creek Electric
•Tracie Nath – Lula Roe
•M & L Electric – Mike Buss
•McClure Construction – Matt McClure
•Honeycomb
•Restoration Alley
•Cox Realty – Alan Cox
•Shopko (building bought by Bomgaars)
•Red Rock Oil
•Express Ag
•Blue Mound Transport

New ownerships 2019
•Green Lantern Bar & Grill – Linda DeSplinter



Luverne drone operator Ryan Gee shared this image of East Main Street and Luverne's City Park under a flooded Rock River Sept. 12 after excessive rain in Pipestone County swelled rivers downstream.

Star Herald looks back on top stories of year 2019/from page 1

hoods that were later hit hard by flooding, especially in September when the Split Rock Creek submerged a farmhouse west of Hardwick, displacing Arden and Mary Ellen Sorenson, who had spent 63 years together on the acreage.

In other parts of Rock County, flooding damaged roads and bridges, tallying hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of repair work.

Farmers hang on for better years

By the start of 2019, Rock County farmers had already weathered more than their share of bad news. The previous year's wet growing season and soggy harvest, in addition to poor commodity prices, had created a general attitude of, "We're due for better days."

But they didn't come in 2019.

A cold wet spring delayed planting, and many acres didn't get planted at all. Seeds that found their way to fertile soil faced a multitude of obstacles, such as limited sunshine, high wind, hail and a relentless pattern of continued flooding.

Insurance adjusters were using terms like "prevent plant," "green snap" and other descriptions that weren't previously common.

Add to this the challenges of President Donald Trump's trade war with China, a major buyer of U.S. ag products.

Generally speaking, tariffs on U.S. commodities shipped to China decreased from $20 billion in 2017 to $10 billion in 2019. It was salt in the wound for producers already reeling from too many years of little to no profits.

Median net farm income for Minnesota farmers in 2018 was only $26,055, which was the lowest in the past 23 years of analyzing farm business management records.

It was the fifth year in a row of sub-par net farm income levels in the state, which was the first time that this has occurred since the 1980s, and analysts say 2019 data will continue this trend.

A small but growing number of local producers are ceasing operation or filing bankruptcy.

Other terms becoming increasingly common are "farm crisis hotlines" and ag mental health resources.



Lori Sorenson photo/0415 downed power lines

David Iverson (back) and David Rysdam work to clear a sidewalk along the west side of Highway 75 after another February snowstorm piles additional snow on already heaped boulevards.

Generations takes shape

Speaking of brain health, 2019 saw the rise of communitywide efforts to support people with Alzheimer's and dementia and their caregivers.

A local "Dementia Network" is in its infancy and is poised to launch in 2020.

It's part of a broader effort to improve conditions and resources for local seniors.

With George Bonnema as the new president of Generations (formerly Rock County Senior Citizens), a major fundraising effort is underway to build a new $3 million Generations center to replace the current Lincoln House and Senior Dining facility.

The story that didn't happen

One of the top stories of 2019 was a story that didn't happen. Tru Shrimp delivered a staggering blow to city leaders shortly after Jan. 1 that it was no longer coming to Luverne.

The company canceled plans for its $100 million harbor, hatchery and accompanying water, electrical and gas distribution facilities on 60 acres along the north side of I-90.

The news was disappointing, and the immediate reaction was tally losses — not only for what wasn't happening, but for what investments were made in the broken promises.

The city had transformed what had previously been a cornfield into a modern industrial park with $11 million worth of new infrastructure, including a 10-ton road, water, sewer and electricity.

These considerations immediately came to mind, but it didn't take long for local leaders to realize the investments weren't for tru Shrimp alone; they were an investment in future growth.

In some ways the community sensed a collective "whew" as the council and EDA took stock of growth and preparing for it.

Year in review/continued on p. 5

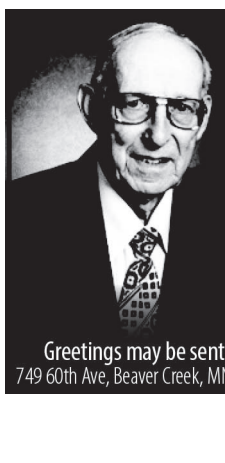


Lori Sorenson photo/0415 downed power lines

In total, 131 utility personnel from 18 different electric cooperatives and contractors worked to rebuild the system and restore power to Sioux Valley Energy members who lost power during an April ice storm. These images were taken at County Roads 6 and 7 west of Hardwick April 12.

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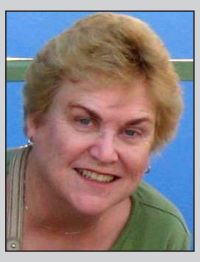
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READ THE NEWS ONLINE!
Subcribe to the online edition of the
Star Herald

What's in a name?

Spelling, for one ... and matching names in cutlines to faces in photograph is another



Luv my job!

By Esther Frakes, copy editor

So what's in a name?

Obviously a very specific spelling, for one thing.

One of the challenges for the Star Herald staff is to spell names correctly — not an easy task.

As early as possible at the beginning of each school year, we ask the area schools to email student class lists to us for reference when needing to verify spellings of names of students in our stories.

The variety of spellings always brings forth a one-person dialog (that would be me) as to why parents can't all just agree on how a given first name should be spelled.

Or why they don't just choose a name that's already been accepted by society as a bonafide first name. — Apple? Winter? Champagne? Gage? Briggs? —

I am overjoyed when I see some of the beautiful names of yore being used once again, such as Hazel or Emma or Henry or John.

Do you know how many variations there are on spelling names that should be quite easy to spell? Take the name Carol as an example.

In Luverne and the surrounding area we know of several Carols, but we recently received a birthday celebration ad request for a Carrole, and a former Star Herald employee was Carole. Plus, my former teaching colleague was Mr. Carroll.

But even less common names show up with variations on the spelling, such as Caidence and Kadence or Wyett and Wyatt or Abigayl and Abigail.

Another challenge is in the capitalization within names such as McKenzie ... or is it Mackenzie ... or MacKenzi ... or Mckenzi ... or ????

Then there is the matter of a space in the last name, particularly in this county that has a rich heritage of Dutch ancestry. Is the name Van Der Brink or Vander Brink or Vanderbrink or VanDerBrink or Vander-Brink?

Is it Ver Steeg or Versteeg or VerSteeg? Van De Berg? DenHerder?

Even large corporations can't always settle on how they want their name spelled. Our Associated Press Stylebook confirms that Wal-Mart officially changed its correct spelling to Walmart in 2018.

Once in a while we also have our correctly spelled names attacked by Auto-Correct. The program used to "correct" the last name Thier to Their until we reprogrammed the computer not to do that.

Recently AutoCorrect attacked the correctly spelled name Mathew to Matthew ... and so it goes.

So, getting the name spelled right is step one. The next challenge is to identify the people in a photograph with the correct names.

We have stories. But that's fodder for another column — another time.

Are we better off now than we were 10 years ago?

If the Star Herald headlines are any indication, we're headed in the right direction

Star Herald Editorial

At the end of a year, and particularly at the end of a decade, it's prudent to ask the question, "Are we better off now than we were a year ago (or 10 years ago)?"

It's good to ask the question, because the details and obligations of daily life have a way of distracting us from our intended direction.

The question can apply to personal relationships as well as professional careers and community development. Are we better off now? Are we headed in the right direction?

Every year the Star Herald staff takes stock of a year's worth of news and looks back on top stories with an eye toward perspective.

A week at a glance or even a month or two often doesn't create landmark moments, but piecing together stories about ongoing progress or continued controversy paints a picture that offers perspective.

In 2019, as in most years, we suffered our share of tragedies and hardships, but we also had plenty of proud moments that give us reason to feel good about the direction we're headed. (See the story that starts on page 1.)

A look back on 2010 through 2019 draws comparisons of where we've been and where we're going.

Without giving away those top stories of the decade and editorializing on where we think Rock County is headed, we urge our readers to consider these headlines and make their own assessment of our wellbeing.

Happy New Year, Rock County, and congratulations on another 12 months and another decade of steps in the right direction.



Church, Laundromat and swim in The Lake are among 2020 bucket list items



For what it's worth

By Rick Peterson, General Manager
Tollefson Publishing

With 2020 knocking on the door of the New Year, I usually fill the space this time of the year with my resolutions.

I haven't had great success fulfilling my resolutions, so this year I am going to take a slightly different approach.

I have come up with what I am calling my Luverne Bucket List.

Simply put, the aforementioned bucket list includes thing I would like to do in 2020 right here in Luverne.

I'll start the list with relatively easy tasks and then work up to the more time-consuming items.

First on the list will be to wash a load of clothes at the Laundry Room Laundromat.

Second will be to get at least one haircut in a minimum of five different salons in Luverne throughout the year.

Third is to actually swim in The Lake.

Fourth on the list will be to attend a school board meeting.

Number five is to attend at least one of these three events: a Cardinal girls' basketball game, a Cardinal wrestling meet or a Cardinal gymnastics meet.

Sixth on the list is to go to a movie at the Palace Theatre.

Number seven is to drink a glass of clean water at Blue Mounds State Park.

The eighth entry on my Bucket List you might find a little out of my character, and I am willing to bet not many of you have ever done this one.

If you look at our church page in today's paper, you'll notice that there are 12 Luverne churches listed on the page.

I plan to attend at least one Sunday service (weddings and funerals don't count) in each of those churches over the next 12 months.

Ask a Trooper: Is it legal to drive with ice and snow piled up on your vehicle and landing on other cars?

Question: I see many vehicles driving down the road with ice and snow coming off of them. What is the law about clearing ice and snow from your vehicle prior to driving?

Answer: The law states that **n**o vehicle shall be moved on a roadway, unless the load is secured to prevent any leaking, blowing, shifting or falling debris. Ice or snow that may fall from a vehicle could be considered an unsecured load.

Drivers should always take the time to remove all snow and ice from the vehicle so it does not become a hazard on the roadway. It is also important to always clear all frost, snow and ice from all windows so vision is not obstructed.

Drivers should be aware of civil liability if they fail to take reasonable steps to remove snow and ice that result in property damage or injuries from a crash.

When traveling behind a vehicle with an unsecure load or ice/snow falling from it, give yourself plenty of room to avoid any obstacles that may fall off and strike your vehicle.

Pass the vehicle only if it is safe to do so.

If your vehicle is damaged and/or crashes due to falling debris, try to get a license plate number and report it to law enforcement and your insurance company.

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

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

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

On the record

Dispatch report

Dec. 20

•Complainant on E. Fletcher Street reported harassing communications.

•Complainant at N. 2nd Street, Hills, reported a car on fire.

•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue and W. Main Street reported a possible drunk walking toward Main Street.

•Complainant on S. Donaldson reported a child ran away from location.

•Complainant on N. Cedar Street reported an accident.

•Complainant reported a runaway westbound on County Road 4.

•Complainant eastbound on County Road 4 reported runaway coming to Luverne.

Dec. 21

Complainant reported door is open on bus garage.

•Complainant dropped off found property at law enforcement center.

•Complainant west-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 15, near Luverne, reported an erratic driver.

•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 7, Beaver Creek, reported a possibly impaired driver.

•Complainant of underage liquor consumption reported at location on 170th Avenue.

Dec. 22

•Roadside assistance on Highway 75 near Howling Dog was provided.

•Suspicious activity was reported on W. Warren Street.

•Complainant reported suspicious activity W. Main Street in Hardwick.

Dec. 23

•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a break-in with property damage.

•Complainant on Mag Road reported property damage.

•Complainant on E. 6th Avenue, Beaver Creek, reported property damage and theft.

•Complainant reported a vehicle rollover on 134th Avenue and 141st Street.

•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a driving complaint.

Dec. 24

•Complainant on W. Luverne Street requested sheriff's office make contact with subject.

•Deputy reported an abandoned vehicle on 91st Street.

•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 9, Beaver Creek, reported a walker.

•Law enforcement assisted another department at I-90 and County Road 3 near Magnolia.

Dec. 25

•Suspicious activity was reported on W. Harrison.

•Complainant on W. Crawford Street reported a break-in.

•Complainant on Oakley and Crawford reported an assault.

Dec. 26

•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported narcotics.

•Complainant on 115th Street reported a dark-colored car sitting a while.

•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a car drove onto his yard and is still sitting in the car.

Dec. 27

•Complainant on Lincoln Street and N. Freeman Street reported a male walking.

In addition, officers responded to 1 deer accident, 3 vehicles in the ditch, 1 follow-up, 7 escorts, 26 ambulance runs, 6 paper services, 5 animal complaints, 3 fingerprint requests, 1 vehicle from impound, 1 gas drive-off, 1 log/alarm sheet, 3 stalled vehicles, 16 traffic stops, 5 abandoned 911 calls and 2 welfare checks.



Mavis Fodness photo/0102 Officer Swearing Nelson

I solemnly swear ... to perform the duties of deputy sheriff

Sheriff Evan Verbrugge swears in the newest Rock County deputy, Slayton native Dylan Nelson, at the Dec. 23 county commissioners' meeting. Nelson replaces deputy Shelley Douty, who resigned in September after 12 years with the local sheriff's office. Nelson, a May 2020 graduate of Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Worthington, was joined at the swearing-in ceremony by his parents, Dale and Linda Nelson, who both worked in emergency management services, his sister, Dareth Ross, and his youngest niece, Theda. "With a new person, you can train them how you want them," Verbrugge said. "It feels like he will be a good fit for Rock County — his temperament and style — so we are kind of excited (to have him join the force)."

Rock County Star Herald looks back on top stories of the year 2019/continued from page 3

Premium Iowa Pork remains shining star of local development

On one hand, city officials already have their hands full gearing up for Premium Minnesota Pork, which comes online this spring.

The Hospers, Iowa, pork processor plans to slaughter up to 2,500 antibiotic-free hogs per day in the former Gold'n Plump facility.

The company is retrofitting the existing 78,000-square-foot facility and expanding it another 12,500 square feet for an estimated $30 million investment.

In addition, the company paid $6.76 million for necessary upgrades to Luverne's wastewater facilities due to the plant's sewage load into the city's system.

The company plans to hire 250 production workers (at $13 to $20 per hour) in Luverne. That number could increase to more than 300 employees, depending on growth.



Premium Iowa Pork recently renamed its Luverne plant Premium Minnesota Pork and will come on line this spring. It plans to slaughter up to 2,500 antibiotic-free hogs per day in the former Gold'n Plump facility. The company is retrofitting the existing 78,000-square-foot facility and expanding it another 12,500 square feet for an estimated $30 million investment. The company plans to hire 250 production workers (at $13 to $20 per hour) in Luverne.

Where will everyone live?

A 2016 study of Luverne's housing supply revealed severe shortages even without tru Shrimp or PMP workers.

An updated study in 2019 showed the need for 267 more housing units through 2030, mostly in senior living options.

It reaffirmed city efforts to create opportunities for development.

In addition to town homes already occupied on East Barck Street and on Roundwind Avenue east of the pool, a four-plex unit is nearly complete on East Barck Street and 15 lots are prepared for twin home and single family construction on the Uithoven Addition on the west side of Luverne.

Another three twin homes can go up on the Reisch Addition lots north of Rock County Opportunities, and the recent purchase of Lynn Lopau's acreage will allow for additional twin homes and single-family houses to be constructed after 2021.

While the housing study shows a distinct need for mid-income starter-type homes in the $150,000 range, the hope is that this housing stock will open up as residents leave these homes to move into twin home options.

School construction project

One of the biggest construction stories of the decade continues in the Luverne High School and Middle School where contractors broke ground this spring on a $31 million remodel and rebuilding project.

Gil Haugen Construction, Sioux Falls, began the almost 21 months of construction in March by demolishing the Little Theater and constructing the new band and choir suites.

The suites were finished just in time for the Sept. 16 opening of the school year, in a state-approved late start.

Four full months of construction were carved out of the school year by ending the 2018-19 school year on May 10, 2019. Snow makeup days, however, extended dismissal to May 17.

A June 20 groundbreaking ceremony prompted removal of the two-story west wing to make way for the new commons and performing arts center. Construction continues through 2020.



Construction equipment takes a bite out of the previous Luverne Middle School-High School building following a June 20 groundbreaking ceremony for the $31 million project.

School news

•In other Luverne school news, Jason Phelps was hired as middle school principal on July 1, a first for the district since 2005, when the position was combined with the high school principal.

•The Hills-Beaver Creek School District hired Molly Schilling to assume the reins at the middle-high school in Hills. She replaces Phelps, who took the principal position in Luverne.

•H-BC made national news when its elementary school was named a Blue Ribbon School for being an "exemplary high performing" school with third- through fifth-grade test performance.

In our rural communities

•The Ellsworth City Hall was destroyed by fire in January, and by Sept. 26 the community broke ground on a new replacement building.

•Hardwick implemented rural service districts to provide tax relief for ag property owners within city limits.

•The Beaver Creek golf course complex has a new lease on business life after Rick Gourley purchased the grounds and events center.

SpringBrooke Events celebrated a ribbon-cutting in September, and 2020 will see continued work on the lower level bar and grille and on the golf course greens.

In other business news ...

Shopko announced in February that its Luverne pharmacy would close, and in March the company announced a Shopko Hometown closing altogether due to corporate Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The Luverne business, which moved to the south Highway 75 location in 1997, employed 23 full- and part-time employees.

Lewis Family Drug, Sioux Falls, purchased the Luverne Hometown Shopko pharmacy assets, and Bomgaars announced in September it would take over the Shopko building.

In other 2019 business:

•NextEra Energy Resources of Juno Beach, Florida, purchased the proposed 100-megawatt Walleye Wind Farm earlier this year from Renewable Energy Systems.

The seven existing wind turbines in Beaver Creek Township, 11 megawatts of power, will be decommissioned and incorporated into the proposed wind farm.

The proposed new Walleye Wind Farm is 111 megawatts in size, consisting of 36 turbines in Beaver Creek and Martin townships, as well as portions of Rose Dell, Springwater, Luverne and Mound townships.

•Speaking of wind, Gevo made repeated headlines with its green initiatives to power the Luverne plant on wind energy.

After a series of legal hearings and permit processes, two wind turbines are now under construction west of Luverne.

See the story, "Who's New, Who's Out," on page 3 reviewing business activity through the decade.



2019 saw the rise of communitywide efforts to support people with Alzheimer's and dementia and their caregivers. A local "Dementia Network" is in its infancy and is poised to launch in 2020.It's part of a broader effort to improve conditions and resources for local seniors. With George Bonnema as the new president of Generations (formerly Rock County Senior Citizens), a major fundraising effort is underway to build a new $3 million Generations center to replace the current Lincoln House and Senior Dining facility. Pictured above is a drawing of the new building that will house many of the new initiatives.

'What Makes America Great?'

Student VFW essay winners compete for district honors in middle school and high school categories

By Mavis Fodness

The Rock County VFW Post 2757 recently announced student essay winners in the 2019 "Voice of Democracy" and "Patriot Pen" contests.

Entrants, judged on excellence in original writing about patriotism and democracy, received cash awards for the top three places in middle school and high school categories.

This year writers in both contests answered the question, "What Makes America Great?"

Luverne High School junior Lauren Ver Steeg earned first place and a $100 cash prize in the Voice of Democracy contest for grades 9-12.

Hills-Beaver Creek High School junior Allison LaRock earned second place and $75 and H-BC junior Calvin Erickson won third place and $50.

H-BC eighth-grader Lanae Elbers earned first place and $75 in the Patriot Pen contest.

People come to America because they're given hope to accomplish their dreams. For many people, America is a fresh start and an opportunity for a better life.

— Lauren Ver Steeg

H-BC seventh-grader Mazzi Moore and eighth-grader Tahliya Kruger were second ($50) and third ($25), respectively, in the middle school category.

Both first-place essays (printed below) from Rock County were entered into the District 3 essay contest.



Lauren Ver Steeg (left) earned first place and $100 for her essay in the Voice of Democracy contest. Lanae Elbers (right) earned first place and $75 in the middle school Patriot Pen essay contest.

VerSteeg was second in the district Voice of Democracy contest. Elizabeth Nemitz of Canby was judged the top essay.

Abigail Wiggins of Westbrook was the winner of the Patriot's Pen contest.

VerSteeg will receive a certificate and a cash prize at the District 3 meeting Jan. 4, 2020, in Wilmont.

I think that America is great because women can state their opinion and they can vote. Also, we can believe in God and not be sent to prison for worshiping our own God.

— Lanae Elbers

Voice of Democracy essay:
'What Makes America Great'
By Lauren Ver Steeg
Luverne High School junior

Imagine a young man in a subway playing the cello. He's been practicing for months for his audition for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Envision a woman of color in her first year at Harvard Law School studying to be a lawyer.

Picture a middle school boy at basketball practice. He goes home after practice, and his bedroom wall is filled with posters of Michael Jordan. What do these people have in common?

They're all Americans. They all have the ability to aspire to something great because America is a diverse nation filled with opportunity.

The First Amendment gives people the right to say and wear what they want. As individuals, we are able to embody ourselves through more than just words.

Not only does this let us express our opinions and ideas, but it adds variety to our nation by letting us

VFW essays/continued on page 8

Open house

Elden Reyelts will celebrate his 90th birthday with an open house from 2-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 5, in the assembly hall at St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne. An elevator is available. He requests no gifts.

Greetings may also be sent to 749 60th Avenue, Beaver Creek, MN 56116.

Library

Contact the library at rocklibrarystaff@gmail.com or call 507-449-5040 to register for events.

Mah Jongg is from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursdays.

Trivia Night, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, Take 16.

Evening Story Time, 6:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 21 to March 31.

Winter Story Time, 10:30 a.m. Fridays, Jan. 24 to April 10.

DIY Egg Carton Flowers, 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30.

Book Versus Movie: A Winter Book/Film Club, "Wonder" 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23.

Library hours are Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Lori Sorenson photo/1226 lsm cantata food shelf donation

Carnegie Minstrels make music for food shelf

Luverne Street Music Carnegie Minstrels raised more than $2,000 for the Rock County Emergency Food Shelf with their Dec. 7 community cantata "Sing Christmas" in the American Reformed Church. The Luverne Area Community Foundation supported the performance with a $500 grant to help cover costs, so that the entire amount could be donated. Pictured at the Food Shelf (in the lower level of the United Methodist Church) Thursday afternoon, Dec. 19, are (from left) LSM representatives Janine Papik, Susan Skattum and Luella Voigt and Food Shelf staff and volunteers Sharon Oksness, Mary Gehrke and Norbert Fick.

Senior menu

At Generations:

Monday, Jan. 6: Ginger citrus chicken breast, rice pilaf, carrots, peaches, pie.

Program: 8:30 a.m. Quilting; 9 a.m. Bone Builders. 12:30 p.m. Generations organizational meeting.

Tuesday, Jan. 7: Beef lasagna, spinach salad, applesauce, garlic breadstick, brownie.

Program: Half-Price Day sponsored by Papik Motors. 1-4 p.m. Open for Blizzard Bingo.

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Chicken wild rice casserole, winter blend vegetables, pears, poke cake.

Program: 9 a.m. Bone Builders.

Thursday, Jan. 9: Ham with raisin sauce, scalloped potatoes, squash, dinner roll, bar.

1-4 p.m. Open for games.

Friday, Jan. 10: Salmon loaf, creamed peas, mashed potatoes, bread, cheesecake.

9 a.m. Bone Builders.

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

Call Lynette Hoiland at 283-9846 to make dining reservations or for home-delivered meals.

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

Citizens' Club plans for public toilet rooms

The following appeared in The Rock County Herald on January 13, 1905.

In Favor of Rest Rooms
Plan to Utilize City Hall
Project Taken up at Meeting of Citizens' Club Friday Night — Plan Submitted by A.J. Daley, Esq. — Another Meeting to be Held Tonight

Although the project was unanimously approved, no decision as to plans was reached by the Citizens' club Friday night at its meeting for the purpose of discussing the proposed establishment of public rest and toilet rooms. There was a fair attendance and the question was discussed at some length, but final action was deferred until this evening, at 8 o'clock, when another meeting was to be held.

A.J. Daley, Esq., chairman of the public affairs committee of the club, on his own behalf, presented a plan in exhaustive detail by which it was proposed to utilize a portion of the first floor of the city hall for the purposes under consideration.

He proposed to move the partition which separates the present council room from the room in which the fire apparatus is kept, back to the double doors on the south side of the building, leaving room to build a safety vault for city records in the southeast corner of the enlarged room, and to partition off on the south side adjoining the vault a room in which the council may hold its meetings; to narrow the stairway leading to the second floor and to put the women's rest room in the northeast part of the present council room, and the gentlemen's room in the basement of the building.

His plan also called for the installation of a steam heating plant to heat the entire building, except, of course, where the fire apparatus is kept. He estimated the cost of the entire change at from $1,500 to $1,700. He also presented data tending to indicate that the financial condition of the city treasury would enable the city to incur this expense during the coming year without exhausting the treasury.

Messrs, P.E. Brown, H. J. Miller, S. B. Nelson and Mayor E. A. Brown each spoke briefly in favor of establishing a rest room for the accommodation of people from out of town while they are transacting their business affairs in the city. During his remarks Mayor Brown suggested using the rear room upstairs now occupied by the firemen, for the women's rest room. This plan was objected to by Mr. Daley on the ground of inconvenience in climbing the stairs. After further discussion the meeting adjourned until the time above stated, and during the week the members of the club were requested to investigate the plan suggested by Mr. Daley and also to prepare to make other suggestions at the coming meeting.

Mr. Daley's plan to have the room established by the city and to use the city hall for the purpose, is generally commended, but objection is made to the details on the ground that the plan calls for too many changes and the expenditure of more money than appears warranted by the results obtained. Objection is also made to use the first floor for this purpose, on the ground that the present council room is the only room now available in the city for small gatherings and meetings of a public character, and is none too large for its present purpose when a considerable number of citizens wish upon occasions, which may at any time arise, to attend council meetings. Still further objection is made that the room thus provided for a rest room would not be adequate for the purpose.

The plan suggested by Mayor Brown — of having the women's rest room located on the second floor appears to find considerable flavor. This could be accomplished with but very few changes and at correspondingly small expense.



Bits by Betty

By Betty Mann, president, Rock County Historical Society

Mann can be reached at mannmade@iw.net.

Properly dispose of holiday greens to prevent spread of pests and disease

Insects and diseases can hitchhike on trees and holiday greenery, so the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is asking residents to properly dispose of greenery and trees after the holiday season.

The MDA inspects holiday products for elongate hemlock scale, boxwood blight, Oriental bittersweet, gypsy moth, and many more.

Boxwood blight and Oriental bittersweet could be found in greenery and centerpieces. Gypsy moth and elongate hemlock scale are two insects that can be moved on Christmas trees.

The biggest concern this season is elongate hemlock scale which has become an issue for Frasier fir producers in the mid-Atlantic states. Elongate hemlock scale are very small insects that secrete a waxy coating for defense and feed on the sap from hemlocks, firs and spruces. They have piercing/sucking mouthparts they insert into the host plant for feeding. The scale can cause needles to yellow and fall off.

The MDA has been working with suppliers and sellers in Minnesota to remove trees, wreaths and other greenery infested with elongate hemlock scale from sale. This scale is not known to occur in the state and there are concerns it could become a problem for Minnesota Christmas tree producers, nurseries, and local forests.

If you know your Christmas tree and greenery are not from Minnesota or are unsure where it originated, do your part when the holiday season is over to protect our environment from a variety of pests and diseases. Follow this advice:

•Do not toss trees and greenery into backyard woods or your compost pile.

•Use a city- or county-organized tree and greenery pick-up or drop-off.

•If your city or county does not have an organized pick-up or drop-off, burn the greens. Always check with local ordinances first and follow them.

If you suspect your greenery or tree may be infested with an invasive insect or disease, contact the MDA's Arrest the Pest line at 1-888-545-6684 or arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us.

Remember when

10 years ago (2010)

•On Wednesday, Dec. 30, postal carrier Dennis Brady completed his 10-mile drive and 10.5-mile walk for the last time.

For 32 years Brady has spent 6 1/2 hours per day en route. "The street is my office," he said.

At that average rate, if Brady had worn a pedometer, he would have clocked 96,768 miles in his career; each year he walked the distance from the East Coast to the West Coast without ever leaving Luverne.

Keeping with the postal service motto, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night has stayed this courier from the swift completion of his appointed rounds." ...

In his retirement, Brady and his wife, Linda, are planning on spending time watching their five grandchildren and attending their activities. ...

The Bradys plan to relocate to the southern Black Hills, where Dennis hopes to spend time brook and rainbow trout fishing.

25 years ago (1995)

•Tri-State Insurance Company is experiencing growing pains. In the next 10 years, the company anticipates hiring more than 70 additional employees at its Luverne location.

The company currently employs 149 people. With the anticipated growth, 30 of these 70 new hires are expected in the next year.

"We need to do something," company president Curt Bloemen-daal said Tuesday. "We're very tight on space."

According to Bloemendaal, Tri-State is considering a few different option: opening a branch in an eastern state near some of its newer clients, moving all or part of the operations west to Sioux Falls (for better business climate), or expanding its existing facility on Roundwind Road in Luverne.

50 years ago (1970)

•An additional 80-acre tract has been purchased by the State of Minnesota to enlarge Blue Mounds State Park, Sen. John L. Olson announced.

The property, owned by Vernon Noll, extends a half mile east from U.S. 75, and is bordered on the south by CSAH No. 8. At the same time, Noll has given the state a five-year option to purchase the east 80 acres, which includes the south bluff of the Mounds. Noll lives on this property at the present time.

Under the terms of the agreement to sell the west 80, Noll will rent the land, and farm it until it is developed as park property. He will also pay taxes on it as long as he has use of the land.

75 years ago (1945)

•Contracts for the erection of the 300,000-gallon water tank and for a new 175-foot smoke stack at the power plant were let Tuesday night by the city council.

With a bid of $29,600 the Pittsburgh-Des Moines Steel Co., of Des Moines, was the successful bidder for construction of the new water tank, which will be erected just a bit west of the present standpipe. ...

Work on the "footing" for the 300,000-gallon water tank, which will be erected on a suitable tower, will start as soon as the frost is out of the ground.

100 years ago (1920)

•Through the initiative of the Misses Elfie Olson and Freda Dibbern in recognizing a stranger and insisting that he accompany them to the City drug store in order to explain a purchase made there with a worthless check, Rock county officials are convinced that the person responsible for the passing of at least two forged checks on drug stores of this city has been apprehended.

The person accused of these offenses is Walter E. Ross, a young man 21 years of age, who has been staying in Luverne for the last few months, working at odd jobs from time to time. He is now held at the county jail, awaiting disposal of his case. Ross landed in the toils of the law early Saturday evening, just twenty-four hours after he had cashed a check, for $38.40 drawn on the Farmers' National bank, of this city to which had been forged the name of E. Trunell. The check was payable to Walter James and was presented at the City drug store in payment for a $6.00 manicure set, the accused man receiving the difference in cash.

The check was taken Friday evening during the supper hour, while Mr. and Mrs. Connell were at home, and the Misses Dibbern and Olson were in charge of the drug store, but it was not until Saturday noon when Mr. Connell made a deposit at a bank that it was discovered that the check was of no value.

It was then supposed that the young man who had cashed the check had undoubtedly left the city, but when Miss Dibbern returned from dinner and learned of the character of the check, she recalled that she had seen the man while on her way to the store.

Luverne levy/from page 2

have greater needs than what they could reasonably cover in property taxes.

The idea is property tax relief — to pay for essential services and infrastructure and to help hold down property taxes.

However, in over the past decade, outstate Minnesota cities have seen LGA decrease or remain flat, despite inflation and cost increases.

Utility rates to increase

The council also took action to set the fees, rates, and charges for services for the upcoming 2020 fiscal year.

Based on a recent rate study, the council approved slight rate increases for water, sewer and electric utilities, which for the average resident will amount to roughly a 4-percent increase.

The rate adjustments are necessary to finance the maintenance, operation and necessary improvements.

There will also be rate adjustments in building/zoning/safety departments, including various business licenses and fees.

Bond agreements and covenants require that the city of Luverne make efforts to adequately fund and meet operating expenses of the utilities, and rate studies are done every three years by an outside consultant to set rates at an adequate level.

Obituaries

Donald Schellhouse



Donald "Don" Gene Schellhouse was born January 14, 1943, in Luverne, Minnesota, to Harry and Olga (Salmonson) Schellhouse. Don grew up in Hills, Minnesota, and graduated from Hills High School in 1961. After high school, he attended Stewart School of Cosmetology.

After graduation and while teaching at the school, Don met the love of his life, Donna Rae Reining. They were united in marriage on July 13, 1963. This union was blessed with two children.

Don traveled the Midwest presenting at hair shows before changing careers. He worked in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as a salesman for Haber's Carpets and Reynolds Furniture.

He went on to work for Scorpion, Inc. selling snowmobiles throughout the region where he was recognized as a top salesman for the company.

Don was an accomplished artist, selling his art and attending art shows through much of his life.

In 1987, after moving to the Black Hills, Don was employed at Black Hills Special Services Coop, Inc. in Rapid City. He and Donna then moved to Sturgis to be foster parents caring for those with disabilities in a home setting. Don loved to go antiquing with his wife, Donna.

They became certified antique appraisers for the Black Hills region.

Don's greatest joy was collecting antiques and Indian artifacts. He took great pride in the knowledge and historical background of each and every item. He beamed with excitement when telling stories about his "old stuff" to all his family and friends. Don had a very big heart and cared deeply for all those he met.

Don, 76, of Sturgis, South Dakota, passed away Friday, December 20, 2019, surrounded by his family.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughter, Ginger (Dan) Niemann of Pierre, South Dakota; granddaughter, Carly Niemann of Rapid City, South Dakota; brother, Duane (Janice) Schellhouse of Sioux Falls; sister, Janyce Richards of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Olga; wife, Donna; son, Jason; and brother, Dale.

Funeral services were held on Friday, December 27, 2019, at Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis with Pastor Kris Garlick officiating. Burial followed at Bear Butte Cemetery in Sturgis.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com.

(0102 V)

Dick Van Hofwegen



Dick Van Hofwegen, 91, Hardwick, formerly of Pipestone, died Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019, at the Edgebrook Care Center in Edgerton.

A funeral service was Friday, Dec. 27, at the Christian Reformed Church in Pipestone. Interment was at Hillside Cemetery in Edgerton.

Dick Van Hofwegen was born on July 19, 1928, to Dick and Cora (Faber) Van Hofwegen at their home near Hawarden, Iowa. During his childhood, they lived on various farms in northwest Iowa. While growing up, Dick worked for several local farmers.

He continued to keep busy during the winters by working at Morrell's Meat Packaging Plant. In the spring of 1951, Dick enlisted in the U.S. Army. He served as a corporal during the Korean conflict and was honorably discharged in the spring of 1953.

On Oct. 30, 1953, Dick married Mary Gorter at the Christian Reformed Church in Pipestone. Dick and Mary made their home in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, until March of 1954, when they relocated to a farm five miles south of Pipestone. In addition to farming, Dick spent time selling welders, hauling flax straw, and driving semi-trailers across the country prior to his retirement in 2012.

With his extra time, he loved traveling to Texas and selling his purchases at flea markets and craft shows.

Dick was a member of the Christian Reformed Church in Pipestone and was also a consistory member. He was a member of the Hardwick American Legion in Hardwick. Dick was a tinkerer and loved repurposing broken items into treasures, especially when they could be gifted to the children.

Dick is survived by his wife, Mary, of Edgerton; his children, Lawrence (Lois) Van Hofwegen of Castlewood, South Dakota, Connie (Bill) Van Groningen of Tinley Park, Illinois, Ann Sprik of Hardwick, Deedre (Joe) Sorvaag and Dixon (Lisa) Van Hofwegen, all of Houston, Texas; 13 grandchildren; 30 great- grandchildren; his siblings, Case (Albertha), Arie, John (Jessie), Herm (Joan), Mart (Bernice), Bob (Dee), Carl (Joyce); sister-in- law, Tracy Van Hofwegen (wife of Bill); and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a stillborn son; great-grandson Denver Post; his brothers, Adrian, Marinus, and Bill; and his sisters, Kryna Rozeboom and Elizabeth "Liz" Fluit.

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

(0102 F)

Nona Walter



Nona Germaine Walter, 92, Brandon, South, Dakota, died on Dec. 23, 2019, at the Bethany Home in Brandon.

A funeral service was Friday, Dec. 27, at the Jasper Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jasper. Interment was at the Jasper City Cemetery.

Nona Hegstad was born on Sept. 3, 1927, to Ole and Mary (Anderson) Hegstad in Slayton. When her mother died in 1929, she was raised by her father and several housekeepers. In 1933 her father married Leila Endersbe who then helped raise Nona and her siblings.

Nona attended school in Slayton until the sixth grade when she moved with her family to Ellsworth and continued her education there.

After Nona's graduation from Ellsworth High School in 1945, she attended beauty school in Mankato. After completing her coursework there, she became employed by a beauty shop in Rochester. A year later she moved to Worthington. While working there, she obtained her shop manager's license. She opened her own shop in Ellsworth and named it "Nona's Beauty Shop."

On April 19, 1949, she married John Walter at the Congregational Church in Ellsworth. Following their marriage, they lived on the Walter family farm near Ellsworth.

In 1949 Nona sold the beauty shop and they moved to a farm near Steen. In 1963 they moved to a farm south of Jasper. Nona worked in the bakery and cafeteria at Jasper Foodland for 12 years. John preceded her in death in 1975. After his death, Nona continued to live on the farm.

Nona was a member of the Jasper Evangelical Lutheran Church and was active in the Ladies Aid and church circle. She enjoyed tatting, crossword puzzles and reading. She loved to travel, and her favorite trip was to Maui. She enjoyed spending time outdoors working in her large garden, taking care of her flowers, mainly roses and gladiolas. She actively enjoyed and supported her granddaughter during her school athletic years. While growing up, she learned to ice skate. She was named Queen of the Ice Follies in Ellsworth.

Nona is survived by two children, Suzanne Walter (Arnold) Gleason of Harrisburg, South Dakota, and Scott (Marian) Walter of Baltic, South Dakota; granddaughter Allison of Baltic; three stepgranddaughters, Angie (Joe) Sieler, Jenny (Greg) Baker and Ruthie (Bill) Roth; two stepgrandsons, Robert (Vicky) and Craig (Holly) Gleason; five great-grandchildren; sister Doris Essman of Luverne; a sister-in- law, Laura Warner; and a brother-in-law, Alfred Wagner.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John; a son, Douglas; her parents; a brother, Minver Hegstad; a sister, Juanita Jones; and several nieces and nephews.

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

(0102 F)



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Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools

I.S.D. #671

Open Enrollment Deadline: January 15th

January 15th is the deadline for nonresident students to apply for open enrollment to the Elementary School in Beaver Creek, District Office or online at www.hbcpatriots.com. Open enrollment forms may be picked up in the district office of the Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

WHAT WE'RE ABOUT....

- A strong tradition and commitment to academic excellence
- Educational programs for all ages
- Clear rules and a positive climate for learning
- Strong parent and community commitment to school
- Nonviolent environment with safe, caring atmosphere
- Learning enhanced by a low ratio of student to teachers
- Staff maintain an inclusive environment to meet needs of individual students
- Staff know students as individuals and are determined to help students succeed.

U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School 2019

Hills-Beaver Creek School provides a student-centered environment that encourages individual talents and differences.

READ US ONLINE!
star-herald.com

Star Herald chronicles births and deaths in 2019

Social media and increasingly global connections are creating new avenues for people to announce family news like the arrival of babies and the passing of loved ones. Here are the ones that appeared in the Star Herald this year

Following are the names published as obituaries and death notices in 2019:

December 2018

Dec. 22: Wallace Schmuck, 90, Luverne.

Dec. 25: Gary Lee, 62, Magnolia.

Dec. 26: Delores Johnson, 82, Rochester.

Dec. 28: Marian Lorenzen, 87, Hardwick.

Dec. 29: Helen Loosbrock, 96, Adrian.

Dec. 31: Lloyd Vanden Bussche, 61, Beaver Creek.

January

Jan. 2: Marie Gleis, 95, Luverne.

Jan. 5: Martha Steinhoff, 92, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Roger Peterson, 76, Perham.

Jan. 6: Eldy Dahl, 85, Pipestone.

Jan. 7: Darlene Grotewold, 89, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Pearl Schomacker, 89, Luverne.

Jan. 9: Barbara Elcock, 71, Worthing, S.D.

Jan. 12: Michael Wessels, 69, Lake Shetek.

Jan. 14: Glenn Hawes, 89, Jasper.

Jan. 15: Malcolm Pegram Jr., 54, Luverne.

Jan. 17: Ann Petersen, 73, Hardwick; Eric Sammons, 42, Luverne.

Jan. 18: Helen Kruger, 95, Luverne; Mark Harrison, 58, Snohomish, Wash.

Jan. 22: Garneth Van Surksum, 76, Luverne; Clara Getman, 100, Rehoboth, Del.; Jeffrey Dirks, 56, Mesa, Ariz.

Jan. 30: Norman Christensen, 66, Hopewell, Ill.; Roger Van Roekel, 81, Rock Rapids, Iowa.

Jan. 31: Rita Lonneman, 85, Adrian.

February

Feb. 1: Willie Oltmans, 92, Luverne; Gene Olson, 85, San Diego, Calif.

Feb. 3: Taylor Stratton, 23, Adrian.

Feb. 4: Leah Doorneweerd, 91, Beaver Creek.

Feb. 8: Florence Connell, 99, Kansas City, Mo.

Feb. 9: James Leenderts, 80, Hills.

Feb. 11: Marie Walraven, 96, Hills; Marlis Kleinke, 84, Walker.

Feb. 12: JoAnn Sehr Turk, 80, Manhatten Beach, Calif.

Feb. 16: Ida Langstraat, 91, Hills; Minnie Bosch, 97, Luverne.

Feb. 18: Tanya Stroh, 37, Luverne.

Feb. 19: Stanley Eyberg, 98, Burnsville.

Feb. 23: Jane Baker Bosch, 82, Steen.

Feb. 28: Robert Dunham, 75, Akeley.

March

March 1: Suzanne Michels, 64, Eldon, Mo.

March 5: Diane Ermler, 74, Sioux Falls, S.D.

March 6: Betty Gruber, 89, Luverne; Constance Lindblom, 80, Richfield; Daniel Nelson, 66, Magnolia.

March 7: Norman Ahrendt, 88, Park Rapids.

March 8: Adele Oien, 93, Luverne.

March 9: Rohland Dahlquist, 94, Ellsworth; Lawrence Klooster, 90, Ellsworth.

March 10: Janice Sandbulte, 89, Luverne.

March 11: Dorothy Klosterbuer, 71, Luverne.

March 13: Michael Vogtberg, 34, Leota.

March 21: Elzora Ott, 91, Luverne; Beaulah Ashburn, 97, Hills.

March 24: Henrietta Drenth, 97, Ellsworth.

March 29: Dale Swenson, 82, Luverne.

April

April 2: Arlyn Hemme, 91, Luverne.

April 5: Linda Dummer, 65, Luverne.

April 6: William Fischenich, 92, Ellsworth; Lowell Dubro, 89, Brandon, S.D.

April 11: Landel Bullerman, 87, Adrian.

April 13: Virginia Ruddy, 76, Luverne.

April 15: Ethel Schilling, 87, Luverne.

April 21: Patricia Smedsrud, 84, Garretson, S.D.

April 25: Darlene Boisen, 88, Luverne.

April 28: Harold Asmus, 63, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Kayleen Klingenberg, 54, George, Iowa; Ruth Wiese, 83, Sioux Falls, S.D.

April 29: Mary Kay Bullerman LaRocca, 78, San Jose, Calif.

April 30: Elaine Scheidt, 79, Adrian.

May

May 2: Terry Sandhurst, 64, Magnolia.

May 3: Douglas Hamann, 66, Luverne.

May 6: Roman Jankowski, 91, Luverne.

May 8: Vivian Hanssen, 91, Luverne.

May 10: Verna Van Driel, 89, Luverne.

May 11: Lavonne Shardin, 70, Grafton, North Dakota.

May 21: Donald Etrheim, 90, Jasper.

May 29: James Collins, 76, Luverne; Dorothy Hocking, 89, Ellsworth.

May 30: Clarre Vande Velde, 81, Kenneth.

June

June 1: Dennis Cauwels, 67, Cresco, Iowa.

June 2: Mary West, 60, Luverne.

June 3: Loretta Baker, 70, Luverne.

June 4: Diane Ossenfort, 69, Westbrook.

June 9: Victoria Walgrave-Charlson, 25, Windom.

June 13: Rebecca Hollander-Crane, 45, Hartford, S.D.

June 15: Edward Scarlett, 72, Luverne; Glenn Homandberg, 83, Lismore.

June 17: Emily Lodine Overgaard, 64, Luverne; Wava Zoet, 86, Rock Rapids, Iowa.

June 20: Oliver Rollag, 96, Beaver Creek; Gregory Reimer, 70, Emmetsburg, Iowa.

June 22: Anthony Boyenga, 31, Ellsworth; Carter Braun, 15, Reading.

June 23: Stanley Mann, 71, Battle Creek, Mich.

June 24: Jeanette Top, 94, Hills; Rose Meester, 97, Ellsworth.

June 25: Lila Blattner, 90, Anoka.

July

July 5: Kham Manila, 61, Adrian.

July 7: Martha Schomacker, 93, Hills.

July 9: Aleida Von Holtum, 93, Luverne; Kathaleen "Kay" Cox, 94, Adrian.

July 11: Archie Bonnett, 68, Magnolia.

July 15: Carrie Bakken, 51, Luverne; Winnie Vander Vliet, 87, Hills.

July 16: Donna Gingras, 74, Rock Rapids, Iowa; Daniel Arp, 63, Hardwick.

July 17: Myron Beukema, 67, Edgerton.

July 18: Betty Iveland Nath, 93, Luverne.

July 21: Peter Henstra, 88, Jasper; Harold DeGroot, 89, Edgerton.

July 23: Robert Lange, 88, Beaver Creek; Brooke Thompson, 22, Luverne.

July 24: Donna Hellerud, 77, Hills.

July 25: Annie Kramer, 97, Brandon, S.D.

July 28: Cleon Bowen, 56, Tea, S.D.

July 29: Larry Carlson, 75, Hills; Edward DeBoer, 79, Luverne.

August

Aug. 3: Walter Brown, 64, Arlington, S.D.

Aug. 4: Michael Konz, 62, Adrian; Shirley Schultz, 70, Red Wing; Harriet Thomas, 99, Luverne.

Aug. 10: Henrietta Bajema, 96, Hills.

Aug. 14: Lillian Willers, 86, Luverne.

Aug. 22: Ada Adams, 100, Luverne; Linda Meester, 72, Lester, Iowa.

Aug. 23: Gerald Drenth, 72, Lismore; Eldon Dykstra, 88, Worthington.

Aug. 24: Edna Johnson, 99, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Aug. 27: Phyllis Schouwenburg, 85, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Allan Geslin, 77, Ozark, Ark.

Aug. 28: Albert Kracht, 89, Steen.

Aug. 29: Phydelis "Fiddy" Hamann, 81, Luverne; Frank Reurink, 92, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Aug. 31: Arlene Remme, 92, Luverne.

September

Sept. 1: Arvilla Veldkamp, 76, Luverne; Marvin Brommer, 90, Luverne.

Sept. 2: Nell Fink, 89, Luverne.

Sept. 3: Jim Nelson, 70, Magnolia; Dorothy Thorin, 90, Hills.

Sept. 4: Jennifer Cattnach, 41, Luverne.

Sept. 6: Rachel Kroontje, 74, rural Kenneth.

Sept. 17: Carol Stout, 74, Pipestone.

Sept. 18: Kurt Petersen, 92, Luverne.

Sept. 19: Delores Mulligan, 83, Luverne.

Sept. 25: Martha Nuffer, 84, Omaha, Neb.; Grace Wassenaar, 102, Hills.

Sept. 29: Kathleen "Kay" Sehr, 90, Luverne; Doyle Toering, 42, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Sept. 30: Dick Kracht, 94, Luverne; Paul Stanley Witte Jr., 62, Luverne; Alma Birchard, 96, Luverne.

October

Oct. 6: David Lorenzen, 70, rural Hardwick.

Oct. 12: Larry Wills, 80, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Oct. 13: Harold Graphenteen, 86, Luverne.

Oct. 10: Sandra Akkerman, 55, Luverne; Kenneth Busse, 84, Luverne.

Oct. 11: Helen Broesder, 95, Adrian.

Oct. 13: Ethan Erickson, 12, Hills; Verna Garnmeister, 95, Luverne; Harold Graphenteen, 86, Luverne.

Oct. 14: Sheryl Faber, 61, San Antonio, Texas; Hilda Uilk, 95, Jasper.

Oct. 15: Margaret Hoh, 93, Luverne.

Oct. 16: John Allen, 83, Luverne.

Oct. 17: Elmer Bartels, 88, Luverne.

Oct. 18: Timothy VerSteeg, 49, Brandon, S.D.; Valerie Lange, 60, Brandon, S.D.; Patricia Lens, 84, Brandon, S.D.

Oct. 20: Donald Letcher, 74, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Oct. 25: Gary Steinhoff, 59, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Robert Larson, 69, Luverne.

Oct. 31: Iris Fodness, 90, Hills.

November

Nov. 1: Charline Roberts, 83, Luverne.

Nov. 2: Nancy Pettersen, 66, Jasper.

Nov. 3: Rosa Schepel, 60, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Nov. 5: Joyce Pap, 88, North Oaks.

Nov. 6: Mike Zschetzsche, 55, Hills.

Nov. 7: Rodney Thompson, 83, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Tracy Birdsey, 70, Shakopee.

Nov. 11: Jean Alderson, 74, Ruthton.

Nov. 12: Laurie Wenzel, 63, Yankton, S.D.

Nov. 14: Bernard Maras, 68, Flandreau, S.D.; Angeline Oolbekkink, 95, New London.

Nov. 15: Sharon Boltjes, 63, rural Adrian; Calvin VandenHoek, 94, Garvin.

Nov. 22: Joyce Serie, 97, Tyler.

Nov. 25: Ruth McClure, 90, Marshall.

Nov. 29: Rosetta Van Marel, 77, Beaver Creek.

December

Dec. 2: Leon Siebenahler, 86, Luverne.

Dec. 7: Ardell Bowman, 74, Luverne.

Dec. 12: Lorna Brooks, 58, Luverne.

Dec. 15: Douglas Kluever, 86, Worthington; Lyle Graff, 95, Luverne.

Dec. 19: Norma Wing, 80, Pipestone; Alvina Hup, 87, Luverne.

Dec. 21: Dick Van Hofwegen, 91, Hardwick.

New arrivals announced in 2019

July 2018

July 16: Jordan and Katie Kopp, Luverne, a boy, Hudson.

December 2018

Dec. 18: Brent and Melissa Hofmeyer, Sheldon, Iowa, a girl, Ruthie Kay.

Dec. 22: Ryan and Corey Wynia, Luverne, a girl, Audrey Wendy.

January

Jan. 1: Casey and Lindsey Swenson, Brandon, S.D., a boy, Landon Vincent.

Jan. 2: Jordan and Jordyn Pater, Luverne, a boy, Benjamin.

Jan. 14: Caleb and Macy Ellingson, Luverne, a boy, Nash Daniel.

February (none)

March

March 1: Logan Crosby and Hallie Baker, Steen, a boy, Lincoln Christopher.

March 4: Eric and Kilee Uittenbogaard, Steen, a girl, Eden Jane.

March 19: Shea and Dani Klooster, Steen, a girl, Gracelyn Lorraine.

April

April 11: Andy and Courtney Blenner, Schaller, Iowa, a boy, Logan William.

May

May 3: Nic and Kristen Uilk, Jasper, a girl, Ingrid Ann.

June

June 1: Clint and Stephanie Roozenboom, Steen, a boy, Kohen David.

June 3: Jordan and Alicia Van Maanen, Sioux Falls, a girl, Olivia Grace.

June 13: Ethan and Maleeka Rozeboom, Hills, a girl, Henzley Mae.

June 19: Tyler and Tricia Susie, Hills, a boy, Amos Trig.

June 24: Denis and Jessie Paquette, Brandon, S.D., a boy, Gage Leo Cardin.

June 29: Cody and Chelsey Schelling, Armour, S.D., a boy, Cyrus Blaine.

July (none)

August

Aug. 7: Christopher and Gretchen Luze, Sioux Falls, S.D., a boy, Edward Charles.

September (none)

October (none)

November (none)

December

Dec. 6: Brad and Melissa Van De Berg, Hills, a girl, Miranda Ann.

VFW essays ask 'What Makes America Great?' and 'Why You Make America Great'/from page 6

embrace our cultures.

In America people are allowed to express themselves without being punished for it. For this very reason, people can choose to embrace their talents, such as sports, music or education.

American schools provide multiple opportunities for children to realize what their talents are by offering specific classes for music and activities such as sports and the fine arts.

John F. Kennedy once said, "Let us think of education as the means of developing our greatest abilities, because in each of us there is a private hope and dream which, fulfilled, can be translated into benefit for everyone and greater strength of the nation." He put into perspective what America's education system is all about.

Children in America are required to attend school until the age of eighteen. What people don't realize is that this is a privilege and a right. Kids don't realize that school teaches them more than academic standards. Education in America is about learning and developing life skills. It's about providing children with the opportunity to find themselves and realize their purposes. Purpose is what drives people to work to better themselves and our nation. When purpose is found, dreams are realized. In America, anyone can accomplish their dreams as long as they believe in them.

Rafael Cruz stated, "Only in America can someone start with nothing and achieve the American Dream. That's the greatness of this country." The American Dream is the belief that everyone has an equal opportunity regardless of who they are or where they're from. Anyone can achieve success through hard work. Barack Obama is a prime example of the American Dream because he lived it. Growing up, Obama's family had issues. His parents got divorced, his father died, and at one point, he lived with his grandparents. From elementary school to high school, he had lived in two different countries. But, he came back to America, got a better education, and worked hard for what he wanted. It's evident that he accomplished what he wanted, as he was the president of the United States. In his Inaugural Address, Lyndon B. Johnson stated, "If we succeed, it will not be because of what we have, but it will be because of what we are; not because of what we own, but rather because of what we believe." People come to America because they're given hope to accomplish their dreams. For many people, America is a fresh start and an opportunity for a better life.

People choose to come to America because they are accepted regardless of their race, gender, or ethnicity. Because of this, America has become a diverse nation. Michelle Obama once said, "It is so important to remember that our diversity has been — and will always be — our greatest source of strength and pride." America is a country that embraces all different kinds of ethnicities and cultures. The Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal." With that in mind, it is evident that, in America, people are welcomed as a part of our nation, regardless of their background. They are allowed equal opportunity. America is home to everyone, regardless of who they are or where they're from. Diversity is accepted, and it is what binds us together to become a country like no other.

Ted Yoho expressed that "The American dream comes from opportunity. The opportunity comes from our founding principles, our core values that's held together and protected by the Constitution. Those ideas are neither Republican, Democrat, conservative, liberal, white, or black. Those are American ideologies."

Think back to the young man who played the cello in the subway. He is now the top cellist in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The young woman who was studying to become a lawyer is now a Supreme Court justice. The middle school boy who wanted to become just like Michael Jordan is now playing for the Miami Heat. This is all possible because of the opportunity they had, and that is what makes America great.

Patriot Pride essay, 'Why You Make America Great'

By Lanae Elbers, Hills-Beaver Creek Middle School eighth-grader

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was issued, establishing the United States of America. That is when we broke away from Britain and became our own country. Since then, the USA has been in 222 wars with a lot of different countries. For us to be free, and have the rights we do, we need to thank our soldiers for giving us rights. Today, we thank the soldiers for making America great.

The Declaration of Independence declared our freedom from Britain. Once we broke away from Britain we made our own laws. Some of the great laws include freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and the right to vote. In some countries, if you don't worship their god or their idol you will be punished. Other countries don't let women have the right to say their opinion. I think that America is great because women can state their opinion and they can vote. Also, we can believe in God and not be sent to prison for worshiping our own God.

Our flag is something that also represents America. When I see the American flag it reminds me of the strong soldiers fighting so we don't have to. It represents strength of our country and our people. The flag is something we respect. It shows us how we love our country, and how we respect one another. Another part of the flag is that it states each and every state in the U.S.

The part that I think is the most important thing is our soldiers. They risk their lives so we can be free. My grandpa was a veteran and I thank him and all the other brave, hard working, and determined soldiers that fight for our country, so we don't have to. Some soldiers chose to be a soldier, but others didn't have the choice and still fought for us. Many soldiers went through extreme suffering and turmoil to give us the freedom we have today. Regardless of the sacrifice, we are forever grateful.

We also need to celebrate the families of the soldiers. They had to be strong for their family. We must celebrate the soldiers that fought for our freedom every day, not just one day a year. Thank you to all the brave men and women that fought for our country. That is why You make America great.

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Decade in review — Star Herald looks back on top stories of 2010 through 2019/continued from page 1

and sizes were decimated by the ice, snow and wind.

Hundreds were removed entirely, and countless more were trimmed and assessed for discard or keep.

Father's Day flood of 2014

Flooding in Rock County isn't uncommon, but the 2014 event was epic in both size and scope damage, tallying up to 20 inches of rain by the time it was over.

It started with a surprising downburst of rain in stormy weather in the first week of June that left local residents feeling grateful to have skirted a tornado and other damage experienced in the region.

But no one could have predicted the deluge Mother Nature had in store for the following days.

The weather on Saturday, June 14, started raising eyebrows that night when heavy rain became torrential rain. And didn't stop.

A system had parked itself over southwest Minnesota and didn't move for several hours.

This rain, arriving at an estimated rate of more than an inch per hour on the already drenched soil from previous heavy rainfall, quickly added up to trouble for Rock County and its inhabitants.

Another downburst Monday evening, June 16, further complicated the disaster.

Road ditches became raging rivers, sweeping cars off their wheels, and motorists found it impossible to navigate even a few miles in any direction. For a period of time, I-90 and state and major local roads were completely closed.

Homes that had never before suffered basement moisture acquired several inches in the lower levels, destroying carpet, furnishings and Sheetrock, along with irreplaceable family heirlooms in some cases.

Many residents suffered heartbreaking and financially burdensome losses.

Meanwhile, flood damage to public property prompted state and federal officials converging in Rock County to assess losses.

Rebuilding at the park

The June 2014 flood will be remembered as the one that blew out the Blue Mounds State Park dam, draining the man-made lake and forever altering the park's recreational landscape.

Roaring water blew out 80 to 90 feet of the concrete spillway, up to the dam itself, which was built as a WPA project in 1940.

Flooding also eroded driveways and trails within the park, and 3 feet of water filled the lower level of the visitor center. The once-popular Blue Mounds swimming hole with its well-kept inviting beach had been reduced to a weedy mud puddle.

In the years following the disaster, community input meetings and studies led to the decision that the Blue Mounds lake would not be put back.

It was difficult for some to imagine, but the science made sense. Mother Nature had originally cultivated a meandering stream in that area, with wet marshes and tall grasses to provide habitat and protect water quality.

This is what state and federal planners decided to put back. By the end of the decade, a walk bridge was erected and the outlines of fishing areas and new trails could be detected.

A new water challenge arose in 2016 when E. coli was discovered in the park's drinking water system.

After years of research and more than $300,000 to drill a new well, the problem persisted, meaning that campers couldn't use the park water for anything but flushing toilets.

Finally, the state park found a water solution in the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System, another major headline of the decade.

Lewis and Clark Regional Water arrives

Water also dominated the decade's news as the Star Herald chronicled what had become a 26-year quest to bring treated drinking water from the Missouri River aquifer to Luverne and 20 other communities in the tri-state area.

A ribbon-cutting event in March 2016 celebrated the arrival of water from Vermillion, South Dakota, to Luverne through the Lewis and Clark pipeline.

Red Arndt, an honored guest at Monday's event, was part of the system's early start in 1990 when he was Luverne's water and wastewater supervisor.

"I've been waiting for this day for a long time — 26 years," he told a small gathering of dignitaries under a tent near the Lewis and Clark meter building by the city power plant.

"We finally have water that will sustain the growth of Luverne for years to come and that will enable my kids and grandkids to stay here and have jobs here that are enabled by water."

Luverne became the thirteenth member of twenty connected. When complete, the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System will provide treated water from the Missouri River aquifer to more than 300,000 people in the tri-state area.

Broadband reaches rural homes

For those who have long had adequate Internet access, it may not be a big deal that fiber-to-the-home broadband access is reaching rural Rock County.

But for many of the thousands of rural residents who have been without high-speed Internet, this was the biggest story of the decade.

In fact, rural broadband is often compared to rural electricity and phone service, in terms of far-reaching economic impact.

The service came to Rock County in 2016 by way of a $5 million state grant to bring fiber-to-the-premises service to rural residents in Rock County and the cities of Jasper (Rock County side), Hardwick, Beaver Creek, Magnolia and Kanaranzi.

Because of the increased costs due to the grant's prevailing wage stipulations, the southeast portion of the county originally wouldn't have received the service.

To bring the option to the entire county, commissioners opted to bond $1 million to match Alliance's additional contribution.



The drone of distant chain saws and the backup beeps of heavy equipment were common sounds all over Rock County and southwest Minnesota in the following days as people dug out from fallen trees and branches after the April ice storm of 2013. The storm is most remembered for the toll on trees, many of which still bear the scars of damage nearly seven years later. Thousands of trees of all species and sizes were decimated by the ice, snow and wind. Hundreds were removed entirely, and countless more were trimmed and assessed for discard or keep. Above are city crews on Barck Street in Luverne.



Luverne City Park looked like a warzone after the ice storm ruined hundreds of trees. Below, ice builds up on flowering crab apple trees at the start of the April 2013 ice storm.



Farming through the decade

The previous decade saw some of the best and worst times in the history of farming in Rock County in terms of commodity prices, land values, record yields and effects of weather.

Rapid growth of technology in agriculture affected everything from farm machinery to farm business management. In 2010 "auto-steer" technology in farm machinery was in its developmental stage and today it's common in crop production. Precision farming methods now allow producers to more precisely apply crop fertilizer and chemicals, which is both more cost-effective and environmentally friendly.

The past decade saw increased focus on farming's effect on the environment at the same time farmers are becoming increasingly aware that what's good for the soil and water is good for their farming operations.

Laws required buffers to protect waterways, but cover crops and other soil preservation methods are becoming increasingly the norm as farmers seek to survive amid extreme weather events.

Land values increased sharply during the first few years of the past decade before declining in recent years. Land at the start of the decade was valued at an average $4,371 per tillable acre and reached a high of $8,716 per acre by the end of 2013, before declining to an average of $7,183 by the end of 2016.

In Rock County some of the highest recorded sales reached $16,200 per acre in 2012 and $14,900 per acre in 2013.

Midway through the decade, farmers were flush with cash, and the local economy also flourished, but the tide turned later in the decade.

Median net farm income for Minnesota farmers in 2018 was only $26,055, which was the lowest in the past 23 years of analyzing farm business management records.

It was the fifth year in a row of sub-par net farm income levels in the state, which was the first time that this has occurred since the 1980s, and analysts say 2019 data will continue this trend.

A small but growing number of local producers are ceasing operation or filing bankruptcy.

The Lake becomes a recreational hot spot

A bright spot in local news has been the developing story of The Lake, formerly known as the Creamery Pond in Luverne.

Over the past several years, local property owners Mike and Traci Davis with help from the city of Luverne and others, have cleaned up the grounds that feature a sandy beach, a dock, a fishing pier, a parking lot and many other inviting amenities.

Decade in review/see p. 15











Star Herald file photo

Senior Mallory Thorson scored nine points during a loss to Harrisburg Saturday in Sioux Falls.

LHS girls bow to Harrisburg

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne girls' basketball team made an appearance in the Hoop City Classic Saturday at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls.

The four-day event included high school and college games played at the Pentagon and the Corn Palace in Mitchell (South Dakota).

Luverne's initial appearance in the Classic sent the Cardinals to the Pentagon, where they faced a strong squad from Harrisburg, South Dakota.

The Tigers entered the game as South Dakota's second-ranked Class AA team, and they lived up to the billing against LHS.

LHS/continued on page 11

Patriots lose late lead in Marshall

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team was in a position to win a game at the Marshall Invitational Tournament Friday at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

That situation didn't seem to detour the Lakeview Lakers.

Facing an eight-point deficit with less than eight minutes left in regulation play, the Lakers came storming back with vengeance.

Lakeview closed the game with a 22-2 run, which included a surge of netting 16 consecutive points, to pull out a 64-52 victory.

With the exception of the final eight minutes of the game, H-BC turned in a quality effort against a 7-1 Lakeview squad.

The Patriots received field goals from Kyle Kueter and Cole Baker in the first minute of the game to gain a 4-0 lead.

Lakeview countered with a 13-6 run to move in front 13-10 at the 12:52 mark of the first half, but the Patriots did fight back.

An 11-3 surge ending with a three-point shot by Baker gave the Patriots a 21-16 cushion with 10:03 remaining.

H-BC increased its lead to eight points (27-19) when Oliver Deelstra converted a field goal at the 5:34 mark before the Lakers went on a 9-2 run to trim the difference to one point (29-28) with 1:17 left in the opening stanza.

The Patriots scored the next four points and led 33-28 when Baker hit a field goal with 35 seconds remaining, but Lakeview netted the final three points of the stanza to slice H-BC's lead to two points (33-31) at the intermission.

Lakeview knotted the score at 33 15 seconds into the second half before H-BC used a 13-7 surge ending with a Parker Gehrke draining one free throw to five the Patriots a 46-40 cushion 7:37 into the stanza.



John Rittenhouse photo/0102 hbb 5

Hills-Beaver Creek junior forward Zander Wysong rolls a shot off his fingers during Friday's basketball game against Lakeview at the Marshall Invitational staged at Southwest Minnesota State University.

H-BC's lead swelled to eight points (50-42) when Deelstra registered a field goal at the 7:26 mark, but that's when the situation soured on the Patriots.

Lakeview's 16-0 run gave the Lakers a 58-50 lead with 2:54 left to play.

A free throw from Deelstra at the 2:33 mark ended the run, but the Lakers outscored H-BC 6-1 the rest of the way to seal a 12-point victory.

Deelstra (14 points), Kueter (12 points and five blocked shots) and Baker (11 points, four assists and three steals) led H-BC offensively in the game.

Zander Wysong pulled down seven rebounds for the Patriots, while Jax Wysong contributed three steals and three assists.

The 2-3 Patriots will attempt to end a three-game slide when they host Adrian-Ellsworth Dragons Friday night in Hills..

Box score
G.Wysong 1 0 0-2 2, Harnack 0 0 0-0 0, Gehrke 0 0 1-2 1, Deelstra 6 0 2-6 14, Baker 4 1 0-0 11, Z.Wysong 3 0 0-0 6, J.Wysong 3 0 0-0 6, Kueter 6 0 0-0 12.

Team statistics
H-BC: 24 of 60 field goals (40 percent), three of 10 free throws (30 percent), 25 rebounds, nine turnovers.
Lakeview: 21 of 46 field goals (46 percent), 13 of 17 free throws (77 percent), 25 rebounds, 14 turnovers.

Program record provides highlight of sensational 2019

From the sidelines

By John Rittenhouse, sports editor



New Year's Day has come and gone, but I spent some time thinking about 2019 late last week.

It was another year featuring some great athletic accomplishments for area athletes.

After doing my research, I found seven efforts produced by individuals and teams from Luverne, Hills-Beaver Creek, Adrian and Ellsworth high schools that made the year a special one for me.

To that end, my first column of 2020 is designed to recap the great happenings that took place in the prior 365 days.

I did my best to rank the seven accomplishments in ascending order, and here is what I came up with.

No. 7: AHS, H-BC golf

No team championships were secured, but some individual members of the Adrian and H-BC golf programs advanced to the Minnesota State Class A Tournament.

H-BC's Tess Van Maanen made her second consecutive appearance at the state classic in June, where she earned a share of 50th place.

Adrian's Madelyn Odell, Gracia Elias and Josi Altman were first-time qualifiers for the state tournament, as was Brock Henning for the AHS boys.

Odell placed 38th, Elias tied for 50th place and Altman finished 72nd in the girls' competition, while Henning placed 54th in the boys' field.

No. 6: LHS tennis

What has become a spring ritual occurred again in 2019 as the Luverne boys' tennis team captured the Section 3A Team Tournament title for the 10th consecutive year.

The magic didn't continue when the Cardinals competed at the state tournament in June as they lost 6-1 decisions to Rochester Lourdes and Thief River Falls, capping a 12-8 team campaign.

Luverne's Matt Sehr and Cole Stoltenberg also qualified for the Class A Doubles Tournament by placing second at the Section 3A Individual Tournament.

The LHS squad dropped both of the matches at state.

No. 5: Summer ball

The summer of 2019 was an outstanding one for Luverne based baseball teams.

The Luverne Redbirds, the Luverne American Legion Baseball and the Luverne Junior Legion squads all qualified for state play.

The Redbirds placed third in the Region 13C Tournament to qualify for the Minnesota State Class C Amateur Tournament for the first time since 2016.

Luverne went 1-1 at the state classic in Maple Grove, capping a 21-10 season.

The Legion squad won the Sub Sub-State and Sub-State championships to end a five-year run of not participating at the Minnesota State Division II Tournament.

The Legion finished a 15-8 summer by going 1-2 and placing sixth at the state tournament in Ely.

After playing VFW ball for years, Luverne's first Junior Legion Team won the Southwest Sub-State championship to earn a berth into the state field in St. Charles.

After losing their first state game, the Junior Legion won the next two contests to earn the consolation championship and complete an 18-7 year.

No. 4: EHS, H-BC, AHS track

The spring of 2019 was an outstanding track year here in our corner of the state, and success included grand accomplishments by athletes from the three smaller schools from the Star Herald coverage area.

A move was made for Ellsworth to pair in all sports with Adrian in the fall, but the Panther boys made a positive showing at their last showing at the state meet as an EHS squad.

The Panthers turned in four all-state performances and secured 17th place in the team standings when the Class A meet was complete.

Ellsworth's 400-meter (Sean Boltjes, Noah Kruse, Cole Boltjes and Kade Boltjes) and 800-meter (Sean Boltjes, Kruse, Robby Armstrong and Kade Boltjes) relays placed fifth at the meet.

Sean Boltjes finished sixth in the 300-meter hurdles, and Kade Boltjes placed seventh in the 200-meter dash.

Adrian's Scot Edwards advanced to the state boys' meet in the shot put, as did H-BC's Tyson Bork in the 100-meter dash.

The H-BC girls sent their 800-meter relay (Taryn Rauk, Madison Spath, Layla Deelstra and Sidney Fick) to the state meet, and Deelstra also qualified for state in the 100-meter dash.

No. 3: AHS wrestling

Adrian's Edwards may not have placed in the shot put competition at the state track meet, but he made a bid to win the heavyweight title at the Minnesota State Class A Wrestling Tournament back in March.

Edwards, who won his weight class at the Section 3A Tournament for the second consecutive year, registered three consecutive pins to reach the championship match at the state tournament.

The AHS standout lost by fall in the championship match, ending his 28-2 season with a second-place finish.

Adrian's Brayan Anaya placed second at the section level to earn a trip to the state tournament, where he ended a 35-7 campaign by going 2-2 without placing at 106 pounds.

No. 2: LHS track

Members of the Luverne High School track teams experienced another remarkable season in 2019.

Along with collecting the Big South Conference, Sub-Section and Section 3A team championships, the Cardinal girls also won their first Section 3AA True Team championship before turning in an eighth-place showing at the state meet.

A total of 12 Cardinal girls qualified for the Class A Track and Field Championships in St. Paul last June, where they compiled six all-state performances and placed 10th in the team standings.

The top effort came from the 3,200-meter relay consisting of Jadyn Anderson, Brooklynn Ver Steeg, Regan Feit and Tenley Nelson, who won the Class A title for the second consecutive year.

Luverne's 800-meter relay (Autumn Nath), Ivy Hudson, Gracie Zewiske and Sydney Biever) placed fifth in Class A, while the 1,600-meter squad (Feit, Anderson, Nath and Tiana Lais) placed ninth.

As individual qualifiers, Nelson placed sixth in the 3,200-meter, Feit placed seventh in the 300-meter hurdles, and Ver Steeg finished ninth in the 400-meter dash to earn all-state honors.

The LHS boys experienced some success at the state meet, too.

Jordy Thone, Ashton Sandbulte, Nicholas Kiers and Jed Dooyema placed fifth in the 1,600-meter relay, and Dooyema placed eighth in the 200-meter dash.

No. 1: LHS CC

Something special needed to happen to keep the girls' track team from producing the No. 1 story of 2019 for the second consecutive year.

That happened in the fall, when the Cardinal girls' cross country team turned in a program-best second-place finish at the state meet in Northfield in November.

The Cardinals had a run of capturing four consecutive Section 3A titles snapped when they placed second to Murray County Central at the 2019 version of the event, but LHS made up for it at state.

With Nelson (third) and Jenna DeBates (18th) turning in all-state performances to lead the way, LHS compiled 138 points to place second to Perham (103 points) in the team standings.

Luverne's Brayden Tofteland qualified for the state cross country meet individually for the second consecutive season.

Tofteland placed second at the state classic.

In the New Year, be more than a wisher; be a doer



Outdoors

By Scott Rall, outdoors columnist

I have never been big on New Year's resolutions. How meaningful is a resolution that you have to make year after year because you don't hold to it more than a week after you made it?

I hope they work for some folks, but I have never had a lot of faith in resolutions to actually change much of anything.

I'd rather commit to a way-of-life change than make a resolution to do this one thing or that one thing.

For example, I made lifelong goal about 35 years ago to wake up every day with a positive attitude, do a good job, treat others with kindness and make every effort to leave the planet in a little better shape than when I found it.

I started out on this adventure using my own muscles and lots of back pain to achieve this goal. As I worked at it over the years, it became clear to me that I could be so much more successful in protecting the planet and its wildlife if I could find others to help me.

This led to the revelation that if I could get others as interested in habitat and wildlife as I was, that the end result would be so much greater than the total of my individual efforts.

How do you go about doing this?

You end up spending less time in the dirt and more time presenting and speaking to and teaching local civics groups and different kinds of community organizations.

Spreading the word about conservation, habitat, clean water, pollinators, mentoring, public lands, non-game wildlife and many other topics allows others to learn about and develop the same passion that I have and will result in a much bigger difference than I could ever do alone.

Almost every person I know appreciates seeing wildlife. Many residents of southwest Minnesota will go on wildlife rides that pass by our many different public lands. It makes sense that wildlife will be where the habitat is.

I think that if a person really wanted to lose weight, the best resolution to achieve that would be to resolve to walk the road ditch that adjoins a public land and pick up the trash. I can tell you that walking in the tall grass is a lot harder work than walking around the lake or around the section, and the results will be greater.

You could also resolve to join a conservation organization and volunteer to help make the planet a little better.

There are many great organizations that are in need of additional help. Whether that is the Cancer Society, United Way or a conservation organization like Pheasants Forever, each one would welcome your 2020 resolution to help out just a little with open arms.

One of my favorite sayings hangs on the wall of my buddy Bryon Foote's man cave. It says, "There are those people who want things to happen, and other people who make them happen."

The old saying that many hands make light work is very true. Become a doer, not a wisher who just hopes things will happen. It takes time, effort and energy to see change.

I have been in the volunteer scene long enough to have seen lots of good things happen. I often wonder if after 35 years of being a doer for Pheasants Forever, how long I will be able to continue in that role.

Good health is not a given. You or I could tip over tomorrow. All we can do at the beginning of each new year is thank God for our blessings and ask for guidance in directing our efforts for another year.

I wish you and yours a Happy New Year and hope that 2020 will be jam-packed with doers.

Scott Rall, Worthington, is a habitat conservationist, avid hunting and fishing enthusiast and is president of Nobles County Pheasants Forever. He can be reached at scottarall@gmail.com. or on Twitter @habitat champion.



Star Herald file photo

Luverne senior defenseman Jacob Von Tersch scored two goals in two games at the Herb Brooks Holiday Classic staged at the Super Rink in Blaine last week. The Cardinals topped two teams in the Open Division.

Boys win twice at Herb Brooks Holiday Classic staged at the Super Rink in Blaine last week

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne boys' hockey team won a pair of games at the Herb Brooks Holiday Classic staged at the National Sports Center in Blaine last week.

The Cardinals recorded a four-goal win against Becker-Big Lake Thursday before posting a five-goal victory over Cambridge-Isanti Friday.

LHS was scheduled to square off against Faribault Saturday for a clash between 2-0 teams in the Open Division, but the game was moved to Tuesday (Jan. 31) at the Blue Mound Ice Arena.

The 7-3 Cardinals host New Ulm Thursday.

Luverne 6, C-I 1

The Cardinals raised their Classic record to 2-0 with a five-goal conquest over the Bluejackets Friday.

Luverne scored the first four goals of the game and outshot C-I 39-27 during a convincing win.

The Cards struck for three goals in a span of 7:28 in the first period to open a 3-0 advantage.

Tyler Roberts opened the scoring with an unassisted tally 5:30 into the game.

Jacob Von Tersch doubled the lead (2-0) with a goal at the 7:02 mark of the opening stanza, and Cade Wenninger capped the first-period scoring with 4:02 remaining.

The Cards led 4-0 when Mason Steensma netted a short-handed tally 1:33 into the second period, but C-I snapped Luverne's four-goal run when Nathaniel Bauer found the net for the Bluejackets with 5:43 remaining in the stanza.

Luverne's Colby Crabtree regained a four-goal cushion (5-1) when he scored his first of two goals with two seconds left in the period.

Crabtree capped the scoring with his second goal of the game, which came 3:45 into the third period.

Shaid Shearer stopped 26 of the 27 shots he faced in net for the Cardinals.

Roberts and Easton Braun led the Cards with two assists.

Austin Watts-Boll, Steensma, Brock Behrend, Wenninger, Marshal Dammann and Shearer were credited with one assist each.

Luverne 5, B-BL 1

The Cardinals opened the tournament by skating to a four-goal victory over the Eagles Thursday.

Luverne received goals from five different players and scored at least one goal in every period of a sound victory.

Wenninger gave the Cardinals a 1-0 lead 4:23 into the game before Nathan Nekali doubled the advantage (2-0) 5:42 into the second period.

B-BL received a goal from Tyler Schmitt at the 9:40 mark of the second period to make it a 2-1 game, but that would be the last time the Eagles would find the net in the contest.

Luverne put the game away by scoring three goals in the third period.

Zach Kruse ignited the surge 2:21 into the stanza, while Behrend and Von Tersch notched goals 1:10 apart in the final six minutes of the game to ice the victory.

Colton Schutz made 18 saves in goal for an LHS squad that sported a 30-19 advantage in shots on goal in the game.

Cooper Arends and Behrend contributed to assists to the winning cause, while Steensma, Ethan Langseth, Nekali, Watts-Boll, Braun and Crabtree added one assist each.

LHS/continued from page 10

Harrisburg outscored the Cards in both halves of a 66-30 victory.

The Tigers led 38-13 at halftime and sported a 28-17 scoring advantage in the second half to win by 36 points.

Mallory Thorson led the Cards with nine points, while Elizabeth Wagner pulled down nine five rebounds.

The 4-5 Cards play in Worthington Friday.

Box score

Ver Steeg 2 1 0-0 7, Sehr 1 0 0-2 2, E.Wagner 0 0 0-0 0, Thorson 1 2 1-3 9, Hart 3 0 0-0 6, Beyer 1 0 2-3 4, Van Grootheest 0 0 0-0 0, Rud 0 0 0-0 0, Ferrell 0 0 0-0 0, Hansen 1 0 0-0 2, Schmuck 0 0 0 0-0 0, Huiskes 0 0 0-0 0.

Team statistics

Luverne: 12 of 37 field goals (32 percent), three of eight free throws (38 percent), 13 rebounds, 12 turnovers.

Harrisburg: 26 of 45 field goals (58 percent), five of nine free throws (56 percent), 35 rebounds, 10 turnovers.

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Star Herald
CHURCH

St. Catherine Catholic Church
203 E. Brown St., Luverne
St. Catherine Ph. 283-8502; www.stscl.org

Friday, Jan. 3: 10 a.m. Mass at Parkview Manor. Saturday, Jan. 4: 5 p.m. Mass at St. Catherine. Sunday, Jan. 5: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Catherine; Children's Liturgy. 9 a.m.-Noon KC Breakfast. No RCIA. 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Leo. 1 p.m. Bilingual Mass at St. Leo. Tuesday, Jan. 7: 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study. 1-4 p.m. Mission Sewing. 7 p.m. LCCW. Wednesday, Jan. 8: 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Catechists meetings. 7 p.m. Women's Bible Study. Thursday, Jan. 9: Head Start.

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

Sunday, Jan. 5: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 11 a.m. Sunday School and Catechism. 6:30 p.m. Worship service. Monday, Jan. 6: 9 a.m. Perk-Up at Lyon Care Center in Rock Rapids. Tuesday, Jan. 7: 9:30 a.m. Coffee Break/Story Hour. Wednesday, Jan. 8: 2 p.m. Faith Builders Bible Study. GEMS/Gents night – tubing at Great Bear. 7 p.m. Youth Group.

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

Thursday, Jan. 2: 8 p.m. Worship Service on Channel 3. Sunday, Jan. 5: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. 1:30 p.m. Mary Jane Brown Home service. 2:15 p.m. Poplar Creek Estates service. 6 p.m. Evening service. Thursday, Jan. 9: 6 a.m. Men's Bible study. 1 p.m. Roll bandages for hospital in Zambia. 8 p.m. Worship Service on Channel 3.

Grace Lutheran Church
500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4431; www.graceluverne.org — graceluverne@iw.net
Ron Nichols, Pastor / Ann Zastrow, Associate Pastor

Thursday, Jan. 2.: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Friday, Jan. 3: 6:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Saturday, Jan. 4: 5:30 p.m. Worship Service with Communion. Sunday, Jan. 5: Noisy Sunday. 8:15 a.m. KQAD Radio Broadcast. 9 a.m. Worship Service with Communion. 10 a.m. Fellowship coffee. 10:15 a.m. Adult Study and Sunday School. Monday, Jan. 7: 4:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Tuesday, Jan. 7: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. 1:30 p.m. Women's board meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 8: 7 a.m. Men's Bible study. 3:30 p.m. Faithweavers. 5:30 p.m. Youth supper. 6:30 p.m. Woven Worship with Communion. 7:15 p.m. 6th-9th grade confirmation/mentor night. Thursday, Jan. 9: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Noon Sarah circle at the Camelot.

Bethany Lutheran Church
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 507-449-0291 or 605-215-9834
pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com

Sunday, Jan. 5: No Sunday School or Bible Class. 10:15 a.m. Worship Service. Wednesday, Jan. 8: 3:30 p.m. Catechism class. Thursday, Jan. 9: 2 p.m. Ladies Aid.

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

Friday, Jan. 3: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. 4:30 p.m. REFIT Fitness. Sunday, Jan. 5: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion; Installation of Elders, Deacons, Care Shepherds. 10:50 a.m. Family Education. Noon Care Shepherd dinner. Tuesday, Jan. 7: 10 a.m. multipurpose room reserved. Noon staff meeting. 1:30 p.m. Rebecca Circle. 5:30 p.m. Bible Study fellowship. 6:30 p.m. Praise team. Wednesday, Jan. 8: 4:30 p.m. Multipurpose room reserved. 4:30 p.m. REFIT fitness. 5:30 p.m. Ladies night out; Midweek meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Clubs; Youth groups. 7 p.m. Rachel Circle. Thursday, Jan. 9: 5:30 p.m. Tumbling Tikes.

First Assembly of God Church
1075 110th Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4

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

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

Thursday, Jan. 2: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf. Saturday, Jan. 4: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Sunday, Jan. 5: 9 a.m. Coffee Hour and Adult Sunday School. 10 a.m. Worship Service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible Study. 6 p.m. ALIVE Youth Group. Monday, Jan. 6: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 8: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Thursday, Jan. 9: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf.

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

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

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

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service at 110 N. Oakley. Every third Thursday: 4:30 p.m. Food give-away at Generations Building. Bible Study groups meet at various times and days.

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

Thursday, Jan. 2: 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Sunday, Jan. 5 9 a.m. Sunday School; Confirmation Class. 10:15 a.m. Worship Service. 11:15 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship. Tuesday, Jan. 7: 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Wednesday, Jan. 8: 4 p.m. Youth Club. 5:30 p.m. Bells. 6:15 p.m. Choir. 7:30 p.m. Committee meetings. Thursday, Jan. 9: 10 a.m. Worship on Channel 3.

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

Thursday, Jan. 2: 2 p.m. Women's Society. Saturday, Jan. 4: 5:30 p.m. Worship Service. Sunday, Jan. 5: 9 a.m. Worship Service. 10:15 a.m. Christian Education Hour. 10:20 a.m. Bible Study. 11:15 a.m. Junior Choir. 4 p.m. Junior LYF. Monday, Jan. 6: 1 p.m. Quilting. 6 p.m. take down decorations. 7 p.m. Elders meeting. Tuesday, Jan. 7: 6:30 p.m. Quilting; Mom's Night Out. Wednesday, Jan. 8: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study. 6:30 p.m. Catechism. 7 p.m. KFC/HS Youth Group; Senior Choir. 8 p.m. Kingdom Builders. Thursday, Jan. 9: 10:30 a.m. DCE meeting in Sioux Falls. 1:30 p.m. Communion at Mary Jane Brown Home. 2:15 p.m. Communion at Poplar Creek. 3:30 p.m. Communion at Minnesota Veterans Home. 6:30 p.m. Chancel Guild.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
305 E. 2nd St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick
Ph. (507) 669-2855; zionoffice@alliancecom.net
Jesse Baker, Pastor

Thursday, Jan. 2: 3:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Friday, Jan. 3: 3:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Sunday, Jan. 5: 9 a.m. Worship Service. 10:10 a.m. Mentor program. 10:30 a.m. Sunday School; Adult Bible Study. 11:30 a.m. Lunch at Green Lantern for members. Monday, Jan. 6: 1 p.m. Quilting. Tuesday, Jan. 7: 6:30 p.m. Elders meeting. 7:30 p.m. Council meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 8: 6 p.m. Confirmation. 7 p.m. LWML meeting. Thursday, Jan. 9: 3:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3.

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

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

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

Sunday, Jan. 5: 9 a.m. Worship at First Lutheran. 10 a.m. Sunday School at First Lutheran.

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

Sunday, Jan. 5: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School at Palisade Lutheran Church. 10:30 a.m. Worship at Palisade Lutheran Church.

First Presbyterian Church
201 S. 3rd St., P.O Box 73, Beaver Creek
Ph. 507-935-5025
email: lori.firstpres@gmail.com

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship.

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

Sundays: 9 a.m. Magnolia Worship Service. 10:30 a.m. Bible study.

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

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

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

Sunday, Jan. 5: 9 a.m. Communion at Tuff Chapel. 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion at Bethlehem. Tuesday, Jan. 7: 2:30 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff Home. 3:15 p.m. Bible Study at Village. Wednesday, Jan. 8: 9 a.m. Quilting. 6:30 p.m. Confirmation and mentors.

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

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship Services.

Improve your church life in the new year

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Roger Sparks, Luverne Christian Reformed Church

At the beginning of a new year we look forward to what God has in store for us. Do we know what joys or trials await us in 2020? No. As a folk saying puts it, "For the concert of life, God doesn't give us a program."

We don't know what's coming next. However, we know the Director! We know that the Director is good and trustworthy. And when we see how good He has already been to us, in giving His Son to be born among us and to do a great work of salvation, we know we can trust the Director for the future.

Our calling every year is (1) to trust in the Lord with all our hearts (Prov. 3:5-6) and (2) to obey Him in all things (John 14:15). Thankfully we don't have to do this on our own, but with the help of the Holy Spirit and the encouragement of other believers who worship and serve together.

Here are a few suggestions for strengthening all our churches in the New Year.

1) Faithfully attend worship services. When we meet with other believers to worship God our Savior, it strengthens the ties that bind us together. More importantly, it exalts and crowns with glory the Lord our God. However, if we choose not to worship with other believers, we miss out on what the Holy Spirit is doing through the Word and sacraments. Someone has observed that "When your pew is empty it's a **weight** that holds us down, but when your pew is filled, it's a **wing** on which we soar."

2) Worship as families. Now and then I hear people ask, "Why aren't more of young people in church on these days?" In some cases it's because their parents don't bring them. As long as they are under our care, it's our duty as Christian parents to show our children that God deserves first place in our lives. In a world that offers many entertainment options on the Lord's Day, we have to choose to say "no" to lesser joys and to say "yes" to the greater joy of obeying the call to worship.

3) Pray for your church. If you have a church directory, why not keep it by your Bible? Then as you read the Scriptures day by day, you can work through your church directory, taking a name or two each day, and to lift them up in prayer. It's not just people in hospitals or in crisis who need our prayers! Young and old, we all need God's blessing and guidance.

4) Get involved in a ministry. It may be as simple as greeting others before church, or handing out bulletins. It may be as challenging as taking a turn in the church nursery. It may be as time-consuming as serving as an elder or deacon. But it's important that we use our gifts for the common good. This lesson is powerfully taught in 1 Corinthians 12, where we learn that we are the body of Christ together with other believers. In our bodies our eyes don't say they don't need the ears; the hands don't say they don't need the feet. Each part has its place and function for the health of the body as a whole.

5) If you don't belong to a church, visit one. Every church in Rock County would be glad to have you come and learn about them, and would find great joy in helping you follow Jesus. That's our goal: to follow Jesus; to walk with the Lord in the light of His Word — and to invite others to join us on the journey of faith. To God be the glory!

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

Call Rick or Chantel to place your ad!

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Mortgage foreclosure sale set for Feb. 6

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE:April 21, 2010

MORTGAGOR: Bradley G Moss and Dawn M Moss, husband and wife as joint tenants.

MORTGAGEE: Heritage Bank N.A.

DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded April 26, 2010 Rock County Recorder, Document No. 173571.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Central Mortgage Company. Dated April 21, 2010 Recorded April 26, 2010, as Document No. 173572. And thereafter assigned to: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. Dated October 19, 2015 Recorded October 26, 2015, as Document No. 187187. And thereafter assigned to: Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC. Dated August 29, 2019 Recorded August 30, 2019, as Document No. 195483.

TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Heritage Bank N.A.

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC

MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 744 171st Street, Luverne, MN 56156

TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 110034000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

A tract of land in the NW 1/4 of Section 14, Township 103 North, Range 46 West of the 5th P.M. Rock County, Minnesota, described as follows:

Commencing at the Northwest Corner or the NW 1/4, then east along the North Line of said Section a distance of 2,345 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing east along the North Line of said NW 1/4 a distance of 295 feet; thence south and parallel to the West Line of said Section a distance of 375 feet; thence west and parallel to the North Line of said Section a distance of 295 feet; thence north and parallel to the West Line of said Section a distance of 375 feet to the point of beginning.

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $180,000.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: $175,549.36

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

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 6, 2020 at 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE:Sheriff's Office, Main Entrance, Law Enforcement Center, 1000 North Blue Mound Avenue, Luverne, MN to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on August 6, 2020, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: December 4, 2019

Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
137 - 19-008829 FC
THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

(12-12, 12-19, 12-26, 1-2, 1-9, 1-16)

City of Magnolia public hearing set for Jan. 13

NOTICE OF MAGNOLIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC HEARING

The Magnolia City Council has scheduled a public hearing for January 13, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. at the City Hall at 113 W. Luverne St., Magnolia, MN. The meeting is intended to obtain citizen input, comments, recommendations and suggestions regarding community development needs and priorities in Magnolia. The meeting will have several purposes:

1) To provide citizens with an opportunity to participate in planning and developing projects as part of an application for funding under the Small Cities Development Grant Program; to encourage citizens to offer their views and opinions and to encourage participation by low- to moderate-income persons and members of of any minority group.

2) To provide citizens with information concerning the amount of funds available for community development activities, the types of activities which may be undertaken, and other information pertaining to this (and other) community development assistance programs.

3) To offer citizens a means by which to present their views and concerns about community development and housing needs in Magnolia as well as local community development performance.

Citizens attending the meeting will have the opportunity to file written suggestions, complaints, and grievances pertaining to any matters outlined above or discussed at the meeting.

Low- to- moderate-income citizens, minorities, handicapped individuals and members of any disadvantaged classes as well as Section-3 contractors are particularly encouraged to attend.

Glenda Schomacker,
City Clerk
(01-02, 01-09)

Property tax abatement hearing set for Jan. 7

Notice of Public Hearing

A public hearing is hereby scheduled at 9:05 a.m. on January 07, 2020 at the Herreid Board meeting room, located at the Rock County Courthouse, 204 E. Brown Street, Luverne, Minnesota to be held on a proposed property tax abatement request from Jason Steinhoff, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 469.1813 and 116J.993 through 116J.995 consisting of new home construction with following location: a tract of land in the NW 1/4 of 31-101-45. It has been proposed that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Rock grant a Property Tax Abatement on these properties in an amount not to exceed 100 percent (%) of the County's portion of the real estate taxes related to new residential home construction on the subject properties for a period not to exceed five (5) years. The estimated value of abatement is approximately $194.00 annually. This Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed Property Tax Abatement as required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.1813, subdivision 5. The proposed abatement percentage and terms may be modified at the public hearing.

Kyle Oldre
County Administrator
(01-02)

ISD #2184 School Board meets Nov. 26

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2184, ROCK COUNTY, LUVERNE, MINNESOTA.

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, ISD #2184, was held in the Middle/High School Media Center on November 26, 2019, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Katie Baustian, Jodi Bosch, Colleen Deutsch, Tim Jarchow, Shelley Sandbulte, and Reva Sehr. Absent: Eric Hartman. Also present: Craig Oftedahl, Marlene Mann, Jim Gilman and Brenda Parsley with Conway Deuth and Schmiessing, Jason Phelps, Jordan Winter, Becky Rahm, Caroline Thorson, Jennifer Engesser, Lori Oechsle, April Wallace, Ann Robinson, Peter Janiszeski, Jason Berghorst, Katie Mostad, Gavin Folkestad, Tom Rops, Aaron Perkins, Marie Atkinson-Smeins, and Ann Robinson.

Chairperson Bosch called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Sehr, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrative reports were given.

Jim Gilman and Brenda Parsley, representing Conway Deuth & Schmiessing, LLP, presented the fiscal year 2018-2019 audit report. They reviewed enrollments, fund balances, and recommendations from their management letter. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Jarchow, to approve the report as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent Oftedahl gave a construction update.

Business Manager Marlene Mann reviewed the school district bills. Motion made by Baustian, second by Sandbulte, to approve payment of the school district bills in the amount of $1,282,706.40 and the student activity bills in the amount of $9,240.56. There were no construction bills to present. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Jarchow, to receive the Student Activity Report showing the balances as of October 31, 2019. Motion unanimously carried.

Business Manager Marlene Mann reviewed the District Revenues and Expenditures Report. This report is required to be published by November 30. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Baustian, to approve the report as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent Oftedahl presented Policy 535 – Service Animals in Schools. The second reading and approval will be at the December 19 school board meeting.

Motion by Baustian, second by Sehr, to approve the Student Teaching Affiliation Agreement with the University of Minnesota. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Jarchow, second by Deutsch, to give approval for students to participate in competition and to fundraise for the FIRST Robotics program. Teacher Aaron Perkins will be the advisor. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Deutsch, to accept the resignation of Caitlin Altman, Paraprofessional, effective November 8, 2019. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to approve the hiring of Cassie Snyders as Paraprofessional effective November 11, 2019. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Sandbulte, to approve the hiring of Amy Hamann as Paraprofessional effective November 18, 2019. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Baustian, to approve the hiring of Danielle Kneip as long-term substitute elementary teacher for Dana Wolf from approximately December 26, 2019, through April 27, 2020. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Jarchow, to approve Joel Evans as volunteer wrestling coach. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Sandbulte, second by Deutsch, to approve Lance Ripka as volunteer wrestling coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Jarchow, to approve the hiring of Brayden Jacobsma as 7th grade boys basketball coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sandbulte, second by Deutsch, to approve the hiring of Chris DenHoed as varsity assistant boys hockey coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sandbulte, second by Sehr, to approve Kaden Ericson as volunteer boys hockey coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Baustian, to approve Cody Gehrke as volunteer gymnastics coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Sehr, to approve a request from Amanda Fields, elementary teacher, for a medical leave of absence for four weeks beginning on January 4, 2020. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sandbulte, second by Jarchow, to approve a request from Amy VonHoltum, elementary teacher, for maternity leave for seven weeks beginning approximately March 1, 2020. Motion unanimously carried.

The School Board members completed the ballots for the 2019 Service Cooperative Board of Directors Election.

There were no committee reports given. The upcoming meeting dates were reviewed. Member Deutsch noted that Special Olympics State Bowling competition was held.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Deutsch, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Dated: November 26, 2019.

Tim Jarchow, Clerk
(01-02)

2020 MINNESOTA CITY SUMMARY BUDGET STATEMENT

The purpose of this Report is to provide summary 2020 budget information concerning the City of Luverne to interested citizens. The budget is published in accordance with Minn. Stat. 471.6965. This budget is a summary document only; the complete budget may be examined at the Luverne City Office, 305 E. Luverne. The council approved this budget on December 10, 2019

ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

	2019 Budget	2020 Budget
Revenues		
Property Taxes	1,919,030	2,060,990
Tax Increments	59,000	66,400
All Other Taxes (franchise, hotel/motel taxes, etc.)	473,000	585,000
Special Assessments	-	-
Licenses And Permits	94,170	80,555
Federal Grants	-	-
State General Purpose Aid (LGA, Market Value credits)	1,424,725	1,484,551
State Categorical Aid (State Fire Aid)	93,264	247,764
Grants from County and Other Local Governments	-	-
Charges For Services	660,100	701,200
Fines and Forfeits	13,000	13,000
Interest On Investments	45,950	69,400
Miscellaneous Revenues	129,315	130,165
TOTAL REVENUES	4,911,554	5,439,025
Proceeds From Bond Sales	575,000	-
Transfers From Other Funds (incl. Enterprise Funds)	1,755,715	1,856,865
Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources	7,242,269	7,295,890
Current Expenditures (Exclude Capital Outlay)		
General Government (board, administration, etc.)	778,520	842,241
Public Safety	1,292,105	1,321,405
Public Works (Streets and Airport)	1,025,070	1,061,400
Sanitation	-	-
Health	-	-
Culture and Recreation	1,180,765	1,216,385
Conservation of Natural Resources	117,525	202,525
Economic Development	-	-
Miscellaneous Current Expenditures	285,900	183,960
Total Current Expenditures	4,679,885	4,827,916
Debt Service - Principal	417,956	312,966
Interest and Fiscal Charges	26,590	22,188
Streets & Highways Construction	-	-
Capital Outlay	1,751,000	1,056,000
Transfers To Other Funds (incl. Enterprise Funds)	799,715	981,865
Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	7,675,146	7,200,935
Fund Balance		
General Fund - Beginning Balance (January 1)	2,488,296	2,779,612
General Fund - Ending Balance - (December 31)	2,779,612	2,874,567
Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	291,316	94,955
Other Items		
Total property Tax Levy - All Funds	1,915,830	2,096,124
Net Unrealized Gain or (Loss) from Investments for 2018	(40,826)	(79,386)

(01-02)

Mortgage foreclosure sale set for Feb. 6

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE:December 15, 2010

MORTGAGOR: Chad M. Gruis, single.

MORTGAGEE: First Farmers & Merchants National Bank.

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

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association. Dated December 15, 2010 Recorded December 16, 2010, as Document No. 175212.

TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE

TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE

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

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association

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

TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 20-0286-000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

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

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: $78,963.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: $67,615.70

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

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 6, 2020 at 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Office, Main Entrance, Law Enforcement Center, 1000 North Blue Mound Avenue, Luverne, MN to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on August 6, 2020, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE:None

"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: December 5, 2019

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
30 - 19-009130 FC
THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

(12-19, 12-26, 01-02, 01-09, 01-16, 01-23)

Star Herald
PUBLIC NOTICES

Elk Creek Solar public meeting Jan. 13

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCOPING MEETING
In the Matter of the Applications of Elk Creek Solar, LLC for a Certificate of Need and a Site Permit for the up to 80 MW Elk Creek Solar Project in Rock County, Minnesota
Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: IP7009/CN-19-351 and IP7009/GS-19-495

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and Minnesota Department of Commerce (Commerce) will hold a public information and environmental assessment scoping meeting on the certificate of need and site permit applications of Elk Creek Solar, LLC (Elk Creek) for its proposed 80 megawatt (MW) solar energy generating system project. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed project and the state's large energy facility permitting process. The meeting is also an opportunity for members of the public to participate in the development of the scope of the environmental assessment by providing comments on issues and alternatives to be considered.

Date: Monday, January 13, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Location: Grand Prairie Event Center, 105 South Estey Street, Luverne, Minnesota

To find out if a meeting is canceled due to bad weather or other call 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201- 2213 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Written Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through Tuesday, January 28, 2020 by 4:30 p.m. Please include the PUC Docket Numbers (19-351 or 19-495) in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

- What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project should be considered in the environmental assessment?
- Are there any methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project?
- Are there any unique characteristics of the proposed project site that should be considered?
- Are there other ways to meet the stated need for the project, for example, a different size project or a different type of facility?
- Are there any items missing or mischaracterized in the certificate of need or site permit applications?

Comments may be submitted via:

Online: https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment
Email: bill.storm@state.mn.us
U.S. Mail: Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 280
St. Paul MN 55101

Important: Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Project Description

Elk Creek is a wholly owned subsidiary of Geronimo Energy, LLC. On September 13, 2019, Elk Creek filed separate certificate of need (CN) and site permit applications with the Commission for its proposed 80-megawatt (MW) solar energy generating system. In an order dated December 23, 2019, the Commission accepted both applications as complete and established a procedural framework for evaluating the applications prior to its decision.

The proposed project would be located on approximately 976 acres of land in Vienna Township of Rock County. The primary components of the facility would include photovoltaic panels affixed to a linear axis tracking rack system, inverters, step-up transformers, electrical cables and conduits, electrical cabinets, access roads, a 34.5/161- kilovolt (kV) step-up substation with metering and switching gear, security fencing, below-ground or above-ground electrical collection and communication lines, an operation and maintenance facility, parking lot, up to two weather stations, a 161-kV overhead transmission line (under 1,500 feet in length), a supervisory control and data acquisition system, and temporary laydown areas. The project would interconnect to the existing 161-kV Magnolia Substation adjacent to the project prior to its anticipated in-service date in 2021.

Elk Creek has entered into a power purchase agreement with Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, whereby Xcel Energy agreed to purchase up to 80 MW of the energy generated by the proposed project in order to support Xcel Energy's Renewable*Connect Program.

Review Process

The Commission must approve a certificate of need and a site permit before the project can be constructed. The certificate of need and site permit applications are being processed jointly and will be reviewed using the informal review process (Minn. R. 7829.1200) and alternative review process (Minn. R. 7850.2800 to 7850.3900), respectively. This meeting satisfies the public meeting requirement for both the certificate of need application (Minn. R. 7849.1400) and site permit application (Minn. R. 7850.3500). Relevant Minnesota statute and rules may be viewed at: https://www.revisor.mn.gov.

Environmental Review. Commerce is tasked with preparing an environmental report (ER) for the Commission for certificate of need applications and an environmental assessment (EA) for site permit applications filed under the alternative permitting process. In this case, environmental review has been combined and an EA will be prepared instead of an ER. The EA will evaluate the human and environmental impacts of the proposed project, identify measures that could reasonably be implemented to avoid or minimize impacts identified, and will include the analysis of alternatives required under the certificate of need application review process.

Public Hearing. When the EA is complete, a public hearing will be held near the project area. The hearing will be presided over by an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Members of the public will have an opportunity to speak, provide written comments, and ask questions of the applicant and staff. Upon completion of the public hearing process, the Commission will likely make a final decision on whether to issue a certificate of need and site permit to Elk Creek in fall 2020.

Additional Information

Project Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate. Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246 with the docket number (19-351 or 19-495), your name, mailing address, and email address.

Subscribe to the Docket. Receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter at: mn.gov/puc, select Subscribe, and follow the prompts.

Full Case Record. See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website: mn.gov/puc, select Search eDockets, and enter year (19) and the docket number (391 or 495), and select Search.

Department of Commerce Project Website: https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/13739/

Applications. The applications are available for viewing at:
- Rock County Community Library, 201 West Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156
- Southwest Regional Development Commission, 2401 Broadway Av. #1, Slayton MN 26172

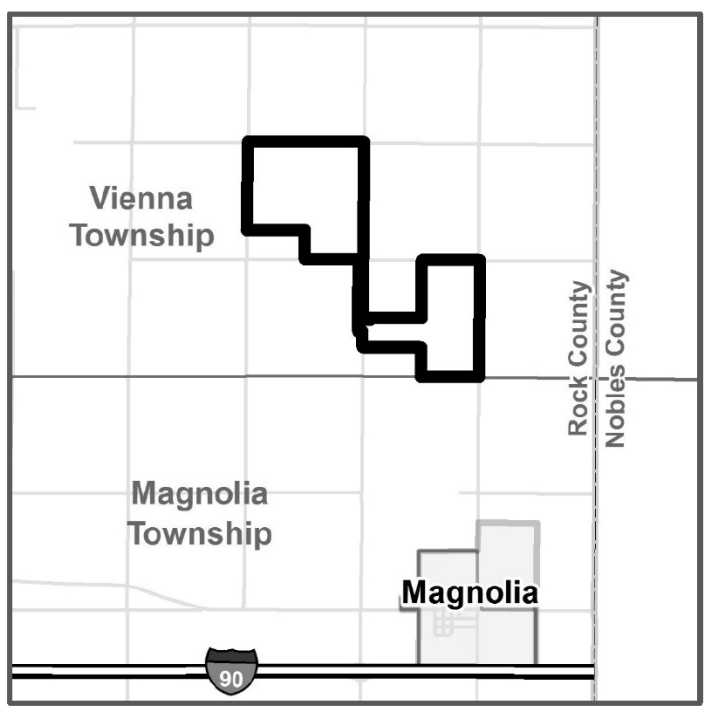
Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission
Charley Bruce, Public Advisor, publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2251
Michael Kaluzniak, Energy Facilities Planner, mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257

Department of Commerce
Bill Storm, Environmental Review Manager, bill.storm@state.mn.us or 651-539-1844 (Site Permit)
Daniel Beckett, Rates Analyst, daniel.beckett@state.mn.us or 651-539-1874 (Certificate of Need)

Geronimo Energy
Melissa Schmidt, melissa@geronimoenergy.com or 612-259-3095

ELK CREEK SOLAR PROJECT LOCATION



ELK CREEK SOLAR PROJECT LOCATION

Issued: Friday, December 23, 2019
/s/ Janet F. Gonzaley for
Daniel P. Wolf, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

(01-02)

H-BC School Board meets Dec. 9

Hills-Beaver Creek Dist. 671
Minutes
December 9, 2019

The Hills-Beaver Creek School Board met for its semi-monthly meeting at 7:08 pm in the High School Conference room.

Board members present were Gehrke, Knobloch, LaRock, Rauk, Rozeboom and Wysong. Principal Schilling, Superintendent Holthaus, and Business Manager Rozeboom were also in attendance. Board member Bosch was absent.

No visitors were present.

Motion by LaRock, second by Wysong, and carried to approve the agenda. Public Hearing for Property Tax (district levy 2019 pay 2020) and fiscal year 2020 budget review.

PATRIOT PRIDE:
- American Education Week
- National Blue-Ribbon Trip to DC
- H-BC Field Harvest Volunteers--Dallas Knobloch and New Vision Coop
- Elementary K-5 Vocal Music Concert December 2
- Haven Kerkhove-Brandt selection to Brookings Choir to perform 02/13/2019
- Jr/Sr Ag students participation in Project Love

Motion by Rozeboom, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve minutes of last meeting, 11/12/2019 – NO meeting on 11/25/2019.

Motion by Wysong, second by LaRock, and carried to approve bills.

Motion by LaRock, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve student accounts.

Motion by Rozeboom, second by LaRock, and carried to approve donations: $250 from Steen Reformed Church to be used as a scholarship for a preschool student.

Motion by Wysong, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve Resolution certifying property tax levy 2019 pay 2020 with maximum amount at $1,352,531.28.

Motion by LaRock, second by Rozeboom, and carried to approve 2018-2019 World Best Work Force Review of Goals/Progress.

PERSONNEL:

Motion by Knobloch, second by Wysong, and carried to approve hiring Interim Food Service Assistant Cook Joan Johnson.

Motion by LaRock, second by Rauk, and carried to approve 2019-2020 Teaching Staff Seniority List.

Motion by LaRock, second by Rozeboom, and carried to approve 2019-2020 ECFE Staff Seniority.

Motion by LaRock, second by Wysong, and carried to approve assigning Brenda Plimpton as Community Education Coordinator for the remainder of the 2019-2020 School Year.

DISTRICT NON-ACTION ITEMS:
- Secondary Principal Report
- Superintendent/Elementary Principal Report
- Committee Reports: None

Agenda Items for next regularly scheduled meeting:
- Audit Report

DATES TO REMEMBER:
- Regular Board Meeting, Monday, December 23
- Regular Board Meeting, Monday, January 13 (Org. Meeting)

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Tamara Rauk, Clerk
(01-02)

Five year HRA hearing set for Jan. 8

NOTICE OF HRA FIVE YEAR AGENCY PLAN HEARING

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Luverne has developed its Five Year Agency Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. It is available for review at the Blue Mound Tower at 216 North McKenzie in Luverne, MN weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A public hearing will be held on January 8, 2020 at the Authority's conference room at 11:30 a.m. The public may attend.

(01-02)

Pap probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA — **PROBATE COURT DISTRICT COURT PROBATE DIVISION**
COUNTY OF ROCK

In Re: Estate of
Joyce Marilyn Pap, a/k/a Joyce M. Pap, a/k/a Joyce Pap,
Deceased

Court File No. 67-PR-19-391

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

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 24th day of February, 2020, at 8:30 O'clock a.m., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Rock County Courthouse, Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named deceased, dated November 24, 2015, and for the appointment of Kelly J. Pap whose address is 1506 Pheasant Hills Drive, Lino Lakes, Minnesota 55038, as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in supervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, said personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

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

Dated: December 26, /2019

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

/s/ Terry S. Vajgrt
District Court Judge
/s/ Denise Brandel
Court Administrator

(COURT SEAL)

(01-02, 01-09)

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DEADLINE FOR LEGALS is MONDAY @ 10 a.m.

Decade in review — Star Herald looks back on top stories of 2010 through 2019/continued from page 9

The community now celebrates an annual fishing derby in February and a Fourth of July party and fireworks in the summer.

City leaders have invested in The Lake for the same reason they've invested in the Luverne Loop — to improve quality of life for residents.

The Loop

The Luverne Loop, when complete, will be 7 miles long, and it connects to the 6-mile Blue Mound Trail that carries hikers and bikers to the Blue Mounds State Park.

Phase 1, completed in 2016, is 1.5 miles from Veterans Memorial Pond across Highway 75 to the west edge of the city and then south along the school ball fields to Dodge Street.

Phase 2 is a 1.6-mile segment that continues south of Dodge Street past The Lake and then east past the ice arena to Highway 75.

Phases 1 and 2 circle the city's northwest and west sides, currently ending at the intersection of Gabrielson Road at South Highway 75.

Phase 3 will complete the Loop and connect with the Blue Mound Trail at the intersection of East Main Street and Blue Mound Avenue.

Total Loop construction is estimated at more than $1.5 million, with a good share of the costs being covered by state and federal grants.



The June 2014 flood will be remembered as the one that blew out the Blue Mounds State Park dam, draining the man-made lake and forever altering the park's recreational landscape. Roaring water blew out 80 to 90 feet of the concrete spillway, up to the dam itself, which was built as a WPA project in 1940. Flooding also eroded driveways and trails within the park, and 3 feet of water filled the lower level of the visitor center.

Sprucing up the town and its brand

The Loop and The Lake are part of the city's overall goal of sprucing up its image and brand, which dominated headlines through the past decade.

After working with consultants, the city launched its "Luverne ... Love the Life" logo in 2013. The signature heart and gray and red coloring soon began to appear on everything from stationary to street signs.

In 2016 it appeared on the newly painted water tower as a lighted sign for traffic to see from Highway 75, and new street banners boasted dozens of things to "love about Luverne," including recreation, business, schools, etc.

Along with implementing its new brand, the city plugged away at improving the looks of the town.

Just in time for its 150th anniversary party in 2017, Luverne wrapped up its $122,000 Four Corners landscaping at the intersection of Highway 75 and Main Street.

The lighted flag park with benches is on the southeast corner; the northeast corner features a lighted sign; the northwest and southwest corners carry through the theme of red brick, Sioux quartzite boulders and grass and shrubs.

Similar work was completed the following year on East Main Street as a partnership with Take 16 Brewing Company.

Urban landscape improvements continued at The Lake and Rotary Park and include signage — such as the signature blue-and-red wayfinding signs — around town.

This work comes on the heels of the city's $3 million South Highway 75 improvements that brought green boulevards, sidewalks and a new three-lane road surface.

Infrastructure improvements this decade will benefit the community for the next 50-plus years

Some of the biggest investments in Luverne over the past years are improvements most people never see or think about.

Industrial park: Over the past several years, the city's southwest side has transformed from a cornfield into a modern industrial park with $11 million worth of new infrastructure, including a 10-ton road and access to water, sewer and electricity.

Electricity: A $4 million electrical substation near the CHS fuel pumps will accommodate future development in Luverne and bolster the city's existing electrical system.

The west substation is located near The Lake by the DenHerder construction shop. The east substation is located near the city Public Works shops behind the former Casey's East building.

The two have backed each other up when one isn't functioning, but adding the new south substation will provide needed coverage for these times that were previously covered by one.

Wastewater treatment: Meanwhile, Luverne wastewater treatment plant is currently undergoing $14 million in upgrades to improve and replace many components that were over 50 years old.

All of these investments will put the city on solid ground for industrial growth for decades to come.

Premium Iowa Pork

The first industry to benefit from the wastewater treatment plant upgrades will be Premium Iowa Pork, which purchased the former Gold'n

Decade in review/see page 16

Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

RENTALS

Rental: Top Hat Luxury unit - 301 E. Crawford and 307 E. Crawford two-bedroom, one-bath; all electric with garage; all appliances included with water softener and RR drinking water; gardening and snow removal done for you. Very upscale and classy. $695.00/year lease; 507-920-5595. (tc)

For Rent: Two-bedroom house for rent January 1. No cats. No smoking. Call 507-215-2619. (tc)

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SEEKING

Seeking: One-bedroom apartment. Non-smoking. Contact: 314 E. Main Street - Apt. 1, Pipestone, MN 56164. (12.15-1.2)

FOR SALE

Items for sale: Brown lift chair; used very little. Three Carhart coats — 1- 2XL, 2 - 3XL. Brand new, hardly used air compressor. Call 612-730-3698. (12.19-1.11)

MISCELLANEOUS

HAVE A UNIQUE SERVICE OR BUSINESS? Get the word out to over 1.4 million households. Call WIDE AREA CLASSIFIEDS today, 507-359-7326. (tc)

EMPLOYMENT

Client Community Services, Inc. is hiring Caregivers in Luverne! Caregivers assist individuals with developmental and/or physical disabilities with daily living skills, housekeeping tasks and more. We have PT, FT, Fill-in and overnight positons available. We offer paid training, benefits and a NEW STARTING WAGE! For more information on specific openings and hours available, please contact Linette at (507)283-2062 or 283-4170. Job postings are available on our website at www.clientcommunityservices.org. CCSI is an EEO/AA Employer. (11.28-1.4)

Help Wanted: Klarenbeek & Son Rendering, Corp. is in need of a daily route driver. Class B CDL with air brake. Clean driving record; paid holidays and vacation. Call Alan 507-220-5669. (tc)

EMPLOYMENT

ADRIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL is seeking applicants for a full-time custodian. Preferred applicant should have a boiler license or be able to obtain one, can operate equipment, able to lift 50 lbs., custodial and maintenance experience, enjoys working in a team environment, and has excellent references. Applications are available at www.isd511.net or by calling 507-483-2266. Please submit application, letter of interest, and 3 letters of reference to Adrian Public School, District Office, PO Box 40, Adrian, MN 56110. Position will remain open until filled. ISD 511 is an equal opportunity employer. (12.28-1.16)

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED: Looking for a fun and rewarding job? Palisades State Park and Big Sioux Recreation Area are accepting applications for summer seasonal positions and Internships. Several positions available, salaries start at $10.17/hr, and 40 hour work week (part-time could be considered). For job information and application please visit https://bhr.sd.gov/job-seekers/. Applicants must be age 17 by date of hire. Interviews will begin in March, so get your application in quickly as possible. For questions, email palisadespark@state.sd.us or call 605-594-3824. EOE (12.19-1.4)

PART-TIME LIQUOR CLERK
The City of Luverne is seeking applicants for the position of a part-time Liquor Clerk for days, nights and weekends at Blue Mound Liquor. Desirable qualifications: experience in retail sales and Microsoft Excel. Salary will be based on experience and qualifications. Position is open until filled. First review date is January 13, 2020. Application packets are available online at www.cityofluverne.org or from City Clerk Jessica Mead at City Offices, 305 E. Luverne Street, PO Box 659, Luverne, MN 56156 (507) 449-9898. EOE.
Luverne
Blue Mound Liquor

TUFF MEMORIAL HOME
A HOME WITH A HEART!
The Tuff Memorial Home is currently hiring an overnight **RN/LPN** and a full time evening **C.N.A.**
The Tuff Village assisted living is hiring a **Director of Nursing.** Flexible schedule with 32 hour weeks and no weekends, on-call, qualifies for health insurance and other benefits.
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EMPLOYMENT

Adrian Public School is seeking applications for classroom/special education paraprofessional at the High School. Candidates will work with teachers providing academic and behavioral support to students. Candidates should hold an associates degree, or have certification via the Para Pro assessment. If interested, please submit a letter of application, resume, current letters of reference, and a completed district application found at www.isd511.net. Send application materials to: Adrian Public School, PO Box 40, Adrian, MN 56110. For additional information, please contact Cate Koehne at c.koehne@isd511.net. Position open until filled. (12.22-1.9)

WANTED: Part-time farm interviewer. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (A

EMPLOYMENT

Fair Opportunity Employer) needs a part-time agricultural interviewer in the Rock and Pipestone county areas. The inverviewer will conduct surveys for the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Applicants must be 18, have a valid driver's license, access to an automobile and available to work full-time during survey periods. Starting pay is $11.53 per hour including training time, plus IRS rate, currently at 58 cents per mile for travel. A farm background is desirable, but not essential. Interviews will be conducted as applications are recived until the positions are filled. If hired, you must have a cell phone. An iPad will be furnished to be used during employment. If you are interested, please contact Linda M. Hubbling, Area Supervisor, 507-227-8814. If I am not available, please leave a message. (12.29-1.16)

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For more information, call us at 507.794.5779. For an application, visit our website www.schwartzfarms.com. Applications can be faxed to 507.794.5572 or mailed to 32296 190th St., Sleepy Eye MN 56085. EEO.

Project Management Engineer
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MnDOT is now hiring a Project Management Engineer for Willmar, MN to provide overall project management direction from inception to completion of projects. We offer great benefits!
Apply online by 1/10/20 at www.mn.gov/careers to Job ID# 34696. Questions: 351/366-3406. EOE

Decade in review — Star Herald looks back on top stories of 2010 through 2019/continued from 15

Plump facility in 2018.

The Hospers, Iowa, pork processor plans to slaughter up to 2,500 antibiotic-free hogs per day in the former Gold'n Plump facility. Production is expected to start in spring of 2020.

The company is retrofitting the existing 78,000-square-foot facility and expanding it another 12,500 square feet for an estimated $30 million investment.

The company plans to hire 250 production workers (at $13 to $20 per hour) in Luverne. That number could increase to more than 300 employees, depending on growth.

In addition, the company paid $6.76 million for necessary upgrades to Luverne's wastewater facilities due to the plant's sewage load into the city's system.

Where will everyone live?

A 2016 study of Luverne's housing supply revealed severe shortages even without Premium Iowa Pork workers.

An updated study in 2019 showed the need for 267 more housing units through 2030, mostly in senior living options. It reaffirmed city efforts to create opportunities for development.

In addition to town homes already occupied on East Barck Street and on Roundwind Avenue east of the pool, a four-plex unit is nearly complete on East Barck Street and 15 lots are prepared for twin home and single family construction on the Uithoven Addition on the west side of Luverne.



A bright spot in local news has been the developing story of The Lake, formerly known as the Creamery Pond in Luverne. Over the past several years, local property owners Mike and Traci Davis with help from the city of Luverne and others, have cleaned up the grounds that feature a sandy beach, a dock, a fishing pier, a parking lot and many other inviting amenities.

Another three twin homes can go up on the Reisch Addition lots north of Rock County Opportunities, and the recent purchase of Lynn Lopau's acreage will allow for additional twin homes and single-family houses to be constructed after 2021.

While the housing study shows a distinct need for mid-income starter-type homes in the $150,000 range, the hope is that this housing stock will open up as residents leave these homes to move into twin home options.

Changes in the Luverne School District

Luverne Middle-High School will move into the next decade amid its largest construction project to date.

Voters approved a $31 million bond referendum in November 2017 to renovate and upgrade the building to correct deficiencies in both space and infrastructure.

The project includes a new commons and performing arts center that will connect the elementary and middle-high school. End date for construction is fall of 2021.

This past year saw the return of a middle school principal, a position combined since 2005.

Former teacher Jason Phelps returned to LHS as principal after spending five years as elementary principal at Hills-Beaver Creek.

The combined position used to be that of high school principal Ryan Johnson, who joined the district in 2010. He continues as high school principal.

Donna Judson filled the combined position for five years after former middle-high school principal Gary Fisher became superintendent in 2005 after Vince Schaefer retired.

Fisher was superintendent until his retirement in 2015, when current superintendent Craig Oftedahl was hired.

Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek were among 25 southwest Minnesota schools involved in a three-year flexible learning year calendar beginning in 2010 and extending into 2016.

FLY allowed districts to begin school before Labor Day to increase the amount of class time and preparation for the spring standardized tests.

FLY ended in the fall of 2016.

H-BC district builds new high school; climbs out of statutory operating debt

The decade from 2009 to 2019 was eventful for the residents of the Hills-Beaver Creek School District, which began 2010 by advocating for a new sixth- through 12th-grade school in Hills.

At the March special election, district voters stood in line and cast a total of 893 votes, with 70 percent approving the new $10 million bond.

The new school was constructed in 2011 on property on the northwest edge of Hills.

However, the following year brought turmoil as the district found itself in financial straits after an ending June 30, 2011, audit revealed a general fund operating with balance below state recommendations.

In early 2012, Superintendent Dave Deragisch (2001 to 2012) received notice from the state to have a multi-year plan in place by Jan. 31, 2012, to restore finances.

The shortfall (estimated to be just under $200,000) was created by three factors: mishandling of construction bills, years of deficit spending in the health and safety fund, and delayed state aid.

Current Superintendent Todd Holthaus, who was the district elementary principal since 2003, became superintendent July 1, 2012. Deragisch resigned in February.

Holthaus worked with superintendent interim Superintendent Herb Benz to formulated a budget plan that brought the district out of statutory operating debt a year after taking the helm.

The progress was noticed by Matt Taubert, whose firm Meulebroeck, Taubert & Co. began auditing the books in 2012.

Taubert commended the district at their last meeting of 2019 for how quickly it bounced back from a minus $224,749 balance in 2012.

"In eight years, the district has increased its fund balance by $3.7 million," he said. "It's very impressive from my standpoint."



