



Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, January 5, 2023

Luverne's proposed day care center receives \$2.6 million federal grant

By Mavis Fodness

The city of Luverne's proposed day care learning center received a boost Dec. 29 when President Biden approved a \$2.6 million federal grant funding its construction.

The grant announcement was a welcome present for the city of Luverne.

"This will go to the No. 1 issue in Luverne," said Mayor Pat Baustian, "and help with a day care shortage for the entire county. The grant will help, but it won't fix the shortage entirely."

More than 100 projects in Minnesota received money through a \$1.7 trillion spending bill approved by Congress just

before Christmas.

The Luverne day care learning center will provide care for 186 newborn through school-aged children, or about half the number of day care openings in the area. Studies show upward of 300 children are in need of day care in Rock County.

The \$2.6 million federal grant provides one-third of the remodeling costs for the new day care learning center.

An estimate of \$6.4 million is needed for the project.

The city of Luverne plans to convert a former 30,000-square foot office building on Roundwind Road into the day care learning

facility.

A countywide fundraising effort is set to kick off this spring. The goal of the six-week campaign is to raise \$1.24 million in local support.

"They (the fundraising committee) had to wait until the omnibus funding bill was signed before going forward," Baustian said.

The rest of the \$3.8 million could come from Rock County, the city of Luverne and a \$500,000 loan. A request to the state legislature earlier this year could be reconsidered during the current session.

State legislators finished the 2021 session this spring without

passing a bonding bill. The state's budget surplus could lead to the reconsideration of the city of Luverne's \$3.4 million request.

For now, the federal support is welcome news for the 6-year-old project.

"The congressional support was a shot in the arm," Baustian said. "It provides us with the biggest economic development piece in 40 years."

Architect and engineer plans will be finished this spring with plans to bid the remodeling project late spring.

The remodeling of the day care learning center is expected to take a year.

Once the center is complete, the city of Luverne will lease the building to a local nonprofit board for \$1 a year. The board will acquire the day care license and hire a licensed director and assistant director to operate the facility.

The day care learning center is expected to employ up to 35 workers.

Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar submitted the earmark request for the local day care learning facility.

Among the other requests funded in Minnesota are improved access to health care, workforce support, infrastructure and public safety upgrades.



Hikers enjoy beautiful winter day for First Day Hike at Blue Mounds State Park

Story and photos by Mavis Fodness

Blue Mounds State Park played host to a nationwide initiative to get people outdoors Jan. 1.

Park naturalist Tiffany Muellner led more than a dozen people on a 90-minute hike that included several stops to view wildlife, their tracks and the buffalo that reside at the park north

First Day Hike, continued on page 12



The First Day Hike at Blue Mounds State Park Sunday drew a group of 20 people who participated in the 90-minute trek through the snow as part of the nationwide initiative to get people outdoors on the first day in 2023. **At top:** Deer could be seen on the hill overlooking the state park as the hike began from the picnic area. **Right:** Naturalist Tiffany Muellner leads the group on a tree-lined trail.



H-BC refines upcoming building plan at \$29.9 million

By Mavis Fodness

Building an adequate budget is causing members of the Hills-Beaver Creek School Board to consider all aspects of their long-term facility plans before making a final decision.

The district is facing a deadline of this month in order to place the amount to a public vote in April.

They are considering the timeframe for optimal results. This includes time for the state's review and comment on the project, the best time for one or more bond sales, and when to call for bids.

"We want to give architects time to do accurate plans," said Preston Euerle with construction managers RA Morton. "We would like to bid in January, which is better than February/March. We also want to give materials lead times."

Board members agreed at Dec. 17 to increase the project budget to \$29.9 million.

The amount includes the construction of a new elementary school and the upgrade to the Hugo Goehle gymnasium site.

Previously the board considered \$26.4 million to complete the same project.

However, at their board workshop on Dec. 19, they requested an estimate to replace the gymnasium roof.

A new roof is estimated to cost \$350,000.

Members want an adequate budget before bringing the bond referendum decision to voters in April.

They're concerned about cost overruns that plagued the district in 2011, when the secondary school was constructed in Hills. The deci-

H-BC, continued on page 2

Public input roots out error in property evaluation notices; new notices sent

Commissioners approve 4.5 percent levy increase for 2023; amount stays at preliminary certification level

By Mavis Fodness

Seven county residents attended the county's Dec. 13 Truth in Taxation hearing.

They primarily came to inquire about discrepancies in the property evaluation notices sent

to the almost 8,000 parcel owners in Rock County announcing the meeting.

While the TnT public hearing is meant only to discuss the county's 2023 budget, County Administrator Kyle Oldre and commissioners talked about the matter with residents after the meeting.

As a result, affected residents will receive a letter with the corrected market value. About 200 parcels are affected, Oldre indicated at the Dec. 27 commissioners meeting.

"The error occurred as the files were rolled over to the audi-

tor's office to calculate the taxes on each property," Oldre said. "When the files rolled over, the city of Luverne was fine. When they rolled over the townships and small cities, there was a glitch in the program in that if you had a unique property — and the property was a heated garage — it increased."

The correction lowered the taxable market value in Rock County by \$2.1 million. Taxable market value is now \$3.2 billion.

Despite the correction in market value, the overall tax rate for the other property classifications

is not affected and will stay the same.

The commissioners approved increasing the county levy by 4.5 percent for an additional \$294,000 in 2023, bringing the total to \$6.8 million from local property taxes this year.

Overall, the county plans \$14.1 million in expenditures.

In addition to local property taxes, other county revenue comes from county program aid (\$560,000), grants, state and federal funding.

The increase in the county

levy will cover increased costs in labor, insurance and material purchases across all departments. An additional \$96,000 in appropriations is earmarked for health and human services.

"At 4.5 percent, that's one of the highest increases we have ever taken and we are not anywhere near what inflation is doing to us," Oldre said. "It's a problem now and it's only going to get worse."

At 21.292 percent, Rock County has the second lowest tax rate in the state. Dakota County has the lowest.

"This board works really hard to keep tax rates low," Oldre said.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

State park offers January events

•Meet in the Picnic Shelter from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, to learn about beavers, nature's architects and America's largest rodents.

Discover how these critters use their unique adaptations to play a valuable role on the landscape. The program will conclude with a short walk down to the creek to look for beaver activity.

•Meet in the Picnic Shelter from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, for Winter Birding: Owls. Winter can be a great time to view owls. Find out what makes these wonderful birds so special and discover what species are in the backyard.

Ag webinars coming in January

The University of Minnesota Extension is presenting four webinars on introductory farm transition and estate planning each Wednesday in January.

Topics include:

•Jan. 4: Developing farm transition goals and assembling your "team."

•Jan. 11: All things tax: gifting, selling and transferring.

•Jan. 18: Wills, trusts, ownership titling — what does it all mean?

•Jan. 25: Putting the basics together: estate, retirement, health care and business transfer planning.

Register at <https://z.umn.edu/23FarmTransition>. Registration is necessary to receive a link to each session.

For more information contact Dave Bau, extension educator, ag business management, Worthington, 507-372-3900 ext. 3906.

Nutrition for seniors Jan. 5

Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors 60 & older, sponsored by A.C.E. of SWMN, will be from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 5.

The drive through distribution will be in the parking lot off Maple Street at the new A.C.E. office on east side of Generations Event Center. Pre-registration is required. Call Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064.

Community Education

Luverne Community Education will offer the following classes in the next few weeks. Call 507-283-4724 to register.

Registration for classes in the new Winter Brochure is now open.

ECFE Classes for children ages 0-5 years and parents offers information and support to parents and provides activities for parents and children to explore together through classes that meet once a week throughout the school year.

Defensive Driving 8-hour class provides a 10 percent premium discount on auto insurance to anyone 55 years of age or older. The 8-hour class needs to be taken once and the insurance discount is good for three years. A 4-hour refresher class can be taken every three years to remain eligible for the insurance discount.

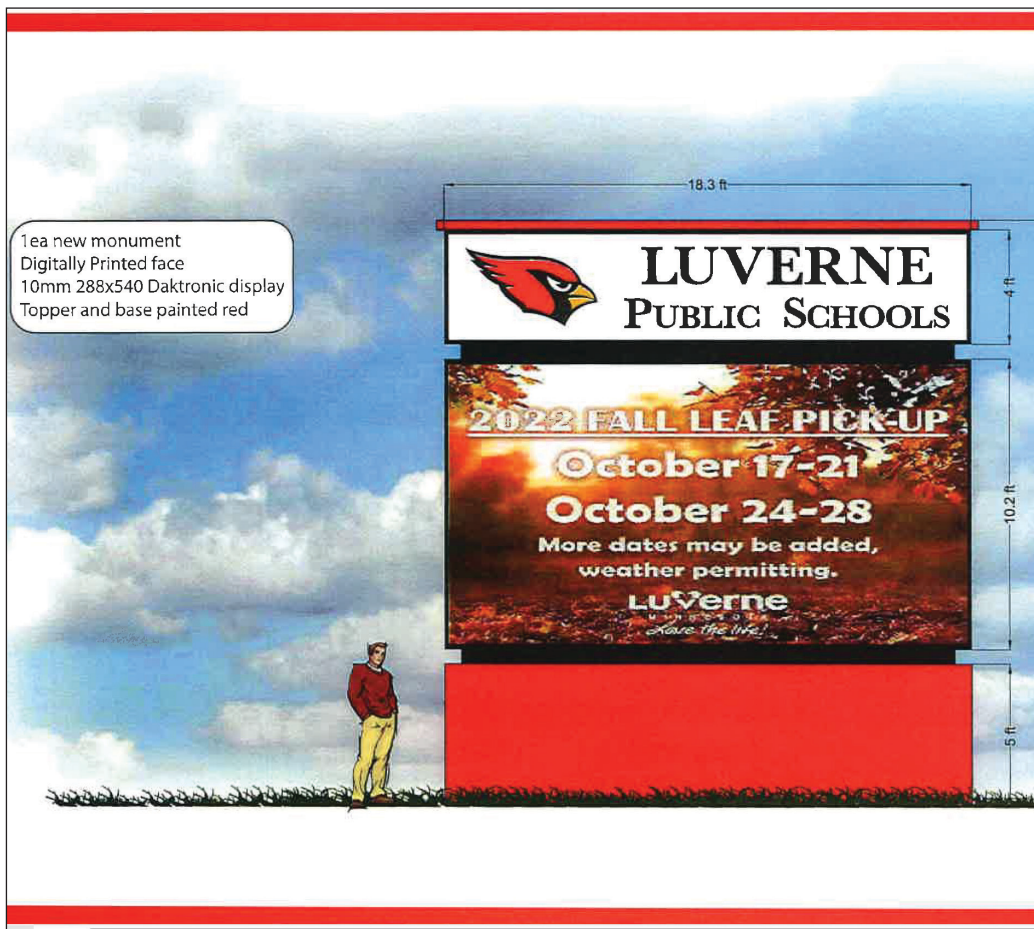
New Residents: Census Information Needed for Preschool Children. Call 507-283-4724 with information for children ages 0 to kindergarten. The school district uses the information for planning purposes, mailing out information on school events, including the state-mandated Preschool Screening for all 3-year-old children. If your child is 4 and has not been screened, call to complete the screening before kindergarten.

Library Happenings

For more information about library happenings, call 507-449-5040 or email rockcountystaff@gmail.com.

Winter Book Club is currently being organized to meet at different local restaurants during January, February and March.

Trivia Night is at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 5, at Take 16 in Luverne. Team registration begins at 6 p.m.



Luverne Public School will replace its 1990s sign with a new digital screen, similar to the drawing above. The sign, purchased by a private donor, will be put in place this summer.

Improved sign coming to Luverne Public Schools

By Lori Sorenson

The school district sign along Highway 75 in Luverne will soon be replaced with a larger, more modern sign, according to action at the city's December Planning and Zoning meeting.

The commission approved a new sign that's 20.5 feet high, 18.3 feet wide and two feet deep with a 10-by-18-foot Daktronic digital screen.

It will replace the existing 1990s structure that has a 2-by-10-foot screen that's no longer working.

The new free-standing sign will be placed in the same vicinity as the old one.

ACE Signs, Sioux Falls, has the contract for the sign at \$223,792.

Cost is through a private donation received by the school.

Free-standing signs of this size and design along city boulevards require variance by way of a public hearing.

No one appeared at Tuesday's hearing with concerns about the proposal, and the commission approved the school's variance request.

The new sign will be installed this summer, pending any supply delays.



Mavis Fodness photo/0105 H-BC School Board Retirees

Knobloch, Fransman retire from H-BC board

Renee Knobloch (left) and Harley Fransman hold plaques presented to them by Hills-Beaver Creek School District Board Chairman Arlyn Gehrke Dec. 27 at the district's last meeting of 2022. Knobloch served four years on the board with Fransman serving 14 1/2 years.

#TellUsTuesday Results

Scan Here to Vote for this Week's Survey!



What Was Your Favorite Community Event?

Hot Dog Night	48%
4th of July	19%
Winterfest	14%
Christmas	7%
All School Reunion	12%

H-BC/continued from page 1

sion to ask voters for less money than the cost estimates placed the district into statutory debt until 2014.

"The secondary building was projected higher and it was decided to go under that amount," explained Superintendent Todd Holthaus. "That was partly where the district was short on the project."

Dean Benninga with the architectural firm

ATS&R has been working with the district on cost estimates.

"We don't try to overestimate or underestimate," he said. "We used a database of what things cost and we apply those numbers to the square footage that you've affixed to the new building. We put in contingency and inflation on top of that."

As architectural plans are finished, cost of pur-

chasing 12 acres for the new elementary school is included.

Holthaus said he has contacted a landowner in Beaver Creek and have opened a dialogue for the possible land purchase.

"In my opinion I think the discussions went well," he said. "The deal is not done at this point but we've got things going down that alley with the landowner."

Architects selected

three potential elementary school locations in Beaver Creek for possible purchase.

The board is also working with a public financial adviser with Ehlers Inc. to determine the bond impact on district property owners.

Final impacts will be presented at upcoming public meetings unveiling the scope of the project before the bond referendum vote.

For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov/mn.

Contact the USDA office in Marshall at: USDA Rural Development; 1424 E. College Drive, Suite 500; Marshall, MN 56258-2090 / Call 507-537-1401 ext. 4

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Cardinal Academies makes new year debut for LHS students

By Mavis Fodness

When the Luverne Cardinal Academies debut in January, all elective classes will have a career focus at Luverne High School.

Each elective the school offers is assigned to a career focus. Students who complete a set of electives in an area can receive recognition and skills to further their career choices.

"We want all students to have the opportunity to learn, explore and grow through the academy program," said counselor Amy Cook.

"I remind students that everyone needs a plan after high school — no matter if you are at the top, middle, bottom of your class — everyone can benefit from being in an academy."

Participation in the Cardinal Academies is voluntary.

Each of the school's current elective courses is included in one or more of the five career clusters or academies: business, arts and communications, technical, health and service.

In each academy, students gain experience and connect and build relationships with local professionals. Upon completion (which takes two years), students are recognized at the spring awards banquet.

As freshmen, students are introduced to various careers and the academy program. They can apply for one or more academies beginning with their sophomore year.

Eight elective courses are necessary for successful completion of an academy along with a capstone project at the

end of the second year.

Representatives from the Minnesota Private Industry Council, scheduled during the school's Flex Time, help with interview tips, résumé building and other job-finding skills.

As seniors, students can finish electives or opt into a second academy.

"For some students, it is going to allow them to explore what possible careers are available," Cook said.

"This may allow them to find a career field, but for other students it may help them see what they don't want to do."

High school staff brought the academies idea to Cook and high school principal Ryan Johnson three years ago.

An exploratory committee toured a high school with an academy system and made simple changes that led to the five-academy initiative.

Cook and Johnson oversee each student's class schedule and encourage students to apply to the academy.

Johnson made a YouTube video explaining the academy concept to parents and students.

"We want them to aim for something," Johnson said.

"We want all kids to start processing and thinking through what their future is going to be and what their pursuits are after high school — whether it is college, apprenticeship programs, the trades, or even to get into the workforce."

While application is necessary for Cardinal Academies, no student is turned away.

According to Cook, "Any student that applies will be accepted into the academy."

Gene Cragoe receives 2021 Outstanding Chamber Member award

Luverne Realtor honored for his generosity, support to the community

By Mavis Fodness

Even though longtime Realtor Gene Cragoe knew since September that he would be honored as the 2021 Luverne Area Chamber Outstanding Member, he was nonetheless surprised Dec. 27 at the annual Chamber gathering to present him with the award.

"It really surprised me," he said after the event. "I didn't expect such an elaborate affair."

At Sterling's Café and Grille in downtown Luverne Tuesday, Chamber Vice President Tony Schomacker presented Cragoe with the award.

"We thank Gene for building a business that has provided so many 'homes' for our friends and family and so many 'buildings' for our businesses," Schomacker said.

"Gene kept the doors of Cragoe Realty open day after day, year after year, serving real estate clients with integrity, sound advice, fairness, honesty and excellence."

"Your giving and generous spirit in working together has helped build and maintain the stellar reputation of this community. We thank you and honor you today for giving all you have to the Luverne community, Rock County and the Chamber."

Cragoe's support of the community started long before he opened Cragoe Realty in 1991.

Cragoe grew up on a farm near Magnolia (graduating from MHS in 1953) and drove school bus and worked at the Piggly Wiggly in Luverne, while saving his wages to rent farmland of his own.

He and his wife, Colleen (Rust), lived on several farms in Rock County be-



Rick Peterson photo/0105 Outstanding Chamber Member Cragoe Luverne Area Chamber representative Tony Schomacker (left) presents Gene Cragoe with the 2021 Outstanding Chamber Member award at a special Dec. 27 ceremony at Sterling's Café and Grille to honor the longtime Realtor.

fore settling on a dairy farm west of Hardwick in the early '70s. They were farming there during the '80s when the low ag economy prompted Gene to find a new career.

His new career was in the real estate market through the help of Bob Latham and Bob Sanny.

They approached Cragoe to become an agent for their business. For several years he farmed as well as worked for the "two Bobs" until 1991 when he earned

his broker's license and opened his own agency. He hired Lowell Binford as an agent.

Cragoe Realty became a Luverne Area Chamber member when the doors first opened.

"Gene has been a generous supporter of Chamber projects and events through financial support and the use of his resources," Schomacker said. "When asked to serve on a board or committee, Gene is always

'We thank Gene for building a business that has provided so many 'homes' for our friends and family and so many 'buildings' for our businesses.'

— Tony Schomacker in his introduction of the 2021 Luverne Area Chamber Outstanding Member Gene Cragoe

one who says 'yes.'

Earlier this year, Cragoe sold his Main Street office and moved his business to his home in preparation for retirement.

The couple has four children — Randy, Pam (Miller), Peggy (Adams) and Wendy (Klemme), 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

In addition to his service to the Chamber, Cragoe has served on various boards including the First Presbyterian Church, Luverne Public Schools (17 years), Land O' Lakes, Rock County Planning and Zoning, Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and he continues with the Rock County Soil and Water Conservation Board of Supervisors.

The chamber board members developed the Outstanding Chamber Member Award in 2005. They select a retiring member annually who's made significant contributions to the community through his or her personal life and professional career.

Farm profitability and strong land prices highlight top ag topics for 2022

At the end of every year, various publications, websites, etc. have their "Top 10" or "Top 5" list for that year. In this issue of "Focus on Ag," I am highlighting my "Top 5 Ag Topics" for 2022, based on issues that were discussed in the columns throughout the year. Following are my "Top 5 Ag Topics" for 2022.

Strong net farm income levels continue in 2022

Based on the data in the latest "2022 Farm Income Forecast" that was released by the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) in early December, U.S. net farm income is expected to increase by \$19.5 billion or 12.8 percent above 2021 levels, which followed an increase of over 40 percent in 2021 as compared to 2020 net farm income levels. The estimated 2022 net farm income is now estimated at \$160.5 billion.

In the recent farm income report, USDA estimated the total U.S. net cash income for 2022 at \$187.9 billion, which is an increase of \$39.7 billion or 26.7 percent from a year earlier. When adjusted for inflation, the 2022 net farm income is the highest since 1973, while net cash income would be at the highest level



FOCUS ON AG

By Kent Thiesse
Farm management analyst

since USDA began tracking this data in 1929. Net cash income includes cash receipts from all farm-related income, including government payments, minus cash expenses for the year. Net farm income is accrual-based, which includes income adjustments for changes in inventories, depreciation, and rental income.

The very strong improvement in U.S. farm income levels that began in 2021 and continued through 2022 are considerably higher than farm income levels from 2014-2020. The improvement in 2021 and 2022 net farm income has largely been driven by continued strong commodity prices for crops and livestock, strong export markets, and better than expected crop yields in some areas. By comparison, the positive U.S. net farm income levels in 2019 and 2020 were largely driven by very

high levels of government farm program payments, which included payments for trade-disruption and COVID-related payments, as well as some traditional farm program payments and disaster payments.

Inflation and rapidly increasing input costs

Almost every input cost for crop and livestock production increased in 2022 compared to expense levels in 2021, and expenses are likely to increase again in 2023. Much of the focus has been in higher fertilizer costs for corn, which doubled for many producers in 2022, compared to average 2021 fertilizer costs. Input costs in 2022 were also significantly higher for crop chemicals, diesel fuel, propane, repairs, custom work, and labor. In addition, the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank increased the prime interest rate from 3.25

percent at the beginning of 2022 to 7.5 percent by year-end in December, which will likely result in significantly higher interest costs for many farm operators in 2023. The cost of farm equipment and other capital improvements has also increased substantially in 2022 from a year earlier, which will likely increase depreciation and other overhead costs in the coming years.

The combination of significantly higher crop input costs, along with increasing land rental rates, will likely put more pressure on crop breakeven price levels for 2023. Using typical crop input expenses, other direct costs, average overhead expenses, together with a land rental rate of \$275 per acre and a targeted return to the farm operator of \$50 per acre, the breakeven price on cash rented acres to cover direct and overhead expenses for corn in the Upper Midwest for 2023 will likely be around \$5.50 to \$6.00 per bushel. This compares to corn breakeven levels of \$5.00 to \$5.25 per bushel in 2022 and \$3.75 to \$4.00 per bushel in 2021. The breakeven soybean price to cover the cost of production

and \$275 per acre land rent in 2023 will likely be about \$12.00 to \$13.00 per bushel, which compares to soybean breakeven levels of \$11.00-\$11.50 per bushel in 2022 and \$9.00-\$9.50 per acre in 2021.

Strong grain prices continue in 2022

As in most years, where farmers were positioned in the grain market and the grain marketing decisions that were made by farm operators will have a big impact on the profit levels for their crop enterprise in 2022. Both corn and soybean markets have remained quite strong throughout most of 2022, due to increased demand both for domestic uses and for export markets, especially to China. The "basis" level between Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) prices and local corn and soybean prices has remained extremely tight in many areas of the Upper Midwest due to strong local demand and tight grain supplies, which has also enhanced grain marketing opportunities during the year.

"New crop" cash corn price bids in southern Minnesota were near \$5.25 per bushel early in 2022, before rising to near \$7.00 per

bushel by April and staying above \$6.00 per bushel for the remainder of the year. The cash corn price was above \$6.50 per bushel in mid-December. The 2022 "new crop" cash soybean bids in southern Minnesota started the year at \$12.50-\$12.80 per bushel and rose to near \$15.00 per bushel by late April, before finishing the year in the \$13-\$14 per bushel range from July to December. The cash soybean prices were above \$14.25 per bushel in mid-December at many locations.

USDA is currently estimating the average farm prices for the 2022-23 marketing year, which ends on Sept. 30, 2023, at \$6.70 per bushel for corn and \$14.00 per bushel for soybeans. The current forward price bids being offered in many areas for the Fall of 2023 are near \$5.50 per bushel for corn and \$13.25 per bushel for soybeans.

Variable crop yields across the Midwest

Some crop farmers in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa would categorize 2022 crop yields as "bet-

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'Back in my day....'

While I try not to use words that cliché, I know that's what it sounds like to others when I say things like "When we were in school ..." or "Back in the '90s"...

As I get older, I find myself saying things like that more often.

Sometimes these statements are just for fun. An attempt to entertain.

Other times they are simply sharing a memory that makes me feel good.

Often, though, it's the history teacher in me coming out.

My unsolicited trips down memory lane are usually intended to educate.

My niece and nephew, my students, really any younger people, or even people "new to Luverne" (which means less than 25 years or so) are often recipients of these mini history lessons.

I might tell them how we used to do things at Luverne High School when I was a student at the school I teach at now.

Or maybe I tell fellow church members how I remember a particular tradition happening the exact same way when I was a kid.

Often my reminiscences may be intended to inform others about how things were better in the past. Nostalgia is a big part of "back in my day" stories after all.

Maybe more often, though, I've recently found my "When I was your age ..." comments shining a more positive light on today.

"When I was your age, we had to listen to K101 and



IN OTHER WORDS

By Jason Berghorst, reporter

wait for the DJ to read the school closings. Sometimes we had to listen to 15 minutes or more of classic country music before we heard!

"When I was in school, we had to eat lunch down in the basement and only had two choices to pick from.

"In the '90s, we had to go to the library and look in a card catalog and check out all these books to do research. And if another kid had the book checked out, we were out of luck.

"Years ago, you had to actually go to the game, the concert, the church service, etc. to be able to watch it and you only saw it or heard it once."

Now, of course, we get text messages for school closings. Students have multiple choices for lunch in a large commons with two-story windows.

There is unlimited free research information on the internet, and we can watch most games and concerts and even church from the comfort of our homes.

Maybe "back in my day" wasn't always the best. Maybe there's a lot of good now if we just notice it.

Of course, the other most common topic for the "When I was your age ..." stories is massive snow amounts when we were young.

"We don't have winters like that anymore," people are known to say.

After these last few weeks, I'm not sure the old days won in that category either.

Get out of house more in 2023

Step away from technology and enjoy some local activities; it's good for your physical and mental health

It's that time of the year for our 2023 New Year's resolutions.

If you find yourself in or near Luverne, you don't have to look far.

If you're looking for a place to start a resolution to be more fit, I'd recommend the Luverne Aquatics Center.

Sam Honerman and her staff can help you reach your fitness goals.

The facility is quite amazing. You can do anything from water walking to lap swimming, weightlifting, yoga, bike riding, treadmills, senior dance, kick boxing and more.

They'll teach you how to use the equipment and give you nutritional advice.

If you prefer fewer people and a more private setting, the Luverne Power and Fitness on Main Street has great exercise equipment as well.

Membership costs at both places are reasonable and senior citizens can probably get in free as part of their Medicare Advantage plans.

Mental health experts encourage us to turn off social media, Netflix and iPhones and to get outside more.

Humans are made to interact with others, and if your resolution

is to socialize more and experience new things that are good for your brain, check out a Green Earth Players production at The Palace Theatre.

Play bingo or trivia at Take 16 Brewing.

Visit the library and enjoy all the fun activities there.

And don't forget about The Loop for walking or biking.

Generations has fun activities for everyone including quilting, cards, meals and games.

Get out and cheer on our high school athletes, whether at the gym or ice arena. We have wonderful youth who would appreciate your support.

A few places to find upcoming activities include Luverneevents.com, the community events listings in The Announcer and/or the recently distributed Luverne Com-

munity Education catalog.

If your resolution for 2023 involves more focus on spiritual health, Luverne is also the place to come.

Consider joining a church or being more active in your current church.

Plan more focused time with your family members.

Register as a volunteer with A.C.E. of SW Minnesota.

Sign up a big brother/sister or just help a neighbor.

If you have a little extra in the nest egg, consider a local gift to the Luverne Community Foundation (LACF). They hand out dollars to well deserving area nonprofits that involve bettering your health, experiencing new events or having some fun.

Good luck with your New Year's resolutions and have a happy and healthy 2023.



Winter driving is here; before you travel, know what to do if you're in a crash

Question: I heard on TV the State Patrol responded to over 1,300 crashes and five fatal crashes the last several days. Do you have any tips for winter driving?

Answer: Snow and ice can make driving a bit more challenging, even if you grew up here. It not only involves knowing what to do while your vehicle is in motion, but preparing carefully before you leave the house and being ready in case of a crash. Based on the typical wintertime crashes they see every year, here are the Minnesota State Patrol's top 10 winter driving tips.

Before you leave

1. Check weather and road conditions. Whether you look online or call 511, make sure the roads between you and your destination are safe enough to travel. And we cannot stress this enough: If a travel



advisory says it's not safe to drive, don't drive.

2. Grab your emergency kit and charge your phone. If you get in a crash, you'll need a fully charged phone to call for help and the items in your emergency kit to stay comfortable until help comes.

3. Tell someone where you're going. Let them know when you expect to arrive at your destination and the route you're taking to get there. That way, if you don't show

ASK A TROOPER

By Sgt. Troy Christianson, Minnesota State Patrol

up, they'll know you need help.

4. Top off your tank and clean off the snow and ice. Travel in poor conditions can take a lot longer than normal, so make sure you have plenty of gas. And when we recommend cleaning the snow off your windows, we mean all of them, not just an eye-level swath of the windshield. While you're at it, get the snow off your hood, roof, and trunk so that it doesn't fly off and blind you or the vehicle behind you,

and clear off your headlights and taillights as well.

While you're driving

1. Buckle up and put distractions away. This is good advice no matter the weather, but before those wheels roll, put on your seat belt (same for your passengers). Limit distractions by setting your music and GPS before you go, or just put your phone away altogether. Remember that Minnesota is a hands-free cell phone state.

2. Slow down. When you're driving in snow and ice, don't drive to the speed limit; drive to conditions. It may take you longer to get to your destination, but you'll arrive alive. Also, increase your following distance from the vehicle ahead of you so that you can stop more easily if you need to.

3. Turn your lights on. In the

wintertime, headlights are as much for being seen as they are for seeing. Don't depend on the auto headlight feature; make sure other vehicles know you're there by manually turning on your lights.

If you crash

1. Steer where you want the car to go. If you hit a patch of ice, stay calm and turn the steering wheel in the direction you want the car to go.

2. Get off the road. If you do crash, try to get off the road to a safe location, such as a parking lot. This will help keep other motorists from crashing into you.

3. Stay inside. Once you're off the road, don't leave your car. You'll want to conserve as much heat as possible without running the engine so that you can stay warm until help comes.

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ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

Dec. 23

•Complainant reported a driving complaint on County Road 4 near Magnolia.

•Lawenforcement closed Highway 75 and I-90 in both directions.

•Complainant reported parking violation at Lincoln and Davidson Street.

•A civil issue reported on North Davidson Street.

Dec. 24

•Property damage was reported on East Main Street.

•Complainant reported accident at Northview Drive and Michael Street.

•Wind chill advisory was issued for Rock County.

•Deputy assisted motorist on West Veterans Drive.

•Complainant reported abandoned vehicle at 170th Avenue and 111th Street.

Dec. 25

•Parking issue on North Freeman Street was reported.

•Complainant reported suspicious activity at Freeman and Main intersection.

Dec. 26

•A fire was reported on 70th Avenue near Beaver Creek.

•Report of abandoned vehicle at Freeman and Luverne streets.

•Complainant reported a civil issue at 171st Street.

•Deputy assisted individual at Fletcher and Cedar streets.

•A power outage was reported in Hardwick.

•A fire was reported on 81st Street near Valley Springs.

•A missing person was reported to law enforcement.

Dec. 27

•Complainant reported

accident at West Main and South West Park.

•Complainant reported harassing communication.

•Complainant on East Luverne Street reported a fire.

Dec. 28

•Complainant reported abandoned vehicle.

•Road reported closed at railroad crossing on 41st Street, Hills.

•Complainant reported a scam to law enforcement.

•Complainant reported a pedestrian on I-90 southbound at County Road 17.

•Complainant on North Freeman Street reported a civil issue.

•Complainant reported a scam to law enforcement.

Dec. 29

•Complainant reported identity theft to law enforcement.

•Complainant reported suspicious activity at corner of East Main Street and North Freeman.

•Complainant reported suspicious activity on South West Park Street.

Dec. 30

•Complainant reported an accident at Highway 23 and 161st Street near Garretson.

In addition, officers responded to 3 motor vehicle accidents, 16 stalled vehicles, 13 vehicles in the ditch, 6 assists, 18 ambulance runs, 4 alarm checks, 3 welfare checks, 4 paper services, 4 animal complaints, 1 burn permit, 1 fingerprint request, 6 purchase and carry permits, 20 traffic stops, 1 transport, 2 escorts, 6 abandoned 911 calls, 1 welfare check, and 1 follow-up.

Enjoying the lost art of decoy carving

Why is it that everything ends up happening on the same day or days? I have a possible wedding, a retirement party for a great friend, and a decoy show all happening on the same weekend. I want to be at all three events, but we all know you can't be two places or even three places at the same time. In the end, it is the first commitment I made that is going to win this tug of war.

Twenty-four years ago, a very small group of decoy carvers started the National Fish Decoy Association. I attended for my first time last year, and it is being held April 14-16 in Perham, Minnesota, for 2023.

The National Fish Decoy Association is not necessarily a title that would make thousands of people flock to Perham on this weekend, but if folks knew what was to be seen and experienced there, it would change a lot of minds.

Most of the activity centers around hand-carved decoys used to lure northern pike into your spear hole so you can use the ago-old method of hand-throwing a spear, with the intention of hitting the fish right behind the head.

I started spearing pike and whitefish about 10 years ago because of a friend, Kirk Schnitker, who took me the first time. He was and still is an amazing decoy carver although he does not do it as often as he did in years past.

I use the decoys that he has given me over the years with good success. Not every decoy made works as intended. Kirk's decoys all swim great.

What does a great working decoy swim like? They hang from a stick, called a jigging stick from a string. An upward pull on the jigging stick brings the decoy up in the water column and then it gently swims in a big circle until it eventually comes to rest again.

These decoys are carved normally from wood, but others cast them from epoxy resins. They are painted by hand into about 300,000 differ-



THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall
Outdoors columnist

ent patterns.

Some are painted to look like an actual fish a northern pike would want to eat for a meal, and others are painted to be bright and flashy. All are designed to bring a pike in for a closer look.

It is when the fish comes in to check out this foreign object in their underwater world that the spear fisherman or woman gets a chance to throw the spear.

The decoys are weighted to float level in the water and swim naturally. Less experienced carvers make decoys that look great but don't actually swim in a manner that looks natural. If the decoy is "off," a pike will know something odd is in the works and will not come into the hole for a closer look.

Spear holes are cut in the ice and are about 4 feet long and 3 feet wide. When in a dark house, a structure with all the outside light blocked out, you can see every underwater creature that swims by. This can be pike, panfish, frogs, turtles, crayfish and many others.

This assumes the water is clear enough to see. Not many lakes in southwest Minnesota are clear enough to accomplish this, so most

of the spearing done in our state is done on clearer water lakes further north.

The decoy show highlights the craftsmanship of the hundreds of carvers that come from all over the United States to compete at this show. There are 26 different classes you can compete in, and all have different judging criteria. I have served as a decoy judge in 13 of those classes and will be doing so again this year.

Decoy carvers and their submissions represent some of the greatest craftsmanship I have ever seen. The cool part of this age-old tradition is how the old-timer experts help out the newer carvers in order for them to produce better and better entries.

This show also offers you the opportunity to see and experience the spearing traditions dating back many generations. I am sure spearing fish dates back to the time when man was still trying to kill woolly mammoths.

The website for this show is www.nfdadecoys.org There are a few videos you can watch to get a feel for this event.

I don't care if you give a hoot about fish decoys, if you appreciate seeing the results of great craftsmen and women in an area of art you can see no place else, this show would be a day or two well spent. So when the tax deadline comes around this year, you can find an entertaining way to take your mind off of that by attending the National Fish Decoy Association show in Perham. If you take me up on this outdoor advice, I might just see you there.

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.

Focus on Ag/continued from page 3

ter than expected." Following a somewhat late planting season, favorable growing conditions for both corn and soybeans allowed crops in many areas to make rapid progress. Weather conditions turned very hot and dry from late May through July. Many portions of this region only received 50-75 percent of the normal growing season precipitation from May 1 through Sept. 30, and much of that came in mid-August or later. However, the combination, of excellent planting conditions, no-drown-out loss, timely rainfall, and above normal growing degree units resulted in average to above average corn and

soybean yields for the year in some portions of the region.

On the other hand, Mother Nature was not kind to many producers in Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota, and Western Iowa, as well as in portions of western Minnesota, as producers in those areas experienced some of the worst drought conditions since 2012, and in some cases the worst drought since 1988. The drought in these areas resulted in corn and soybean yields that were 20-30 percent or more below APH yields. The drought also resulted in very low hay and pasture production, which led to many cow/calf producers in the region being forced

to liquidate a portion of their beef herd.

Sharp increases in land values

Iowa State University recently released the "2022 Farmland Survey" results, which showed that average farmland values in Iowa increased by 17 percent in 2022 as compared to 2021 farmland value. The rather large percentage increase in annual land values this year came one year after a 29 percent increase in 2021, which was the second highest on record, trailing only a 32.5 percent increase in 2013. The 2022 average farmland value in Iowa was \$11,411 per acre,

compared to \$9,751 in 2021 and \$7,559 per acre in 2020.

The 2022 average is at the highest nominal land value since Iowa State began surveying land values in 1941. Recent U.S. Federal Reserve data reported year-over-year average annual land value increases in the third quarter of 2022 at 30 percent in North Dakota, 27 percent in Kansas, 24 percent in Minnesota, 22 percent in Iowa, 20 percent in Nebraska and Illinois, 13 percent in South Dakota, and 12 percent in Wisconsin. The higher land values were largely driven by high farm profit levels in 2021 and 2022.

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Rock County **STAR HERALD** Luverne **ANNOUNCER**



Mavis Fodness photos/0105 SDSU NDSU

A friendly rivalry began in Luverne this fall when Angela Newgard (left) added a South Dakota State University Jackrabbits flag to her front yard flag pole. Her next-door neighbor, Marv Gonnerman, already had his favorite college team's flag, the North Dakota State University Bison, in his front yard. The two football rivals will meet Sunday at the FCS Championship in Frisco, Texas, with Gonnerman and Newgard each cheering for their favorite team to win.

College championships opens low-key rivalry among neighbors

By Mavis Fodness

It's not unusual for residents on Luverne's Evergreen Drive to fly flags in their front yards.

For Marv and Margaret Gonnerman, their decoration of choice involves the North Dakota State University Bisons.

For their next-door neighbors Angela and TJ Newgard, it's the South Dakota State University Jackrabbits.

Unbeknownst to either one of them, their favorite college teams will meet Sunday for the Football Conference Subdivision Championship in Frisco, Texas.

Both will be watching the game on television, rooting for their favorite college team Sunday afternoon.

"I like the Bison and they like the Jackrabbits," Gonnerman said of the low-key rivalry between neighbors.

"I am a little leery about Brookings (SDSU). They have a good team."

Gonnerman's NDSU has won the FCS Championship nine times.

He's flown the team's green and yellow school flag for at least a decade, when his daughter moved her

'It's just a little fun between ourselves.

It's just a ballgame. Someone has to win and someone has to lose.'

— *Marv Gonnerman, an NDSU football fan, on his neighbor Angela Newgard's flying of an SDSU flag in her front yard*

family to Fargo, North Dakota.

SDSU is making their 11th consecutive appearance in the FCS. Their best finish was runner-up in 2020.

Newgard's SDSU blue and yellow flag has been in her front yard

since the school's Hobo Days in September. The Jackrabbits have won 12 games since the flag began flying on the Newgards' front yard.

"I'm keeping it up until after the game," she said.

Newgard, an SDSU alum, was at first uneasy about displaying her college flag so close to a NDSU rival, thinking the SDSU flag would upset Gonnerman.

The team preference has had the opposite effect.

"It's just a little fun between ourselves," Gonnerman said. "It's just a ballgame. Someone has to win and someone has to lose."

For the first time, SDSU is seeded No. 1, having beat NDSU in the regular season.

Gonnerman said he would not be surprised if the Jackrabbits won Sunday's game.

"The Bison have won so many," he said with a slight smile.

On a more serious note, the appearance of two local colleges on national television is positive.

"It's nice for us that these two Dakota teams get this notice," Gonnerman said. "Good luck to both of them."

1943: Reynolds continues life story with Diamond Club

The following article is part of the Diamond Club Member group that began in the January 7, 1943, issue of the Rock County Star Herald. Members of this group consist of persons of age 75 and older.

The following appeared in The Rock County Herald on July 15, 1943.

This article is continued from last week's edition of the Star Herald about Mrs. S.D. Reynolds of Hardwick.



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

Hauled Supplies

Mrs. Reynolds also had the experience as serving as a "freighter" for her father. In order to keep the store in supplies, her brother and herself operated a transportation system on a shuttle system. Her brother would bring a load from Sioux Falls to Pumpkin Center, and she would meet him there with an empty wagon. They'd spend the night there, and the following morning, Mrs. Reynolds would start for Salem with the full load, while her brother would return to Sioux Falls with the empty wagon. Both used oxen to pull the wagons.

Not only did Mrs. Reynolds do that type of work but she helped with the farming. Her father obtained a team of mules, but even then, the mules would be used to draw one plow or drag, and she or her brother would follow behind with another plow pulled by oxen.

For entertainment, the young people went to dances. On many occasions, she recalls, she and two brothers would get on one horse and go to a dance some place.

Married in 1881

On November 24, 1881, she married S. D. Reynolds at Salem. Mr. Reynolds was one of the railroad workers, and she met him at her father's boardinghouse. They moved to Sibley, Mr. Reynolds' home, and there their first furniture consisted of a bed, a large store box for a table, and two chunks of wood for chairs. Mr. Reynolds was a mason, and would be gone for a week at a time. To be a bride in a strange community was far from being pleasant, Mrs. Reynolds states.

Four years later, they

moved back to Salem where Mr. Reynolds operated a dray line. After another four years, he began farming near Salem. Stock raising was done on a share basis. They milked 15 cows, and their share was one third of the calves born. Crops were poor and they "dried out" two years in succession.

Being a housewife and mother on those days was no snap, according to Mrs. Reynolds. She would sit up nights and knit stockings for the children to wear to school. All her washing and sewing was done by hand because she had neither a washing machine or sewing machine. The family lived in a two room house, one room upstairs and one down. When she wanted to go to town, she'd take down her clothesline and use it for reins on her horse, and when she came back, she'd tie it up again and use it for a clothesline.

Prices Low

Prices were exceedingly low for what they would sell. She recalls they sold a two-year-old heifer for \$8.00 and received \$2.50 for a 300-pound hog. Eggs were sold for five cents per dozen. "By the time I bought a few groceries and tobacco for my husband, I'd usually be owing the storekeeper," Mrs. Reynolds states.

Hearing an opportunity to get work on the new railroad they were building northwest out of Worthington, Minn., Mr. Reynolds went there and obtained employment while Mrs. Reynolds stayed at home with the

Bits, continued on page 7

CELEBRATIONS

Open house

Marilyn Swenson will celebrate her 85th birthday with an open house from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Centennial Apartments. Refreshments will be served.

MENU

Monday, Jan. 9: Egg bake with ham, carrots, applesauce, coffee cake.

Tuesday, Jan. 10: Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, pears, bread, bar.

Wednesday, Jan. 11: Spaghetti, romaine lettuce with dressing, pineapple chunks, bread stick, dessert.

Thursday, Jan. 12: Roast turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, California Normandy vegetables, bread, cookie.

Friday, Jan. 13: Baked ham with sauce, scalloped potatoes, peas

and carrots, dinner roll, pudding.

Half-Price Day sponsored by American Reformed Church.

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

Call Pam Franken at 283-9846, extension 11 to reserve one day prior, to arrange to pick up a dinner or for home-delivered meals.

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

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2013)

•Rock County Commissioners approved \$100,000 for the purchase of pictography services from Pictometry International Corp.

The New York-based company provides high-resolution aerial photography from images taken at a 40-degree angle from low-flying airplanes.

The photographs show buildings, infrastructure and land parcels from all sides at a resolution more than three times higher than a standard photograph.

The company's customers include state and local governments who use the images for planning and development, property assessment and emergency response.

The detailed aerial photographs are also used commercially by insurance companies, real estate interests, utilities and others.

25 years ago (1998)

•Luverne Police Chief Keith Aanenson's retirement marks the end of an era in Luverne. With joint law enforcement, he will go down in history as the last police chief to serve the city of Luverne.

According to national statistics, the average professional will change jobs seven times in the course of a career. Luverne's Keith Aanenson is not one of those statistics.

Born and raised in Rock County, Aanenson has worked for the Luverne Police Department for nearly 31 years — 18 years as police chief. Through his length of service, Aanenson has become a local legend: the man in uniform behind the wheel of the blue and white Chevy Blazer.

As Aanenson rings in the new year, he'll hand over his badge, uniform, firearm and the keys to the department's new Ford Explorer. At age 55, he'll retire from police work to join the ranks of plain-clothes civilians.

50 years ago (1973)

•Dedication services for the new Bernhard Tuff Memorial Chapel in Hills will be held this Sunday, Jan. 7, at 2:30 p.m. at the Tuff Home, according to administrator James D. Iverson.

The chapel is the result of a gift made early in 1972 by Mrs. Alfrida Tuff of Hills. The gift was to be used for the construction of a permanent chapel to be dedicated to the memory of her late husband, Bernhard Tuff. Mr. Tuff was a brother to the founder of the home, Gilbert Tuff.

75 years ago (1948)

•Kenneth Beelmann, farmer living south of Luverne, who plans to move to Luverne soon, was granted permission to erect a motel on South Kniss avenue. The motel will be comprised of seven cabins, built of brick and tile. It will be directly across the street from the present motel, owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Winkler.

100 years ago (1923)

•A total of two hundred four carloads of livestock, consisting of 184 carloads of hogs, and 20 carloads of cattle, were shipped to markets during the year 1922 by the Luverne Cooperative shipping association, for which \$291,719.70 was received, according to the reports of the past year's business submitted by Manager Fred Luitgens, at the annual meeting of the members of this association held Wednesday afternoon at the court house.

On this volume of business the manager received a commission of 7 cents per cwt., making an average of \$11.07 per carload, or a salary for the year of \$2,360.66, while the sinking fund of 1½ cents per hundred amounted to \$2.86 per carload, which amounted to \$589.94. This made the total local expense for handling the 204 carloads \$2,950.60, leaving a balance of \$288,769.10 for the producers of the livestock.

Library kicks off yearlong reading challenge involving all 50 states

By Mavis Fodness

Staff at the Rock County Library are challenging patrons to read an average of four books each month in 2023.

The "50 States Book Challenge" is for older teens and adults.

The Challenge is to read 50 books, one taking place for each state in the union. A children's version of the 50 States Challenge is being considered.

"I want this challenge to get our users reading something that they may not normally read," said library director Calla Jarvie. "I also thought it would be a fun way to start off the year with something new and different."

Only one other Plum Creek Library System member, Wabasso, has previously challenged their patrons to a 50 State Book Challenge.

Tracking sheets are available at the library.

Staff are busy compiling lists of at least five books for each state. Everything on the list is available through the Plum Creek Library System either as a book, ebook or audiobook.

Books do not have to be strictly from the list. Readers can make their own selections as long as the setting criteria is met, Jarvie said.

However, a stipulation is that the book needs to be checked out of the library to count toward the chal-



Calla Jarvie, Rock County Library director, holds the reading log form for the "50 States Book Challenge." The log is available to participants to keep track of books read in the yearlong event. The challenge involves completing one book from each state, based on the story's primary setting.

Mavis Fodness photo/0105 Reading Challenge



LACF Director Emily Crabtree (left) accepts the Bayer grant from Elaine Hansen at the Luverne Area Community Foundation office in downtown Luverne earlier this month.

Hansen wins \$5,000 Bayer grant for LACF

Elaine Hansen is the 2022 winner of \$5,000 through the Bayer Fund's "America's Farmers Grow Communities," which partners with farmers "to make a positive impact in farm communities by supporting local nonprofit organizations."

Hansen applied for and received the grant, naming the Luverne Area Community Foundation as the eligible charity to receive the funds.

The grant must be used by the eligible charity "to improve science, health and nutrition in communities and organizations within the county where the winning farmer farms or resides."

Bayer shared information about Hansen when she was announced as the

winner earlier this month.

"Elaine and her husband Ray have a passion for their faith and making sure no one in their community would be in a state of food shortage," the company wrote.

"A good steward of these two passions, Elaine opened an endowment fund called Feeding the 5000, a fund to be used to offer gifts to the local food shelf and Backpack Program and potentially any other food or hunger-based program. The fund is open for others to contribute to as well and will have long-lasting fruitful gifts to those in need."

Since the program began in 2010, Bayer has directed more than \$63 million to organizations across rural America.

lenge.

Prizes will be awarded.

Those who complete all 50 states will get a grand prize. Those who don't finish will have one entry in a prize drawing for each state completed. The prizes will be

awarded in January 2024.

"Fifty books are a lot to read in a year, so we wanted to reward everyone who participates," Jarvie said. "When we are stuck here in the winter-time, this can be a great option for a getaway in a book."

Program increases payments to help homeowners, renters with heating emergencies

The Minnesota Energy Assistance Program has raised the maximum amount that eligible Minnesota households can receive to pay for emergency fuel deliveries this winter by 150 percent. The Energy Assistance Program, administered by the Minnesota Department

of Commerce, increased the maximum crisis benefit from \$600 to \$1,500, allowing eligible homeowners and renters to avoid the anxiety of a nearly empty fuel tank.

Funding for the benefit increase is part of a \$1 billion federal resolution passed in September. The total budget

for the program in Minnesota is nearly \$129 million this heating season.

"We understand that many Minnesotans are concerned about the cost of heating their homes," said Michael Schmitz, director of the Minnesota Energy Assistance Program.

"Commerce's goal is to help Minnesotans stay safe and warm in their homes by reducing their energy burden - especially for families struggling to pay their energy bills. More than doubling the maximum crisis benefit is another way to meet that goal."

DEATH NOTICES

Maria Korthals

Maria Korthals, 51, Luverne, died unexpectedly on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022, at her home.

Arrangements are pending with Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, hartquistfuneral.com. (0105 DN)

Charlotte Twito

Charlotte Rae Twito, 87, Luverne, died Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, at the Sanford Hospice Cottage in Luverne.

Visitation will be from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 5, at First Presbyterian Church in Luverne. A funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. at the church. Burial will follow at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Arrangements are provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, hartquistfuneral.com. (0105 DN)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Nelson ordained as pastor

David John Nelson was ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament Dec. 10 at Grace Lutheran Church in Luverne.

The ordination was performed by Bishop Dee Pederson of the Southwestern



Minnesota Synod. Nelson will serve Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Atwater and United Lutheran

Church in Lake Lillian. He is the son of Dale and Patti Nelson of Luverne.

COLLEGE NEWS

MSU Mankato announces graduates

Three area students graduated Saturday, Dec. 10, from Minnesota State University, Mankato, following the Fall 2022 semester.

Jesse Kontz received a Bachelor of Science in law enforcement,

Joci Oye earned a Bachelor of Science in marketing, and Emilie Staeffler graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in social work.

All are from Luverne.

MnWest announces Fall 2022 dean's list

Minnesota West Community & Technical College has named several area students to the Fall 2022 dean's list. Students must be enrolled in at least 12 graded credits and earn a minimum 3.5 grade

point average to be eligible. Included are Ian Bumgardner, Kameron Keene, Makena Nelson, Kyle Palbicki, David Quist, Amanda Ripka and Mary-Frances Swenson, all of Luverne, and Matilyn Mulder of Magnolia.

Bits continues with Mrs. S.D. Reynolds, who served as a midwife/continued from page 6

children.

When the road was completed as far as Hardwick, Mr. Reynolds sent for his family, and they moved to Hardwick to live. There he obtained employment as a section hand in 1900. At that time, Henry La Due was the section foreman. After living there one year, they moved to Kenneth, where Mr. Reynolds was section foreman. Later, he was transferred to Harris, Iowa, for one year, and he then returned to Kenneth where they lived for 11 years.

For seven years, Mrs. Reynolds performed the midwife duties for that community. In addition to that, she kept boarders, and for one whole summer fed the crew that was building the trestle over the Rock river.

the depot agent at Kenneth, became gravely ill, and it developed that he had appendicitis. It was not learned until later that the appendix had been ruptured, but even then, the attending physician felt he could save the boy's life by surgery.

The child was taken to the Luverne hospital in a survey, drawn by a team of horses, and he made the whole trip lying across the lap of his mother Mrs. Reynolds who were sitting in the back seat. One of the surgeons was Dr. C. O. Wright, of Luverne, and he and the other surgeon, Dr. Spaulding, urged Mrs. Reynolds to watch the operation. Although she did not want to, she finally did consent.

Although the boy's case

was serious, he lived, and was released from the hospital after about three weeks.

To Church on Hand Car

The church she and her husband attended while living at Kenneth was a Catholic church in the country between Kenneth and Lismore. They usually went to church on the railroad handcar. The trip to the church was not bad, because the track was down hill, but pumping the car home up an incline was a different story, Mrs. Reynolds relates.

In 1913, Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds moved to Hardwick. There Mr. Reynolds lived until his death in 1932, and Mrs. Reynolds still lives there, making her home in her own

little cottage at the west edge of the village.

Speaking of her children, Mrs. Reynolds states jovially, "If we never raised anything else while we were at Salem, we certainly did get a good crop of children. All except one of the eight was born there.

Has 20 Grandchildren

Seven of the eight are living at the present time. They include: E.M. Reynolds, Sioux Falls; Anton Reynolds, Luverne; Peter Reynolds, Nielsville, Wis.; Mrs. Eli (Lena) Milbrath, Okabena, Minn.; Mrs. Martin (Emma) Oldre, Pipestone; Mrs. Roy (Clara) Henderson, Pipestone; and Ben M. Reynolds, Luverne. A daughter,

Bertha, died at the age of one and one half years. In addition to her children, direct descendants of Mrs. Reynolds include 20 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

Of a family of 10, Mrs. Reynolds is one of five brothers and sisters still living. Her sisters are Mrs. J. V. Jessen, and Mrs. Mamie Beck, both of Pomona, Calif.; and the brothers are Adam Glaser, Riverside, Calif.; and Martin Glaser, Herrick, S.D.

Mrs. Reynolds attributes her long life to being cheerful, and states that a preacher

who once boarded with them was responsible partly for her cheerful outlook on life. "He had a little placard on which on which was imprinted the words, 'KEEP SMILING', Mrs. Reynolds states, "and somehow when things aren't going quite right, I think of that. It really helps."

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

Mann's email is manmade@iw.net.

LAND FOR SALE

LEGAL: Approximately 160 acres located in the SW1/4 of 23-104-44, Rock County, MN, unimproved, highly productive farmland.

TERMS: Sealed bids will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., January 20, 2023, at 130 East Main, Luverne, MN. All bidders who have submitted a bid prior to said deadline will have the opportunity to submit additional bids until property is sold. Highest bidder will be required to sign a Purchase Agreement with a ten percent (10%) non-refundable earnest money down payment on the date of the sale and the balance at closing with possession going to Buyer for 2023.

Sale is subject to approval by Cheryl Ask as Heir of Jim and Dorothy Ask. For further details and an information packet contact Douglas Eisma, Eisma & Eisma, Attorneys at Law, (507) 227-2829.

PALACE

PALACE THEATRE

UPCOMING EVENTS

BANK NITE MOVIE PG

Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank

Thursday, January 5 6:00 pm

Sponsored by: First Farmers & Merchants Bank and Papik Motors

FREE ADMISSION

Devotion PG-13

Friday, January 6 7:00 pm

Saturday, January 7 7:00 pm

Sunday, January 8 2:00 pm

Tickets: \$5 for kids age 3 - 12th grade, \$7 for adults

Ukrainian hockey player brings her professional skills and training to Luverne program

By Greg Hoogeveen

A new face is assisting the Luverne Hockey Association (LHA) to develop skills and a good work ethic in young players.

Valeriia Manchak, 25, is a professional hockey player from Kharkov, Ukraine, who lives in Sioux Falls with her husband.

She started helping the LHA program this year after visiting the Blue Mound Ice Arena.

"A friend of mine there invited me to play some night hockey in Luverne," Manchak said.

She later met fellow hockey player Matt McClure and other LHA members. A friendship soon developed.

Now Manchak has become an integral volunteer of the Luverne youth hockey program.

"It literally took Val no time until she was 100 percent on board and wanted to be at every practice and game," said Bantam head coach Matt Lais.

Manchak assisted the young players develop edge skills and introduced them to dryland training routines to become better skaters and athletes.

Edge skills help players use their skate edges to bite into the ice, allowing for power, increased speed and turning ability.

Dryland refers to training without skates (also referred to as off-ice training). This can include weightlifting, speed, conditioning, agility and more mobility drills.

As this year's hockey season began, she now teaches these two facets to bantams, peewees and individuals almost nightly in Luverne.

The players embraced Manchak and her hockey knowledge. She regularly attends their games.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0105 val bantam

Professional women's hockey player Valeriia Manchak-Jensen brings her experience and passion to the Luverne Hockey Association. Manchak helps train players and teams within the system.

"The connection that I have seen the players have with her is unreal," Lais said. "She would spend a Sunday driving to Winona just to be part of the player development."

It is this zeal of hockey and Luverne's program that makes Manchak a great asset.

"Val is the only person I know of that scouts other Peewee teams before playing them," said Peewee head coach

Nick Domagala.

She skates with the players in practice, where she expects them to give their best every day.

"I love hockey. I watch it, play it and love to share my knowledge of it," Manchak said.

She wants individual players to develop new skills and a good work ethic to be able to play college hockey and beyond.

"Players need to work hard

and realize there will be ups and downs in their journey. But those with a strong character and work ethic will respond and thrive," Manchak said.

Val, as she likes to be called, is an accomplished hockey player with a résumé and attitude well beyond her years.

Currently she plays in the PWHPA (Professional

Women's Hockey Players Association) for team Adidas out of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The PWHPA unites Olympic players from Canada and the USA into the premier women's hockey league. Manchak skated in the 2021 Beijing Olympics.

She's also a skills development coach for the College Hockey Showcases program that allows potential recruits to be evaluated by college coaches in a multi-day, multi-game setting.

Most recently, Manchak played two seasons for Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, where her team won the National American Collegiate championship for the 2020-2021 season.

While at Liberty she earned "Forward of the Year" honors in the 2020-2021 season, a year after earning "Rookie of the Year" at Liberty in 2019-2020.

Previously, Manchak played hockey for HTI (Hockey Training Institute) Stars out of Mulmur, Ontario.

Her early skating years were spent in Ukraine, where she played for the Korolety Dnepra when they won the 2017 Ukrainian Championship.

Despite growing up in a single-parent home and in a politically unstable country, Manchak thrived.

"My dad left us when I was 2 years old, but my mom did a great job of influencing me to become a leader," Manchak said. "She taught me that you have to fight for everything under the sun and do the best in everything you do with God's inspiration."

Manchak started playing hockey for a boys' AAA program in Ukraine. This is where she was able to first travel to the United States and see her future there.

She attended Liberty University, Lynchburg, Virginia, where she met her future husband.

Luverne girls' hockey team takes fourth place in Herb Brooks Holiday Classic - gold division

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne Cardinals girls' hockey team traveled to Blaine Dec. 26-28 to play in the 2022 Herb Brooks Holiday Classic.

Last year the Cardinals were crowned tournament champions in the silver division, beating University School of Milwaukee 8-1, Moose Lake 6-3 and Marshall 5-1.

This year LHS returned to the tournament but played in a bracket above, the gold division.

This division includes teams from Delano, Mankato East, Marshall, Duluth, River Lakes, Mounds View/Irondale and Dodge County.

The Cardinals played tough against some larger metro teams, placing fourth overall in the tournament with a record of 1-2.

"The other teams made us pay for our mistakes and ultimately cost a couple of losses," said head coach Tony Sandbulte.

Game 1 – Dec. 26

Luverne 2, River Lakes 0

In the first game, Luverne faced River Lakes, once again having recently beat them 3-1 at home Saturday, Dec. 17.

This game would be little tighter.

Kamryn Van Batavia scored early in the first period at

4:01. The goal was a historic one, her 400th career point.

This puts Van Batavia near the top three all-time career points scorers in Minnesota girls' hockey.

At the end of the first period the Cardinals led 1-0. The second period would see no goals.

In the third period Luverne found the net once again. Tenley Behr scored at 16:43 with an assist by Ella Apel and closed out the game with a 2-0 win for Luverne.

Goaltender Mallory Von Tersch played a great game, stopping 20 shots on goal from River Lakes.

River Lakes goalie stopped 26 of 28 shots from Luverne.

Game 2 – Dec. 27

Mounds View-Irondale 3, Luverne 2

In the second round Luverne skated against a strong Mounds View-Irondale team.

Once again Kamryn Van Batavia started the scoring off in the first period at 3:37 with an assist from Payton Behr.

Only 57 seconds into the second period, Van Batavia scored again.

Mounds View-Irondale answered with two goals of their own at 8:34 and 9:58, closing the second period tied at two goals apiece.

In the third period Mounds View/Irondale made a heart-breaker goal at 15:07, giving them a 3-2 win over Luverne.

Game 3 – Dec. 28

Mankato East 2, Luverne 1

Game three pitted Luverne against Mankato East for third place in the tournament.

The first period would decide the game.

Mankato East scored first at 6:03 in the first period.

Luverne tied it up with a goal from Ellie Van Batavia at 10:27.

Mankato East scored once again at 13:04, making the score 2-1 at the end of the first period.

The second and third periods had no scoring from either team.

Mankato East won the game 2-1 and took home third place.

The Cardinals girls' hockey team is now 9-3 for the season and ranked ninth overall in Class 1A.

Luverne is scheduled to travel to Worthington Monday, Jan. 9 (postponed from Dec. 22) and Albert Lea Tuesday, Jan. 10.

Their game against Fairmont (postponed from Jan. 3) will be played at a later date to be announced.

H-BC boys' basketball loses 76-68 to Minneota

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Minneota Vikings boys' basketball team scored 76 points while holding the visiting Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots to 68 on Friday, Dec. 30.

"Following another slow start, we played well again in stretches," said head coach Kale Wiertzema.

"It's difficult to win giving up 12 points on second chances and 13 points in transition."

Minneota led by as much as 18 points in the game, but H-BC kept grinding to stay in the game.

The Patriots found themselves down 41-27 after the first half.

In the second half H-BC made some adjustments, and the Patriots were able to grab more rebounds, which limited the Vikings' scoring chances.

The Patriots outscored Minneota in the second half 41-35, but it was

not enough to erase the deficit they put themselves in.

"One major bright spot was our 19 assists, eight coming from Brayden Metzger," Wiertzema said.

Metzger posted two steals, four rebounds and seven points.

Beau Bakken scored 18 points for the Patriots while grabbing nine rebounds and three steals.

Brock Harnack contributed 17 points, one rebound, one steal and two assists.

Sawyer Bush sank 12 points, snatched five rebounds and was credited with two assists.

The Patriots are scheduled to travel to Elkton-Lake Benton Tuesday, Jan. 3, and then Murray County Central Friday, Jan. 6.

H-BC will play a make-up game, postponed from Dec. 13, against Red Rock Central at home Saturday, Jan. 7.

Luverne girls' basketball team wins on road over Jackson County Central

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne girls' basketball team closed the year on the road with a win over conference rivals Jackson County Central 76-39.

The game was rescheduled from Dec. 13, due to weather.

The Cardinals took control from the beginning and didn't look back.

"We were able to really control the game with our defense," head coach TJ Newgard said.

Luverne grabbed 29 defensive rebounds, made 16 steals, and blocked five shots to disrupt JCC from gaining any type of momentum.

Leading the charge was Elizabeth Wagner with 27

points, 16 rebounds, four assists, two deflections and four steals.

"We didn't have Emma Beyer so other girls had to play bigger roles," Newgard said.

One of those players was Sarah Stegenga.

"Sarah shot the ball extremely well, making four threes," Newgard said.

Stegenga posted 16 points and two steals in the game.

Another player to step in was Lauren Hansen. "Lauren started the game and did some positive things," Newgard said.

Hansen contributed four rebounds, three assists and two steals.

Defensively Christina Wagner was dominant under the net against the Huskies.

Wagner had four rebounds, two deflections, five steals and three blocked shots.

Kira John posted 12 points, three rebounds and one blocked shot.

"Dennie Sandbulte came in and did some really good things especially on the offensive end," Newgard said.

Sandbulte contributed seven points and two rebounds.

Luverne is scheduled, to host Marshall Friday, Jan. 6.

They will travel to Win- dom (postponed from Jan. 3) Thursday, Jan. 19.

St. Catherine Catholic Church
203 E. Brown St., Luverne
St. Catherine Ph. 283-8502; www.stscsl.org
Monsignor Gerald Kosse, Pastor

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass. Public Mass will be celebrated at FULL capacity in the church. Masses: 9 a.m. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Friday at the nursing homes – check the bulletin. All Sunday masses will be live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/stccluverne/videos/>. Visit www.stscsl.org for more information.

Luverne Christian Reformed Church
605 N. Estey St., Luverne
Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982
www.luverneccrc.com — office@luverneccrc.com
Joe Steenholt, Pastor

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 6:30 p.m. Evening worship service. We are streaming Sunday services live on YouTube at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Send him a friend request if you're not connected. You may also visit our website for delayed broadcasts. Also our services are on local cable TV at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays. In all circumstances, may we joyfully declare: "Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 124:8.

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

Sundays: 10:30 a.m. In-person worship service. Service is also on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church
500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4431; www.graceluverne.org — graceluverne@iw.net
Dave Christenson, Interim Pastor

Thursday, Jan. 5: 7:10 a.m. Breakfast Club. 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Sunday, Jan. 8: 9 a.m. Worship Service with baptism. 10 a.m. Coffee Fellowship. 10 a.m. Sunday School & Drums. 5:30 p.m. Transitional Task Force meeting. Tuesday, Jan. 10: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. 6:45 p.m. Ministry meetings. 8 p.m. PPC meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 11: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 5:30 p.m. Glow Praise Band. 6:15 p.m. 8th Grade Confirmation Class. 7:30 p.m. 9th Grade Confirmation Class. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are available. Online worship: Sundays 9 a.m. at www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab; or Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 605-215-9834
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor

Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School and Bible class. 10:15 a.m. Worship service; worship online as well (at els.org). Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne) for other classes and events.

American Reformed Church
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org

Friday, Jan. 5: 6:30 a.m. 9 a.m. Cookie Crew. Friday, Jan. 6: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. Sunday, Jan. 8: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. 10:50 a.m. Sunday School. 2 p.m. Middle School gathering. Tuesday, Jan. 10: 12 p.m. Staff meeting. 7 p.m. Consistory meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 11: 5:30 p.m. Midweek meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Clubs. 6:30 p.m. Youth Groups. Services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

Rock River Community Church
1075 110th Ave., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-9070; email: info@rockrivercommunity.church

Bob Junak, Pastor

Come as you are—Sundays @ 10 a.m.: Main Service. Kids church age 3-6th grade—Nursery. Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m. Midweek Service—Kids age 3-6th grade.

United Methodist Church
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4529

Saturday, Jan. 7: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Sunday, Jan. 8: 9 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 9:45 a.m. Coffee. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion. Prayer Warriors after service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible Study. Wednesday, Jan. 11: 6:15 p.m. FUEL. 6:30 p.m. confirmation. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Thursday, Jan. 12: 7 p.m. AA meeting. Live streamed on Facebook and radio.

First Presbyterian Church
302 Central Lane, Luverne

Ph. 283-4787; email: Firstpc@iw.net

Sunday, Jan. 8: 9 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 10:15 a.m. Worship service. Youth Sunday school during worship service. In-person Worship service and live on Facebook. Our Facebook page can be found under First

Presbyterian Church of Luverne. We are also on the local Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

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

Thursday, Jan. 5: 6:30 p.m. Chancel Guild meeting. Saturday, Jan. 5:30 p.m. Worship Service. Sunday, Jan. 8: 9 a.m. Worship Service. 10:15 a.m. Sunday School. 11:15 a.m. Junior Choir. 2 p.m. 2nd Sunday Fun Day. 4 p.m. Stripping Christmas decorations. Monday, Jan. 9: 1 p.m. Quilters meet. 7:30 p.m. Men's Club. Tuesday, Jan. 10: 7 p.m. Women's Missionary Guild. Wednesday, Jan. 11: 9 a.m. Bible Study. 10:30 a.m. Little Lambs Chapel. 1 p.m. Little Lambs Chapel. 6:30 p.m. Catechesis Class. 6:30 p.m. Kids for Christ. 7 p.m. Choir practice. 7:30 p.m. Youth Group. Services will be available on the Vast Channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, cityofluverne.org.

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

New Life Celebration Church
101 W. Maple, Luverne
Ph. (605) 368-1924; email: newlifecelbration@gmail.com
Food mission every third Thursday.

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

Sunday, Jan. 8: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Bible study. Worship service on Luverne cable at 3:30 p.m. every Thursday and Friday.

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

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

Sunday, Jan. 8: 10:30 a.m. Worship at First Lutheran Church. All are welcome. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @FirstLutheranValley Springs; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish.

Palisade Lutheran Church
211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.

Ph. (507) 597-6257 — palisadechurch@alliancecom.net
www.palisadelutheran.org

Sunday, Jan. 8: 9 a.m. Worship Service at Palisade Lutheran Church. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @PalisadeLC; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish.

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

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. Second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Session meeting.

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

Sunday: 9 a.m., in-person with livestream available on the church's Facebook site.

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

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship service in-person with livestream available on Facebook and YouTube. Radio worship on KQAD Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 962-3270 / bethlehemofhills@gmail.com
Nita Parker, Pastor

Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 9 a.m. Sunday school. 10 a.m. Worship Service. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website blichills.org.

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

Sing a new song

We are headed into a new year, and 2023 is an opportunity for us to sing a new song.

In Psalm 98, God encourages us to sing a new song. In other words, look forward to what is coming instead of looking back at where you have been.

I wonder how many songs have been sung in the history of the world. There is no exact number, but the ones that can be counted number somewhere in the trillions. That is a lot of songs. Even today musicians all around the world are hard at work writing and creating new songs.

Since God is inviting us all to sing a new song, I want to invite us all to accept this challenge this coming year. This means that there are a couple of questions we need to answer as we prepare to sing a new song.

The first: What are we planning to sing about? Every good song tells some story, and it invites people into a shared experience. What story is our new song going to tell? Hopefully we will sing of God's glory. I think it would be wonderful to honor His faithfulness. Our new song definitely should point to God's saving grace.

Let's not stop here. There needs to be more to this new song. I hope our new song will be about our community and our mission to follow Jesus. I hope this coming year our new song will tell the story of God's amazing love.

Let's not forget to sing about how God has welcomed in everyone that our world has rejected. These are people like me and people like you. If we have found a home and a purpose in living for Jesus, so can

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Jeremy Wiersema, Reformed Church of Steen

Definitely our song needs to be one of those that tends to stick in people's minds and hearts.

they.

Second, what will this new song we sing sound like? My hope is that it is a joyful song. It should be fun to sing.

Maybe it should be a song that we can dance to. Remember even King David danced before the Lord.

It needs to be catchy and easy to sing along with. Not everyone who likes to sing is a professional singer. This means that our song needs to have a sound that welcomes all people to sing along.

Definitely our song needs to be one of those that tends to stick in people's minds and hearts. I guess that means that our new song needs to have an impact on people.

We live in a world full of hurting people who need to hear the clear and life-changing message about God's love. They also need to experience the love of God firsthand. So let's not make the mistake of trying to sing our new song alone or too quietly, otherwise nobody will join us as we sing.

Sing to the Lord a new song; shout for joy to the Lord all the earth.

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

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Star Herald PUBLIC NOTICES

Horn probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ROCK

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Estate of:
Carrole L. Horn
Decedent

Court File No. 67-PR-22-299
NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL
AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on January 23, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at Luverne (via Zoom), Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated 11/01/2022, and codicil(s) to the Will dated, and separate writing(s) under Minnesota Statutes section 524.2-513 ("Will"), and for appointment of Kimberly A. Wells, whose address is 19098 113 St. SE, Big Lake, MN 55309, of Candace R. Reese whose address is 803 E. Dodge St., Apt. 104, Luverne, MN 56156, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

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

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

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

Dated: December 22, 2022 /s/ Terry S. Vajrt
District Court Judge

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

/s/ Natalie Reisch
Court Administrator

(01-05, 01-12)

Mortgage foreclosure sale set for Feb. 23, 2023

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:

Mortgagor: Manuel Olson, A Single Person
Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as mortgagee, as nominee for Reliabank Dakota, its successors and assigns
Dated: September 25, 2018
Recorded: September 27, 2018
Rock County Recorder Document No. 193501
Assigned To: Citizens Bank, N.A.
Dated: October 14, 2020
Recorded: October 15, 2020
Rock County Recorder Document No. 198166
Transaction Agent: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
Transaction Agent Mortgage Identification Number: 101134900000029609
Lender or Broker: Reliabank Dakota, a Corporation
Residential Mortgage Servicer: Citizens Bank
Mortgage Originator: Reliabank Dakota, a Corporation

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: LOT 2 IN BLOCK 2 IN AUDITOR'S PLAT NO. 2 IN THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 2 IN TOWNSHIP 102 NORTH OF RANGE 45 WEST OF THE 5TH PM, ROCK COUNTY, MINNESOTA.

This is Abstract Property.
TAX PARCEL NO.: 20-0215-000
ADDRESS OF PROPERTY:
728 N Estey St
Luverne, MN 56156
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$85,877.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE: \$102,709.00

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 23, 2023, 10:00 A.M.
PLACE OF SALE: Lobby of Rock County Law Enforcement Center, 1000 N Blue Mound Ave, 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 6 Months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal

representatives or assigns.

DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: The date on or before which the mortgagor must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under Minnesota Statutes section 580.30 or the property redeemed under Minnesota Statutes section 580.23 is August 23, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. If the foregoing date is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, then the date to vacate is the next business day at 11:59 p.m.

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 21, 2022

Citizens Bank, N.A., Assignee of Mortgagee
By: HALLIDAY, WATKINS & MANN, P.C.
Attorneys for:
Citizens Bank, N.A., Assignee of Mortgagee
1333 Northland Drive, Suite 205
Mendota Heights, MN 55120
801-355-2886
651-228-1753 (fax)

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
MN21097.

(12-29, 01-05, 01-12, 01-19, 01-26, 02-02)

Mortgage foreclosure sale set for Feb. 2, 2023

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

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

DATE OF MORTGAGE: 08/29/2016
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$79,948.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Erin C. Cogdill and Travis L. Cogdill
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Reliabank Dakota

DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: 08/30/2016 as Doc No. 189031 in the Office of the County Recorder in Rock County, Minnesota.

The mortgage was assigned for value as follows:
Assignee: Citizens Bank, N.A.
Assignment dated: 1/23/2020
Assignment recorded: 1/27/2020
Assignment recording information: Doc No. 196403

All in the records of the County Recorder in Rock County, Minnesota.
TAX PARCEL I.D. NO.: 20-0664-000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: LOT 10 IN THE FIRST SUBDIVISION OF BLOCK 6 IN GREENVALE ADDITION TO THE CITY OF LUVERNE, ROCK COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Abstract Property
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 330 SW Park St, Luverne, MN 56156
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Reliabank Dakota
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Citizens Bank, N.A.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE: \$102,572.68 AS OF 12/30/2022.

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes. Pursuant to the power of sale contained in said Mortgage, the Mortgage will be foreclosed, and the mortgaged premises will be sold by the Sheriff of Rock County, Minnesota at public auction as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: 02/02/2023 at 10:00 A.M.
PLACE OF SALE: Rock County Sheriff's Office, 1000 N. Blue Mound Ave, Luverne, MN 56156 to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law.

The time allowed by law for redemption by said Mortgagor(s) or Mortgagor's personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the mortgagor must vacate the mortgaged property by 11:59 p.m. on 08/02/2023, or the next business day if 08/02/2023 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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 MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Publication to begin the week of: 12/11/2022 - 12/17/2022

Citizens Bank, N.A.,
Mortgagee/Mortgagee Assignee
The Sayer Law Group,

P.C., By Brian G. Sayer,
Attorney for Mortgagee/Mortgagee Assignee
925 E 4th St.,
Waterloo, IA 50703

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
(12-15, 12-22, 12-29, 01-05, 01-12, 01-19)

H-BC School Board meets Dec. 19

Hills-Beaver Creek Dist. 671
Minutes
Dec. 19, 2022

The Hills-Beaver Creek School Board met for a special meeting at 7:05 p.m. in the H-BC Secondary School Board room, 301 N Summit Ave, Hills, MN. Board members and Administration present were Bosch, Gehrke, Harnack, Rauk and Rozeboom. Superintendent Holthaus and Business Manager Rozeboom were also in attendance. Board members Fransman and Knobloch, and Principal Kellenberger were absent.

Visitors to the meeting were Dean Beeninga and Sarah Fox - ATS&R, Preston Euerle - RA Morton, Matthew Hammer - EHLERS, Mavis Fodness - Star Herald, Travis Helgeson and Eric Uittenboogaard.

INFORMATION SHARING FROM FACILITY STAKEHOLDER MEETING 12/14/2022
FACILITY STAKEHOLDER TEAM RECOMMENDATIONS

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION/DISCUSSION:
-ELEMENTARY SITE INFORMATION -SECONDARY SITE INFORMATION
-HUGO SITE INFORMATION
-BUS/VEHICLE GARAGES
-TIMELINES-BOND REFERENDUM AND CONSTRUCTION
-QUESTIONS

REVIEW/NEXT STEPS
DATES TO REMEMBER:
Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, December 27
Regular Board Meeting, Monday, January 9

ADJOURNMENT WORK SESSION
Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Tamara Rauk, Clerk
(01-05)

H-BC School Board meets Dec. 12

Hills-Beaver Creek Dist. 671
Minutes
Dec. 12, 2022

The Hills-Beaver Creek School Board met for its semi-monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the H-BC Secondary School Board room, 301 N Summit Ave, Hills, MN. Board members and Administration present were Fransman, Gehrke, Harnack, Knobloch, Rauk and Rozeboom. Superintendent Holthaus, Principal Kellenberger and Business Manager Rozeboom were also in attendance. Board member Bosch was absent.

Motion by Harnack, second by Rozeboom, and carried to approve the agenda. Visitors to the meeting were Travis Helgeson, Eric Uittenboogaard, Daren Sievers & Rob Demeuse (School Perceptions), Sarah Fox and Dean Beeninga (ATS&R) and Preston Euerle (RA Morton).

Facility Survey Results Information sharing - School Perceptions, Rob Demeuse and Daren Sievers.

Public Hearing for Property Tax (District Levy 2022 Pay 2023) and Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Review.

PATRIOT PRIDE:
-K-2 Vocal Music Concert
-5th Grade Band Concert
-Secondary Vocal Music Concerts
-Secondary Band Concerts
-Cody Moser and Riley Tatge Worthington Globe all area football team selections
Motion by Fransman, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve Consent Agenda:

-Minutes—11/28/2022
-Bills
-Imprest Cash Report
-Second Reading of Revised Policy 534-2022a School Meals Policy
-Hire Brady Wrede as Long Term Substitute for Middle School Math/Science
January 2023 through March 24, 2023.

Motion by Harnack, second by Rauk, and carried to approve Resolution certifying District #671 Property Tax Levy 2022 pay 2023.

DISTRICT NON-ACTION ITEMS:
-Superintendent Report

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
DATES TO REMEMBER:
-Facility Stakeholder Committee Meeting - Wednesday, December 14, 2022
-Special Board Work Session Meeting - Monday, December 19
-Regular Board Meeting, Tuesday, December 27
-Regular Board Meeting, Monday, January 9
Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

CONVENE BOARD WORK SESSION:
-Discuss Results of the Facility Survey- Guests- ATS&R (Architects), Ehlers Financial, RA Morton Construction Management
-Discuss Enrollment/Demographic Information
-Create Action Plan for Board Facility items
-Adjournment of Work Session
Time of Adjournment: 9:15 p.m.

Tamara Rauk, Clerk
(01-05)

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Star Herald PUBLIC NOTICES

2023 MINNESOTA CITY SUMMARY BUDGET STATEMENT

The purpose of this Report is to provide summary 2023 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 6, 2022.

ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
Revenues		
Property Taxes	2,527,380	2,760,390
Tax Increments	76,700	79,500
All Other Taxes (franchise, hotel/motel taxes, etc.)	623,700	638,700
Special Assessments	-	-
Licenses And Permits	82,600	81,540
Federal Grants	-	-
State General Purpose Aid (LGA, Market Value credits)	1,532,676	1,558,606
State Categorical Aid (State Fire Aid)	87,097	84,097
Grants from County and Other Local Governments	-	-
Charges For Services	696,602	746,166
Fines and Forfeits	13,000	10,000
Interest On Investments	77,600	68,346
Miscellaneous Revenues	136,165	133,200
TOTAL REVENUES	5,853,520	6,160,545
Proceeds From Bond Sales	-	-
Transfers From Other Funds (incl. Enterprise Funds)	2,593,011	2,540,828
Total Revenues and Other Financing Sources	8,446,531	8,701,373
Current Expenditures (Exclude Capital Outlay)		
General Government (board, administration, etc.)	898,790	930,445
Public Safety	1,538,010	1,571,010
Public Works (Streets and Airport)	1,096,820	1,147,875
Sanitation	-	-
Health	-	-
Culture and Recreation	1,420,600	1,658,100
Conservation of Natural Resources	190,525	204,025
Economic Development	-	-
Miscellaneous Current Expenditures	130,940	196,120
Total Current Expenditures	5,275,685	5,707,575
Debt Service - Principal	216,600	325,336
Interest and Fiscal Charges	16,751	116,113
Streets & Highways Construction	68,559	-
Capital Outlay	1,882,000	955,500
Transfers To Other Funds (incl. Enterprise Funds)	1,108,011	1,280,411
Total Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	8,567,606	8,384,935
Fund Balance		
General Fund - Beginning Balance (January 1)	2,861,652	3,247,957
General Fund - Ending Balance - (December 31)	3,247,957	2,804,124
Increase (Decrease) in Fund Balance	386,305	(443,833)
General Fund-Unrestricted-Ending Balance (December 31)	593,104	-
Special Revenue Fund-Unrestricted-Ending Balance (December 31)	(105,521)	-
Other Items		
Total property Tax Levy - All Funds	2,530,180	2,766,560
Net Unrealized Gain or (Loss) from Investments for 2021	(102,786)	-

(01-05)

ISD #2184 School Board meets Nov. 22

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 District Office on November 22, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Katie Baustian, Jodi Bosch, Colleen Deutsch, Eric Hartman, Tim Jarchow, and David Wrigg. Absent: Reva Sehr. Also present: Craig Otfedahl, Tyler Reisch, Jason Phelps, Stacy Gillette, Aaron Perkins, Ryan DeBates, Zander Carbonneau, Parker Carbonneau, JT Remme, Zoe Berg-horst, Xavier McKenzie, Brynn Boyenga, Molly Carbonneau, and Mavis Fodness - Rock County Star Herald.

Chairperson Eric Hartman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. It was noted there is an addendum to the agenda and also item 8.1 will be presented at the December meeting. Motion made by Jarchow, second by Deutsch, to approve the agenda with addendum. Motion unanimously carried.

Members of the Robotics Team made a presentation to the School Board. Administrative reports were given.

Motion by Bosch, second by Baustian, to approve the October 27 and November 15, 2022, School Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Jarchow, second by Deutsch, to accept the following donations:

Donors Choose	Hands on Supplies to Make Learning Memorable for Molly Carbonneau's classroom
Zion Lutheran Church	\$100 - Angel fund for school meals
Donors Choose	Warm Up This Winter supplies for Molly Carbonneau's class

Motion unanimously carried.

It was noted item 8.1 - Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Audit Report will be postponed until the December meeting.

Business Manager Tyler Reisch and Superintendent Otfedahl reviewed the District and Student Activity checks with the Board members. Motion made by Baustian, second by Jarchow, to approve payment of the bills as presented in the amount of \$657,018.10 and payroll in the amount of \$1,058,455.04 for a total of \$1,715,473.14. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Wrigg, to receive the Student Activity Report showing the balances as of October 31, 2022. Motion unanimously carried.

Business Manager Tyler Reisch presented the District Revenues and Expenditures Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023. This report is required to be published annually. Motion made by Jarchow, second by Bosch, to approve the report as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Bosch, second by Deutsch, to approve the snow removal contract with VerSteege Excavation, LLC, for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Jarchow, second by Deutsch, to approve receiving a grant for \$500 from MN FTC Boston Scientific to be used for competition registration for the Robotics team. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Wrigg, to approve the contract with Superintendent Craig Otfedahl for January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, that was recommended by the Personnel Committee. Salary for 2023-24 will be \$152,517; for 2024-25 will be \$156,711, and for 2025-26 will be \$161,021. It was noted there were also changes to the percentage of severance based on years of service, an adjustment to the number of vacation days each year, and the addition of a longevity incentive. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Wrigg, to accept the resignation of Canaan Petersen as MS Baseball coach effective November 11, 2022. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Bosch, second by Deutsch, to approve Joel Evans as volunteer Wrestling coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Baustian, to approve Jeremy Hough as volunteer Wrestling coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Bosch, second by Deutsch, to approve Matt Fodness as volunteer Wrestling coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Wrigg, to approve Davey Rock as volunteer Wrestling coach. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Bosch, second by Baustian, to approve Lance Ripka as volunteer Wrestling coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Bosch, to approve Skyler Wenninger as volunteer Girls hockey coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Jarchow, second by Wrigg, to approve a request from the University of Sioux Falls for Summer Blomgren to complete her student teaching in High School Art with Chris Nowatzki from March 13 to May 18, 2023. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Bosch, to approve a request from the University of Sioux Falls for Jake Haugen to complete 15 days of field experience in the High School beginning January 3, 2023. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Bosch, second by Deutsch, to approve Mitchell Bieber as volunteer Girls Basketball coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Committee reports were given. It was noted that the Personnel Committee met with Superintendent Otfedahl for his contract negotiations. Superintendent Otfedahl noted the Policy Committee will need to meet to review some policies. Member Wrigg noted he attended the Community Education Advisory Council meeting. The upcoming meeting dates were reviewed.

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

Dated: November 22, 2022
Reva Sehr, Clerk

(01-05)

Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone for all the cards when Bruce had his stroke and after his death. Big thanks to Park View Manor, Dr. Kennedy and the therapists for his care. Thank you for the hugs, expressions of sympathy, phone calls, food and text messages. He will be truly missed by all that knew him.

**The family of Bruce Rosenberg,
Judy, Tracy, Jayna, Susan and families**
(12.31-1.5)

To our amazing community: Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all the thoughts, prayers, special visits, gifts of food, cards, letters of comfort and words of encouragement during my stroke recovery, and Sylvias health issues. We are truly thankful and blessed to have such a caring and loving community to call home. God bless you as we enter into this new year.

Roger and Sylvia Niessink
(12.31-1.5)

FOR SALE

For sale: 4x8 suitcase-style fish house and two snow-blowers - \$150 each or best offer. Hardwood table and four chairs - \$50. Call 507-215-2619. (12.31-1.19)

WANTED

A live-in nurse/aide and retired doctor to stay in a five-bedroom house to provide care. No alcohol, no smoking, no drugs. All bedrooms have double beds; one two-bed nursery. Call 507-290-0604. (12.31-1.5)

MISCELLANEOUS

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EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted: Son-D Farms in Adrian is seeking a pick-up driver. Full or part-time. Call Doug for information, 507-370-1590. (12.17-1.26)

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. There are several positions available, salaries range from \$12.50-\$18.36/hr, and 40 hour work week. We also have a variety of part-time positions available. For job information and application please visit <https://bhr.sd.gov/job-seekers/seasonal/>. Applicants must be age 16 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 (12.24-1.12)

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Stevens County is looking for a full-time Deputy Sheriff. Our schedule will be 5 on/5 off; 2 on/2 off, which provides every other weekend off as a 5-day weekend. Stevens County offers a cafeteria plan for health insurance, which includes a generous monthly contribution from the County to an employee's health insurance costs. A portion of that contribution can be flexed or taken as salary. Stevens County also offers tuition reimbursement for credits earned beyond an associate degree.

Starting Salary: \$25.98 to \$34.91 per hour. Successful candidates will be placed on to the pay scale based upon the number of years of experience. Must have a minimum of an A.A. Degree in Criminal Justice or Law Enforcement; have a current P.O.S.T. License, or eligible to be licensed by time of appointment. Must possess a valid driver's license. Must successfully complete a background investigation, physical examination, and psychological examination.

Duties and essential functions include patrol duties enforcing Minnesota criminal and traffic laws; investigation of crimes; respond to calls for service; civil process service; transport prisoners and provide security for courtrooms.

DEADLINE: 4:30 p.m., Thursday, January 12, 2023

To apply visit www.co.stevens.mn.us under Employment Opportunities. Upload a legible photocopy of your Minnesota P.O.S.T. License or eligibility letter from Minnesota P.O.S.T. Board

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Mavis Fodness photo/0105 First Day Hike 2023

Hikers walk single file Sunday during the First Day Hike event at Blue Mounds State Park.

First Day Hike/continued from page 1

of Luverne. "There's a First Day Hike going on in every state today," Mueller told the group. Ten other state parks in Minnesota joined more than 400 state parks throughout the U.S. in plan-

ning hikes. First Day Hikes are an effort by America's State Parks organization to connect people with the outdoors. At the state park, temperatures reached above 32 degrees under partly sunny skies and light winds.

Muellner said the park is closed to camping for the foreseeable future due to the excessive snowfall in the campground area. However, the main driving areas are plowed open for daytime visitors.



Park naturalist Tiffany Mueller (far left) talks with participants at Sunday's First Day Hike event at Blue Mounds State Park that included identifying wildlife tracks from a cottontail rabbit (pictured right) in the snow. **Below:** Buffalo were among the animals hikers were able to see from the snow-packed trail during the scheduled 90-minute walk.



Submitted photo The LHS boys' hockey team takes on Rochester Wednesday, Dec. 28. The Cardinals beat the Lourdes 6-1 in the first round.

LHS boys' hockey team finishes 1-2 in Hockey Festival

By Greg Hoogeveen The Luverne Cardinals boys' hockey team participated in the Rochester Kiwanis Hockey Festival Dec. 28-30, finishing with a 1-2 record.

Other teams invited were Albert Lea, Dodge County, host Rochester Lourdes, Bloomington Kennedy and Windom. Luverne faced some very good teams in the tournament but hurt their chances in the last two games with several penalties.

Game 1 – Dec. 28 Luverne 6, Rochester 1 In the first game Luverne played Rochester, a team they beat a few weeks ago 8-0.

This contest was a little closer, but the Cardinals prevailed 6-1. In the first period Luverne scored twice. The first goal was made by Elliot Domagala at 6:42, assisted by Ethan Langseth.

The second goal came at 8:40 by Maddux Domagala, assisted by Brady Bork. Luverne led after the first period 2-0.

In the second period the Cards scored another three goals. At 3:42 Brock Behrend beat the Rochester goalie, assisted by Maddux Domagala.

At 6:37 Elliot Domagala got his second goal on a power play assisted by Owen Sudenga.

Maddux Domagala got his second goal at 13:04 assisted by Behrend and Patrick Kroski on another power play.

At the end of the second period, Luverne was up 5-0 on Rochester.

In the third period Elliot Domagala got his third goal, a hat trick, at 6:21 assisted by Kaleb Hein.

Rochester spoiled Luverne's shutout by scoring a power play goal in the third period at 11:17.

Cardinal goalie Tyler Arends stopped 23 of 24 shots from Rochester. Luverne had 24 shots on goal beating the Lourdes goalie six times.

Game 2 – Dec. 29 Dodge County 5, Luverne 1

Luverne played Class 1AA Dodge County in the second game.

The Cardinals had their hands full and didn't help themselves with four penalties in the game.

Dodge County only

scored on one power play, but trying to kill eight minutes with one man down didn't help Luverne's chances.

The first period saw only one goal, from Dodge County, at 1:46.

Dodge County would score four more goals to extend their lead to 5-0 after the second period.

Alexander Schlosser denied Dodge County the shutout in the third period. Schlosser scored at 14:32 with an assist by Henry Hartquist.

Shots on goal favored Dodge County 28-21.

Game 3 – Dec. 30 Albert Lea 6, Luverne 3

In the third game Luverne gave Albert Lea a run in the second period but could not hold them back on penalty play.

The Cardinals committed six penalties in the game for a total of 15 minutes of power play time for Albert Lea.

Albert Lea had three penalties for a total of six minutes.

The Tigers capitalized on four of the six power plays to help lead them to the win.

In the first period, Albert Lea struck first, scoring on a power play. The period ended 1-0 in their favor.

In the second period Luverne started a drive scoring three goals and the Tigers netted one goal.

Scoring for Luverne, Patrick Kroski beat the Tigers goalie at 4:35, short-handed assisted by Brock Behrend.

Maddux Domagala scored at 12:33 assisted by Henry Hartquist and Behrend.

Blaik Bork finished the drive by scoring a goal at 13:02, assisted by Elliot Domagala.

The Cardinals led the Tigers at the end of the second period 3-2.

The third period was all Tigers, scoring four goals. Three came on Luverne penalties, and the last on a Luverne empty net.

Cardinal goalie Tyler Arends stopped 32 of Albert Lea's 38 shots.

Luverne had 32 shots on goal against the Tiger goaltender.

Luverne is scheduled to host Morris/Benson at the Blue Mound Arena Saturday, Jan. 7, and travel to Worthington Jan. 9.

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