



Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, January 28, 2021

Community rallies around 3-year-old girl recovering from farm accident

Snowflakes on rural mailboxes show of support for family

By Mavis Fodness

Snowflakes are appearing around Rock County as symbols of support for a 3-year-old girl recovering from a Jan. 13 farm accident.

Nora Matthiesen, daughter of Jeff and Deann Matthiesen, was outside around noon with her dad and others who were working at the family's farm southwest of Magnolia.



Nora Matthiesen

No one witnessed the accident, which was reported to the Rock County Law Enforcement Office at 12:15 p.m. The caller stated that a girl had been run over by a tractor.

However, doctors at Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls have since told the family that Nora's injuries are more consistent with being thrown to the ground by the tractor's impact and not run over.

Her injuries are limited to her head and doctors are keeping her sedated to assist in the healing process.

Recovery is expected to take time and the 3-year-old has a long road to recovery.

Deann's mother, Lori Popkes of Rock Rapids, is keeping friends and family updated through regular entries on Nora's Caringbridge.com website.

In the two weeks since the accident, Nora is showing positive signs she may not have lasting physical injuries from the accident.

In her Jan. 19 Caring Bridge entry Popkes wrote, "Nora is moving all her extremities and scrunching her eyebrows frequently throughout the

Nora Matthiesen/see page 5



Mavis Fodness photo/0128 Nora Matthiesen Accident

Snowflake ornaments on mailboxes in Rock County symbolize support for 3-year-old Nora Matthiesen, who was injured Jan. 13 in an accident at the Jed and Deann Matthiesen farm.

Vaccine gets administered as soon as supplies arrive

By Lori Sorenson

Local health professionals are putting the COVID-19 vaccine into the arms of residents as soon as supplies arrive.

Getting enough doses for the waiting individuals continues to be a challenge, according to Jason Kloss, with Southwestern Health and Human Services.

To date, 7 percent — 672 of Rock County residents — have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and 132 have received a second dose. Considering 5 percent of Minnesota's residents statewide have been vaccinated, Rock County is ahead of the game.

Kloss said SWHHS and local health care providers continue to vaccinate people identified in Phase 1a of the MDH vaccination priority guidance.

In addition, Minnesota is piloting mass vaccination clinics at nine sites in the state. Marshall is the closest location to Rock County.

"This is about having the infrastructure in place to be ready when the federal government finally begins to send us more vaccine," Governor Walz said.

"Every shot in the arm is another step toward crushing COVID and ending this pandemic. And we're going to get the vaccine we do have into arms quickly in Minnesota — whether that's a few thousand doses or many more."

Kloss said this is welcome news.

"This would be a chance for people 65 years or older to get an appointment for the COVID-19 vaccine," he said.

The mass vaccination pilot event in Marshall is Jan. 29 and 30.

"This may not be convenient for Rock County residents, but at least it is an opportunity," Kloss said. "On Jan. 22 and 23, over 1,000 people were vaccinated against COVID-19 in Marshall at this pilot event."

In Rock County, eligible people in Phase 1a should have had an opportunity to be vaccinated by the first week in February.

"In February, we will be dispensing the

COVID-19 vaccinations/see page 3

Eleven contractors bid on Luverne pool and fitness center project

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne's pool and fitness center expansion project drew 11 interested construction companies participating in the Jan. 19 bid letting.

The low bid was submitted by Hoogendorn Construction from Canton, South Dakota, at \$4,327,150.

The city's architectural and engineering company CO-OP Arch reviewed bids and has recommended

Hoogendorn for the job, according to City Administrator John Call.

"They are a local company with vast experience and an excellent track record for quality work," Call said.

The city plans to finance the project with general obligation bonds that would be retired over a 20-year period.

According to the proposed project timeline, work will start in March or April of this year and be completed

by May of 2022.

The city plans to issue general obligation bonds in the amount of \$5.2 million to cover the base cost of the construction project and additional costs.

These include fixtures, furniture and equipment, repair and replacement of plumbing in the pool chemical room, a 24/7 security and access system and construction oversight of

the project. Planned improvements to the facility include:

- an outdoor splash pad on the south side of the pool.
- new locker rooms.
- four family changing rooms.
- flat space rooms for group aerobic exercise.
- new office space and staff area.
- larger rooms for both 24-hour weightlifting and aerobic exercise machines.

machines.

• new mechanical and heat, ventilation and air-conditioning for the facility.

Luverne City Council members took action at their Tuesday, Jan. 26, meeting to award the bid for Luverne Area Aquatics and Fitness Center Expansion and Remodel Project to Hoogendorn Construction, Canton, South Dakota.

License center loses revenue in pandemic

By Mavis Fodness

License fee revenues in Rock County dropped in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The licensing center in the Rock County Courthouse in 2020 received \$98,674, "... which is significantly lower than in 2019," said auditor-treasurer Ashley Kurtz.

In 2019 the fees for motor vehicle, drivers, sporting and recreational vehicle licenses generated \$123,003, the highest amount during the last five years.

Collected fees are used by the licensing center for office operations, mainly staff time.

To curb the spread of COVID-19, the licensing center was closed from March 29, 2020, through May 15, 2020. Since then, the license center has operated by online appointment only.

License center revenue/see page 3

Group raises funds to pay for school 'wow' factors



Mavis Fodness photo/0128 LHS 2184 Campaign

A 16-foot "L" is planned for the floor of the new school commons and is one of several "wow" items that the LHS 2184 Campaign seeks to purchase in conjunction with the school's building project.

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne High School alumni and the community can be a part of history with the school's remodel and expansion project.

Luverne Education Legacy Fund (LELF) organized the LHS 2184 Campaign to raise money for extra amenities for the school building project.

"The school has items they can do under their budget," said LELF president Cory Bloemendaal.

"We will try to do projects outside of this. I call it the 'wow' factor."

Voters within the Luverne School District approved a \$31 bond referendum in November 2017 to remodel the 60-year-old facility and add classrooms, a larger commons area and ground-floor cafeteria and kitchen.

The project will be complete this summer.

As work progresses to the finishing stages, the LELF campaign will add as many extras as the donations allow.

The areas of "wow" improvement will focus on the five main areas of

School fundraising/see page 5



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County	Total Cases	DAILY average in last 7 days	Percent Change
Rock	1,120	3	+1.6%
Pipestone	972	5	+2.9%
Nobles	3,748	7	+1%
Minnehaha (SD)	26,775	50	+1.3%
Lyon (IA)	1,379	4	+1.3%

14-day case rate in Rock County per 10,000 people:

Date Range	12/6-12/19	12/13-12/26	12/20-1/2	12/27-1/9
Rate	96.67	47.81	43.56	62.68



Vaccine Status: Phase 1a

- Health care personnel
- Long-term care residents

For more Covid-19 vaccine information, please visit:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine.html>

School Status

LUVERNE - Elementary: In-person | Middle/High School: In-person
HBC - Elementary: In-person | Secondary: In-person/HYBRID

Current data as of January 26, 2021. Sources: MDH & The New York Times

Sponsored by: Rock County Emergency Management

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Beaver Creek Township Board

Beaver Creek Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 8, in the township hall in Beaver Creek.

Virtual driver education offered

Luverne Community Education will offer a virtual driver education class after school hours for 15 days beginning Feb. 1. Students in grades 8 and older can attend class while at home with no travel or quarantine concerns. After Jan. 15, out-of-district students may register. Fee is \$340 and covers classroom and behind the wheel instruction. For more information contact Luverne Community Education at 507-283-4724.

Dental clinic in Luverne Jan. 28

The next dental clinic for adults and children of all ages will be Thursday, Jan. 28, at Rock County Health and Human Services. Call 612-746-1530 to schedule an appointment or stop by Rock County Health and Human Services for assistance in scheduling. General exams and services will be provided. All forms of insurance accepted. The service is organized by #Luv-1LuvAll's Rock County Oral Health Task Force.

Rock County Library news

- Register now at the library to participate in the Rock County Library 2021 Winter Reading Program, which began Jan. 1.
- Patrons who read at least 12 books from now until March 31 will win a prize for their efforts — and enjoy some good books.
- The library is offering take-and-make projects for all ages this winter. January's project is to make sheet music coasters.
- Call the library at 507-449-5040 or email the library at rocklibrarystaff@gmail.com to reserve your kit. Send in a picture of your completed craft to be entered to win a prize.
- Check with the library to participate in Virtual Trivia. Receive weekday trivia to break up our quarantine schedules (until Trivia Nights in person can continue again.)

School of Fish Feb. 6

School of Fish with Mike Frisch, TV show host and pro angler, will be Feb. 6 for students grades 3 through high school. Participants get a rod and reel, tackle box with tackle, gift card, snack pack and workbook. Each participant may bring an adult fishing buddy. Fee is \$30. Dress for the weather. The event takes place at The Lake. Participants will be ready to compete in Luverne's Ice Fishing Derby on Feb. 20. Call the Luverne Community Education office, 507-283-4724, for registration information.

Community Ed offers activities

Call the Luverne Community Education office, 507-283-4724, for registration information.

Defensive Driving 4-hour refresher classes are scheduled for Jan. 21 or Feb. 11.

Distance Learning with Clay – for all ages (1-101). Pick up a chunk of clay the week of Jan. 25 and in your own home, with instructions from Jerry Deuschle, build your creation. To then apply paint and for drying and firing, make appointment at the studio. Fee is \$20.

How to play chess for students grades K-8 after school; three sessions Feb. 2, 9 and 16. Fee is \$15.

Register by Feb. 6 for the ACT Prep Class that will begin Feb. 22 virtually. Fee is \$125 and includes taking a practice test and an individual conference with the teacher to review the test and tips for taking the actual test. Fee is \$125.



The hardy little snow buntings breed in the frigid Arctic tundra and migrate south to warmer temperatures in Minnesota. They nest in cracks and crevices like those in a cliff face to protect their young from predators. The female sits on the nest all the time to keep the eggs and young from freezing.

Hardy little snow bunting migrates from Arctic to warmer temperatures in ‘frigid Minnesota’

Winter finally looks like it has arrived. So far, the wildlife of Minnesota has had a pretty easy go of it due to unseasonably warm temperatures and not a lot of snow.

Mild winters can benefit a whole host of different animals, but not all animals see those same benefits. What benefits some wildlife will negatively impact others.

I have often wondered how different species survive deep snow and sub-zero temperatures.

There is one creature that seems to thrive during a terrible winter. These are the little birds that group in pretty large numbers and can be seen along different roadways and even highways in winter in Minnesota.

I called them snow birds but decided to find out exactly what kind of birds they actually were. After a call to the non-game specialist at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and some Google activity, I came up with their proper name. They are called snow buntings.

Interesting creatures they are. I only see them in the wintertime in Minnesota, and this is because they are only here in the winter. They breed in the frigid Arctic tundra and migrate south to warmer temperatures all the way to what I think of as frigid Minnesota. They are a very hardy little bird.

The males show up in the Arctic when temperatures can still reach to 30 below zero. They stake out their territory and the females show up about 4-6 weeks later.

The males fly high into the air and then glide down singing their best rendition



“Take a minute and appreciate the wonders of nature and how God’s creatures were given the characteristics and skills to live and survive effortlessly where we would most likely perish in only a few hours.”



of “I am the guy for you.”

The males and females look a lot alike, but just before the breeding season starts, the males will drag snow over their feathers and wings, and this effort exposes their bright black and beautiful breeding plumage.

They nest in cracks and crevices like those in a cliff face to protect their young from predators.

Here is an interesting factoid. The female needs to sit on the nest all the time in order to keep the eggs and young from freezing.

This requires the male to forage for food not only for himself but for his partner and the little ones.

I imagine this is quite an effort. They feed on seeds, grains, and depending on their location, they can eat ocean crustaceans. They can form large foraging flocks, and these are the groups I think I see on the shoulders of the roads in our area.

These birds spend little if any time in areas with high human populations and yet their populations have

declined by over 64 percent in the past 40 years. Warmer temperatures can result in earlier insect hatches and put them out of sync with peak food availability during nesting season.

The warmer temperatures credited to climate change can also allow other bird species to expand their ranges or increase their populations thus competing with the snow bunting.

Another threat to this thriver of cold is pesticide use. A chemical in treated seeds called neocotinoids are of special concern.

These birds feed on waste grain during winter months in agricultural areas. They can ingest these chemicals.

Because these birds migrate at night, collisions with wind towers and other tall radio towers and similar structures can impact them in a negative way.

It really does not matter what kind of wildlife it is, there are risks and dangers around just about every corner. Snow buntings that have

very little contact with what would normally be human interference still seem to be in the crosshairs.

Songbirds of almost every species are in dramatic decline. I will cover the root causes that are well known for many of these declines in a future column.

The next time you are driving down the road, many times even during a ground blizzard, take a minute and appreciate the wonders of nature and how God’s creatures were given the characteristics and skills to live and survive effortlessly where we would most likely perish in only a few hours.

The more you understand wildlife and their needs, the greater appreciation you will have for all things wild.

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.

Sign up for ‘Aging Mastery’ program through Community Education

Class #: A215
Instructor: Betty Christensen,
Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging
Hours: 2:30 - 3:45 pm
Days: Thursday
Dates: Feb. 11 - Apr. 15
Sessions: 10
Fee: \$5

*Learn to use Zoom
2:30 -- February 4*

Join the adventure!

Luverne Community Education will offer a 10-week health and wellness Aging Mastery Program developed by the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging.

The class, for adults, 55 years and older, is virtual through Zoom on your computer or iPad. On Feb. 4 the class addresses how to use Zoom. Class begins on Feb. 11. Fee is \$5.

Call Community Ed at 507-283-2333 to register.

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City of Luverne declines to participate in Rural Water grant

For the money, Luverne officials indicated they would rather connect directly to Lewis and Clark to south

By Mavis Fodness

The city of Luverne has declined to participate with Rock County Rural Water on a grant application for a connection on the north-west side of the city.

The nearly \$2.9 million project would provide an emergency source of water for the city and would also support construction of a third tower for Rock County Rural Water.

The grant, through the federal Economic Development Administration, requires a 20 percent match from each applicant, which comes to \$500,000 each.

That's more than the city is interested in spending on only a partial connection, according to Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian.

"Since it would be only an emergency cross connection and only a partial supply to them or from them to us, it was decided to instead look at another full connection," Baustian said.

Instead of connecting on the west side of Luverne through RCRW, the city has indicated a better plan may be to connect directly to the main line of the Lewis and Clark Regional Water

System (LCRWS).

That interconnection would be through the water treatment plant south of Luverne.

"This would give us a full redundant connection to LCRWS instead of only emergency connection to Rock County Rural Water of 400 gallons per minute," he said.

RCRW proposed constructing an 8-inch pipeline west (along Warren Street near the Maplewood Cemetery) to an existing 8-inch RCRW mainline.

The proposal called for Luverne to construct an additional pump station to access water from RCRW.

In October, Rock County Commissioners supported Rural Water's application for the federal EDA grant, made available through federal CARES Act dollars.

The tower, located west of Luverne, would have improved water pressure to the northern areas of the RCRW system.

Without Luverne's participation RCRW couldn't meet the criteria of economic development and the application process was abandoned.

License center revenues/ continued from page 1

Kurtz said during the same seven-week period in 2019, the center collected fees of \$18,026. Factored into 2020, the extra seven weeks could have put the 2020 fee revenues at \$116,700.

Fees are only collected by the local center for licensing transactions completed at the courthouse.

The local center doesn't receive any fees if licensing transactions are completed online directly with the state or at different licensing center.

Centers receive \$6 to \$10 per transaction for motor vehicles and \$8 for each

driver's license.

Rock County in 2020 received \$77,665 for motor vehicle transactions, \$19,010 for licenses and \$2,000 for sporting, low-power and unconventional vehicle licenses combined.

Wheelage tax, however, is not dependent on where the licensee completes the transaction. The \$10 wheelage tax is automatically distributed to the licensee's home county for use for road and bridge repairs.

In 2020 Rock County received \$105,174 that is used for road and bridge repairs. That amount was \$113,819 in 2019.

COVID-19 vaccinations/ continued from page 1

second dose to these Phase 1a people, but we also hope to start vaccinating people in Phase 1b."

Phase 1b includes teachers, essential workers and people 65 years and older.

Kloss said that when vaccine is sent to a provider, state health officials expect that 90 percent of the allocated doses of COVID-19 vaccine will be given within 72 hours of receipt of the vaccine.

If a provider does not meet the goals, they could anticipate potential changes to their vaccine allocations.

"The expectation and goal for all providers is to get vaccine in people's arms as quickly as possible," Kloss said.

At last weekend's clinic in Marshall, many people who hoped to receive the vaccine were not able to before all the doses were administered.

"Because of these issues, they are changing the process for registering for an appointment," Kloss said.

Minnesotans age 65 and older were given a 24-hour window of time beginning at 5 a.m. Tuesday (Jan. 26) to preregister for a randomized opportunity to get an appointment.

The signup period closed Wednesday, Jan. 27.

Second-round shots after this weekend will be administered Feb. 13-14.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced this week that it will award the Minnesota Department of Health more than \$375 million to support the state's efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Kloss said the aid will likely be allocated to MDH and they will distribute this to local public health and other organizations doing community COVID-19 vaccinations.

"They typically allocate money according to population," he said.

This funding is part of the \$22 billion being provided to states by the federal government through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021.



For the CBS Sunday Morning feature, videographer Kevin Kjergaard captured park images that include frosty vegetation, a blue jay, social deer, young bison playing with each other and some healthy pheasant roosters trotting in a gray mist.

'Winter in Minnesota ... Sunday Morning takes us out into the cold at Blue Mounds State Park'

By Lori Sorenson

The Blue Mounds State Park, in all its frosty glory, was featured on national television last weekend with video images on CBS Sunday Morning's weekly segment, "Do Nothing for Two Minutes."

Titled "Nature: Winter in Minnesota," the video caption says, "Sunday Morning takes us out into the cold at Blue Mounds State Park in Minnesota."

Videographer Kevin Kjergaard captures park images that include frosty vegetation, a blue jay, social deer, young bison playing with each other and some healthy pheasant roosters trotting in a gray mist.

One of the short scenes captures an endearing moment between two white tail deer that lick each other's faces when they meet in the brush.

"Some were in the park, others were heading into the park," Kjergaard said. "I knew if I was quiet and didn't scare them that they would find each other."

He said he spent time in and around the park late afternoon



Videographer Kevin Kjergaard said it takes patience to capture wildlife at the right moment. In addition to this plump squirrel, his video footage also captured two young deer who meet under the cover of some brush and lick each other's face.

Friday, Jan. 9, and he returned Sunday morning, Jan. 10, because of the frost.

"Some of the roads around the park held some amazing shots," Kjergaard said. "

Most were in the park. I really just stop and shoot when something stops

me to shoot."

While he's no stranger to the Blue Mounds, Kjergaard said this was his first time shooting the area in winter.

"There's so much in and around the park," he said.

"Looking out from the high points and just the area leading to the park holds little gems."

He said he enjoys the Blue Mounds for the diversity it offers a photographer and for its historical significance to the area.

"So much of the past exists with the present," he said. "And that can be found anywhere in the park."

Kjergaard, chief photographer at KELOLAND, Sioux Falls, recently had other work featured on CBS Sunday Morning, including Spearfish Canyon last fall and geese migration in December at Lake Byron near Huron, South Dakota.



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As a new nimby, I’m looking forward to my back yard supporting the greater good

In my early days at the paper, my friend and fellow writer, Carole Olson, wrote a Star Herald column about the NIMBY phenomenon — Not In My Back Yard.

I don’t remember what the issue was — perhaps the airport runway expansion, and the nimbys had been articulate.

They supported the project in general, as long as it didn’t affect them directly.

The words in Carole’s column gently reminded us that a good idea for the community is a good idea for all in the community.

Even if it’s in our own back yards.

Over the years I’ve written dozens of Star Herald stories that include urgent, heartfelt nimby quotes.

“I realize Luverne needs more housing, but I don’t want to give up my green view across the street.”

And, “Why can’t they build somewhere else?” (Like someone else’s back yard.)

More recently the Star Herald has followed the development of a proposed wind farm in western Rock County.

“I support green energy, but I don’t a turbine in my back yard,” ... said Lori Sorenson under her breath.

Yes, now I’m the nimby. I live next to the planned Walleye Wind Farm.

I’ve always sympathized with other nimbys but believed if it were me, I’d support the broader good.

Now I’m trying really hard to be a good sport.

But I’m not going to lie.

A 300-foot-tall tower with 175-foot-long rotating blades will forever change the horizon I’ve come to know and love.

My favorite part of the local landscape is its wide open,



ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

unobstructed view.

My Facebook feed often features photographs of golden cornfields against the backdrop of spectacular sunsets. Or storm clouds building over fields of deep green soybean rows.

On a clear day, we can stand on our porch and find the distinctive bell towers of the Sioux Falls Cathedral 25 miles away.

If a turbine doesn’t soon stand in the way.

See how I’m struggling?

A turbine isn’t planned for our land (meaning we won’t get a lucrative land lease), but we’ll get to look at it.

I’ve considered the drawbacks — like noise. But we live on a noisy highway that will likely drown out any whooshing wind turbine noises.

And I’ve heard the unsourced stories about wind farm owners with ill will and that wind turbines cause cancer.

However, there are so many more pros than cons to wind energy.

The world needs renewable clean energy, because fossil fuels pollute and harm the environment and they come from sources that will eventually run out.

Of all renewable energies — solar, hydro, geothermal — wind has the potential to produce the most reliable long-term power.

And wind turbine technology is improving every day. We’re getting twice the energy from half the equipment and it’s costing much less to produce.

So, I’m focusing on the positives ...

... and looking forward to my back yard promoting green energy for the greater good.

The vaccine is safe. COVID is not.

It’s been a year and more than 406,000 U.S. deaths since we first heard of COVID-19.

GUEST EDITORIAL

to get the vaccine is to tell the truth: this vaccine is akin to a cure.

Researchers and physicians hesitate to make promises because in a world of mathematical probabilities and legalities, we can’t say much of anything has NO risks. There is rarely anything in life that we can say is either zero or 100 percent.

But we will say this: whatever you might have heard about side effects of the vaccine is insignificant compared to getting COVID-19. Almost everyone we work with daily has received the vaccine and wants you to get it, too. (Some reported 12-24 hours of mild side effects, usually after the second dose.)

After the vaccine, you’ll be safe from getting the disease and are much less likely to spread it.

We don’t want to undersell this! Get the vaccine so you can much sooner hug your grandkids and go to card club or sit at a bar or attend a sporting event mask-free.

For those who are already convinced they want the vaccine, thank you. And please be patient. We get calls daily from those who are very excited to get the vaccine.

Minnesota is rolling out its plan to vaccinate the general public, and we are not able to keep a waiting list or influence how the priority groups

are set up. We’re following guidelines for when and how we can administer the shots ... and we’re not finding out about distribution much sooner than you are.

If you’re a Sanford Luverne patient, you should sign up for MyChart if you haven’t done so already. Then you can receive notifications directly from us when you’re eligible for vaccination. Other health systems will use patient appointment messaging however they can.

Until we all receive our doses of the vaccine, please be aggressive in prevention, whether you have already had COVID-19 or have been vaccinated. Wear a mask. Socially distance. Practice good hand hygiene. We have seen people get it more than once and sometimes with worse symptoms.

We hope you will join us in getting a vaccine so we can reach the end of this devastating pandemic.

Sanford Luverne Providers:

Judy Chesley, MD
Stephan Chesley, MD
Diane Kennedy, MD
Zach Nolz, MD
Austin Spronk, MD
Jennifer Thone MD
Nicole Woodley, MD
Myles Tieszen, MD
Jonathan Pap, CNP
Katy Zogg, FNP-C

Green: Democracy has prevailed

To the Editor:

At his inauguration last Wednesday, President Biden spoke these words: “Democracy has prevailed.” Only two weeks after the assault upon the Capitol.

The only previous assault on Washington, D.C., was in 1812 when the British attacked and burned the White House. Also in 1812 Francis Scott Key penned the words to “The Star Spangled Banner,” our national anthem, as he watched the shelling of Fort McHenry which protected Baltimore.

The words read, in part, “And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs

bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave o’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?”

At the time of the American Civil War, there was a real concern that our country would be torn apart. President Abraham Lincoln said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.”

Today we are facing challenges to democracy, concerns of disunity, of disharmony, of distrust of government.

President Biden has called for unity among Americans, of coming

together to defeat a common enemy that has killed 400,000 of our fellow Americans. That is more Americans than died in World War II.

Right now we need good government, a government that tells the truth, tells it consistently, and follows through with actions. For this is how trust in our government is built, and empowers us to join together - no matter our politics — to fight the common enemy.

In unity there is strength. God bless America.

Larry Green
Luverne

Don’t judge a person by how he sings in the men’s room

I seem to have a knack for finding myself in awkward situations from time to time, and it happened last week while watching our grandson play basketball with the Redwood team in Pipestone.

Shortly before tip-off, I made a pit stop in the men’s room, and an older gentleman entered the bathroom shortly after I did.

We’re staring at the wall ahead of us doing our business and — here’s the odd part — the guy starts to sing.

Without moving my head, my eyes shifted to the left to see who was singing to the urinal. The tune he was singing didn’t ring a bell and I wasn’t about to ask him what it was.

After washing my hands and activating the hand air dryer, the bathroom soloist took the



FOR WHAT IT’S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, general manager

opportunity of the noisy hand dryer to turn up his vocal volume.

Back at the gym, I filled Mary in on the bathroom singer and how weird that was.

It was game time and before the announcing of the players, it was time for the national anthem.

The announcer introduced the older gentleman that was going to sing the anthem and that is when I realized it was the bathroom singer.

I nudged Mary and said, “That’s

the guy from the bathroom.” I didn’t catch his name but when the bathroom singer started singing the national anthem, he did so beautifully.

His rendition of the anthem was so respectful to the song, it was one of the best versions I have ever heard.

It just goes to show you, you shouldn’t judge a person by how he sings in the men’s room but by how he sings the national anthem.

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

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

Jan. 15
•Complainant on 11th Street, Steen, reported a fire.
•Complainant on N. Donaldson Street reported a water leak.
•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue requested an unlock.
•Complainant on Highway 75 reported a transient.
•Report of a storage unit in roadway on N. Spring Street.
•Assistance from another department was provided eastbound on Interstate 90 and Highway 75.
•Assistance from another department was provided eastbound on Interstate 90 and Highway 75.
Jan. 16
•Complainant on Blue Mound Avenue and Britz Drive reported a light pole down.
•Suspicious activity was reported at Redbird Field.
•Complainant reported computer connectivity issues.
•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported a disorderly patient.
Jan. 17
•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported a disorderly patient.
•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported a disorderly patient.
•Complainant requested deputy assistance.
Jan. 18
•Complainant on E. Main Street reported a parked vehicle blocking the door.
Jan. 19
•Complainant in Jasper reported a stolen vehicle pursuit.
•Complainant reported vandalism.
•Complainant on County Road 8 and 150th Avenue reported icy road conditions.
•Complainant on Maple Street, Luverne, reported a parking issue at location.
•Complainant on State Highway 23, Jasper, reported that his vehicle was stolen.
•Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, Luverne, reported party left without paying.
•Complainant on S. Estey Street reported suspicious activity.
•Complainant on S. Fairview Drive reported threats.
•Deputy assisted MSP

westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 12, Luverne.
Jan. 20
•Complainant on 31st Street, Hills, reported a bus stop arm violation.
•Assistance from another department was conducted in Lyon County.
•Transient was reported on W. Main Street.
•Suspicious activity was reported at location on E. First Avenue, Beaver Creek.
•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported too many people at location.
•Complainant on S. Fairview Drive reported harassing communications.
•Deputy checked for warrant on subject on W. North 2nd Street, Hills.
•Complainant on S. Walnut Street reported vandalism.
Jan. 21
•Complainant reported an outage.
•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported property was lost at location.
•Complainant on Highway 75, Hardwick, requested information.
•Complainant on E. Lincoln Street reported theft.
•Dead air calls on disconnected land line was reported.
•Complainant requested an explosives permit.
•Complainant on N. Donaldson reported a repossessed vehicle.
•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue requested a vehicle unlock.
Jan. 22
•Complainant on N. East Park Street and W. Dodge Street reported threats.
•Complainant on W. Interstate Drive reported theft by check.
•Complainant on W. 4th Street, Sioux Falls, reported subject with Rock County warrant.
•Complainant reported fraud.

In addition, officers responded to 1 deer accident, 1 motor vehicle accident, 4 vehicles in ditch, 7 escorts, 26 ambulance runs, 4 paper services, 3 animal complaints, 3 fingerprint requests, 14 burn permits, 2 alarms, 19 purchase and carry permits, 4 stalled vehicles, 4 traffic stops, 12 abandoned 911 calls, 5 tests, 2 welfare checks, 1 OFP and 1 follow-up.



Mavis Fodness photos/0128 LHS 2184 Campaign

The LHS 2184 Campaign will help purchase extra items for the current Luverne Middle-High School construction project, which includes a new performing arts center in progress at the school. The campaign is organized through the Luverne Education Legacy Foundation (LELF) and includes the following campaign members (from left) Cory Bloemendaal, Damon Eisma, Jason Berghorst, Mark Lundgren, Emily Crabtree, Craig Oftedahl, Lisa Dinger, Sara Hartquist, Marlene Mann and Ryan Wynia.

School fundraiser '2184' to buy extras/continued from page 1

academics, activities, fine arts, alumni recognition, and campus beautification.
Several extras for once-in-a-lifetime projects include:
•A 16-foot "L" in the new commons area.
•A grand piano for the new performing arts center.
•An alumni information center.
•Improved digital signage on the school's front lawn.
•An outdoor learning space under the original school canopy.
Campaign letters and pledge cards will be mailed to LHS alumni next week, but the fundraiser is open to all businesses, friends and supporters of Luverne Schools.
Pledges can be completed online at the LELF website, luverneeducationlegacyfund.org.

Gift levels of \$2,184 or greater receive recognition on a display and receive a palm-sized glass cardinal made by artist Tom Maras, LHS '89 alum.
Pledges can be spread over a three-year period.
For more information contact LELF President Bloemendaal at 507-227-2087 or coryb@buffaloridgeins.com.
Or contact the Luverne Area Community Foundation Director Emily Crabtree (LHS '90) at 507-227-6841 or Emily@luvacf.org.



Workers lay block in the performing arts center Friday. The LHS 2184 Campaign would like to purchase a grand piano to be used in the new facility set to be completed this summer. Below left is the glass cardinal made by artist Tom Maras, LHS class of 1989. Each donor who gives \$2,184 or more will receive a glass cardinal as an appreciation gift from the board.



Who is LELF?
Luverne Education Legacy Fund evolved from the Luverne School Foundation

established by school board members in 2003 when an endowment fund was created through a donation from Rock County resident Harvey Ordnung.
Through additional donations, the LELF board of directors awards grants yearly through an application process.
These help pay for special field trips and educational enhancement technologies

along with one-time campaigns, such as the one that paid for the tennis court improvements in recent years.
The LHS 2184 Campaign fundraiser focuses on enhancements for the current construction project at the middle-high school.
Donations can be directed toward the Foundation's yearly grant program or to the school enhancement campaign.

Nora Matthiesen support/continued from page 1

day today."
By Friday breathing tubes were removed and Nora is now breathing on her own.
Doctors continue to assess the extent of her brain injury as sedatives are gradually reduced.
"The team did a great job of pointing out that Nora is well ahead of where they thought that she would be at this point," Popkes wrote on Friday.
Two bank locations are accepting monetary donations from the public.
Checks should be made out to Jed and Deann Matthiesen and dropped off at either the U.S. Bank in Rock Rapids or MinnWest Bank in Luverne.
Cards and letters are being collected by Popkes and shared with the Matthiesens at the address PO Box 308, Rock Rapids, Iowa 51246.
Popkes wrote that Jed and Deann are reluctant to receive donations.

"They truly feel more comfortable giving rather than receiving," Popkes wrote online.
"We have discussed and prayed about this, and in my study Bible, I came across a part where it spoke about giving and helping as one of the most wonderful ways that we can honor God.
"And so, even though it is very difficult to be the receiver, we also do not want to keep someone else from having the blessing of giving/helping, if that is what they are being called to do."
Print Express in Luverne designed shirts and hoodies with the words, "You are our sunshine," from Nora's favorite song.
Orders to support her cause can be made online at luvrintexpress.com/nora/shop/home.
Snowflakes appear as a show of support
As a show of support, one farming neigh-

bor encouraged hanging snowflake ornaments or decorative snowflakes on their mailboxes in support of Nora and her family as she recovers.
"My heart just broke for them as we all know in the farming community that this could be any of us," said Amy VonHoltum.
"This just seemed like an indirect way to make a meaningful tribute of support."
VonHoltum explained the symbolism behind the snowflake in her social media post.
"When you consider the beauty of the snowflake, it is amazing how fragile yet strong and resilient it is before forming into one of God's beautiful masterpieces," she wrote.
"Life is much the same. Please keep those big prayers coming. I also have a hunch that this little girl loves 'Frozen,' and snowflakes go with the territory."



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Our deadlines for the Announcer and Star Herald are as follows. We appreciate your cooperation in getting us any advertising or legal in a timely manner. Thank you!

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DEADLINE FOR
DISPLAY ADS AND CLASSIFIEDS
THURSDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.

STAR HERALD
DEADLINE FOR
DISPLAY ADS, CLASSIFIEDS AND LEGALS
MONDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.



The show goes on ...

One act play competition turns to recording

Story and photos
by Mavis Fodness

Students at Luverne High School performed their one act play Monday night in front of the camera, and the digital recording will be submitted for subsection competition.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, schools didn't travel to Pipestone as in past years to present their plays. Instead they made one-take recordings for judging.

The top two play productions advance to the section competition and ultimately to the Feb. 11-13 virtual state contest. The advancing schools are encouraged to record new videos using the judges'

One act, continued on page 8



Above: One act play director Joe Stearns (center) works with Xavier Carbonneau (far right) Friday at the Palace Theatre in preparation for the production of "Hammered: A Thor and Loki Play," for the upcoming one act play competition. In back are students (from left) Griffen Jarchow, Grace Ingebretsen, Josie Golla and Pierce Cunningham. Carbonneau portrays Thor.

At right: Trapped in a cave, the brothers Loki (Zoe Perkins) and Thor (Xavier Carbonneau) realized that embracing each other's strengths, which include Thor's powerful hammer, is the only way to escape safely from their entrapment.



1888: Platting of Bruce takes place in Martin Township

The following appeared in
The Rose History in 1911.

Rock County Villages (continued from 01-21-20 edition of the Star Herald)

Bruce

On section 30, Martin township, two miles west of Hills, is located the Illinois Central station of Bruce. In addition to the depot the business houses of the unpretentious hamlet are confined to a general store and two elevators. Bruce has known better days. At the time of its founding, it gave promise of eventually taking high rank among the communities of Rock county. Its season of glory was short lived, however, and it was forced to bow to the stern decree of fate while yet an infant.

The first intimation of a Rock county town on the Martin township prairies was received in November, 1887, when the Illinois Central authorities, whose railroad had just made entry into the county, located a station on J. H. Helgeson's farm, on section 30.¹⁰ Before December was over, the company had built a side track on the side of the town-to-be, which it proposed to name Martin. The station bore that appellation only a few months, and then was



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president
Rock County Historial Society

christened Bruce, in honor of one of the chief officials of the Illinois Central.

Unlike some of Rock county's towns, there was no long lapse of time before it responded to the hopes of its sponsors. Activity began with a rush in Bruce during the first year of its existence, which was also the one of its fullest development. The survey of the townsite was made in May, 1888, by J. F. Whalen. The plat, indicative of the expectation of the promoters, was made to include sixteen blocks. The dedication by John Butler and Charles E. Moore took place May 22 and the day following record was made in the office of the register of deeds.¹¹

The boom commenced at once. Hickey & Co. were the first on the ground and built a grain warehouse. The depot was erected about the same time, in the month of June, and G. B. Hartley was installed as the first agent. John Butler, one of the owners

of the townsite, was especially active in the promotion of building operations. During the summer he erected a hotel, which was first conducted by M. McCarthy and later in the same year by Andrew Nelson; a store building, in which the first merchants, Fransen & Miller, were located; and a second warehouse, with a capacity of 30,000 bushels of grain. A second general store was established by Jacobson & Sexe before the year was over, as was also a blacksmith shop by Ole Lund. During the summer an attempt was made by George Bollinger to conduct a saloon in Bruce. He was refused the necessary license by the county commissioners, but proceeded, nevertheless, in violation of the law. This action led to his arrest and conviction in December.

The postoffice was established in the store of Jacobson & Sexe in 1888. J. N. Jacobson conducted the office as deputy until September, 1889, when

he was regularly commissioned postmaster. Bruce progressed to a noticeable degree during the second year of life.

Early in the spring of 1890 the existence of Bruce was threatened, because of the founding of the town of Hills, two miles away at the intersection of the Illinois Central with the new Sioux City & Northern railroad. It became evident to the business men of Bruce that their interests were certain to suffer in competition with the rival favored by a more strategic location. In February a hotel closed its doors and March witnessed the removal across the fields of Bruce's leading business establishment, the Jacobson & Sexe store, as well as the blacksmith shop.¹² What few buildings remained in the once promising community of Bruce were deserted.

¹¹"Bruce, the new station in Rock county, Minnesota, midway between Sioux Falls and Rock Rapids, has been platted and no doubt will be a town of two hundred souls before the leaves begin to fall."—Rock Rapids Reporter, May, 1888.

¹²"The little town of Bruce on the Sioux Falls branch of the Illinois Central, in Martin township, Rock county, is about depopulated on account of its people moving, bag and baggage, over to Hills, the new town on the Northern named after the general manager of the road, Hills is about a mile and a half east of Bruce,

Bits, continued on page 7

CELEBRATIONS

Card showers

Floyd Kraetsch will celebrate his 90th birthday on Saturday, Jan. 30. Greetings may be sent to him at 216 Cashin Drive, Luverne, MN 56156.

Eunice Ripley will celebrate her 94th birthday on Saturday, Jan. 30. Greetings may be sent to 120 N. Spring Street, Apt. 313; Luverne, MN 56156.

MENU

Monday, Feb. 1: Chicken-fried steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, bread, fruit.

Tuesday, Feb. 2: Baked chicken, au gratin potatoes, peas, dinner roll, cookie.

Half-Price Day sponsored by American Reformed Church.

Wednesday, Feb. 3: Beef roast with gravy, mashed potatoes with gravy, California Normandy, bread, bar.

Thursday, Feb. 4: Sloppy Joe on a bun, cheesy hashbrowns, baked beans, cookie.

Friday, Feb. 5: Chicken tetrazzini, mixed vegetables, mandarin oranges, Rice Krispie bar.

LSS Dining offers well-balanced and affordable meals.

Call Lynette Hoiland at 283-9846 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.

COLLEGE NEWS

DSU names honor students

Several area students were named to the Fall 2020 semester president's academic honors list at Dakota State University in Madison, South Dakota. To be named, students must earn a 3.5 to 4.0 GPA.

Named to the president's list are Melissa Fick and Zane Holmgren, Luverne; Jonathan Horn, Adrian; and Sidney Fick, Beaver Creek.

Rogers makes Iowa State dean's list

Nicholas Rogers, Hardwick, was named to the Fall 2020 semester dean's list at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa. To be eligible, students must earn a 3.5 GPA or greater on a 4.0 scale. Nicholas is a sophomore majoring in genetics (AGLS).

Van Belle makes dean's list at Ridgewater

Teresa Van Belle, Beaver Creek, was named to the dean's list for the Fall 2020 Semester at Ridgewater College, Willmar, Hutchinson campus. To make the list, students must earn at least a 3.5 GPA with 12 graded credits.

Area students graduate from SDSU Brookings

Several area students have graduated from South Dakota State University, Brookings, following the Summer 2020 and Fall 2020 semesters.

Jenae Hamann, Luverne, graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in education and human sciences.

Shelbie Nath, Luverne, graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in arts, humanities and social sciences and an undergraduate certificate, also in SAHSS.

Jessica Oye, Luverne, graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Allie Skattum, Luverne, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Maggie Kruse, Adrian graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2011)

•Luverne's Price is Right Night is shaping up to be the social event of the year.

The Blue Mound Banquet Center will host the popular game show Friday night, Feb. 7.

Social hour starts at 6:30 p.m. and the appetizer buffet opens at 7 p.m. for the event, sponsored by the Luverne Area Chamber.

At 8 p.m. the first contestants will be invited to "come on down" with Luverne's Kyle Oldre serving as the game show announcer.

Ryan DeBates will play the role of celebrity game show host Drew Carey.

DeBates is a member of Luverne Area Chamber Board of Directors and is on the committee planning the Price is Right Night.

When the committee was brainstorming ideas for an annual Chamber social event, it was DeBates' idea to build around "The Price is Right" game show.

He was naturally cast in the role of game show host, considering his knowledge of the game.

"I've been watching 'The Price is Right' for as long as I can remember," said DeBates, who grew up in Jasper.

25 years ago (1996)

•Merlin Johnson, manager of the Blue Mounds State Park, is approaching retirement with both fear and anticipation.

"I'm scared to death of all the time I'll have," he said. "All my life I've put in 40-hour weeks, and at the end of the week I've

known exactly what I've accomplished. Now there's so many unknowns ... You know what you had, but you don't know what you're getting into."

He's not scared enough to keep working, however. "I turned 62 in December and decided now's the time," he said. "We've been planning for years to take a trip to Australia. Now we can."

Johnson has managed state parks in Minnesota for 25 years, the past 15 of which have been at Blue Mounds State Park. During his tenure at the Blue Mounds, the park has received national recognition for the quality of its prairies, scenic vistas and recreation opportunities.

Johnson mentioned the bison as one aspect of work he'll miss the most, "They're such an interesting animal," Johnson said. "After 15 years of working with them, I'm still learning new things about them."

50 years ago (1971)

•Blue Mound Tower is the name selected by the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) for Luverne's high-rise apartment for the elderly.

As Luverne's tallest building, it "towers" seven stories above ground level, said Ray Frick, HRA chairman. From its top floors, the view extends for several miles in each direction. The Blue Mounds to the north of Luverne are clearly visible.

"We decided to name it Blue Mound Tower," said Frick, "because the Blue Mounds are unique to our community. The Blue

Mounds are symbolic of the whole county; they are historic; no other county can claim them.

75 years ago (1946)

•This week, for the first time in 52 years, Luverne had no Steinfeldt Blacksmith Shop.

William Steinfeldt, third generation owner of the half-century old business, announced that he had sold the building on Maple street and all equipment to C. H. Hatting of the Hatting Gravel Company. He did not disclose the consideration.

Mr. Hatting has removed the equipment to his present repair shop headquarters on South Kniss avenue. Although he is not sure when he will begin work, he plans to raze the present structure, and erect a modern two-story building on the lot, which has a 40 foot front, and extends back 150 feet.

Meanwhile, he has rented the building to John Nesguth, who will conduct his garage and machine shop business there. Mr. Nesguth will dispose of some of his present equipment at public auction on Friday, February 1.

100 years ago (1921)

•An average of \$140 for the entire offering was secured at Skewes Brothers' dispersion sale of shorthorn cattle held Tuesday afternoon, and on the following day an average of \$85 was received at A. E. Brandenburg's annual sale of Duroc Jersey brood sows. The first twenty-five hogs average \$106.

OBITUARIES

Barbara Nelson

Barbara Bullis Emery and Jonathon. Nelson, age 79, of New Hope, Minnesota, passed away peacefully into the hands of our Lord on January 21, 2021.

She was the daughter of Ernest Bullis and Margaret Skyberg. After finishing Beauty School in Minneapolis, Barbara married Ronald Emery in 1960 and raised their three children, Timothy, Daniel and Christina, in Luverne, Minnesota.

She was remarried to Robert Nelson of Garretson, South Dakota, in 1998, and they made their home together in Sioux Falls, close to Robert's sons, Christopher, Matthew,



She adored her 17 grandchildren, Adam, Alex, Brooke, Sydney, Keba, NdeyF-atou, Samba, Saloum, Alexandra, Keeghan, Kailey, Mason, Ashby, Ainsley, Abrielle, Alijah, and Anika. She enjoyed their sporting events or just cuddling and reading to them. She will be remembered for her down-home cooking, particu-

larly her goulash, tuna noodle casserole, Thanksgiving dinners, and lemon meringue pie. Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, and her brothers, Arthur and William, but leaves behind her two sisters, Deloras Korgel and Connie Burkhardt. Her family, all having enjoyed her life, will continue to keep her in their memories forever. May God bless the memory of Barbara Bullis Emery Nelson.

Services will be held this summer when her ashes are buried next to her husband in Garretson, South Dakota. Memorials are preferred to Lutheran Social Services.

The National Cremation Society assisted the family. (0128 V)

Arlene Mitchell

Arlene Verna (Sindt) Mitchell, 96, formerly of Rock Rapids, Iowa, passed away peacefully Jan. 16, 2021, at The Gardens of Cedar Rapids. A private family service was held on Friday, Jan. 22, 2021.

Arlene Verna Sindt was born Nov. 20, 1924, the daughter of Herla Christine (Wiese) and Albert Henry Sindt on a farm near Rock Rapids, Iowa. She graduated from Rock Rapids High School in 1943 as class valedictorian and homecoming queen. She began working as a secretary for the Lyon County Welfare Department and was eventually recruited by the State Services for Crippled Children from the University of Iowa Hospitals who conducted clinics for underprivileged children throughout the state of Iowa. She joined their group as a medical secretary and moved to Iowa City. After tiring of the traveling involved, she accepted a job with the Orthopedic Department working as a medical secretary for the renowned Doctors Steindler, Ponseti, and Newman.

She met her future husband, David E. Mitchell, at the Wesley Center at the University of Iowa. They were united in marriage June 12, 1948, at the Methodist Church in Rock Rapids. After David's graduation from the University of Iowa, they moved to Mason City, Iowa, in 1950 where Da-

vid began his teaching career and they settled in and soon became parents.

Along with raising her three children, Arlene was active in many community organizations including PTA, TTT, PEO and Questers. She shared the ideals of PEO for over 50 years and especially enjoyed serving as the president for Chapter KW. She was treasurer of the Stockman House Board and member of the River City Society for Historic Preservation where she was named Volunteer of the Year in 2002. Arlene had a genuine interest in the Mason City Foundation from its beginning and served on the Board of Directors.

Arlene worked on the Band Festival Committee with the Band Queens for many years, and then was most proud when she served as the overall Chairperson of the Band Festival in 1980. Arlene also worked for a time at a local travel agency. Arlene loved to play cards and belonged to several bridge clubs. Her skill at cards and bridge playing was widely recognized. She also enjoyed needlework, making candy, playing the piano and most of all dancing with her husband, David. Arlene was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church and Ruth Circle.



Arlene was preceded in death by her parents, Albert and Herla (Wiese) Sindt; husband, David E. Mitchell; and infant grandson Drake Finneman.

Arlene is survived by their children: son Monty Mitchell and wife Kathleen McGinn of Bettendorf, Iowa, and their children Tyler Mitchell of Bettendorf, Iowa, and his daughter Ava Chesney of Estero, Florida; Hunter and Devon Spreen of Bettendorf, Iowa; son Mark Mitchell and wife Nancy of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and their children Jeff Mitchell of Arlington, Texas, and Katherine Mitchell of Detroit, Michigan; and daughter Ann Finneman and husband James of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and their children Grant and Ross Finneman of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Arlene's life was centered around her husband David, their three children and eight grandchildren and she treasured her time spent with her family at the cottage in Clear Lake, Iowa. Arlene's most endearing character was her love for her family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Alzheimer's Association, Breast Cancer Research Foundation, or First United Methodist Church of Mason City, Iowa, and mailed to the family in care of Major Erickson Funeral Home; 111 North Pennsylvania Ave.; Mason City, IA 50401.

(0128 V)

Carol Zwaan

Carol Ann Klosterbuer Zwaan passed away peacefully with the love of her life, Henry, faithfully by her side, on Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021, at the age of 77 years, 1 month and 22 days.

Visitation is at 2 p.m. and a funeral service at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at the American Reformed Church in Luverne.

Carol was born on Nov. 26, 1943, in Luverne, Minnesota, to her parents, Mildred and Walter Klosterbuer. She was the only daughter and joined a family of two brothers, Jerry Dean and Duane Darrell and finally a third brother, Robert Lowell (Bob), was born to this family. All four children grew up on the home farm south of Ash Creek, Minnesota, and went to a one-room schoolhouse, District No. 1, close to the family farm.

Carol Ann married the only love of her life, Henry Dale Zwaan, on March 16, 1962, at the State Line Ebenezer Presbyterian Church. The reception was in Rock Rapids, Iowa. It was the winter of all winters with barely open roads, but still everyone came to their celebration. Carol was 18 years old and Henry was 20, having known each other for three years. Carol and Henry farmed and raised their children together, mostly on the farm seven miles south of Luverne. She helped as much as she could, helping Henry with chores, bringing lunches and doing some field work, driving truck and just running for whatever he needed in those earlier years.

Their family consists of



Melanie (Doug) Mensing, Monti (Staci) Zwaan, Mandel (Laura) Zwaan, and Michelle (Scott) Mark. She was given 11 grandchildren, Zachary, MacKenzi (TJ), Chazni, Megan (Blake), Merecie, Mitchell, Emary, Zoey, Syndal, Jaxon and Lilian. She was also given three great-grandchildren, Dalton, Leanna and Lennon. Her family was, by far, her greatest joy.

Carol got her elementary education degree in 1988, graduating from Augustana College, magna cum laude. She then taught for a short time at Sioux Falls Christian in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She decided to go back to school during the lean years of farming.

Unfortunately, it was finally when she had her hip surgery and two heart attacks that she had to slow down a lot. Before those years she was very active riding horses, flower gardening, antiques, her music, and more recently reading, writing and spending time with friends in Arizona. She sang and played guitar for many weddings, funerals and many musical occasions, sometimes just playing around the bonfire. She especially liked country music and harmony. Throughout her life she sang with four different groups. She also organized the Tri-State Town & Country Garden Club and the Friends of Antiques Club. They were such a joy to her also.

Henry and Carol attended State Line Presbyterian Church for 15 years, ARC in Luverne for 25 years, then attending and helping at New Life Celebration Church in

Luverne and Heart Cry Church in Arizona. Carol was involved in serving in many ways in State Line Presbyterian and ARC in Luverne.

She has written 11 children's books – one for each of her grandchildren – and one western devotional booklet appropriate for all. The children's series is titled "The Cousins." She has also written one patriotic gospel song.

Henry and Carol were in the process of making bittersweet plans to move off the farm and into Luverne in 2021. However, unfortunately those plans were not meant to be. Carol always liked feathering their nest, and Henry always faced those challenges with grit and determination! What a gentleman he was and still is!

Carol's greatest personal belief was her faith in the Lord. Her greatest personal time and her devotions, studying the Word, talking to her Lord, giving thanks and praying for all her family and friends. She also picked a favorite promise every day to remember God's mercy. All her prayer books were her own personal accounting. The Lord heard all her prayers. He helped her solve many of her problems and was with her through many difficult times. She is hoping that these words would share their time with the Lord as well. It is priceless!

She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter and Mildred Klosterbuer, brother Jerry Klosterbuer, and grandson Zachary Zwaan.

*In the sweet bye and bye,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.*

*In the sweet bye and bye,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.*

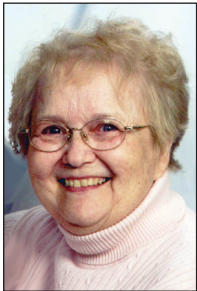
(0128 V)

Hildegarde Jagow

Hildegarde Jagow, 89, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, died Thursday, Jan. 21, 2021, at her home in Sioux Falls.

A memorial service will take place at a later date in Appleton. Memorials may be directed to Lifescape or Faith Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls.

Hildegarde Lucille Reinke was born on July 16, 1931, to Julis and Hulda (Galloway) Reinke on the family farm near Carroll. She received her education in Carroll and in Appleton.



Hildegarde married Raymond Jagow on Feb. 21, 1948, in Appleton. They had three children, Thomas, David and Raechell. Caring for her special needs daughter, Raechell, took her away from family events, but her daughter needed her and made a difference in her life. Hildegarde was employed in Ames, Iowa, and at the Veterans Hospitals in St. Cloud and Sioux Falls.

Hildegarde is survived by

her son, David (Viva) Jagow of Hardwick; seven grandchildren, Chad, Brandon (Kati), Lex (Amanda), Jarod (Diane), Trisha, Amie (Shawn) and Cody (special friend Allisen and daughter Avery); 13 great-grandchildren; three sisters, Evie Zick of Morgan, Dorothy Borstad of Madison, and Darlene (Jim) Vaala of Madison; many nieces and nephews; and special friends Ann and Hugh Harty.

Arrangements were provided by Heartland Funeral Home of Sioux Falls, heartlandfunerals.com.

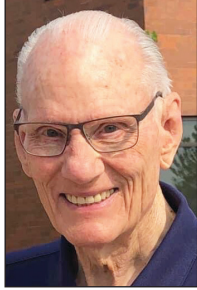
(0128 F)

Arden Hull

Arden Wesley Hull, 87, New Prague, died Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, in his home in New Prague.

He was married to Darlene Frances Swanson for 64 years.

Arden is survived by his children, Vicki (Jacob) Sells, Kathie Hull, Debbie (Mark) Wheeler, David Hull and Patti Gilster; his 11



grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter; his sisters-in-law LaRie Hull and Carol (Hull) Carlson; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Arden was preceded in death by his wife, Darlene (Swan-

son) Hull; his parents, Henry Sr. and Adelaide Hull; sister Phyllis (Hull) Clark; brothers Virgil Hull, Henry Hull Jr. and Harm Arthur Hull; son-in-law Paul John Kolnberger Jr.; grandson John Paul Kolnberger; three nephews, Calvin Hull, Dennis Hull and Bruce Hull; and nieces Linda Hull Hanson and Connie Hull.

(0128 F)

DEATH NOTICES

James Dreesen

James "Jim" Dreesen, 69, Jasper, died Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021, at his home in Jasper.

A memorial service was Jan. 23 at the Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne, with burial in the Maplewood Cemetery in

Luverne.

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

(0128 DN)

Rhona Ruud

Rhona Ruud, 59, Bricelyn, died Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021, at the Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Services for Rhona will be private.

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

(0128 DN)

Dena Santana

Dena Santana, 57, Luverne, died Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021, at the Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

A memorial service was Monday, Jan. 25, at the First Baptist Church in Luverne. A

private committal of cremains will take place at a later date.

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

(0128 DN)

Lester Vanden Berg

Lester Vanden Berg, 92, Edgerton, died Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, at the Edgebrook Care Center in Edgerton.

A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 29, at the First Christian Reformed Church in Edgerton. Visitation will begin at 9:30 a.m. until the service. Interment will be

at the Hillside Cemetery in Edgerton. Masks will be required and social distancing and occupancy guidelines will be followed.

Arrangements were provided by the Colonial Funeral Chapel in Edgerton, www.edgertonburialassociation.com.

(0128 DN)

Shirley Young

Shirley Young, 93, Portland, Oregon, died Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, at a local hospital as a result of complications from surgery

in December.

There will be no services.

(0128 DN)

Bits/continued from page 6

and the only blacksmith shop, grain buying establishment and general store in Bruce have been moved to Hills. The postoffice will probably follow in short order." —Sioux City Journal, March, 1900.

The story of the village of Bruce will continue and the village of Kanaranzi will begin in

the Feb. 4 edition of the Star Herald.

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

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to mannmade@iw.net.

LAND FOR SALE

LEGAL: Approximately 245.13 acres located in the N1/2 of 3-104-44, Rock County, MN, unimproved, highly productive farmland.

TERMS: Sealed bids will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., February 5, 2021, 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 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 2021.

Sale is subject to approval by the Heirs of Henry W. Spronk. For further details and an information packet contact Douglas Eisma, Eisma & Eisma, Attorneys at Law, (507) 283-4828.

More funds coming for child care providers

Providers must apply by Feb. 5, 2021, for January, February grants

More than 8,250 eligible child care providers who received funding support in December 2020 to ensure the health and safety of children and staff in their programs will be able to receive additional funds for January and February 2021. The application deadline is Feb. 5, 2021. Providers must be operating to be eligible for this funding.

As part of the child care emergency response funding in the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that was signed into law on Dec. 27, 2020, the Minnesota Department of Human Services will issue approximately \$45 million in new January and February COVID-19 Public Health Support Funds for Child Care payments. This is the third round of fund-

ing to help providers remain operating.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 25, the department emailed links to online application and another form to the providers who are eligible to apply for these funds. Only providers who receive an application link will be eligible to apply. Child Care Aware of Minnesota will, as in previous funding rounds, be available to support providers with the application process.

"Throughout the pandemic, child care providers have given tremendous time and effort to remain open and serve families," said Human Services Commissioner Jodi Harpstead. "Their efforts have provided stable care for children, economic stability for families, and ongoing

support for the workforce we need for our emergency response and economic recovery in Minnesota."

The department already issued payments to:

- More than 7,000 programs, including almost 5,800 family child care providers, more than 1,100 licensed child care centers and almost 100 certified centers (only nonprofit-certified centers were eligible in July and August for summer school-age care) from July through September.
- More than 8,300 programs, including almost 6,300 licensed family child care providers, about 1,500 licensed child care centers and more than 500 certified centers received payments from October through De-

cember.

Payment amounts in July to September were \$1,200 for licensed family child care and \$8,500 for licensed family child care. Eligible certified centers received \$8,500 per month in July and August and \$3,000 per month in October to December.

These funds help child care providers address the increased costs of implementing public health and safety guidance, so that they can safely offer child care. The child care industry operated on slim margins prior to the pandemic, and these added costs have created significant business challenges for providers across the state. Increased costs include hiring more staff as-

sociated with smaller ratios and group sizes; purchasing cleaning supplies; following screening procedures and quarantine periods; providing sick leave, substitute teachers, supports for distance learning and incentive pay; and ensuring other public health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Department data from a provider survey in April demonstrate that the number of licensed family child care and licensed centers operating dropped at the beginning of the pandemic, but data from the COVID-19 Public Health Support Funds from July to December show that nearly all licensed child care programs in the state are operating.

The Department of Human Services plans to use a portion of the new federal funds for child care to support almost 800 new families on the Basic Sliding Fee Program for child care expenses.

"We will continue to work with legislators, providers, advocates and families to develop long-term strategies to support child care providers and the families they serve," said Harpstead.

For technical assistance, providers should contact Child Care Aware of Minnesota at 651-290-9704 or supportfunds@childcareawaremn.org.

For child care resources related to COVID-19, including public health guidance, visit mn.gov/childcare.

One act/continued from page 6

feedback.

Director Joe Stearns selected "Hammered: A Thor and Loki Play," by Christian Borie, as this year's one-act play production.

The season began earlier this month.

"It's been a really short season," he said.

Due to the uncertainty of a possible season, Stearns said he waited until the Minnesota State High School League released guidelines. In-person rehearsals, in which masks must be worn, started Jan. 4.

The one-act play depicts the Marvel Comic characters as teenagers and focuses on relationships between brothers.

Thor, the God of Thunder, and Loki, the God of Mischief, often competed for the parents' affections.

The play takes place at the Asgard high school during the passing of exams. Loki tricks Thor into failing.

It is only in reflections back to their days as students that the adults Thor and Loki put aside their petty differences and acknowledge each other's strengths. In doing so, the two avoid danger and possibly death.

Twelve students make up this year's one act play cast:

- Xavier Carbonneau as Thor.
- Zoe Perkins, Loki.
- Luke Thorson, adult Thor Odinson and Thor's father, Odin.
- Josie Golla, Thor's mother, Freyja.
- Griffen Jarchow, Master Cul and ghost Alti.
- Chance Tunnissen, Master Heimdall and ghost Ellsiv.
- Parker Carbonneau, Ghost Frigg and student Volstagg.
- Pierce Cunningham, Master Forseti and student Fandrai.
- Mia Wenzel, student Sif.
- Grace Ingebretsen, student Hognun.
- Myles Trimble, Master Hoenir.
- Destiny Matthiesen, the Herald.



Above: Thor (Xavier Carbonneau) is knocked to the ground by high school classmate Sif (Mia Wenzel) holding a wooden staff as the school's masters (Griffen Jarchow, left, Josie Golla, and Pierce Cunningham) watch the exchange.

At right: Loki (far right), portrayed by Zoe Perkins, just completes a lesson in which Master Cul, portrayed by Griffen Jarchow, gives a failing grade. Loki's mom Freyja, portrayed by Josie Golla, argues that Loki deserves a passing grade.



At left: In a reflection the future Thor Odinson (sitting, portrayed by Luke Thorson) listens to the advice given by ghosts Alti, Ellsiv and Frigg (portrayed by Griffen Jarchow, left, Pierce Cunningham, who was filling in for Chance Tunnissen, and Parker Carbonneau.)

Mavis Fodness photos

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Local saddle club members earn year-end honors

Two local members of the Rock River Wranglers Saddle Club earned year-end accolades during a Jan. 16 drive-up awards ceremony through the Minnesota Prairie Saddle Club Association.

Andrea Johnson, Beaver Creek, and Mavis Fodness, Hardwick, competed in the 35-and-older age group.

Johnson showed Shez Zippin Doubles and earned

third place in halter mares and fifth in showmanship.

Fodness, with Obviously Bar Scotch, earned firsts in halter mares, English pleasure and English equitation, fourth in showmanship, and third in western pleasure and horsemanship.

Riders competed for year-end points during the 11 MPSCA open shows conducted in 2020, including the RRW event in July.

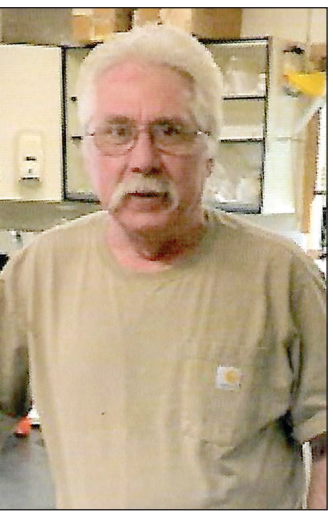
City of Luverne employee honored

City of Luverne wastewater employee Darrel Ykema (right) has been named Operator of the Year by the Minnesota Wastewater Operators Association for 2020.

Ykema works in the laboratory for the city and has 14 years of experience in the wastewater field.

He's worked for the city for 26 years and now takes care of the wastewater sampling and testing.

He is certified for fecal coliform, CBOD, pH, total suspended solids and chlorine. He also analyzes wastewater samples



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Luverne boys off to strong start behind stingy defensive effort

By Brennen Rupp

Since opening the season with a 65-31 victory, the Luverne boys' basketball team has rattled off three straight wins by a combined six points.

The 4-0 start to the season marks the first time since 2006-2007 that the Cardinals have opened the season with a 4-0 record.

LHS 57, Martin County West 56

After defeating the Worthington Trojans by one point on Monday, Jan. 18, the Cardinals picked up another one-point road win on Friday, Jan. 22, by defeating Martin County West 57-56.

The Cardinals outscored Martin County 34-31 in the first half. That three-point lead proved to be the difference as MCW outscored Luverne 25-23 in the second half.

"This Cardinals team has a lot of resilience," Luverne head coach John Sichmeller said.

"They've faced adversity in both the one-point victories, but have fought back to pick up the narrow road wins."

He said his team's tenacity on the court is trans-

"It starts with our defense. We held Worthington to 49 points. I don't think they're a team that's going to be held to under 50 points very often. This game was in the fifties. If we can keep it under 60 and closer to 50, we're going to give ourselves a good chance to win a lot of games."

- Luverne head coach John Sichmeller

lating to wins.

"I think the biggest thing is they aren't quitting," Sichmeller said.

We've been down eight or nine points in some games. They didn't get their heads

LHS boys hoops/page 10



Brennen Rupp photo/0128 H-BC BB photo
Hills-Beaver Creek's Layla Deelstra drives to the basket during H-BC's home game against Southwest Minnesota Christian on Monday, Jan. 25. Deelstra finished the game with 10 points for the Patriots.

Patriots topple Eagles, improve to 3-0

By Brennen Rupp

The Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots girls' basketball team expected to have a special season in 2021 with a strong core of players returning. Those expectations are being met early, as the Patriot girls have opened the season with a perfect 3-0 start.

H-BC 78, Edgerton 47

The Patriots opened the season on Tuesday, Jan. 19, with a convincing 78-47 vic-

tory at home against Edgerton.

Junior guard Kenadie Fick scored 14 of the first 16 points for the Patriots. Fick scored 12 straight points for the Patriots to help them build a 16-8 lead.

At the half the Patriots led Edgerton 39-18. Fick finished the first half with 14 points and five steals. Taryn Rauk scored 11 points.

The Patriots outscored Edgerton 29-18 in the second half en route to a 78-47 victory

to open the season.

Rauk finished the game with 25 points, eight rebounds and five steals.

Fick finished with 20 points, six steals, and five assists.

Layla Deelstra scored 11 points and recorded four steals.

H-BC 71, WWG 38

The Patriots picked up their second win of the season

on Thursday, Jan. 21, with a 71-38 road victory over Westbrook-Walnut Grove.

The Patriots took a 33-21 lead into the locker room. In the second half the Patriots outscored the Chargers 38-17 to pick up the 71-38 victory.

Rauk finished the game with a team-leading 29 points and five steals.

H-BC Girls/page 10

Ninth-ranked Cardinal girls open season by splitting first two games

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals girls' hockey team opened the 2021 season by splitting a pair of games last week.

The ninth-ranked Cardinals opened the season at home with a 6-0 victory over Windom Area on Tuesday, Jan. 19. Luverne then dropped a home contest to Rochester Lourdes 4-2 on Saturday, Jan. 23.

LHS 6, Windom Area 0

It took the Cardinals 17 minutes to light the lamp during their season opener against the Eagles on Tuesday.

In the opening 17 minutes, the Cardinals and Eagles were deadlocked at 0-0. Then in the second period, Luverne had an offensive explosion, scoring four goals.

Kamryn Van Batavia, the team's leading scorer the last three seasons, notched the team's first goal of the season

LHS Girls/page 10



Brennen Rupp photo/0128 LHS Hockey photo
Roz Oye passes the puck during Luverne's game on Saturday, Jan. 23, against Rochester Lourdes.

Luverne tops Redwood Valley to pick up first win of season

By Brennen Rupp

After scoring just two points in their season opener against Windom Area, the Luverne Cardinals erupted for eight goals against Redwood Valley Friday at home.

Behind a strong offensive showing, the Cardinals picked up their first win of the season with an 8-5 victory over Redwood Valley.

"The team as a whole played much better hockey on Friday night," Luverne head coach Phil Paquette said.

"We can't allow ourselves to get comfortable in that, though. This group will need to work hard to keep improving throughout the season."

Cade Wenninger opened the scoring for the Cardinals. The senior put one between the pipes at the 14:47 mark to put the Cardinals up 1-0.

Redwood Valley scored the next two goals to take a 2-1 lead.

With 6:59 left in the first period Carlton Oftedahl tied the game at 2-2. Brock Behrend and Wenninger both recorded an assist on the goal.

Redwood Valley opened the scoring in the second period to take



Brennen Rupp photo/0128 Hockey photo
Brock Behrend celebrates after scoring one of his three goals against Redwood Valley on Friday, Jan. 22. The Cardinals defeated Redwood Valley 8-5.

a 3-2 lead.

Cooper Arends tied the game back up at 3-3 when he scored a goal at the 13:29 mark

LHS Hockey/page 10

LHS girls' basketball team improves to 2-1

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals girls' basketball team started the week off with a 56-41 loss at home to the Worthington Trojans on Tuesday, Jan. 19.

The Cardinals bounced back on Saturday, Jan. 23, when they picked up a 62-40 road victory over St. Clair to improve their record to 2-1 on the young season.

Worthington 56, LHS 41
The Cardinals led by three points at halftime but were unable to hold onto that lead in the second half against the Trojans Tuesday.

Elise Ferrell and Averill Sehr both scored nine points to lead the Cardinals. Sehr also grabbed nine rebounds and dished out three assists.

Brooklynn Ver Steeg scored eight points.

Christina Wagner scored eight points and grabbed six rebounds.

LHS 62, St. Clair 40

The two teams played the first half before the Cardinals ran away from St. Clair on Saturday.

In the second half the Cardinals turned up the defensive pressure which led to some easy baskets.

"We had a close first half," Luverne coach TJ Newgard said.

"They hit a bunch of three-pointers on us. They were a smaller team that tried to run and did a good job of penetrating and kicking out. We were able to press them and get some turnovers. We were able to turn those into some easy layups. That was the difference in the game."

The Cardinals recorded 11 steals. With their length and quickness the Cardinals made

LHS GBB/see page 10

Luverne grapplers go 1-2 to start season

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals opened the season Tuesday, Jan. 19, at home with a triangular against Redwood Valley and Fairmont-Martin County West.

The Cardinals lost to Redwood Valley 60-24 and then fell to FMCW 66-3.

Luverne got into the win column on Thursday, Jan. 21, with a 42-24 victory over Chester.

RWV 60, LHS 24

Riley Cowell defeated Lincoln Ourada by fall in the 120-pound division.

Braydon Ripka picked up a pinfall victory over Brayden Reynolds in the 152-pound division. The win for Ripka was his 60th career victory.

"Ripka's 60th win was a fun way to kick off the season," Luverne head coach Jordan Kopp said. "He has put in the work and time. I hope he feeds



Brennen Rupp photo/0128 Wrestling photo
Luverne's Brayden Ripka picked up his 60th career win during Luverne's wrestling match against Redwood Valley on Tuesday, Jan 19 in Luverne.

off that energy now."

Hunter Baker followed Ripka's pinfall victory with a pinfall triumph of his own in the 160-pound division.

Fairmont-Martin County West

Cowell was the lone Cardinal to pick up a victory against Fairmont-Martin

County West. The senior grappler improved to 2-0 on the young season with a win by decision (13-8).

Chester

Rayden Boyenga picked up a pinfall victory for the Cardinals in the 113-pound division to even the match at 6-6.

Cowell improved to 3-0 with a pinfall victory to put the Cardinals up 12-6 in the match.

Chester won the next two matches to take an 18-12 lead.

The Cardinals then won the next three matches by pinfall to take a 30-18 lead.

Zach Bradley started the streak with a pinfall victory in the 145-pound division.

Ripka picked up his second victory of the season by pinfall in the 152-pound division.

Jaden Reisch scored a victory by pinfall in the 160-pound division.



Brennen Rupp photo/0128 Gymnastics photo
Luverne's Tiana Lais competes in the beam competition during the Cardinals' home opener against Redwood Valley on Monday, Jan. 25.

Luverne Gymnastics win home opener over Redwood Valley

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals gymnastics team opened the season on Thursday, Jan. 21, on the road against the Worthington Trojans. The Trojans bested the visiting Cardinals 140.400-120.475.

Luverne bounced back in their home opener on Monday, Jan. 25, by defeating Redwood Valley 125.350-122.350.

Worthington 140.400, LHS 120.475

Ella Reisdorfer tied for third in the uneven parallel bars with a score of 8.200 in Worthington on Thursday.

In the floor routine, Reisdorfer finished fourth with a score of 8.500. Reisdorfer placed fifth in the balance beam with a score of 8.200.

Tiana Lais finished fifth in the vault with a score of 8.850.

LHS 125.350, RV 122.350

In the team's home opener on Monday, Jan. 25, Reisdorfer took home first place in the bars with a score of 8.425.

Amira Cowell came in second in the bars with a score of 8.000.

In the beam competition, it was Reisdorfer taking home first with a score of 8.850. Cowell finished third with a score of 8.150.

Reisdorfer finished second in the floor routine with a score of 8.475. Cowell finished third in the event with a score of 8.325.

The Cardinals will be back home for competition Monday, Feb. 1 when they host the Pipestone Area arrows.

LHS boys' basketball/continued from page 9

down. They just kept fighting. That's what helped us win those games."

A big reason for Luverne's 4-0 start is the players' effort on the defensive end of the court.

Through four games the Cardinals are giving up just 43.25 points per game.

"It starts with our defense," Sichmeller said.

"We held Worthington to 49 points. I don't think they're a team that's going to be held to under 50 points very often. This game was in the fifties. If we can keep it under 60 and closer to 50, we're going to give ourselves a good chance to win a lot of games."

Gannon Ahrendt led the LHS team with 16 points. Ahrendt also grabbed 10 rebounds and blocked three

shots

Ethan Beyer reached double figures with 13 points.

Bailey Cowell finished with six points, eight assists and six rebounds.

LHS 41, St. James 37

The Cardinals improved to 4-0 on Monday, Jan. 25, with another road victory, this time handing St. James a 41-37 home loss.

Luverne continued its strong defensive performance to start the season by holding St. James to 15 first-half points.

With St. James' offense stymied, the Cardinals did just enough offensively to remain undefeated.

Ahrendt led the Cardinals with 22 points.

"He's really grown in his

confidence. Last year he was kind of just out there and learning. Now he's starting to become our go-to player," Sichmeller said.

"He's confident doing that. That's the biggest thing for him. Last year he kind of started off the year with ankle issues. He seems healthy right now. Hopefully that continues. Right now it's just his confidence, though. He's willing to take the big shots. Last year he might not have been willing to take those shots for us."

Luverne will look to remain undefeated when they hit the road on Thursday, Jan. 28, to take on Marshall.

The Tigers are currently the sixth ranked team and own a 3-0 record.

LHS gbb/ from page 9

each pass an adventure for St. Clair in the second half.

"I think our length and quickness kind of bothered them," Newgard said.

"Elizabeth Wagner was at the top of our 3-2 zone. She was able to disrupt their offensive flow and get a lot of deflections that led to some steals."

She led the Cardinals with 25 points and also grabbed seven rebounds, blocked two shots and recorded two steals.

"She was able to read where the offense was trying to get the ball," Newgard said.

"With her length, she was able to disrupt some things. She's the head of our press as well. It starts with her getting in passing lanes and making things difficult for them."

Ver Steeg reached double figures with 11 points. The junior guard also recorded four steals and grabbed four rebounds.

Christina Wagner and Emma Beyer both chipped in with nine points apiece.

On Tuesday, Jan. 26, it will be a battle between a pair of 2-1 teams when the Cardinals host St. James.

Luverne will wrap up the week when it hosts Marshall on Friday, Jan. 29.

As of press time, the Tigers were the sixth-ranked team in Class 3A and owned a 3-0 record.

H-BC boys pick up first win of season over MCC

By Brennen Rupp

The Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots boys' basketball team opened the season with a hard-fought loss against 10th-ranked Southwest Minnesota Christian.

The Patriots bounced back on Friday with a 63-35 win over Murray County Central in Slayton.

Thanks to a strong defensive performance and a second-half offensive outburst, the Patriots picked up their first win of the young season to improve to 1-1 overall.

"It was a great win for the team," H-BC head coach Steve Wiertzema said.

"We did an excellent job on defense and rebounding. The effort was great."

The Patriots took a 28-18 half-time lead into the locker room.

In the second half H-BC continued to play stingy defense and outscored the Rebels 35-17 to pick up the 28-point victory over their Red Rock Conference rival.

Cole Baker led the team with 25 points. The sharp-shooting guard went 4-7 from

beyond the three-point line. Baker also grabbed seven rebounds and recorded six steals.

Oliver Deelstra reached double figures with 11 points. Deelstra grabbed a team-leading eight rebounds.

Ty Bundesen scored eight points and recorded six steals.

Zander Wysong scored eight points.

The Patriots will look to get over the .500 mark on Tuesday, Jan. 26, when they hit the road to take on Heron Lake-Okabena/Fulda.

Hills-Beaver Creek hoops/continued from page 9

Abby Knobloch scored 13 points, grabbed eight rebounds, dished out five assists, and blocked three shots.

Deelstra scored 11 points, grabbed five rebounds, and recorded three steals.

H-BC 57, SWC 53

It was a battle of Red Rock Conference powerhouses in Hills on Monday, Jan. 25, when the Southwest Minnesota Christian Eagles squared off against Hills-Beaver Creek.

The Eagles ended H-BC's season the last four years in the section tournament. On Monday the Patriots exacted a little revenge with a tightly contested 57-53 victory.

The Eagles opened the scoring by knocking down a three-pointer to take a 3-0 lead. Rauk got the Patriots on the board with a layup to make it a 3-2 game.

SWC knocked down another three-pointer to open up a 6-2 lead.

With the Patriots trailing 8-4, Deelstra knocked down a three-pointer to make it an 8-7 game.

An Allie LaRock bucket at the 11:54 mark put the Patriots up for the first time at 9-8.

With the Patriots leading 20-19, the Eagles went on a 6-0 run to take a 25-21 lead.

The Eagles took a 29-25 lead into the locker room.

Rauk opened the scoring in the second half to make it a 29-27 ball game.

Following Rauk's basket, the Eagles went on a 6-0 run to take the largest lead of the



Brennen Rupp photo/0128 H-BC BB photo
Hills-Beaver Creek's Kenadie Fick drives to the basket during the Patriots' season-opener against Edgerton on Tuesday, Jan. 19. Fick finished the game with 20 points.

game at 35-27.

With the Patriots trailing 35-29 H-BC senior Annie Bos helped turn the tide.

Bos recorded a steal and took it coast-to-coast to make it a 35-29 lead.

On the next possession, Bos recorded another steal and took it full court again to trim the lead to 35-33.

A Rauk three-point play trimmed the Eagles' lead to 37-36.

A pair of Knobloch free throws gave H-BC their first lead in the second half at 41-40 with 6:19 left in the game.

A Rauk layup gave the Patriots a 45-44 lead with 4:50 left in the game. The Eagles

quickly answered back to take a 46-45 lead.

With the Patriots trailing 48-47, Deelstra knocked down a corner three-pointer out of a timeout to put H-BC up 50-48 with 1:50 left in the game.

The Deelstra three-pointer proved to be the dagger, as the Patriots held on to win 57-53 to improve to 3-0.

Rauk finished the game with 16 points. Deelstra scored 10 points.

Knobloch finished the game with nine points and seven rebounds.

The Patriots will be back in action on Thursday, Feb. 4, when they host Mountain Lake Area.

LHS girls' hockey/continued from page 9

to put Luverne up 1-0. Shelby Kracht assisted on the goal.

Kracht scored the second goal of the game. Peyton Behr recorded the assist on the goal.

Behr then notched the team's third goal of the game to put the Cardinals up 3-0. Van Batavia and Reghan Bork both assisted on the goal.

Bork scored the fourth goal of the period to put the Cardinals up 4-0. Van Batavia and Kracht both recorded an assist on the play.

Van Batavia opened the scoring in the third period to put the Cardinals up 5-0. It was the sophomore's second goal of the game.

Bork wrapped up the scoring with a power-play goal to put the Cardinals up 6-0.

Van Batavia, who has been on the varsity squad since she was a seventh-grader, scored her 100th career goal in the game.

"Kam's 100th goal is a great accomplishment," Luverne head coach, Tony Sandbulte said.

"I'm very proud of her. All of her hard work on and off the ice will continue to payoff."

Cheyenne Schutz recorded 20 saves for the Cardinals.

Rochester Lourdes 4, LHS 2

On Saturday it was a battle of Top 10 teams inside Blue Mound Ice Arena when 10th-ranked Rochester Lourdes squared off against ninth-ranked Luverne.

With 2:03 left in the first

quarter, Rochester Lourdes struck first with an even-strength goal to go up 1-0.

With 12:05 left in the second period, Van Batavia scored a short-handed goal to tie the game at 1-1. Bork recorded the assist on the goal.

Rochester Lourdes scored the next three goals to build a 4-1 lead.

Van Batavia scored her second goal of the game in the closing moments to make it a 4-2 game. Senior Rylee Gee recorded the assist on the goal.

The Cardinals will look to bounce back on Friday, Jan. 29, when they hit the road to take on Minnesota River. Minnesota River will enter with a 1-2 record.

Luverne boys' hockey/continued from page 9

in the second period. Behrend recorded the assist on the play.

With 6:40 left in the second period, Behrend scored a power play goal to put Luverne up 4-3.

Oftedahl scored his second goal of the game to bring the Luverne lead to 5-3.

Redwood Valley notched another goal right before the end of the second period to cut Luverne's lead to 5-4.

Luverne's Jack Schlosser opened the third period with a goal to put the Cardinals up 6-4 with 15:30 remaining in the game. Zach Kruse recorded the assist.

Behrend scored his second goal of the game to put Luverne up 7-4. Oftedahl recorded the assist on Behrend's goal.

A few moments after scoring his second goal of the game, Behrend recorded his third goal of the game to put Luverne up 8-4.

Behrend finished the game with three goals and two



Brennen Rupp photo/0128 LHS Hockey photo
The Cardinals celebrate a Carlton Oftedahl goal during their home contest against Redwood Valley on Friday, Jan. 22.

points. The sophomore now has nine points in two games for the Cardinals.

"Brock's performance against Redwood Valley was outstanding," Paquette said.

"He is a very skilled player that can make something happen at any moment. This season he has shown that he'll

go out and create his own opportunities rather than sit back and wait for them. It has been fun to watch his game evolve."

The Cardinals will hit the road to take on Redwood Valley on Tuesday.

They'll then return home to play host to Minnesota River.

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The Star Herald reached out to churches for their worship information in the absence of in-person worship services, due to coronavirus social distancing. Those that responded are listed here. Those that would like to have information posted here should call the Star Herald or email editor@star-herald.com.

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

Public mass will be celebrated with a limit of 50 percent capacity of the church. Masses: 9 a.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Sunday. No mass, communion service or rosary at care centers at this time. 5 p.m. Saturdays and 8:30 a.m. mass will be live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/stccluverne/videos/>. Visit www.stscl.org for more information.

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

We are streaming Sunday services live on Roger Sparks' Facebook page 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
1033 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
Ann Zastrow, Pastor

Thursday, Jan. 28: NO Missions in Action. Saturday, Jan. 30: 5:30 p.m. Worship service. In-person worship service in Sanctuary. Sunday, Jan. 31: 9 a.m. Worship service; 2nd grade Milestones. 10-10:45 a.m. Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom. Tuesday, Feb. 2: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Feb. 3: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 7-7:45 p.m. Confirmation for 6th-8th grade. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are still available. Online Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. — NEW TIME! Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 p.m.

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

Sunday, 10:15 a.m. Worship service; worship online as well. Monday, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne). Also visit els.org with our sister churches for online worship opportunities.

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

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. indoor service. Worship 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.

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

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

Thursday, Jan. 28: 1-3 p.m. Food Shelf curbside. Saturday, Jan. 30: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Sunday Jan. 31: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Worship service — SD In-house worship service — Services held on radio and live on Facebook. YouTube will also have services posted. 4:30 p.m. Genesis to Revelation Bible Study with safe distancing. Monday, Feb. 1: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Wednesday, Feb. 3: 5:30 p.m. Community Meal — pick up option available. 6:15 a.m. FUEL. 6:30 p.m. Confirmation. 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Thursday, Feb. 4: 1-3 p.m. Food Shelf curbside.

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

Worship services in-person and through Facebook Live Sunday 10:15

a.m.* 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
Rev. Dr. Phil Booe, Pastor

Saturday, Jan. 30: 5:30 p.m. Worship service. Sunday, Jan. 31: 9 a.m. Worship. 10:15 a.m. Sunday school; Bible study. 7 p.m. Online Bible study. Worship service is 75 people. 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
Billy Skaggs, Pastor

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

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

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
Laura Phillips, Pastor

Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFcU4>

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

Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFcU4>

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

Thursday 10 a.m. worship service on VAST and Mediacom. 7 p.m. Sunday 10:15 a.m. worship service viewed live on First Presbyterian Church Facebook page. Tuesday 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. worship service on VAST and Mediacom.

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

Sunday, Jan. 31: 10 a.m. Worship service at Bethlehem. 10 a.m. Sunday school. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website blchills.org. Tuesday, Feb 2: 2 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff Home. 2:45 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff Home. Wednesday, Feb. 3: 9 a.m. Quilting.

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

Dimensions of faith

There are at least two dimensions to faith.

First, do we believe that there is an infinite-personal God who designed and brought into existence the universe and everything in it, including the dimensions of time and space? Do we believe that we owe our existence and every moment of our lives, not to impersonal stuff, but to the wise and awesome God, in whose plans we have a meaningful place?

Some people say there is no God. Does this mean they don't have faith? No. It means they believe that life as they experience it can be explained by impersonal, finite processes. They believe the foundational questions that people have asked from ancient times can be adequately answered apart from a Creator; questions like: Why is there something instead of nothing? Why is there life instead of non-life? Why is there motion instead of everything being static?

When the Apostle Paul spoke to Epicurean and Stoic philosophers (see Acts 17), he brought up these three questions. He noted that existence, life and movement can only be explained by the supernatural. Speaking of the Creator, the Apostle Paul said, "In Him we live and move and have our being..."

Do you have enough faith in nature/stuff to be an atheist? I don't. There are too many things that chemistry and physics can't explain: love, morality, beauty, duty. And what about the copious amount of information that's encoded in the DNA of living things? Information is always a sign of intelligence. So if we by our intelligence didn't encode our own DNA, by what Intelligence did it arise?

A second dimension of faith is trust. If we believe there is a God who created us, how much should we trust our Maker? That depends on whether or not God is good and faithful. It de-

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Roger Sparks
Luverne Christian
Reformed Church

depends on whether or not God keeps His promises.

One of the things we see in the Bible is that God has an excellent "track record" of being true to His Word. Repeatedly and through many generations, God followed through on words of blessing and warning. When the time was right, God kept His promise to our fallen first parents. He sent the Savior, the seed of woman, who would crush the tempter's head. "When the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law..." (Galatians 4:4). In this most notable way and in thousands of others, God has proven that He is worthy of our trust. That which God has promised, He provides.

So what has God promised us? An easy life? No. But to all who trust in Him, God has promised to supply what we genuinely need. Jesus emphasized this in the Sermon on the Mount when He argued from the lesser to the greater. Does God care for lesser things like birds and flowers? Yes! He feeds the birds of the air though they neither sow nor reap. And just think of how beautifully God dresses lilies when they bloom! Therefore, said Jesus, we can trust God to care for us, His children since we are far more important to Him than birds and flowers.

What's the point of trusting God? We can be **patient** when things go against us. We can be **thankful** when things go well. And for the future, we can be **confident** that God will provide.

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ISD #671 requests proposals by March 17

PUBLIC NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Hills Beaver Creek ISD #671 requests proposals for group insurance coverage for the health plan year beginning July 1, 2021. Sealed proposals will be accepted in paper form until 5:00 pm central time on March 17 at Hills Beaver Creek District Office at 301 North Summit Ave, Hills, MN 56138. Copies of the complete request for proposal may be requested from Daphne Likness – daphne@kozlowski-insurance.com, and will be sent electronically at no charge. The Hills-Beaver Creek School District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities. District reserves the right to select the proposal which it determines to be in the best interest of the District.

(01-21, 01-28)

ISD #2184 requests proposals by March 29

PUBLIC NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Luverne Schools ("District") requests proposals for group insurance coverage for the health plan year beginning July 1, 2021. Sealed proposals will be accepted in paper form until 1:00 p.m. central time on March 29th, 2021 at Luverne Schools, ATTN: Marlene Mann, 709 N Kniss Ave, Luverne, MN 56156. Copies of the complete request for proposal may be requested from Marlene Mann at m.mann@isd2184.net, and will be sent electronically at no charge. District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities. District reserves the right to select the proposal which it determines to be in the best interest of the District.

(01-28)

Rock County Commissioners meet Dec. 22

Rock County Board of Commissioners
Herreid Board Meeting Room/Zoom Video Meeting
5:00 P.M.
Dec. 22, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chair Overgaard with all Commissioners present. Also in attendance were County Administrator Kyle Oldre, County Attorney Jeff Haubrich, Deputy Administrator Susan Skattum and Star-Herald Reporter Mavis Fodness.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all who were in attendance.
Motion by Thompson, seconded by Reisch, to approve the December 22, 2020, County Board agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.
Motion by Burger, seconded by Williamson, to approve the December 08, 2020, County Board minutes, declared carried on a voice vote.
George Bonnema, Generations President, presented a building project update and activity update. As to date, the Generations organization has raised \$300,000.00 for the proposed \$3-million dollar project and due to COVID restrictions, fundraising has been put on hold and that they will be using a property acquisition as a rental to generate additional funds. As to date, Generations is preparing 500 meals per day for delivery or for frozen meal pick up and Lutheran Social Services pays Generations \$.14 per meal for use of the facility. Bonnema thanked the County Board for building project pledge of \$30,000 per year for a period of 5-years.

Mark Sehr, Engineer, requested authorization to enter into a contract with MnDOT, assisting each entity (Rock County and MnDOT) with snow and ice removal maintenance if needed, similar to a mutual aid contract; the contract identifies hourly rates for equipment and personnel. Motion by Reisch, seconded by Williamson, to approve and authorize the Engineer and County Administrator as the contract signature authority, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Engineer requested approval of final contract payment to Midwest Contracting LLC of \$29,931.08 for the 2020 box culvert projects SAP 067-598-021, SAP 067-598-019, SAP 067-599-181, SAP 067-599-182. The Engineer stated the contract amount changed from \$593,151.00 to \$598,632.50 due to additional rock base materials needed and was authorized by the Engineer. Motion by Williamson, seconded by Burger, to approve the final payment, declared carried on a voice vote.

Ashley Kurtz, Auditor/Treasurer, presented the claims and per diems of \$1,800.00; motion by Overgaard, seconded by Thompson, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote. A complete listing of the claims is available upon request at the Auditor/Treasurer's office.

DECEMBER 22, 2020 CLAIMS OVER \$2,000	
ASSN OF MN COUNTIES	4,900.00
BURLINGTON-NORTHERN/SANTAFE RAILWAY COM	7,168.10
CHS	5,111.36
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	6,591.00
ENERSPECT MEDICAL SOLUTIONS	4,780.38
ERICKSON ENGINEERING	4,225.88
GRAHAM TIRE-WORTHINGTON	10,580.60
JOHNSON CONTROLS	52,605.00
KETTERLING SERVICES INC	9,768.34
LYON COUNTY LANDFILL	14,577.69
NOBLES COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER	16,101.22
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA	18,813.99
RETROFIT COMPANIES, INC	5,282.50
ROCKMOUNT RESEARCH & ALLOYS INC	2,954.02
SCHNEIDER GEOSPATIAL	2,300.00
TOWMASTER	134,110.00
TRANSOURCE TRUCK & EQUIPMENT INC	5,115.22
W & N CONSTRUCTION INC	38,860.74
WAYTEK, INC	6,168.78
72 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	32,441.36
TOTAL	\$382,456.18

The Auditor/Treasurer stated that the Blandin grant is complete and that the wireless connection at the campground in Jasper has been resolved.
The County Board was in receipt of the Fund Balance report; Kurtz stated that the report reflects a new General Reserves fund, Sheriff's Reward Fund, which is funded by donations to assist the Sheriff's Office in resolving recent vandalism activities. Motion by Williamson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Fund Balance report, declared carried on a voice vote.

	GENERAL	HIGHWAY	FAMILY SERVICES	LAND MANAGEMENT	DITCH	DEBT SERVICE	2021 TOTAL
REVENUES							
Property Taxes	3,638,650	964,462	1,385,327	32,275	-	324,392	6,345,106
Other Taxes	34,900	365,000	-	-	-	483,693	883,593
Special Assessments	-	-	-	266,714	66,239	-	332,953
Licenses and Permits	2,060	-	-	27,000	-	-	29,060
Intergovernmental	541,010	1,711,158	122,864	406,498	-	28,770	2,810,300
Charges for Services	1,361,351	519,050	-	3,000	-	-	1,883,401
Fines & Forfeitures	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	5,000
Investment Earnings	116,200	14,000	-	-	-	-	130,200
Miscellaneous Revenue	158,250	32,000	-	19,300	-	-	209,550
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 5,857,421	\$ 3,605,670	\$ 1,508,191	\$ 754,787	\$ 66,239	\$ 836,855	\$ 12,629,163
EXPENDITURES							
General Government	2,315,981	-	-	28,809	-	-	2,344,790
Public Safety	2,411,313	-	-	-	-	-	2,411,313
Highway	-	3,168,120	-	-	-	-	3,168,120
Sanitation	-	437,550	-	332,265	-	-	769,815
Family Services	-	-	1,508,191	-	-	-	1,508,191
Health	16,800	-	-	-	-	-	16,800
Culture & Recreation	500,818	-	-	-	-	-	500,818
Conservation of Natural Resources	159,283	-	-	446,311	-	-	605,594
Economic Development	2,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,000
Intergovernmental	246,953	-	-	-	-	-	246,953
Capital Outlay	75,000	-	-	-	-	-	75,000
Debt Service	-	-	-	32,562	86,983	823,662	943,207
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 5,728,148	\$ 3,605,670	\$ 1,508,191	\$ 839,947	\$ 86,983	\$ 823,662	\$ 12,592,601

The County Board, Administrator and Auditor/Treasurer discussed the 2021 budget and setting the final levy. After considerable discussion, motion by Reisch, seconded by Burger, to set the 2021 levy at \$6,345,106.00, a 2.5% increase, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was in receipt of a request from the City of Luverne to abate property taxes identified within the City of Luverne to fund improvements and expansion of the Luverne Area Aquatics and Fitness Center. After discussion, motion by Reisch, seconded by Williamson, to deny an abatement of taxes for the proposed project, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Administrator informed the County Board that Rock County is scheduled to receive \$256,250 from the state for providing economic relief for qualifying businesses adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Considerable discussion followed in determining a distribution formula; the Administrator stated he would continue to monitor the state's distribution rules as well drafting other options.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Burger, to approve employment contracts for the County Administrator and Public Works Director/Engineer that reflect a 3% increase per year with effectiveness dates of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023 and a 1-year employment contract for the Land Records Director with a 3% increase effective January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Williamson, seconded by Thompson, to approve a 3.25% cost of living adjustment for non-union employees, declared carried on a voice vote.
Motion by Thompson, seconded by Williamson, to approve the following salaries for elected officials for 2021, declared carried on a voice vote.
•County Commissioner - \$20,046.89
•County Attorney - \$91,500.00
•County Sheriff - \$100,838.20

Commissioner Reisch stated that he attended the following meetings: City/County Liaison and Personnel Committee of the County Board.
Commissioner Thompson stated that she attended the following meetings: A.C.E., Southwester Health and Human Services, BRRRA.
Commissioner Williamson stated that he attended the following meetings: BRRRA, Rural Water and SWCD. Commissioner Williamson validated the value of the newly acquired Lucas machines that was purchased with CARES funds.

Commissioner Burger stated that he attended the following meetings: Southwestern Mental Health, Southwest Health and Human Services, SWHHS/Public Health and Personnel Committee to the County Board.

Commissioner Overgaard stated that he attended the following meetings: AMC-extension of MOA with University of MN Extension, City/County Liaison, Regional Development Commission and Rose Dell Township.

The County Board expressed their gratitude to the Rock County Sheriff and staff and thanking them for their professionalism in handling the December 9, 2020, Amagansett Press event.

The Administrator briefly presented an update regarding vaccine distribution; no action was taken.
With no further business to come before the County Board, motion by Reisch, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn, declared carried on a voice vote.

(01-28)

Marbus probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ROCK
SION
FIFTH JUDICIAL COURT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVI-
Court File No. 67-PR-21-8

Estate of
Lena J. Marbus a.k.a Lena Marbus,
Decedent
NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL
AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDI-

TORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on February 22, at 8:30 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 204 E Brown St, Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, August 15, 2013, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Dianne J. Boatright, whose address is 46230 West Shore Pl, Hartford, SD, 57033 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 Representative 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 Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Date Filed: January 15, 2021
BY THE COURT

COURT SEAL
/s/ Terry Vajrt
Judge of District Court

Attorney for Petitioner
Jennifer L. J. Gilk
Gilk Legacy Law PLLC
513 E. Bridge St.
PO Box 126
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
Attorney License No: 238363
Telephone: (507) 627-4525
FAX: (507) 627-4528
Email: office@gilklegacylaw.com

(01-28, 02-04)

Mortgage foreclosure sale set for March 10

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: October 11, 2018
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$145,000.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Traci Ann Scholl, a single woman
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
MIN#: 101040121113923470
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON THE MORTGAGE: Flanagan State Bank
SERVICER: Specialized Loan Servicing LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed October 18, 2018, Rock County Recorder, as Document Number 193663
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Specialized Loan Servicing LLC;
Dated: December 9, 2020, filed: December 22, 2020, recorded as document number 198798

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
A tract in the W1/2 of Section 24, Township 104 North, Range 47 West of the 5th P.M., Rock County, Minnesota, described as follows: Beginning at the North west corner of the NW1/4 of Section 24, in said Township and Range aforesaid as the place of beginning, thence East 1320 feet to the Northeast corner of the W1/2 of the NW1/4; thence South 1100 feet; thence Northwesterly 720 feet to a point which is 1060 feet South of the North line of the NW1/4; thence South 200 feet; thence West 200 feet; thence South 260 feet; thence West 400 feet; thence North along the West side of the NW1/4 1520 feet to the point of beginning; excepting there from a strip or piece of land 200 feet wide extending across the Northwest corner of the described parcel granted by right of way deed dated April 23, 1888 to the Willmar and Sioux Falls Railway Company
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2178 20th Ave, Jasper, MN 56144
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 10-0215-000
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$152,964.32

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; 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: March 10, 2021, 10:00 A.M.
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, West Side Sheriff Dept, Front Step, Luverne, MN 56156

to pay the debt 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 12 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representatives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on March 10, 2022, or the next business day if March 10, 2022 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

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 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.
Dated: January 4, 2021

Specialized Loan Servicing LLC
Assignee of Mortgage
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP
BY
Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Joseph M. Rossman - 0397070
Attorneys for Mortgagee
LOGS Legal Group LLP
12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR
(01-14, 01-21, 01-28, 02-04, 02-11, 02-18)

Rock County Commissioners meet Jan. 5

Herreid Board Room 9:00 A.M.
Rock County Courthouse Jan. 5, 2021

The meeting was called order by Administrator Oldre with Commissioners Gary Overgaard (District 1), Stan Williamson (District 2), Greg Burger (District 3), and Jody Reisch (District 5) present; Sherri Thompson (District 4) was absent. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Also in attendance were County Attorney Jeff Haubrich and Deputy Administrator Susan Skattum and Mavis Fodness.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

The Administrator requested nominations for the County Board Chair; motion by Burger, seconded by Overgaard to nominate Commissioner Williamson. The Administrator called three times for nominations for County Board Chair; motion by Thompson, seconded by Reisch to have nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Williamson to serve as the Chair, declared carried on a voice vote.

The meeting was turned over to Chair Williamson.

The Chair requested nominations for Vice Chair of the County Board; motion by Burger, seconded by Thompson to nominate Commissioner Reisch. The Chair called three times for nominations for Vice Chair; motion by Overgaard, seconded by Thompson to have nominations cease and cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Reisch to serve as Vice Chair, declared carried on a voice vote.

Commissioner Overgaard initiated a new tradition for the Board of Commissioners and that being the "Passing of the Gavel" to the new board chair; Overgaard presented the gavel to Chair Williamson.

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Thompson, to approve the January 05, 2021, County Board Agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Overgaard, to approve the December 22, 2020, County Board minutes, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Burger, to approve the consent agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

1. Resolution No. 01-21 Housekeeping Resolution
2. Luverne Area Community Foundation Grant Application – AED Battery and Pad Replacement

Mark Sehr, Engineer, requested approval of Resolution No. 02-21, a grant request to MN State Transportation Fund/Local Road Improvement Program Application/City of Hardwick, for grant dollars to conduct a full depth reclamation and bituminous pavement on their local street system; grant request is for \$400,000.

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch, to approve Resolution No. 02-21, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Engineer requested approval of Resolution No. 03-21, a grant request to MN State Transportation Fund/Local Road Improvement Program Application/Martin Township, for grant dollars to conduct a full depth reclamation and bituminous pavement on 41st Street, from CSAH 6 to the New Vision Coop; grant request is for \$400,000. Motion by Burger, seconded by Williamson, to approve Resolution No. 03-21, declared carried on a voice vote.

Ashley Kurtz, Auditor/Treasurer presented claims paid on 12/31/2020 and a claims listing of 01/05/2021 along with per diems of \$400.00; motion by Thompson, seconded by Burger, to approve the claims, declared carried on a voice vote. A complete listing of the claims is available upon request at the Auditor/Treasurer's office.

DECEMBER 31, 2020 CLAIMS OVER \$2,000	
ALLIANCE COMMUNICATIONS COOP	\$2,080.00
BEAVER CREEK/CITY OF	8,295.56
BMO HARRIS COMMERCIAL CARD	5,750.91
CENTERPOINT ENERGY	2,943.54
FLEET SERVICES DIVISION-ADMIN FMR	7,034.42
HARDWICK/CITY OF	4,400.00
HILLS/CITY OF	3,810.00

LUVERNE/CITY OF	5,563.70
MOTOR VEHICLE DIVISION	8,278.54
NOBLES COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER	9,284.29
QUADIENT FINANCE USA INC	4,000.00
REKER CONSTRUCTION & AGGREGATE LLC	7,734.85
SOUTHWESTERN MENTAL HEALTH CENTER, INC	11,184.55
VIKING ELECTRIC LLC	3,511.56
49 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	16,036.81
TOTAL	\$99,908.73

JANUARY 5, 2021 CLAIMS OVER \$2,000	
7 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	1,003.50
TOTAL	\$1,003.50

The County Board was in receipt of the Fund Balance report and discussed investment options in 2021; motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch, to approve the Fund Balance report, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was in receipt of an annual Gravel Tax report, which reflected a 30% increase. Fund distribution is as follows:

Road & Bridge - \$76,659.74
Special Reserve Fund - \$27,056.37
Townships - \$76,659.74
Admin Fees - \$9,593.36

The County Board was in receipt of a Year End Budget review; the Auditor/Treasurer anticipates \$200,000 going into reserves. No action was taken.

The County Board was in receipt of a building lease agreement from Southwest Health and Human Services; lease details remained the same with a \$8.50 per square foot. After considerable discussion, motion by Burger, seconded by Thompson, to table action to allow for additional research, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was in receipt of a Transfer Station Permit-By-Rule notification from MN Pollution Control Agency acknowledging receipt of a complete Solid Waste Facility; presented as information only.

The County Board reviewed a draft application for a Business Relief grants to business owners that were directly affected by the Governor's Executive Order 20-99. The Administrator stated that he had identified 23 entities/22 owners. After discussion, it was determined to distribute the applications as soon as possible and conduct an interview process to meet with business owners. Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch to approve the application and appoint Overgaard, Reisch and Burger (alternate) to the review committee, declared carried on a voice vote. Rock County received notice that they will be in receipt of the \$250,000 CARES funds on January 06, 2021.

The Administrator presented a COVID-19 vaccine update stating that the A1 Category is currently receiving the vaccine and that the MN Veterans Home and congregate care facilities will be receiving their vaccine next week.

The County Board briefly discussed Economic Development projects; the Elk Creek Solar project has been postponed for one year and the status of the GEVO plan is uncertain.

Commissioner Reisch stated that he attended the following meetings: Mediation for Sergeants Union and Meals on Wheels delivery event.

Commissioner Williamson stated that he attended the following meetings: Meals on Wheels delivery event.

Commissioner Thompson stated that she attended the following meetings: Meals on Wheels delivery event and encouraged the County Board to get signed up with A. C. E. and track their volunteer hours.

Commissioner Burger stated that he attended the following meetings: Meals on Wheels delivery event and Mediation for Sergeants Union.

Commissioner Overgaard stated that he attended the following meetings: Meals on Wheels delivery event.

With no further business to come before the County Board, motion by Reisch, seconded by Overgaard, to adjourn the meeting, declared carried on a voice vote. (01-28)

Schomackers Office Cleaning, LLC assumes name

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true ownership of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: **Schomackers Office Cleaning, LLC**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:

202 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156 USA

NAMEHOLDER(S):

Name: **Schomackers Office Cleaning, LLC**

Address: **202 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156 USA**

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Signature : /s/ **Joe Schomacker, Chief Finance Officer**

CONTACT PERSON: Sharon Schomacker

PHONE NUMBER: 507-227-2183

MAILING ADDRESS: 202 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: schomackerclean@gmail.com
(01-21, 01-28)

CITY OF HILLS BUDGET SUMMARY FOR 2020-2021		
	2020	2021
Total Revenues	425,545	430,170
General Fund Expenses	128,450	132,890
Public Safety - Fire/Civil Defense	74,900	76,070
Public Works - Street Dept.	184,570	188,520
Parks	39,020	34,010
Expense transfers from other funds	-0-	-0-
Budgeted Excess (Deficiency)	(1,395)	(1,320)



Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

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EMPLOYMENT

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New Position

Wild Rose Home Care LLC is looking for a part-time **Personal Care Attendant (PCA)** in Luverne.

5- 10 hrs early AM hours per week working M-F. Flexible hours working with a female client. Must be able to pass a background check. This is a new position, qualified individuals must be dependable and reliable.



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EMPLOYMENT

New Prairie Insulation of Beaver Creek has full time insulation installer positions available. Monday-Friday; Health insurance, vacation pay, holiday pay, retirement plan, bonus, opportunities; will train. Call 605-376-3006. (tc)

HELP WANTED

Age 55+ workers needed for part-time custodial work at the Adrian & Beaver Creek rest areas on I-90
Contact Green View
651-639-1913



Habilitative Services, Inc. is hiring a FT RN or LPN in Luverne. Good benefits. Apply online at jobs.thementornetwork.com

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The family of the late Henry Van Der Weerd wish to extend our thanks to family members, friends and neighbors for all the support and sympathy shown at the recent passing of our husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. We appreciate each act of kindness, including food, flowers, cards, memorial gifts, and kind words. Special thanks to the staff of Bethany Meadows, especially Pastor JoAnne Lemme, and Dougherty Hospice House for the loving care; to Pastor Jeremy Wiersema for his words of comfort and the meaningful funeral service; and to Hartquist Funeral Home for their professional service.

Dorothy Van Der Weerd,
Dennis and LeAnn Strother and family,
Bob and Janellee Sneller and family,
Tom and Dolly Van Der Weerd and family

(1.23-1.28)



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If interested, please submit your resume:
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Mail: K & M Concrete Construction, Inc.
PO Box 236
Edgerton, MN 56128
Phone: 507-442-4855
Fax: 507-442-5110



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EMPLOYMENT

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KMS Public Schools has an opening beginning fall 2021. Qualifications: MN licensure. Apply online: www.kms.k12.mn.us and attach letter of interest, resume, transcripts, copy of license and three letters of recommendation

LT SUBSTITUTE

KMS Public Schools has teaching positions available: High School English beginning February 2021; High School Social Studies beginning March 2021. Apply online: www.kms.k12.mn.us or send letter of interest, resume, references to KMS Public Schools, Box 168, Kerkhoven, MN 56252

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Marilyn Blomquist, CPCU



Cory Bloemendaal, CIC



Steve Smadstad, CIC

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Ask a Trooper: What is the proper procedure if I become stranded and/or go off the road?

By Sgt. Troy Christianson
Minnesota State Patrol
Question: What items should I have in my vehicle during this extreme cold weather?
What is the proper procedure if I become stranded and/or go off the road?
Answer: With the recent below zero temperatures, be-

ing prepared with an emergency kit and plan can save your life.

We recommend the following items be in your vehicle, especially in the winter:

- bag of abrasive material (sand, salt, cat litter) or traction mats.
- snow shovel.
- flashlight with extra batteries.
- window washer solvent.
- ice scraper with brush.
- cloth or roll of paper towels.
- jumper cables.
- tow chain or rope.
- extra warm clothing (gloves, hats, scarves).
- blankets
- warning devices (flares or triangles)
- drinking water
- non-perishable snacks for both human and pet passengers.
- first-aid kit.
- basic toolkit (screwdrivers, pliers, adjustable wrench).

- mobile phone and car charger preprogrammed with rescue apps and important phone numbers including family and emergency services.

If stranded, stay in the vehicle and call 911.

Provide the dispatcher with the following information:

- problem you're experiencing.
- your location (Get in the habit of looking for mile markers and cross streets/roadways).
- any injuries to yourself or passengers.
- preferred tow company, otherwise the closest approved tow company will be dispatched.

At night, keep your dome light on and activate the vehicle's emergency flashers.

Be aware that snow can plug your vehicle's exhaust system and cause deadly carbon monoxide gas to enter

your car.

So, make sure the exhaust pipe is free of snow and keep a window slightly open while the engine is running.

Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained and that you have at least a half tank of fuel.

Slow down and use winter driving skills to avoid crashing or going off the road.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober.

Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

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

(Or reach him by email at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)



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THANK YOU

Hardwick American Legion



The Luverne Basketball Association thanks the Hardwick American Legion for their generous donation to our Basketball Program! Funds were used to purchase a basketball shooting gun (pictured). We appreciate your support!

A note from Mayor Patrick T. Baustian

We're All in This Together



Kudos to the local coaches, players and fans for getting the winter high school sport season underway. Adjusting to the pandemic restrictions has not been easy, yet you are all to be applauded for adjusting, adapting and attending the events all the while following COVID-19 protocol. The Luverne School District had to overcome a number of obstacles and restrictions to assure a safe environment. Whether you're on the court, on the ice, on the mat or cheering from the stands you can do so and be safe. As you continue you to enjoy the winter sports season, please continue to mask up, social distance, wash your hands and cheer on those Cardinals.



COVID-19 vaccine rollout continues, albeit more slowly than hoped

Excerpts from 01/21 Star Herald

- As COVID-19 vaccine doses reach Rock County, more residents are being inoculated against the highly contagious and often deadly disease. According to local public health officials, in Rock County 472 people have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Of these, 81 people have received the second dose and completed the vaccine series.

However, vaccination progress remains in the first phase of a multi-phase roll-out, according to Jason Kloss of Southwest Health and Human Services. "We continue to target people identified in the three priority groups of Phase 1a," he said Monday. This includes health care workers, EMS, nursing home and assisted living facility staff and residents, dental offices, pharmacies, mental/behavioral health settings, school nurses, funeral directors, correctional settings, and group homes settings.

"By the end of this week, all people in Phase 1a in Rock County will have been given an opportunity to receive the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine," Kloss said.

"Rock County is further along in dispensing the vaccine to people in Phase 1a than other counties in our area. Most of the credit for this progress goes to the staff at Sanford Luverne." He said Sanford Luverne has been offering weekly COVID-19 vaccination clinics throughout January to people in Phase 1a. "They have been extremely efficient at getting the vaccine they have been allocated into people's arms," Kloss said.

He added that Southwest Health and Human Services will be vaccinating staff and residents at the Tuff Memorial Home Home and Tuff Village this week. Also, a contract pharmacy will be dispensing the vaccine at Poplar Creek Assisted Living this week as well. After this week, all nursing homes and assisted living facilities in Rock County will have been offered the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

"We are making progress, but as you might have guessed, the main issue continues to be the limited supply of vaccine that is sent to us," Kloss said. Kloss urges people to be patient for their turn at being vaccinated. "Our vaccine allocation will increase in due time," he said. "When it does, we will notify everyone of any planned vaccination clinic."





Minnesota is launching a COVID-19 vaccine pilot program, partnering with local public health and school districts, Governor Tim Walz announced on Monday (01/18). These sites will initially serve adults 65 years of age or older, as well as prekindergarten through grade 12 educators, school staff, and child care workers. The community vaccination pilot program will be the foundation for mass vaccination clinics in Minnesota communities once the federal government increases vaccine supply. The nine pilot sites will launch this week with a small number of doses for eligible Minnesotans.

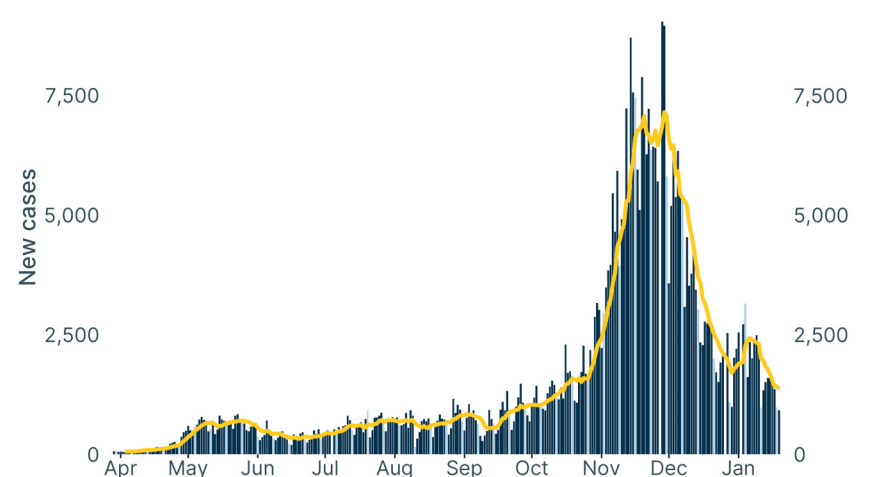
"We are building for the future and doing what we can to get more shots to Minnesotans right now," said Governor Tim Walz. "By beginning to serve those age 65 and older, educators and child care workers, we are immunizing for impact. It's a step in the right direction on this long road to recovery. The federal government has been giving mixed messages on vaccine availability and guidance, and we need them to step up and get more vaccine to the state. When they do, we will be ready. The end of this pandemic is closer today than it was yesterday."

"Beginning to vaccinate educators, including all school staff, as well as our partners in the child care industry through the pilot sites is exciting," said Deputy Education Commissioner Heather Mueller. "While we do not have enough doses for everyone who wants a vaccine to receive one right away, we are building the system and structure so that once we receive those additional doses from the federal government, we can move quickly to support our school staff and bring even more students back into our classrooms."

There are a very small number of doses and appointments available at these pilot sites. Minnesotans should not visit a healthcare provider or pilot site unless they have an appointment.

New COVID-19 cases in MN by date reported

Based solely on cases confirmed by the MN Department of Health. Line represents 7-day rolling average. Light blue bars are Mondays.



Source: Minnesota Department of Health, Graphic by David H. Montgomery | MPR News

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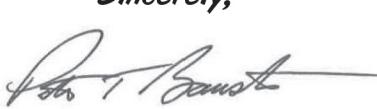
Data as of January 18, 2021

I am confident that Luverne Area Residents, working together, will emerge from this pandemic much stronger as a community.



Love the life!

Sincerely,



Mayor Patrick T. Baustian