



Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, February 23, 2023

Giant nutcracker coming to South Highway 75

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne is home to the third-largest nutcracker collection in the world, and it will soon be home to the world's largest nutcracker — one that towers 73 feet tall and can be seen by interstate traffic from a mile away.

The giant nutcracker is a private endeavor funded by Just For Nuts Inc., a Luverne nonprofit that has amassed more than \$200,000 in donations by local citizens and organizations. Of that, \$50,000 came from the Blandin Foundation. Structurally, the 65-foot-tall



nutcracker will stand on an 8-foot-tall pedestal supported by an existing 40-foot-tall solid steel post that once carried a "Mobile" sign for a service station.

The property is now home to Those Blasted Things, opened more than 20 years ago by Vance and Becky Walgrave, who granted an easement to the nonprofit in order to build the giant nutcracker.

They and their daughter, Katie, are on the Just For Nuts board, which submitted a variance request to the city for the oversized structure last

Giant nutcracker/see page 2A

Cardinal girls compete at state



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0223 ghoc trio

LHS seniors Mallory Nelson, Kamryn Van Batavia and Mallory Von Tersch pose with Luverne's Section 3A Champions trophy. The Cardinals beat New Ulm 4-0 Tuesday, Feb. 14, to advance to state.

The Luverne girls' hockey team left for the state tournament Tuesday after a pep fest at school and a sendoff from the Luverne Fire Department with fans in tow.

The Cardinals earned a berth in the state playoffs after taking down New Ulm 4-0 in St. Peter on Feb. 14 to claim the 2023 Section 3A Championship trophy.

This is Luverne's fourth year in a row being crowned the 3A champs, but the Cardinals have yet to win a game at state.

This year's opening round was set to begin at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Xcel Energy Center against third-seeded Orono. See the sports section on Page 1B for more.

Kwik Trip coming to Luverne with opening set for 2024

By Lori Sorenson

Wheels are in motion to bring a Kwik Trip to South Highway 75 in Luverne, with earth moving to start this spring, construction this fall and opening expected in January 2024.

Company officials said Luverne's Kwik Trip footprint will be 9,000 square feet located on 2.88 acres just south of the Econo Lodge Hotel near the intersection of Highway 75 and Gabrielson Road.

The Luverne Kwik Trip will be open 24 hours per day, seven days a week with 20 full-time employees.

The newer "Gen 3" design will be similar to the Kwik Trip in Windom and will include all the same amenities except a car wash.

"People really like our fried chicken and take-home meals," said Emily Helwig of Kwik Trip's headquarters in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

"We have vegetables and a



Kwik Trip Facebook image

Luverne's Kwik Trip footprint will be 9,000 square feet located on 2.88 acres just south of the Econo Lodge.

fresh case with meat for grilling, potatoes, bread and bakery items."

Kwik Trip has its own dairy, sweet goods and bread produc-

tion in La Crosse, from where it distributes directly to more than 800 of its stores in the upper Midwest.

In addition to standard

convenience store merchandise and grocery items, Luverne's Kwik Trip fuel pumps will offer

Kwik Trip/see page 2A

Local vet to help at Iditarod

By Mavis Fodness

When Alaska's "Last Great Race on Earth" begins March 4, sixth-graders at Luverne Middle-High School and staff at Rock Veterinary Clinic in Luverne will be following mushers along the 1,000-mile race course.

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race enters its 51st year, while this year's Luverne sixth-graders are the third class to follow mushers on the race from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska.

Sixth-grade teacher Deb Hoogendoorn leads the cur-



Dr. Emily Tschida

Local vet at Iditarod/see 3A

Deutsch selling 75 Diner, but won't close until suitable buyer is found

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne restaurant owner Codie Deutsch is selling her 75 Diner on South Highway 75, but she said she's committed to remaining open until a suitable buyer can take it over.

She said the business is prof-

itable; she's just hoping to make more time for her family.

"The hard part of selling is it's busy all the time and it's making money every day," Deutsch said.

"But I want to be with my family more. It's gotten to the point where if I want to take some time

off, I have to close the Diner."

75 Diner has 18 employees, plus Deutsch working more than full time.

"I'd be fine working those long hours as an owner," she said. "But family commitments (husband and three stepchildren) weigh on

my mind when I'm working."

She said the restaurant in Luverne has thrived, despite the pandemic shutdown.

"It was a difficult period for the business, but they made it through fine," Deutsch said.

"It's been hard to add more

employees, and supply chain challenges continue, but the business is still profitable."

Deutsch has worked in restaurants since she was 15.

On Feb. 14, 2018, she parted

75 Diner for sale/see page 2A

D.A.R.E. returns to H-BC, Luverne schools in spring

By Mavis Fodness

D.A.R.E., a relationship-building program between law enforcement and children, returns to Rock County schools Feb. 27 after an absence of several years.

Having additional staff at the Rock County Sheriff's Office is making it possible for deputy Jeff Stratton to return to his school resource officer position, at least for a few hours a week, to implement the D.A.R.E. program in fifth-grade classrooms.

The program's underwent significant changes since it was



Mavis Fodness photo/0223 DARE Returns School resource officer and Rock County Deputy Jeff Stratton holds Daren, the D.A.R.E. mascot.

D.A.R.E returns/see page 5A

Gorter sells G&S to Aaker and Hemme, retires from 25-year towing, service career

By Lori Sorenson

Phil Gorter's retirement from G&S Auto marks the end of an era on roadways in the tri-state area.

In January he sold to Kevin Aaker and Andrew Hemme, and the business will continue as a service station and tow operation on South Highway 75.

"Our hope is to continue with as little change as possible for customers," Aaker said.

"We didn't want to see someone from out of town buy G&S and move it out of town and have another empty building and no one in town to help out when people need it most."

Phil Gorter retires/see page 8A



Phil and Denise Gorter sold their G&S Auto Business to Kevin Aaker and Andrew Hemme of Luverne Body Shop where Gorter is an employee as he transitions to retirement. Photo by Sara Van't Hof



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Dental clinic in Luverne Feb. 23

The mobile dental clinic will be in Luverne Thursday, Feb. 23, at the Rock County Health and Human Services community room. This clinic provides dental care for adults and children ages 0 to over 100. Call 612-746-1530 to schedule an appointment. All forms of insurance accepted. Organized by #LuvLuvAll's Rock County Oral Health Task Force.

World Day of Prayer March 3

Luverne's First Presbyterian Church will host a World Day of Prayer at 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 3, under the theme, "I have heard about your faith," based on Ephesians 1:15-19. A time of fellowship will follow the service.

World Day of Prayer is an ecumenical movement of Christian women who gather the first Friday in March for informed prayer and prayerful action. See wdp-usa.org.

Nutrition for seniors March 2

Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors 60 and older, sponsored by A.C.E. of SW MN, will be from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, March 2, as a drive-through distribution in the parking lot off Maple Street at new ACE office on the east side of Generations Event Center. Pre-registration is required for those not already registered. Call Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064.

Community Ed

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

Learn how to detect and treat Emerald Ash Borer and other common insects and diseases at **Insects and Diseases in Trees: What Should I Plant?** On Feb. 27. Fee is \$10.

Students grades 3-8 can learn painting techniques in **Pour Painting** to create beautiful art pieces on Feb. 28. Fee is \$10.

Join Master Gardeners on March 2 at **Planning Your Garden** to learn tips on how to plan your garden for your space. Fee is \$5.

Students in grades K-2 with an adult are invited to **Child-Adult Yoga** for strengthening child-caregiver bonds starting on March 4 for four weeks. Fee is \$40.

Free tax preparation at library

AARP volunteers will offer free tax preparation for low-income individuals and seniors at the Rock County Library on Mondays starting Feb. 13 through April 15.

Call 507-449-5040 for appointments. Bring documents, including last year's tax return and a form of identification to document social security number. Tax returns for 2021 will be prepared if requested.

Library Happenings

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

Story Time with Bronwyn is at 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10 a.m. Fridays now through April 28. Stories and make-and-take crafts are the same at either event.

Winter Book Club meets at different local restaurants during February and March.

The **50 State Challenge** for adults and older teens is currently underway where patrons are encouraged to read a book set in one of each of the 50 states through Jan. 1, 2024.

The annual Plum Cleek Library System winter reading program, **"Get Wrapped in Reading,"** goes now until March 31.

Trivia Night is at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of every month at Take 16 in Luverne. Team registration begins at 6 p.m.



An artist's rendering shows how the giant nutcracker will appear to motorists as they're traveling toward Luverne from the east.

Giant nutcracker coming to South 75/continued from page 1A

week. They said they'll announce a contest to name the nutcracker once a variance is approved.

For motorists traveling west on I-90, the nutcracker will loom on the horizon just as they pass Luverne's nutcracker billboard.

For local leaders watching tourism traffic, it will boost an already growing number of travelers who stop at the downtown History Center to see the nutcracker collection.

At last count, there are 5,300 original nutcrackers — no duplicates and some quite historic and valuable — in Luverne's collection.

The History Center guest book has recorded thousands of visitors from across the United States and around the world.

According to History Center staff, there were over 5,000 visitors last year, and most remark that they came to see for themselves the nutcracker collection that's gaining notoriety by the day.

After WCCO TV aired a Wednesday night segment on Luverne's nutcrackers, a couple drove from Minneapolis the following Saturday in treacherous winter weather.

They took in the collection, along with Rock County's history displays, and left with \$425 worth of merchandise — nutcrackers offered for sale from a supply of nutcrackers that are duplicates and that are purchased for resale.

"They know about us on the East Coast and on the West Coast, and they come from Australia, Africa, some places in South America, Japan, and they come specifically to see the nutcrackers."

— Betty Mann, History Center nutcracker collection donor

"People are coming and spending money here," said Betty Mann, who donated her personal collection of nutcrackers in 2016.

"I never in my wildest dreams expected to do what we're doing. ... It's crazy."

'Crazy nutcracker lady'

It's so crazy, in fact, that when Luverne leaders first started talking about promoting the community based on the nutcracker collection, Mann became known as "the crazy nutcracker lady."

Before donating her collection to the History Center, she had entertained busloads of travelers who had heard about her nutcrackers and wanted to see them.

Recognizing an opportunity for the History Center, Mann donated the nutcrackers when the local museum moved from the Masonic Temple on North Freeman to the historic Ford Motor building on East Main Street.

The "new" History Center was built with space for the nutcrackers to be prominently displayed near

the entrance, and it didn't take long for the guest book to prove Mann's hunch.

The nutcrackers might be the reason visitors stopped, but while they were there, they stayed to tour the museum and learn about Rock County's history and its people. "People are amazed at our museum," she said. "Especially our sod shanty, covered wagon and buffalo."

Around that same time, Luverne Initiatives For Tomorrow (LIFT) hired community consultant Roger Brooks to help improve the town's image with better branding and self-promotion.

Among other things, he urged the town to use Mann's nutcrackers as its unique "hook" to attract visitors. "This is flat out amazing," he said about them. "This is worth getting off the interstate for."

He pointed to Bemidji's Paul Bunyon and LeSueur's Jolly Green Giant as examples of other oddities that attract traffic.

The Jolly Green Giant three years ago was attracting 20,000 visitors per

year. Since the community started promoting it, visits rose to 46,000 last year.

Brooks showed an artist's rendering of an I-90 billboard, "Luverne: Home of the largest nutcracker collection in the Midwest," and encouraged putting nutcrackers on every corner.

Some locals pushed back on the notion and on social media complained about the "crazy nutcracker lady."

Mann, meanwhile, quietly continued her work at the History Center where the nutcracker numbers grew along with the guest list of travelers visiting the collection.

"They know about us on the East Coast and on the West Coast, and they come from Australia, Africa, some places in South America, Japan," Mann said. "And they come specifically to see the nutcrackers."

To continue the momentum, the Rock County Fine Arts and Chamber dedicated several 7-foot-tall nutcrackers that were painted by local artists.

Tourism brochures and advertisements about Luverne in state and national publications encourage visitors to see the nutcracker collection.

And by this fall, as tourism continues to flow from I-90 to downtown Luverne, a 73-foot-tall nutcracker on South Highway 75 will welcome them to the "Nutcracker Capital of the World."

75 Diner for sale/continued from page 1A

ways with the family restaurant chain, Marlin's, in Sioux Falls where she worked for 13 years, the past eight years as manager.

Prior to buying the Luverne restaurant with her husband, Colter Deutsch, in 2018, it was Papa's Place and Chit-Chat's and the longtime Country Kitchen.

They named their new business 75 Diner in honor of "the heartbeat" of Luverne.

And true to the building's Country Kitchen history, the menu features all-day breakfast entrees, daily "quick" lunch specials and quiet evening meals.

The business is listed through Land & Home Realty, and Deutsch said all pie orders and gift certificates will be honored.



Lori Sorenson file photo

In 2018 Codie (Boysen) and her husband Colter Deutsch opened 75 Diner, named it for the "heartbeat of Luverne."

She said the building is in good shape after recent improvements, including new kitchen equipment, shingles, parking lot and a

new air conditioning and heating system.

She can be reached for more information at 75diner@gmail.com.

Kwik Trip/ from page 1A

unleaded, premium and E-85 gas (no diesel).

Helwig said the decision to locate in Luverne came down to finding a property that works for the company, with access to well-traveled roadways.

The company published a legal notice in this week's Star Herald about the project's proposed conversion of a floodplain and potential environmental effects. Public comment will be accepted until March 3 at the USDA office in St. Paul.

The Luverne location is among several new Kwik Trip stores in the works, including one in Worthington and several in Sioux Falls.

#TellUsTuesday Results

Scan Here to Vote for this Week's Survey!



What Was Your Favorite Part Of The Superbowl?

The food	11%
The game	67%
The commercials	17%
The halftime show	6%

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Council members question where snowmobilers can ride in city of Luverne

By Lori Sorenson

This winter's heavy snow cover is a snowmobiler's delight, but some residents are seeing snowmobiles on private property.

During his Feb. 14, quarterly report to the Luverne City Council, Sheriff Evan Verbrugge addressed complaints about snowmobiles.

Council member Dan Nath said he'd taken phone calls from community members who asked about where snowmobiles are allowed to ride in town.

"They had concerns because people were riding across their lawns to get to areas they considered to be thoroughfare for snowmobiles," Nath said.

Verbrugge acknowledged that the heavy snow cover is prompting increased snowmobile traffic this year.

"Obviously we haven't had this much snow in the past, so it hasn't been a problem," he said. "But according to city ordinance, snowmobiles can be driven on Cedar, Edgell, Donaldson and Warren streets."

He said technically, people are supposed to trailer their snowmobiles to those locations and ride from there.

"Obviously some are not," Verbrugge said. "I know we looked at 131st Street (on the north side of the hospital). It wouldn't be allowed on the south side of that street, but on the north side it would, because that would be county."

He said the Sno-Masters snowmobile club has a designated trail and he'll contact the trail master to encourage compliance.

Mayor Pat Baustian said he's also fielded complaints.

"I was walking our dog near the Uithoven Addition, and I could hear them," he said. "Those raspy snowmobiles nowadays are loud. They're not like days of old with the little Rups or Skidoos that putt along. They're little race cars."

He said he flagged down a snowmobiler to inform him that riding in that area wasn't allowed. "And he didn't know it," Baustian said.

"He trailered his snowmobile to town and parked at his grandpa and grandma's and rode out behind the school and Uithoven Addition and none of those areas are allowed for snowmobiles."

Council member Caroline Thorson suggested getting trail maps

to snowmobile safety instructors so that new riders are aware of approved routes through cities.

City Clerk Jessica Mead said she had been in touch with new leadership at Sno-Masters who are eager to educate their members about respecting private property and about staying on designated trails.

Baustian also acknowledged that many snowmobilers aren't club members, and he reiterated that heavy snow cover is prompting the unique concerns.

"We have this kind of snow every two out of 10 years. It's kind of hard to get excited about enforcement when you don't see snowmobiles," he said. "This year they're out there, and good for them for enjoying it."

Sheriff's Office staffing

Verbrugge also reported staffing issues in the Sheriff's Office.

He said two dispatchers quit last fall, and the remaining three have been filling the vacancy.

"We are literally running three dispatchers 24-7, seven days a week," Verbrugge said.

"These three have gone above and beyond, and I tell you what, we couldn't do it without them. They are the first line of defense, and they have stepped up tremendously."

Two new dispatchers, Tom Thone and Jason Kelly, will soon start.

"We're hoping to get them certified through the state next month," Verbrugge said. "Once that happens and we get them on their own, hopefully we can get back to a routine and back to normal."

For deputy staffing, he said a new deputy starts Friday, Deputy Craig Martinson retires Feb. 26, and another new deputy starts Feb. 27.

"As of Feb. 27, we'll technically be fully staffed, but it's going to take us three months before we get them on their own," Verbrugge said.

At that point, by late April, Deputy Stratton can return to his school resource officer work in the Hills-Beaver Creek and Luverne school districts.

"We're hoping right before prom, and we'll get him at least acclimated again," Verbrugge said.

Stratton is also certified as the new D.A.R.E. officer and will start that program in both school districts. (See the related story on page 1A.)



Mavis Fodness photos/0223 Idirarod 2023

Sixth-graders stand and cheer musher Brent Sass Friday afternoon via Zoom. Sass, a Minnesota native who lives in Eureka, Alaska, spent 45 minutes answering questions before the students wished Sass good luck in the upcoming Iditarod sled dog race that begins March 4 in Anchorage, Alaska. This is the third year Luverne students have visited with Sass.

riculum that has students reading "Alaska's Iditarod" by Emily Schlesinger and "Woodson" by Minnesota author Gary Paulsen.

"We take the information we gather to practice our reading skills and relate what we have learned to the live event," she said.

Each student also selects a musher to follow during the actual race that begins March 4 and can end as soon as eight days later.

Musher and Minnesota native Brent Sass is a favorite among the Luverne students.

Sass won last year's 50th anniversary race (finishing the race in eight days) securing his first Iditarod win.

"Brent is an inspirational speaker and sends a message of believing in yourself and working hard to achieve your dreams," Hoogendoorn said. "Many past students will ask about the race, especially if they catch me wearing an Iditarod shirt."

Hoogendoorn wore an Iditarod T-shirt Friday, when students zoomed with the musher whose parents live in Excelsior, Minnesota.

Sass lives in Eureka, Alaska, having moved there in 1998 and worked with four-time Iditarod winner Susan Butcher. He completed his first race in 2006 and raises his own dogs, Alaskan huskies.

Sass told students he cares for 58 dogs.

"I love what I do," he said, while sharing the camera with lead dog Slater and his brother, Pink.

When not racing, Sass operates a dog sled tour business.

Care for the dogs is extremely important, and Sass withdrew from the 2017 Iditarod because his dogs struggled to pull the sled.

"We carry a spot tracker," he told the students.



Brent Sass talks with sixth-graders at Luverne Middle-High School Friday via Zoom. Sass, who won the 2022 Iditarod sled dog race, is poised to repeat when the 2023 race starts March 4.

"Press the button and the vets will come."

Dr. Tschida: one of 50 vets at the race event

One of 50 veterinarians monitoring the health of almost 1,000 dogs at this year's race is Dr. Emily Tschida (pronounced Chee-TA) from Rock Veterinary Clinic in Luverne.

Tschida, an avid Iditarod fan, was chosen to volunteer her time and expertise to this year's event in October. She applied for a veterinarian position in previous years but hadn't been chosen until this year's race.

"It has always been an event that has fascinated me," she said. "I am surprised they took me because I didn't live in Alaska and I don't have a lot of sled dog experience."

Veterinarians work in teams of three or four, overseeing the health of all the

canines and helping in case of emergencies. The vets follow the mushers along the 1,000-mile road as the dogs and mushers reach each of the 26 checkpoints.

The application warns volunteer veterinarians of crowded living conditions, haphazard meal times, sparse rest periods and travel by air or in snow machines.

The event only selects four rookies annually to replace the seasoned, retiring veterinarians.

"Many individuals do not function well under these conditions," cautioned trail committee veterinarian Stuart Nelson Jr.

"I can never recall a general musher meeting prior to a race when someone hasn't expressed concern for having their dogs examined by a rookie veterinarian."

Tschida's interest in the Iditarod grew from

reading and watching stories about the infamous race depicted in "Balto" and "Togo."

Interest in animals led to her career in veterinary medicine.

She's worked at the Rock Veterinary Clinic for 10 years as a general practitioner and surgeon.

"One thing about veterinary medicine, it is comparable," she said. "Dogs are great, and they are super fun."

Dog sleds helped in 1925 epidemic

Traveling by dog sled is the most common mode of transportation across Alaska.

The Iditarod mimics the path taken by a sled dog team in 1925 when serum needed to reach Nome from Anchorage to combat the diphtheria epidemic.

Gunnar Kaasen drove the final two legs of the pony-express relay into Nome behind his lead dog, Balto, through a blizzard hurling 80 mph winds.

Togo was also a lead dog who led his team across the most treacherous stretch of that 1925 trip.

Sixth-grader Maesa Boyenga said she's excited to learn more about sled dogs and mushers after learning about the transfer of medicine.

She's following Brent Sass as her Iditarod musher. "He went to high school with (LHS sixth-grade teacher) Mrs. Thone," she said. "I was excited to learn more."

The students follow their assigned mushers at the race's start March 4 and monitor the mushers' daily check-ins on Iditarod.com.

Hoogendoorn plans to add Dr. Tschida's experiences to the curriculum.

"We plan to reach out to her to come and tell us about her experiences and more inside happenings when she returns," she said.

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REQUEST FOR BIDS VIENNA TOWNSHIP IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR

Snow Removal

Please submit bids by Friday, March 10, 2023. Bids will be opened Tuesday, March 14 at 7 p.m. at the community hall in Kenneth.

Bids may be sent to:
Brad Skattum
1397 160th Ave
Luverne, MN 56156
Vienna Township Board

REQUEST FOR BIDS VIENNA TOWNSHIP IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR

Road Grading

Please submit bids by Monday, March 10, 2023. Bids will be opened Tuesday, March 14 at 7 p.m. at the community hall in Kenneth.

Bids may be sent to:
Brad Skattum
1397 160th Ave
Luverne, MN 56156
Vienna Township Board

GRAVEL BIDS: VIENNA TOWNSHIP

Class 5, pit run, and screened to be spread on Vienna Township roads. Bids will be expected by Friday, March 10, 2023.

Bids opened Tuesday, March 14 at 7 p.m. at the community hall in Kenneth.

Bids may be sent to:
Vienna Township
Brad Skattum
1397 160th Ave
Luverne, MN 56156

Brad Skattum
Chairman

Marlene and Darlene Sisters from Leota (again) try to save Luverne senior center

Many of you may recall elderly goofball sisters of the stage Marlene and Darlene from Leota, Minnesota.



Over the years, the pair have attempted to save the Luverne Senior Citizens Center (now Generations) from certain demise.

Always the pessimist, Marlene believes the end of the senior center is at hand and it's her job to keep the doors open.

Darlene thinks there are simply not enough single men to be found there but a few more interesting activities might draw them in.

In December of 2019, the sisters tried to present "The Nutcracker" from the stage of Luverne's Palace Theatre. Their goal was to raise enough money to buy the former event center as a new location for the seniors. Because Darlene inadvertently put out the "suggestion" box instead of the "donation" box, very little money was raised.

The seniors purchased a new building in spite of this temporary setback.

In the spring of 2022, as part of the new building's grand opening, Marlene and Darlene took to the Generations stage to share their tale of victory over the COVID lockdown.

They attended the Generations "stretch and bend" class where the grueling (by Marlene's standards) workout resulted in her collapsing in the class.

This near-death experience led the sisters to visit Jeff Hartquist and create a meaningful funeral plan. For Marlene, this meant choosing the best kind of cake for her funeral luncheon while Darlene focused on gathering a team of beefy pallbearers.

When we left off last

THE NORTHVIEW

By Brenda Winter, columnist

On Thursday, April 27, Marlene and Darlene will return to the stage at Generations to once again try to 'Save Our Generations.' Save the date to see what the goofball sisters from Leota, Minnesota, have up their sleeves this year.

spring, Marlene was still torn between choosing a life of clean living or eating more cake. "I tried a two-week diet once and all I lost was 14 days," she says.

On Thursday, April 27, Marlene and Darlene will return to the stage at Generations to once again try to "Save Our Generations."

Save the date to see what the goofball sisters from Leota, Minnesota, have up their sleeves this year.

And, as Marlene likes to say, "Oh for Pete's sake. All you do is sit around anyway. Just come to the Generations and laugh, would ya?"

Feb. 22 is School Bus Drivers Appreciation Day

Thank you, school bus drivers, for your dedication to students

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

This week Minnesotans honors bus drivers across the state with "School Bus Driver Appreciation Day" on Wednesday, Feb. 22, to draw attention to these dedicated professionals and to the statewide bus driver shortage.

Rock County's list of school bus drivers report for duty in the Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek districts.

Luverne school bus drivers include Brad Goebel, Scott Adams, Keith Brandt, Bonnie Busse-Reu, Mark Ehlers, Tom Fick, Jerry Hansen, Sam Hansen, Larry Harms, Lloyd Hemme, Andrew Hess, Heather Hess, Jerry Hoff, Mike Jarchow, Bill Korth, Laura Luitjens, Shelly Mallon, Tom Martius, Craig Nekali, Rodger Ossenfort, James Ouverson, Michael Polletta, Lon Remme, Chris Roos, Les Sankey, Todd Teal, Jeff Thacker and Ken Vos.

Hills-Beaver Creek school bus drivers include Doug Boeve, Lila Tatge, Rick Tatge Arlen Leenderts, Lisa Durst, Shari Doerr, and Mark Top, with substitute drivers Harlan Stueven, Paul Hartz, Travis Helgeson and Dalton Bass.

To recognize them, Gov. Tim Walz proclaimed Feb. 22 as School Bus Driver Appreciation Day.

"Minnesota's school bus drivers are in the fabric of our schools and

communities. They are often the first adult to greet a student at the start of each school day and the person that ensures each student gets home safely at the end of the day," Walz said.

"As a parent and former classroom teacher, I am grateful to Minnesota's school bus drivers for their invaluable contributions to public education and student safety and for their dedication to ensuring our communities are strong, safe and connected."

The Minnesota School Bus Operators Association (MSBOA) and Minnesota Association of Pupil Transportation (MAPT) created School Bus Driver Appreciation Day in 2017.

"From rural country roads to city streets and everything in between, Minnesota school bus drivers are always willing to go the extra mile for our kids," said MSBOA President Bethany Bertram.

"Bus drivers are among the many wonderful professionals who positively impact a student's school experience every day, and we are

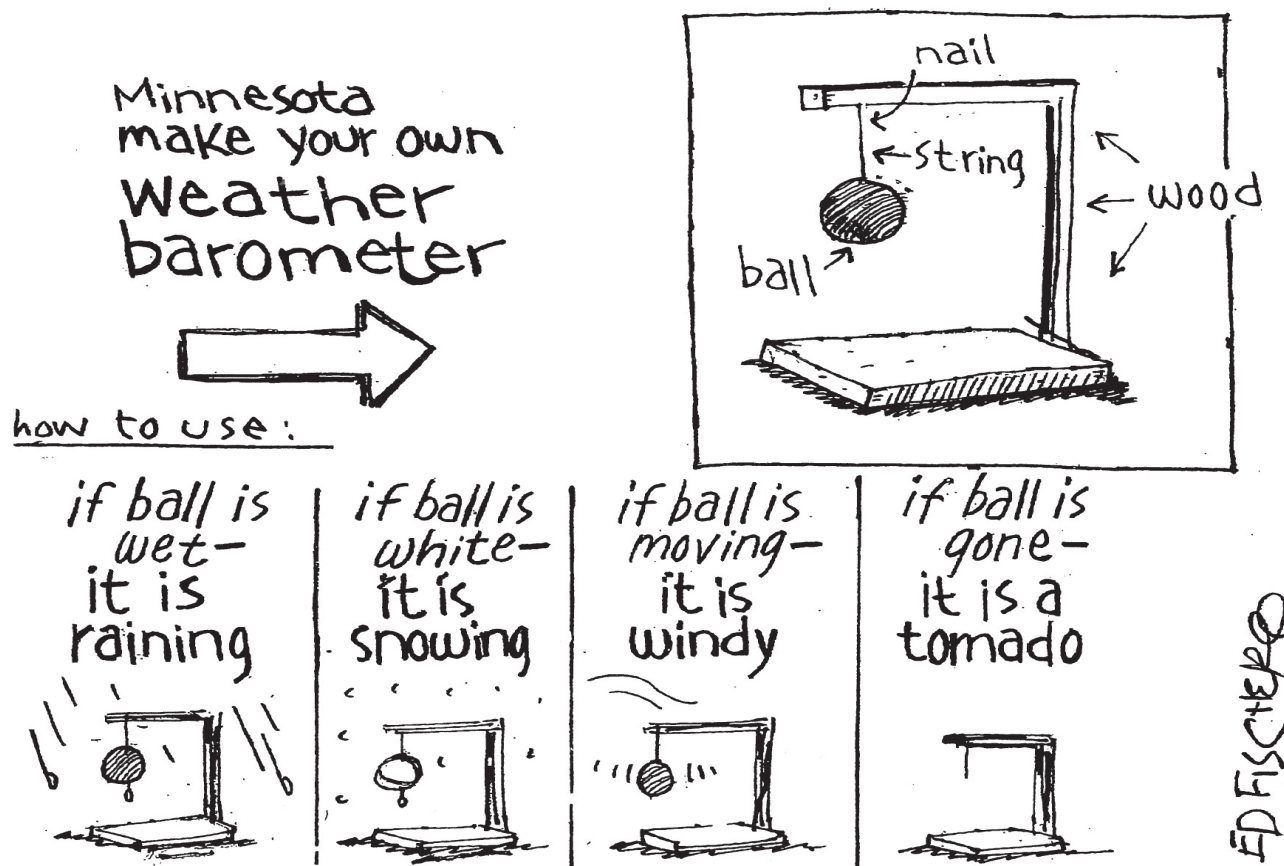
excited to honor them on School Bus Driver Appreciation Day."

School bus drivers make important contributions to public education and their communities, safely transporting more than 682,000 students statewide.

Nearly every school district in the state currently faces a bus driver shortage and is seeking professionals to serve in these fulfilling, flexible jobs.

"Our school bus drivers are facing another challenging year of staff shortages and a very cold and snowy winter, but they are undeterred in their dedication to serving students," said MAPT President John Thomas.

"Children are our future, and they need consistent, caring adults in their lives. These professionals give them that stability with a warm greeting in the morning and friendly farewell in the afternoon. We hope Minnesotans help us recognize school bus drivers in their communities and thank them for consistently showing up for our kids every day."



With the Luverne Leap complete, time to move on to next hare-brained stunt

You probably are aware that the first attempt at the Luverne Leap fundraiser for the Luverne Area Community Foundation was a huge success. With the help of event sponsors, the 29 jumpers were able to raise \$23,000 for the Foundation's general grant fund.

As a first-time jumper into the icy waters at The Lake, I have to tell you it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. Truth be told, the days leading up to the event were the



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, general manager

worst. Second thoughts and anxiety started to consume my thoughts.

I have talked to a handful of my fellow jumpers, and they all said

it wasn't as bad as they thought it would be either and they would do it again.

For me once is enough and it's

on to the next hare-brained stunt.

The start of the Minnesota State High School winter sports tournament season is underway. The Luverne Cardinals girls are having a really nice season. The girls' hockey team, along with individuals from gymnastics and girls' wrestling, are competing in their respective state tournaments, and hopefully the girls' basketball team will be joining them.

I took a day trip last Saturday

to the annual Pheasant Fest hosted by Minneapolis this year. As you can imagine, Pheasant Fest falls into my wheelhouse.

Talk about a kid in a candy store! Five hours wasn't enough time to see everything, but I'll spend more time at the show next year because Sioux Falls will be the host city for 2024.

I would strongly encourage you to consider taking in at least one day of the show while it's in Sioux Falls.

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ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

Feb. 10
 •An outage was reported.
 •Complainant on 190th Avenue and County Road 4, Magnolia, reported an abandoned vehicle.
 •Assistance from another agency was provided on Interstate 90, mile marker 2, Beaver Creek.
Feb. 11
 •Complainant on 11th Street, Hills, reported a burglary.
Feb. 12
 •Complainant on E. Main Street reported suspicious activity.
 •Complainant on 231st Street, Hardwick, reported suspicious activity.
 •A fire call was reported on E. 4th Street, Hardwick.
 •Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 19, Magnolia, reported debris.
 •Complainant on E. 1st Street, Hardwick, reported a suicidal subject.
 Complainant on Highway 75 and 131st Street requested roadside assist.
Feb. 13
 •Complainant reported a scam.
 •Complainant on Oakley and Main Street reported property damage.
Feb. 14
 •Complainant on E. Crawford Street requested assistance from another department.
 •A scam was reported.
 •Complainant on W. Warren Street reported an

abandoned vehicle.
 •Complainant on 20th Avenue and 71st Street, Manley, reported a road closure.
Feb. 15
 •Complainant on Interstate 90, mile marker 10, Luverne, requested assistance from another department.
 •Complainant on County Road 20 and 80th Avenue, Luverne, reported an abandoned vehicle.
 •A warrant was issued on E. Crawford Street.
 •Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported an assault.
 •Complainant reported an outage.
 •Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue requested assistance from another department.
 •A warrant was issued on N. Kniss Avenue.
 •A miscellaneous public assist was reported on 101st Street, Magnolia.
Feb. 16
 •Complainant reported found property at Johnson Jewelry in Worthington.

In addition, officers responded to 3 motor vehicle accidents, 2 deer accidents, 1 vehicle in the ditch, 1 transport, 15 ambulance runs, 1 paper service, 3 animal complaints, 1 fingerprint request, 9 burn permits, 3 background checks, 7 purchase and carry permits, 4 stalled vehicles, 21 traffic stops, 5 abandoned 911 calls, 2 welfare checks, 1 OFP and 5 follow-ups.



Recreational skating at the arena

A group of children enjoy some free time on open ice outside the Blue Mound Ice Arena Saturday afternoon during a brief winter thaw as temperatures climbed into the low 30s. Ice arena personnel keep the outside rink clear for hockey and figure skaters seeking extra practice and recreational skating time. (Lori Sorenson photo/0223 outdoor rink)

FSA outlines MAL and LDP policies

The 2018 Farm Bill extends loan authority through 2023 for Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs). MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans, and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey. MALs provide interim financing after harvest to help meet cash flow needs without having to sell

commodities when market prices are typically at harvest-time lows. A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP if such a payment is available. FSA is now accepting requests for 2022 MALs and LDPs for all eligible commodities after harvest. Requests for loans and LDPs shall be made on or before the final availability date for the respective commodities.

To be considered eligible for an LDP, producers must have form CCC-633EZ, Page 1 on file at their local FSA Office before losing beneficial interest in the crop. Pages 2, 3 or 4 of the form must be submitted when payment is requested. Marketing loan gains (MLGs) and loan deficiency payments (LDPs) are no longer subject to payment limitations, actively engaged in farming and cash-tenant rules. Adjusted Gross Income

(AGI) provisions state that if total applicable three-year average AGI exceeds \$900,000, then producers are not eligible to receive an MLG or LDP. They must have a valid CCC-941 on file to earn a market gain of LDP. The AGI does not apply to MALs redeemed with commodity certificate exchange. Contact local USDA Service Centers or visit fsa.usda.gov for more information about eligibility requirements.

D.A.R.E. officer to return to Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek schools/continued from page 1A

last offered in schools in the mid-2010s, when the program transitioned away from "Drug Abuse Resistance Education."
 "Now it's really built around making good choices," Stratton said. "Not just about drugs and alcohol."
 Stratton completed a two-week training course in January, where he learned how to lead students through various scenarios.

The scenarios allow the fifth-graders to talk about challenges they may have already faced.
 Focus is on showing the students they have a choice in the discussions they make versus just listening to lectures from a peace officer. D.A.R.E. now stands for Define a problem, Assess your options, Respond (make your decision), and Evaluate.

Drug and alcohol resistance is emphasized for a week or two in the new 10-week program, but other program topics include bullying, peer pressure and tools for good decision-making.
 Stratton said the new approach leads students down a better life path, while developing two-way communication with law enforcement.

Positive communications became a hallmark of the program that began in Los Angeles in 1983 before the nationwide curriculum was developed. D.A.R.E. came to Luverne in the late 1980s. The program changed in 2013 when researchers determined that the program focus didn't reduce the abuse of drugs or alcohol as intended.
 Stratton became the

school resource officer last year to work in Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek school districts.
 Months into the new job, Stratton was reassigned to patrol duty due to a staff shortage and upcoming retirements.
 The last two open patrol positions will be filled later this month. Stratton anticipates returning to the schools full time in May,

when the two patrol officers finish their introductory training.
 The Hills-Beaver Creek School Board approved the return of the D.A.R.E. program at their Feb. 13 meeting.
 Luverne School Board members are expected to approve the return of the program to the fifth-grade curriculum at their Thursday night, Feb. 23, meeting.

Rock County's 'We Love Pork' Challenge continues through March 17

The Fourth Annual "We Love Pork" Challenge, sponsored by the Rock County Pork Producers, started last week and continues through Friday, March 17.
 Rock County Pork Producers will present the "We Love Pork" traveling trophy to the winner of the contest on March 27 at a special event hosted for the

participating restaurants. Five participating restaurants will create delicious pork meals showcasing pork, "the other white meat," and diners can rate the pork meals at each restaurant.
 Participating restaurants are Bogey's Bar & Grill at the Luverne Country Club, Green Lantern Bar & Grill in Hardwick,

Hidden Hills Café & Hideaway Tavern in Hills and Howling Dog Saloon and Sterling's Café & Grille in Luverne.
 Customers will assign up to five points in each of five categories — meat, presentation, toppings, flavor and customer service.
 The pork meal with the highest average points at the conclusion of the battle

will be declared the winner. Participating diners will have chances at 50 \$10 gift certificates or prizes given away by participating restaurants during the challenge.
 More information is at luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us
 The Luverne Chamber office can be reached at 507-283-4061.

Notice of Annual Township Meetings & Elections

Notice is hereby given that the following townships will hold their annual meeting and elections on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. In case of inclement weather, they will be held one week later on March 21, 2023.

- Battle Plain Township**
Justin Prins' farm - 1941 231st St., Edgerton. Meeting at 7 pm
- Beaver Creek Township**
Beaver Creek Township Hall. Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term.
- Clinton Township**
Business meeting at the Township Hall. 4-5pm Voting from 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Treasurer for 2-year term.
- Denver Township**
Hardwick City Hall. Meeting 7 pm
- Kanaranzi Township**
Kanaranzi Elevator. 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term.
- Luverne Township**
Luverne Pizza Ranch. Monthly Meeting 3-4 pm, Annual Business Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Treasurer 2-year term.
- Magnolia Township**
Arends Farm 1581 121st Luverne. Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Treasurer 2-year term.
- Martin Township**
Township Building 598 51st St Hills. Meeting at 8 pm. Important-Discuss possibility of taring 41st Street to the New Vision Terminal.
- Mound Township**
Keith Schmuck shop 1292 141st St, Luverne. Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term.
- Rosedell Township**
Township Hall. 4-5 pm Business Meeting.
- Springwater Township**
Town Hall 594 141st Luverne. Business meeting 3:00 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term.
- Vienna Township**
Kenneth Community Hall. Business Meeting 7 pm.

Rock County Township Association
 Teresa Kramer, Secretary/Treasurer

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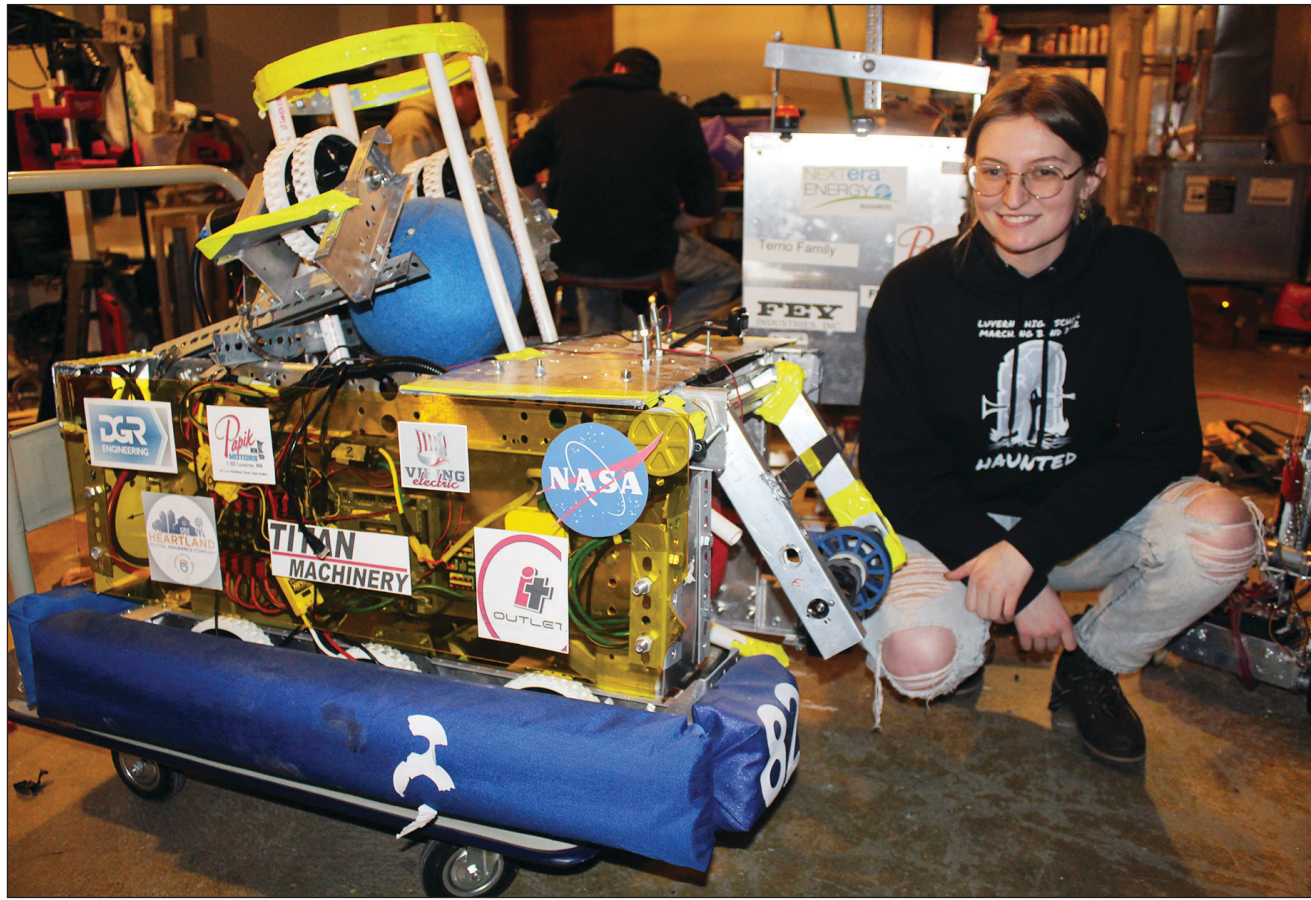
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BROWSER



Mavis Fodness photo/0223 Zoey Berghorst Robotics

Luverne High School junior Zoey Berghorst is a state semi-finalist for the FIRST dean's list that recognizes students across the U.S. for their robotics knowledge and leadership potential. Berghorst poses with the high school team's robot they built for last year's competitions. She's part of the team building this year's machine for the FIRST Robotics Regional Competition March 23-25 in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

LHS junior joins elite list of high school students on robotics dean's list

By Mavis Fodness

Zoey Berghorst, a junior at Luverne High School, is making robotics program history.

Berghorst is one of four Minnesota semi-finalists named to the FIRST dean's list, selected for her leadership potential based on the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) program's core values.

She's participated in each of the three FIRST programs: Lego League (FLL), technical challenge (FTC) and robotics competitions (FRC).

Lately most of her time has been spent working with teammates in the robotics team's workshop in the school basement.

"It's all I do," Berghorst said. "I spend most of my days

down here."

Her selection as a dean's list semi-finalist puts her in elite company, — one where she is excited to learn more about robotics from students across the U.S.

She'll complete an interview to decide the dean's list finalist at the upcoming FTC World Championships in April.

"I am really excited to be going on to the next stage where I can see FTC robots in action," she said.

Berghorst was nominated by LHS robotics coach Aaron Perkins, who's worked with Berghorst since her initial introduction to the FIRST program as an elementary student.

Perkins nominated Berghorst for the award that selects 10 sophomores and juniors from across the U.S. for the FIRST annual dean's list.

"She's taught fellow students engineering, coding and teamwork skills over the years," Perkins said.

"Most recently she mentored our girls FLL (FIRST Lego League) team to the South Dakota State tournament."

Berghorst assisted her fellow teammates at the FTC (FIRST Tech Challenge) to win the communication award last fall. She also assisted the team in their ninth-place finish in the nation with the KIBO (an introductory programmable robotics kit for elementary students). The competition allowed students to program a robot in the International Space Station.

Berghorst is one of 17 high school students who helped begin the Luverne High School robotics team in the

fall of 2019.

They named themselves the "Mighty Morphing Banana Slugs" and went on to claim the rookie inspirational award at the Great Northern Regional FIRST Robotics Competition.

The rookie inspiration award recognized the team for their recruitment, outreach, commitment and understanding of the FIRST mission.

Berghorst has been instrumental in furthering the team's and her own participation in the FIRST core values of discovery, innovation, impact, inclusion, teamwork and fun.

She's quick to point to the source of her focus and the success of the LHS robotics program.

"It's a total team effort," Berghorst said.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2013)

•Luverne High School choir member Kira Graber joined an all-star cast of choral students from across the state when she performed at Benson Great Hall at Bethel University for the Minnesota Music Educators Mid-Winter Conference last week.

Graber, a junior, tried out for the All-State Choir last March. Her audition included singing a solo, vocal memory exercises checking for range and sight singing.

Graber received information that she had been chosen to sing in the Girls' All-State Choir in May. She attended a weeklong camp in August at St. John's University when choir members spent about seven hours a day rehearsing the music. ...

Graber was the only student from Luverne to receive the honor of being chosen for the All-State Choir performance.

She is the daughter of Keith and Seana Graber, Luverne.

25 years ago (1998)

•With boosts from private businesses, volunteers, an extra city donation and a possible no interest loan, Luverne baseball players could set their spikes on an irrigated, freshly sodded, new baseball diamond this spring.

Jerry Buss of McClure Plumbing and Heating volunteered to acquire at cost and help install sprinkler equipment for the Luverne Baseball Association and the city diamond.

Buss said he did not have an exact estimate from his suppliers, but it would probably cost less than half of earlier estimates. The Association would provide labor for the installation, under supervision of his son, to help reduce the cost.

Mike Reker, representing the Association, had approached the council Jan. 26 about adding sprinklers to the baseball diamond being reshaped from a softball diamond located near the BMX track.

The council had already committed \$20,000 to the project in October 1997 and has spent \$17,932.13 of the total. Reker estimated the cost for sprinklers, using a firm specializing in such work, to be in the \$10,000 to \$12,000 range.

50 years ago (1973)

•Fire tore through Leonard's DX Service Station in Hardwick Friday night leaving an estimated \$7,000 in damage.

The Hardwick Fire Department was called on the scene around 11 p.m. and by 11:30 p.m. the fire was under control. Luverne firemen were also called at 11:30 p.m. to assist in fighting the blaze, but the fire had been all but extinguished by that time.

Leonard Staeffler, who leases the station from Ray Frick, Luverne, reported that his shop equipment was salvageable, but everything in the small office portion of his station was destroyed.

In just 30 minutes, the fire had completely gutted the interior of the station.

A cousin to the operator, Alfred Staeffler, reported the fire. Staeffler resides across the street from the station and told firemen he heard small explosions around 11 p.m. He noticed flames erupting and immediately called in the alarm.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Perkins on South Dakota Board of Education Standards

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem appointed Steven Perkins to the South Dakota Board of Education Standards, which provides resources and professional support for educators.

"Steve has grandkids of his own, and he realizes that their future is

of the utmost importance," Gov. Noem said Feb. 7 via news.sd.gov.

"He will put the future of our next generation first in his approach to the Board of Education Standards, and that is why he is a great pick for this role."

Perkins has been principal of

Perkins Consulting in Sioux Falls since 2006.

He was Red Wing administrator from 1992 to 1997, Luverne city administrator from 1986 to 1992, and Pipestone mayor from 1977 to 1986.

"Our kids are our most precious

asset, and our standards should set them up with the best possible opportunity for success," said Perkins. "We need to raise the bar for our children and work to ensure that every child has the opportunity to pursue their dreams."

Blue Mound Quilters recognized

Bev Doorenbos (below, left) and Mary Akkerman were recently honored with the Blue Mound Quilters Award. They were recognized for their quilting talents, dedication to the art of quilting and willingness to help their fellow quilters. Both women learned to sew at their mothers' trundle sewing machines, which required eye, hand and foot coordination. They are each committed to their individual church's quilt charity program. Their quilts will be featured Saturday, June 3, at the Blue Mound Quilters Quilt Show at the Hinky House during Buffalo Days in Luverne.

The Blue Mound Quilters also received a quilt from Barb Bork (left) to be donated to Hospice Cottage for future fundraising purposes. Also pictured are Teresa Mayer, RN Supervisor, Sanford Hospice, and Jackie Gertz, quilt guild president. Quilt co-chairpersons are Deb Van Heerde, 507-283-2279, and Jill Willers, 507-283-2460.



Submitted photos



75 years ago (1948)

•The KELO Barn Dance Gang, sponsored by Luverne's American Legion Post, play in the Luverne armory this Saturday, February 28.

The complete line-up of the show, which has been a success in many near Sioux Falls towns, includes a show, amateur contest, broadcast and dance. Members of the group include Dave Rogers, Pee Wee Krause, Lyle Cobb, Verne Morgan, and Roddy Bristow, who are heard daily over radio station KELO (1230 on the dial).

Other members of the troupe are Edythe Mack, The Arizona Cowgirls, and Master of Ceremonies Dick Creswell.

100 years ago (1923)

•Purchase and presentation to the Luverne high school of a silver cup as a trophy for which the Senior and Junior classes will debate, was authorized at the Monday noon luncheon of the Luverne Kiwanis club.

This trophy is to remain in the possession of the Luverne schools from year to year, and the two classes above named will annually compete for it under conditions to be outlined by the superintendent of the schools.

A committee was named to purchase the silver cup, and it is hoped to secure one large enough so that the names of the winner and the year may be engraved upon it from year to year.

OBITUARIES

Mabel Gyberg

Mabel Elizabeth Gyberg, 99, formerly of Luverne, died Sunday, Feb. 19, 2023, at the Bethany Meadows Home in Brandon, South Dakota.

Visitation will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, at Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne. A funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 27, at Grace Lutheran Church in Luverne. Burial will follow in Memory Gardens Cemetery near Luverne.

Mabel Larson was born to Christian and Alma (Reichert) Larson on Feb. 3, 1924, in Montrose, South Dakota. She moved with her family first to Colton and later to Dell Rapids, South Dakota. She attended country school through the eighth grade and attended two years at Dell Rapids High School. While still in Dell Rapids, Mabel waitressed at a local café and cared for and did the housekeeping for a family with three children.

On April 4, 1943, Mabel married Knute Gyberg at her mother's home in Dell Rapids. The couple made their first home on a farm near Magnolia until 1947 when they moved to a farm near Beaver Creek.

In 1949 they moved and began farming near Luverne,



and it was there they raised their four sons. Knute died on Jan. 28, 1990. Mabel moved to Luverne and lived there for 17 years before she moved to Bethany Meadows in Brandon, South Dakota, in April of 2007.

Mabel was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Luverne and the Lydia Circle. She had been most recently attending Chapel at Bethany Meadows. Time spent with family was dear to Mabel, and she enjoyed traveling, reading, fishing, playing cards (especially pinochle), completing word searches and putting puzzles together.

She is survived by her son, Norman (Darlene) Gyberg of Magnolia; two daughters-in-law, Irene Gyberg of Brandon and Kathy Gyberg of Luverne; grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

Mabel was preceded in death by her husband, Knute; her parents; three sons, Steven, Dennis and Stanley; three brothers; and four sisters.

Arrangements are provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, hartquist-funeral.com.

(0223 F)

Roman Lenz

Roman Lenz, 95, Luverne, died Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023, at Ava's House Hospice in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

A funeral Mass was at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 17, at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. Burial followed in the St. Mary Cemetery in Ellsworth.

Roman Lenz was born Nov. 14, 1927, on the family farm northeast of Ellsworth to Adolph and Kathryn (Schmidt) Lenz. He graduated from St. Mary Catholic High School in 1945.

Roman married Joan Matthiesen on Oct. 26, 1950, at St. Mary Catholic Church in Ellsworth. He served his country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. After being honorably discharged in 1954, Roman returned to Ellsworth, and he and Joan continued farming on the family farm. Following Joan's death, Roman met Phyllis Lambert at a widows support group in Worthington. They enjoyed many years of friendship and companionship.

He was a former member of St. Mary Catholic Church and the St. Mary Knights of Columbus and a current member of St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. He was also a member of the Ellsworth American Legion. He enjoyed bowling in singles and mixed doubles leagues and attending



Knights of Columbus bowling tournaments. He also enjoyed his poker club or "prayer meeting."

Roman is survived by six children, Pam Hester of Glendale, Arizona, Mary Jo Kavanaugh of Peoria, Arizona, Don Lenz of Worthington,

Pat (Joe) Zens of Epiphany, South Dakota, Rick Lenz of Lismore, and Mike (Stacy) Lenz of Glendale; eight grandchildren, Samantha Hester, BJ Kavanaugh, Brittany (Branden) Carrick, Miranda (Austin) Brandt, Monica Zens (fiancé Tom Husman), Brett (Stephanie) Lenz, Scott Lenz, and Amy Lenz (special friend CJ Karl); three great-grandchildren; a brother, Jerry Lenz of Madison, South Dakota; and a sister, Carolee Lenz of Clara City.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Joan on April 30, 1985; a daughter, Jeani Latall; an infant great-grandson, Logan Carrick; four sisters, Frances Wagner, Kathleen Rensch, Lucille Kealey and Donna Becker; a sister-in-law, Mary Lenz; brothers-in-law Walter Wagner, Marvin Rensch, Danny Kealey, Gordon Henslin and Bill Becker; and a special friend and companion, Phillis Lambert.

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

(0223 F)

Deborah Javner

Deborah M. Javner, 55, member of Peace Lutheran Church in Ruth-ton. She enjoyed baking, gardening, playing with her cats, and being outdoors. She also loved '80s hairband music and attending live concerts. Deborah especially loved spending



time with her children and other family and playing with her granddaughter Sawyer.

Deborah is survived by her children, Chelsey (Danny) Steinwand of Tyler, Dalton Javner of Hardwick, and Chandra Javner of Hardwick; granddaughter Sawyer Steinwand; siblings Randy (Connie) VanderPoel of Tyler, Greg VanderPoel (special friend Missy Bauman) of Lake Wilson, Dale VanderPoel of Worthington, and Ronda Swenson of Slayton. She was preceded in death by her parents and three angel babies.

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

(0223 F)

Audrey Rud

Audrey Loy Rud, 82, of Gaier of Oshkosh, Wisconsin; grandchildren Devin (Lisa) Nelson, Justin Rud, Dillan (Jaclyn) Nelson, Britta (Zach) Hoffer, and Daniel Rud; great-grandchildren Myla and Raya Nelson and Adalyn Hoffer; great-grandsons Shiloh Nelson and Oliver Hoffer; stepgrandsons Luke and Micah Malamisuro; siblings Sallie Gardner, Morla Baker, Beverly (John) Gerken, Melva (Paul) Ferm, Herman (Valerie) Essman, Pauline (Kenneth) Ahrendt, Wyona (Roger) Stewart; sisters-in-law Janice (Adrian) Sundberg and Jeanne (Bob) Erickson; and other family and friends.



A Celebration of Life will be at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 4, at North Isanti Baptist Church in Cambridge. Visitation will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at the church.

Audrey Essman was born April 26, 1940, in George, Iowa, to Herman and Stellva Essman. She attended North Isanti Baptist Church and was a registered nurse throughout her career.

She enjoyed gardening, quilting, and spending time with her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Audrey is survived by her husband of 60 years, Donovan Rud; son Jeffrey (Kelly) Rud of Cambridge; daughter Kimberly (Paul)

Hoffer; stepgrandsons Luke and Micah Malamisuro; siblings Sallie Gardner, Morla Baker, Beverly (John) Gerken, Melva (Paul) Ferm, Herman (Valerie) Essman, Pauline (Kenneth) Ahrendt, Wyona (Roger) Stewart; sisters-in-law Janice (Adrian) Sundberg and Jeanne (Bob) Erickson; and other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and brothers-in-law Robert Gardner and Donald Baker.

Arrangements are provided by Carlson-Lillemoen Funeral Home of Cambridge, carlsonlillemoen.com.

(0223 F)

DEATH NOTICES

Nancy Van Dyke

Nancy Van Dyke, 64, rural Leota, died Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, at HonorHealth Medical Center in Scottsdale, Arizona. Visitation will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 24, at Ebenezer Christian Reformed Church in Leota. A funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 25, at the church. Burial will be in the Leota Community Cemetery.

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

(0223 DN)

Lester Baustian

Lester Baustian, 92, Luverne, died Sunday, Feb. 19, at the Bethany Lutheran Home in Brandon, South Dakota.

Visitation will be from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 26, at the Dingmann Funeral Home in Luverne. A funeral Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Feb. 27, at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. Burial will be in the St. Catherine Cemetery in Luverne.

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

(0223 DN)

Gertrude Willemssen

Gertrude Willemssen, 95, Leota, died Monday, Feb. 20, 2023, at the Sanford Luverne Medical Center.

Arrangements are pending with the Dingmann Funeral Home of Adrian, dingmannandsons.com

(0223 DN)

1943: Wahlert settles in Luverne Township in 1895

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

The following appeared in The Rock County Herald on Aug. 5, 1943.

(continuation of the interview with Jacob Wahlert of Luverne)

Two of his brothers left home before he did, and came to this country, and they were so impressed by the United States that they sent him money to come here, too.

"Father was a working man," Mr. Wahlert explained, "and once a working man there, you were always a working man. You never had a chance to get ahead. I didn't like the idea of working all my life for practically nothing, so I decided I could do no worse here, so I took a chance and came to America."

In making the trip to this country, Mr. Wahlert managed to get a stateroom in the middle of the ship. While the ends of the ship went up and down over the waves, the center of the vessel remained quite stationary and for that reason, he didn't become seasick. After about 12 days on the ocean, they steamed into New York harbor. "Boy it was surely good to see land," he said. "If you are accustomed to being on land, and then don't see it for a while, it really looks good to you."

A person had to do a lot of work for what he got in that pioneer era, according to Mr. Wahlert, even though America was then and is now, the land of promise. The working day on the farm began at 4 a.m. with the morning chores, and ended about 10 p.m. with the evening chores.

"People have changed a lot in the last 40 years, however," Mr. Wahlert states, "and there's an awful big difference in the way they live. Working half the night was a lot of foolishness. Get out early in the morning and then quit when supper time comes—that's the way I think one gets along the best. When I first came to this country, though, everybody seemed to be working from daylight until dark."

Mr. Wahlert settled first in 1884, in Iowa county, Iowa. The first grain binders had just come out then, and although clumsy, were a big improvement over the "self-rake." Bundles were tied with wire, not with twine, and at threshing time, someone had to stand with a pair of nippers to cut the wire bands before the grain went into the threshing machine. About 12 head

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Lori Sorenson photo/0223 sledding on north loop

Loop sledding

Sienna Barron (left) and Ayla Wolthuizen found a nice slope for sledding along the south bank of the Luverne Loop near the high school softball fields in the northwest part of town Saturday. The girls took advantage of mild weather and a gentler slope than the one west of the elementary school, which also saw plenty of sledding that afternoon. With this week's weather system dropping even more snow, conditions will continue to provide opportunities for sledding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing and other winter recreations.

Rep. Schomacker sponsors SW Minnesota Workforce Development Scholarship Program

In the effort to keep local students working in Minnesota after their high school career has ended, State Representative Joe Schomacker (R-Luverne) is sponsoring the Southwestern Minnesota Workforce Development Scholarship Program.

"I'm pleased to carry this bill on behalf of the southwest Minnesota mayors," Schomacker said.

"Their plan is one more attempt at keeping graduating students in their hometown while creating great opportunities for businesses to offer apprenticeships."

Schomacker said the plan establishes a pilot program allowing Minnesota West colleges to provide student scholarships for technical careers in high demand. Following graduation, the student would commit to three years of full-time employment with a participat-

ing local employer. Southwestern Minnesota employers can also receive tax incentives for offering apprenticeships under this program.

Once approved, this program allows Minnesota to compete with South Dakota and its Build Dakota scholarship plan which also puts students into technical careers.

Hundreds of southwestern Minnesota students have chosen to cross the border and work in South Dakota due to its program.

"Too many graduating seniors see the Build Dakota program as their best option," Schomacker said.

"We want the people who have grown up in southwestern Minnesota to stay in southwestern Minnesota, and one of the ways to do that is to help them develop the skills they need to secure a good paying job. That is the ultimate goal of this workforce scholarship program."

Gorter sells G&S, retires from service and towing/from 1A

They realize they'll have big shoes to fill in the station and on the road.

Angel in a tow truck

For 25 years Gorter was the registered responder for AAA emergency roadside service, and for many who needed rescuing, he was an angel in a tow truck.

Hutchinson motorist Bruce Carlson, for example, suffered a heart attack in 2004 when his pickup was being towed.

"We hear about caring people that go about quietly helping people, and on Jan. 27 I had the good fortune of meeting one of those people who is from Luverne and was there for me when I really needed help," Carlson shared in an April 2004 letter to the editor.

"Phil drove me to the Medical Center emergency room entrance, wheeled me into the hospital emergency room, and stayed with me until a doctor and the emergency room staff took over. Phil's concern and making sure that I got prompt care made a big difference for me, and I appreciate his 'Good Samaritan' spirit."

Carlson is among dozens of motorists through the years who were moved by Gorter's compassion in business.

A signed photo and football from former Minnesota Viking Randall McDaniel resulted from another such rescue in 2003 when McDaniel's friends had trouble on I-90 with a car they were test-driving for him.

Gorter helped them get back on the road, and soon after, he received McDaniel's gift along with a note.

"We want you to know how much we appreciate the help you gave our friends," he wrote. "It's nice to know the world is still blessed with caring and compassionate people like yourself."

Gorter's work ethic didn't go unnoticed by AAA, which named him the 2013 Service Provider of Excellence, which distinguished him as one of the finest providers in the club's national roadside network.

"We are extremely proud of you and recognize your commitment to world class service, valuing safety in all that you do, solving members' problems at the roadside through trained service technicians, and your commitment to the community you serve," Auto Club Vice President Robert Kaczor wrote in Gorter's letter of commendation.

"These are truly values of excellence, and G&S Auto Sales and Service demonstrates them all."

Lt. Matt Sorenson, who retired in December from the



Lori Sorenson photo

Max Power, a longtime former employee of Phil Gorter, will be the face of G&S Auto as he operates the auto service station and tow company, now owned by Kevin Aaker and Andrew Hemme of Luverne Body Shop. Gorter retired from the towing business and now works for Luverne Body Shop as he transitions to full retirement. "I absolutely love it," Gorter said about working at the body shop. "I go to work, they tell me what to do, and at the end of the day I go home and don't have to answer phone calls — unless it's my grandchildren." G&S will operate as a separate entity from the body shop under the direction of Max Power, a longtime towing employee of G&S.

State Patrol, accompanied Gorter during many harrowing incidents with distressed motorists at crash scenes.

"Working on the roads, we deal with tow operators a lot, and G&S was awesome," Sorenson shared during Gorter's Feb. 11 retirement party in Luverne.

"People would be broke down, some of them traveling cross country with car trouble and bald tires with \$4 to their name. ... I'd feel bad calling Phil, knowing he probably wouldn't get paid, but he'd come out and help."

Sorenson said many were hesitant to be towed, but he assured them, "These are good guys; they'll take care of you."

Blessings and sacrifices

Gorter's wife, Denise, acknowledged that business often interfered with family, but she said they felt part of the mission. "Phil always loved his job," she said. "And that was very helpful to know he was out there doing what he loved — helping people."

He said he was grateful for law enforcement standing behind him on roadside rescues, and he said he's indebted to his family and dedicated employees for their sacrifices to the business through the years.

"I was blessed to have all my children work for me at some point or another," he said about his daughter, Jessica, and sons Matthew and Brent.

In his early years, he worked with Ed Fonkert and Brent Schepel, and his most

recent family of employees included Mike Hart, Cody Lanoue, Mike Mulder and Max Power.

At his retirement party, he said he was grateful for all of them and others.

"When I started 25 years ago, I never thought I'd be standing here at my own retirement party," he said.

"There were some tough times, but through the grace of God and friends we got through it. ... Thank you and God bless you all."

Power is 'Face of G&S' Aaker and Hemme own it separate from body shop

Power, who had been a longtime towing employee for Gorter, said he looks forward to continuing the G&S tradition of excellence in both auto service work and AAA towing.

"There is no way anyone can fill those shoes," Power said. "But we hope we can continue to earn the trust of everyone who Phil helped, and I am committed to upholding the service integrity Phil worked so hard to build up."

Aaker and Hemme jointly purchased G&S as a separate venture from their Luverne Body Shop business and will operate them as two separate entities.

They said Power is the new face of G&S Auto.

"We are just helping Max with an opportunity to run a business," Aaker said. "We're glad to be part of honoring Phil's beautiful spirit and how he blessed those who turned to him in their time of need."

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Luverne girls' hockey team Section 3A Champs

Headed to state tournament Feb. 22-25

By Greg Hooegeven

The Luverne girls' hockey team is headed to state playoffs after the Cardinals took down New Ulm 4-0 in St. Peter on Feb. 14 to claim the 2023 Section 3A Championship trophy.

This is Luverne's fourth year in a row being crowned the 3A Champs, but the Cardinals have yet to win a game at state.

The Cardinals' hockey team will play their first game Wednesday, Feb. 22, at the Xcel Energy Center against Orono at 1pm.

Luverne's seeding and opponent draw could change the Cardinals' outcome this year for a chance to win against larger metro teams.

Section 3A Championship Game

For those who braved the elements to attend the Valentine's Day game in St. Peter were not disappointed.

It was the third time the Cardinals beat New Ulm this year, after taking down the Eagles 4-1 in their season opener Nov. 15 in New Ulm.

The two teams met again at the Blue Mound Ice Arena in Luverne Jan. 19, when the Cardinals claimed 4-1 win over Eagles.

Tuesday's 4-0 win iced the Cardinals' ticket to state.

The first period was a back-and-forth game with both teams not wanting to get caught making a mistake and giving up a goal.

The Cardinals had 10 shots on the Eagles goalie, but she stood strong and shut Luverne down.



Greg Hooegeven photo/0223 ghoc team

LHS Cardinal girls' hockey team beats New Ulm 4-0 in Section 3A play Wednesday, Feb. 14 at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. This is Luverne's fourth year in a row being crowned champion. Luverne will take on Orono Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 1 p.m. at the Xcel Energy Center in the first round.

New Ulm placed five shots on senior Mallory Von Tersch, but she deflected them with ease.

The first period closed in a scoreless 17 minutes of play.

In the second period Luverne stepped up its puck control and attacks

on the New Ulm goal-keeper.

Finally, at 5:30 in the second period, senior Kamryn Van Batavia scored Luverne's first goal.

She beat the Eagles goalie by drawing her out of the net and sneaking a backside stick shot past



Greg Hooegeven photo/0223 ghoc kamryn

LHS senior Kamryn Van Batavia takes to the ice in the Cardinals' 4-0 win over New Ulm Feb. 14.

her pads.

Van Batavia was assisted by her little sister, seventh-grader Ella Van Batavia, and sophomore Payton Behr.

From that point, it felt like a weight was lifted and The Cardinals were free to have fun and play their game.

Payton Behr scored Luverne's second goal at 10:14 driving directly at the Eagle goalie and beating her below the pads to the back of the net.

Behr was assisted by Kamryn Van Batavia and eighth-grader Cassidy Saarloos.

The second period ended with Luverne in command with a 2-0 lead.

Second period shots on goal favored Luverne 9-4.

In the third period The Cardinals kept up their pressure and controlled the puck.

At 10:09 in the third period Kamryn Van Batavia had a breakaway shot bounce off the Eagles goalie.

Eighth-grader Izzy Steensma was able to follow the deflection to the side of the net and poke it in behind the goalie scoring Luverne's third goal.

Kamryn Van Batavia scored her second goal at 11:24 in the third period with a goalie beating breakaway wrist shot.

She was assisted by Ella Van Batavia and fellow senior Mallory Nelson.

The game ended with Luverne winning 4-0 against New Ulm.

LHS senior goalie Mallory Von Tersch faced 15 shots in the game deflecting all of them to get her ninth shut out for the season.

LHS gymnastics team places second in Section 3A

Sophomores Ella Reisdorfer and Amira Cowell to compete at state

By Greg Hooegeven

The Luverne gymnastics team traveled to Pipestone Saturday, Feb. 18, for the Section 3A team and individual tournament.

The seven teams competing included the host Pipestone, Worthington, Windom, Marshall, Redwood, Jackson and Luverne.

Among the teams were 154 total gymnasts performing for all-around and individual placing to move on to state.

"This is the best season record I have had since starting at Luverne. It also has been one of my most enjoyable seasons," head coach Phobe Flom said.

"The girls are so talented and so self-motivated it makes my job incredibly easy."

The Cardinals, set their sights high to move on to the state team tournament.

Unfortunately, Worthington dashed those dreams beating out Luverne in the team competition and moving on to state.

Worthington won with a team combined score of 143.925, Luverne took second place with a 134.275 combined team score.

Jackson placed third with a 131.875, Redwood was fourth with a 130.875, Pipestone took fifth with a 129.600, sixth place went to Marshall with a 124.250 and Windom placed seventh with a 120.925.

The Cardinals have missed the opportunity to move on as a team, but they are sending two gymnasts to compete in the state individual events.

Sophomore Ella Reisdorfer qualified for the state all-around competition taking second in sections with a 36.075 combined all-around score.

Reisdorfer will compete in all four individual events; vault, bars, beam and floor, with the opportunity to place five times at the state level.

Sophomore Amira Cowell will represent Luverne on vault



Greg Hooegeven photo/0223 gymnastics team

The Luverne gymnastics team takes second place in the team competition of the Section 3A tournament in Pipestone Saturday, Feb. 18. Pictured are (from left) Kianna Woods, Kendra Thorson, Amira Cowell, Ella Reisdorfer, Addyson Mann, manager Jordyn Reisch, (second row) manager Bonita Tiesler, Hailey Como, coach Phoebe Flom, Sarah de Cesare, Reagan Gangestad, coach Chris Nowatzki, Reinha John, Jerzey Hood, and Gabi Nath-Huls.



Greg Hooegeven photo/0223 gymnastics ella

Sophomore Ella Reisdorfer goes through her beam routine Saturday, Feb. 18, in Pipestone in the Section 3A tournament. Reisdorfer advances to state in the all-around competition held at the Xcel Energy Center.



Greg Hooegeven photo/0223 gymnastics amira

Sophomore Amira Cowell competes on the bars in the Section 3A gymnastics meet. Cowell qualified for state competition in bars and vault Saturday, Feb. 18, in Pipestone. This will be her second appearance at state.

and bars at the state tournament.

Cowell qualified with a third place on vault scoring 9.125 in sections and third on the bars with an 8.350.

This will be Reisdorfer's fourth-straight appearance at state and Cowell's second invite.

"I had all these girls since early elementary so it's a very 'family' like atmosphere," Flom said.

"It's an amazing feeling watching them succeed at this level and conquer their goals. I can't put into words how proud I am. Every girl on this team is very talented and we are young. I cannot wait to see what is in the future for them."

Luverne had many great performances at sections this year. Here is a breakdown of how the Cardinals did in each event.

All-around:
Ella Reisdorfer – 36.075, second (state qualified)
Amira Cowell – 34.025, tenth
Sarah DeCesare – 31.050, sixteenth

Vault:
Ella Reisdorfer – 9.175, fourth (state qualified)
Amira Cowell – 9.125, fifth, (state qualified)
Kendra Thorson – 8.650, tenth
Kianna Winter – 8.550, thirteenth
Sarah DeCesare – 8.050, thirty-first

Bars:
Ella Reisdorfer – 9.200, first, (state qualified)
Amira Cowell – 8.350, sixth (state qualified)
Sarah DeCesare – 7.250, twenty-third
Addyson Mann – 7.175, twenty-fifth
Reagan Gangestad – 6.150, thirty-second

Beam:
Ella Reisdorfer – 8.750, seventh (state qualified)
Addyson Mann – 8.625, ninth
Sarah DeCesare – 8.100, fifteenth
Amira Cowell – 8.025, sixteenth
Reagan Gangestad – 7.850, nineteenth

Floor:
Ella Reisdorfer – 8.950, ninth (state qualified)
Amira Cowell – 8.525, thirteenth
Kianna Winter – 8.175, seventeenth,
Sarah DeCesare – 7.650, twenty-fifth,
Addyson Mann – 7.575, twenty-sixth

Cardinal wrestling team falls at Section 3A Tourney

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne wrestling team traveled to Jackson Thursday, Feb. 16, for the first round of the Section 3A Team Tournament.

The ninth-seeded Cardinals took on No. 8 Wabasso in the first match of the night, and the winner of that contest faced No. 1 seeded Jackson County Central in the second match.

Luverne's match with Wabasso was close but not good enough to beat the Rabbits who won 42-30 pinning five LHS wrestlers, winning two matches by decision and one by forfeit.

Luverne took six matches, one win by pin, two by decision and three by forfeits by Wabasso.

The Cardinals closed their season with a 11-16 record.

Breakdown by weight-class is as follows:

106 – Kaysen Harms (W) over Brody Kopp (L) by fall. Team: L0-W6

113 – Bernie Rock (L) over Nathan Riley (W) 7-1 decision. Team: L3-W6

120 – Ashton Weidemann (W) over Matthew Gangestad (L) by fall. Team: L3-W12

126 – Mikale Goblirsch (W) over Leif Ingebretsen (L) 5-2 decision. Team: L3-W15

132 – Josh Stroh (L) win by

forfeit. Team: L9-W15

138 – Gavin Marotzke (W) over Hudson Hough (L) win by fall. Team: L9-W21

145 – Adryen Tietz (W) win by forfeit. Team: L9-W27

152 – Preston Remiger (W) over Cameron McCrary (L) win by fall. Team: L9-W33

160 – DJ Rock (L) over Garrett Marozke (W) win by fall. Team: L15-W33

170 – Mason Kampsen (W) over Cash Bonnett (L) 5-1 decision. Team: L15-W36

182 – Sam Rock (L) over Chase Irbeck (W) 3-2 decision. Team: L18-W36

Ezekiel Olson (W) over Jacob Madison (L) win by fall. Team: L18-W42

220 – Kane Akkerman (L) win by forfeit. Team: L24-W42

285 – Lucas Madison (L) win by forfeit. Team: L30-W42



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0223 LHS wrestling

The Luverne wrestling team meets their Wabasso opponents at the Section 3A team tournament Thursday, Feb. 16, in Jackson. The Cardinals lost 42-30 in the match to end the season.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0223 HBC BBB tatge

Riley Tatge looks to pass against MLAC. H-BC lost the game 81-54 Friday, Feb. 17, at home.

H-BC boys drop three games

By Greg Hoogeveen

The H-BC boys' basketball team fell to Southwest Christian 90-46 on Feb. 14 in Edgerton, lost a home game 81-54 to the Wolverines on Feb. 17, and came up short at Westbrook Walnut Grove, 67-35, in a game played Monday ahead of impending winter weather.

H-BC, with a season record at 9-13, was scheduled to travel to Russell-Tyler-Ruthon on Friday, Feb. 24.

The Patriots will close out their regular season hosting Adrian Monday, Feb. 27.

SWC, 90, H-BC 46

The Patriots traveled to Edgerton to take on Southwest Christian Tuesday, Feb. 14, and lost a 90-46 game to the Eagles.

"We played much better offensively against SWC than we did the first time," head coach Kale Wiertzema said.

"Their defensive pressure and ability to play up the line still forced us into

too many turnovers."

Freshman Micah Bush and sophomore Beau Bakken both scored 10 points for the Patriots.

Bush posted six rebounds, one steal and four assists. Bakken had two rebounds and one steal.

Freshman Jamin Metzger made nine points, grabbed four rebounds and had one assist.

Sophomore Sawyer Bosch netted seven points with one rebound and one assist.

Junior Riley Tatge and sophomore Cameron Allen added three points each.

Tatge had one rebound, one steal and one assist, and Allen had three rebounds, one steal and two assists in the game.

Senior Brock Harnack and freshman EJ Wegener contributed two points each, with Harnack adding three rebounds.

MLAC 81, H-BC 54

The Patriots boys' basket-

ball team hosted Mountain Lake Area/Comfrey Friday, Feb. 17, losing to the Wolverines 81-54.

"MLAC is a very talented offensive team. They change speeds so well within their offense. They are very difficult to defend," Wiertzema said.

"MLAC shot over 50 percent from three and we gave up 19 offensive rebounds, which led to 23 of their points."

Bakken led the Patriots' scoring with 16 points. He also had four rebounds, two blocked shots, two steals and one assist.

Jamin Metzger posted 11 points, four rebounds and two assists.

Bosch added eight points, two rebounds, one blocked shot, one steal and four assists.

Bush and Harnack each netted four points for the Patriots.

Bush also had one rebound and two assists, and Harnack posted two rebounds and one steal for H-BC.

Allen made three points, one rebound, one steal and four assists.

Other Patriots scoring were Brayden Metzger, Eli Taubert and Wegener with two points each.

Tatge and Josh Wiersema each added one free throw in the game.

WWG 67, H-BC 35

The Patriot boys' basketball team traveled to Westbrook Walnut Grove Monday, Feb. 20, a day early because of pending weather, losing a 67-35 game.

"We need to be more physical and aggressive on both ends of the floor and not allow opponents to dictate the style and pace of play," Wiertzema said.

"When you're struggling to score, giving your opponents extra possessions from offensive rebounds and turnovers doesn't make things any easier."

Because of technical problems, we can only report the players' scoring in the game:

Bush – 4 points
Bosch – 4 points
Bakken – 11 points
Jamin Metzger – 4 points
Wegener – 4 points
Harnack – 4 points
Tatge – 4 points

Cardinals clip the Eagles 5-3 in final season game

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne boys' hockey team traveled to Windom Thursday for the last regular season game Thursday, Feb. 16.

The Cardinals beat the Eagles 5-3 bringing their regular season record to 18-6-1 and conference record to 13-3 in the Big South.

LHS finished behind New Ulm with a 23-1-1 season and 16-0 conference.

Luverne and Windom played a close game in the first two periods, and the score was tied 3-3 after the second.

In the third period, Luverne opened up and netted two goals to win the game 5-3.

Scoring in the first period for Luverne was senior Brock Behrend with two goals.

His first came at 4:06 assisted by junior Owen Sudenga and the second at 16:15 assisted by junior Patrick Kroski.

Windom was able to score twice in the first period to tie it 2-2.

In the second period Windom opened with a goal 29 seconds in.

LHS junior Elliot



Greg Hoogeveen photo/0223 LHS Hhoc elliot

Domagala scored at 2:42 assisted by Kroski to end the second period 3-3

The third period Luverne was able to score twice to ice the win over the Eagles.

Sudenga scored nine seconds into the period unassisted.

Behrend closed with his third goal (hat trick) at 11:15 unassisted.

LHS junior goalie Tyler Arends faced 25 shots on goal in the game stopping all but three.

Luverne posted 30 shots on the Eagles goalie burning him for five goals.

The Cardinals postseason run will start Tuesday, Feb. 21, with a Section 3A Round 1 game.

Team seeding and brackets are yet to be determined to know who and where LHS will play.

LHS boys' basketball beat Trojans 75-64 at home

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne boys' basketball team hosted Worthington Thursday, Feb. 16, beating the Trojans 75-64.

"We had a lot of energy at the tip off from the kids on the court and from the bench," said head coach John Sichmeller. "That has been something we have been working on, and it was good to see it pay off for our kids."

Luverne opened up the scoring with a 32-18 lead at the half, before battling a tighter second half to win the game.

"That was one of our best wins all year, beating a very good Worthington team," Sichmeller said.

"Our free throw shooting late was big, and we were able to make our last 10 free throws to finish the game."

Senior Gannon Ahrendt and sophomore Carter Sehr both scored 19 points in the game.

Ahrendt grabbed four rebounds, had five assists, three steals and two blocked shots.

Junior Gavin DeBeer added 16 points, two rebounds and one assist.

Junior Elijah Woodley had five points, three rebounds and one assist for Luverne.



Lori Sorenson photo/0223 LHS BBB woodley

Sophomore Elijah Woodley drives for a lay-up against Worthington Thursday, Feb. 16. The Cardinals beat the Trojans 75-64 at home.

Seniors Marcus Feit and Tyson Cowell netted six points apiece.

Sophomore Landon Ahrendt contributed four points, three rebounds and two assists.

Sehr had three rebounds, four assists and one blocked shot.

Feit added one rebound, three assists and one steal.

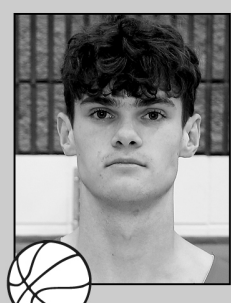
Cowell had three

rebounds and three assists.

Senior Riley Sneller helped the Cardinals with one rebound, two assists and one steal in the game.

The Luverne boys are scheduled to host Minneota Thursday, Feb. 23, and will travel for their last regular season game Saturday, Feb. 25, to play in the Big South Conference Showcase in Waseca.

SENIOR ATHLETES of the Week



Gannon Ahrendt

Sport: Basketball
Parents: Brad and Angela Ahrendt
Other extracurricular activities/hobbies: Football, pickleball, spending time with friends
Favorite Class: College Speech
Future Plans: Attend a 4-year college to study an undecided major and play basketball

Jocelyn Hart

Sport: Basketball
Parents: Mike and Kristee Hart
Other extracurricular activities/hobbies: Track, student council, choir
Favorite Class: AP Biology
Future Plans: Attend the University of South Dakota to major in Kinesiology



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THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall
Outdoors columnist

Learn the facts

The 2023 legislative session in Minnesota is underway. They have many items on their plate this session, and the one that will get the most attention is what to do with the many billion-dollar surplus the state has from the Recovering America Act that sent billions to the states. Unfortunately, this multi-billion dollars of federal money was borrowed and was added to the national debt of over 34 trillion.

Another item on the list, although a state issue of much less significance, is a bill HF864 in the Minnesota House. This bill has been floated for the past several years and has died on the vine. It was reintroduced by Josh Heitzman R-Nisswa. The bill, which has many followers – both for and against – in the hunting world, relates to the elimination of the shotgun zone for deer hunting statewide.

I believe it was back in the '70s that most of the farmland zone in the southwest part of the state was converted to a shotgun zone. This was done to reduce deer harvest when populations were very low and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was trying to increase those said populations. It was not done at that time as a safety measure. This I know for sure.

Today those deer populations are back to where the powers to be think they should be. The elimination of the shotgun zone is an effort to simplify and streamline hunting regulations. We all know there is no thicker regulation book than the one Minnesota uses. Regulations change all the time, and most of those changes are a result of legislative action and not DNR action.

When it comes to the elimination of the shotgun zone, the DNR's current position is neutral. The assistant commissioner stated the department will wait until the final language is released, and when they have time to look it over, they will weigh in.

This potential change has lots of folks up in arms. My official position is also neutral, but there are several facts that you need to know before you set your mind in one direction or the other.

First off is that many people think that a rifle zone in the farmland zone will result in a much higher incident of death or injury, as a rifle bullet can travel much farther than a shotgun slug. A rifle bullet can fly farther than a shotgun slug if it is launched over the horizon.

There are studies from two different states that have eliminated their shotgun zones over the past 10 years, and the official results of those studies were that the increase or decrease in hunting injuries or fatalities were significantly insignificant. There was no measurable difference between a shotgun hunting season and a rifle hunting season. Do a little google search and you will find the same results as I did.

Others think a rifle zone will put even more pressure on the bucks in any given area. The wildlife managers respond that deer populations are controlled by the number of doe permits issued in any specific area, and population can be successfully managed with doe permit changes in areas where this is necessary.

Rifles are legal to use in coyote hunting in shotgun zones that exist today, and the number of deaths or injuries due to rifle coyote hunting do not make it onto anybody's radar. So from a safety perspective the alarm many folks feel as a result of allowing rifles does not pan out in the numbers in any way. I certainly understand the concerns for safety, but I am also a fact and figures guy.

There is a certain segment of the deer hunting population that think poaching will increase 300 fold because you can now kill a deer at much longer ranges. Poaching is an enforcement issue. It can be said that the unethical hunters that want to do some poaching are already using a high-powered rifle to do it. That is hard to argue with.

I will repeat my position on this issue. I am neutral. I have a great rifled slug-gun that I will continue to use if this legislation passes. Many other hunters have told me the same thing. If this issue passes, the legislation includes the ability for any county to opt out if they choose. This county-by-county opt-out might be the right strategy.

One last point on the safety issue. Northwest Minnesota is a rifle zone, and they have tons of agriculture in that part of the state. There is no greater level of accidents or injuries in that ag part of the state than in the shotgun zone in southwest Minnesota.

Please make your own decision on this matter and then weigh in with your proper representative. But do so supported by the facts or on Twitter @habitat champion.

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.



Local skaters claim trophy in Frosty Blades event

The Blue Mound Figure Skaters took second place out of more than 20 skating clubs competing in the Frosty Blades competition Feb. 3-5 at the Schwan Super Rink in Blaine. Twenty-seven skaters represented the local rink in team, individual, and partner events to take home the trophy. The skaters' next competition will be Prairie Polar Blast in Brookings, South Dakota, on Feb. 25 and 26.

Pictured are (front, from left) Haidynn Kingery, Noel Henrichs, Arya Tollefson, Olivia Schneekloth, Addison Wieneke, Lydia Jarchow, Afton Nuffer, Aliyah Tiesler, Aubrey Nuffer, Kallista Van Grootheest, (second row) Ellianna Kopp, Ella Sprock, Kelsey Baker, Josalyn Hiebert, Nevaeh DeBoer, (third row) Grace Schneekloth, Audrina Tiesler, Reese Henning, Kathryn Kelm, Augusta Papik, Mara Thier and Emma Schneekloth. Missing from the picture are Mya Akin, Braelinn Papik, Marisa Thier, Madilyn Wenzel and Emary Zwaan. Submitted photo

COLLEGE NEWS

Wenzel named to dean's list

Mia Wenzel was named to the Fall 2022 semester dean's list at Morningside University in Sioux City, Iowa. To be eligible, students must earn at least a 3.67 GPA with a minimum of 12 graded credits.

USD names Fall 2022 honor students

Several area students were named to the Fall 2022 semester dean's list and academic honors list at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. To make the dean's list, students must earn at least 12 graded credits with a 3.5 GPA or higher. Students with fewer than 12 graded credits are named to the academic honors list.

Named to the dean's list are Sadie Reisdorfer, McKenzie VanGrootheest, Brooklynn Ver Steeg, Mackenzie Petersen, Kathryn Oksness, Brandy Pilaczynski, Gracie Zewiske and Macie Walgrave, all of Luverne, and Kailey Rozeboom of Hills.

Named to the academic honors list is Sydney Biever of Luverne.

DSU students receive honors

Ethan Teunissen, Luverne, and Sidney Fick, Beaver Creek, were named to the president's academic honors list for Fall 2022 semester at Dakota State University in Madison, South Dakota. To be named, students must earn at least a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

SDSU Brookings releases dean's list

The South Dakota State University in Brookings has named honor students for the Fall 2022 semester. To be named to the dean's list, students must earn at least a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale with at least 12 graded credits. Students are listed by home town and area of study. An asterisk denotes a 4.0 GPA.

Beaver Creek: Samantha Moser*, agriculture, food and environmental sciences.

Hills: Calvin Erickson, agriculture, food and environmental sciences; Luke LaRock*, arts, humanities and social sciences; Danette Leenderts, agriculture, food and environmental sciences; Mackenzie Voss, natural sciences; Jax Wysong, natural sciences.

Luverne: Tacey Baustian*, natural sciences; Trista Baustian*, natural sciences; Jarod Berndt*, engineering; Colby Crabtree, agriculture, food and environmental sciences; Morgan Gonnerman, education and human sciences; Emma Hinz, agriculture, food and environmental sciences; Kayetlin Huiskes, education and human sciences; Jacinda Hustoft*, arts, humanities and social sciences; Parker Kooima*, education and human sciences; Kacie Kracht, education and human sciences; Meghan Mollberg*, education and human sciences; Nathan Nekali, arts, humanities and social sciences; Kristin Rud, natural sciences; Cheyenne Schutz, arts, humanities and social sciences; Matthew Sehr, arts, humanities and social sciences; Paige Van Dyke, nursing.

Steen: Tara Paulsen, nursing.

St. Cloud State announces dean's list

Kendall Buss and Taylor Kern, both of Luverne, have been named to the dean's list at St. Cloud State University for the Fall 2022 semester. To be named, students must earn a 3.75 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Buss is in the Herberger Business School of Marketing,

and Kern is in the

College of Health and Wellness Professions, Nursing.

Kiers makes dean's list

Nicholas Kiers, Luverne, was named to the dean's list at Rochester Community and Technical College for the Fall 2022 semester. To qualify, students must complete 12 or more graded credits with a GPA of 3.5 to 3.99.

Augustana releases dean's list

Xavier Carbonneau, Madigan Flom and Tenley Nelson, all of Luverne, and Kendra Frodermann of Magnolia were named to the Fall 2022 dean's list at Augustana University in Sioux Falls. To be eligible, students must earn at least a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale with a minimum of 12 graded credits.

NDSU announces honor students

Three area students were named to the dean's list for the Fall 2022 semester at North Dakota State University in Fargo. They are Elise Ferrell, Luverne, radiologic sciences; Jacey Smith, Luverne, nursing; and Lauren Tatge, Beaver Creek, pharmaceutical sciences.

Northwestern names honor students

Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa, has released the dean's list for the Fall 2022 semester. To be eligible, students must achieve a 3.5 GPA or higher with at least 12 graded credits. Those with a 3.75 GPA or higher are indicated with an asterisk.

Named to the dean's list from Luverne are Pierce Cunningham*, a sophomore majoring in biochemistry, and Ainslie Robinson, a junior majoring in biology-health professions.

On the dean's list from Hills are Garrett Raymon*, a senior majoring in biology-ecological science, and Liam Raymon*, a sophomore majoring in data science and statistics.

Bartels named to dean's list

Isaiah Bartels, Luverne, was named to the dean's list at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter for the Fall 2022 semester. To qualify, students must earn a 3.7 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Kruse makes dean's list at St. Mary's

Kasyn Kruse, Luverne, was named to the Fall 2022 semester dean's list at Saint Mary's University in Winona. Students must earn a 3.60 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale to qualify.

Wieneke named to High Honors at MSU Mankato
Olivia Wieneke, Luverne, was named to the High Honor List with a 4.0 GPA for the Fall 2022 semester at Minnesota State University in Mankato.

Kern graduates from St. Cloud State

Taylor Kern, Luverne, graduated cum laude from St. Cloud State University following the Fall 2022 semester with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

Wysong earns degree at NDSU Fargo

Avery Wysong, Beaver Creek, graduated with honors following the Fall 2022 semester at North Dakota State University in Fargo. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Science.

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The Waknitz Family
(2.18-2.23)

We would like to thank everyone for the phone calls, cards and memorials we received following the death of our sister Judy (Anderson) Kass. It was all very much appreciated.
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Luverne

Members of the Luverne FFA Chapter for the 2022-23 school year include (front row, from left) advisor Matt Fodness, secretary Morgan Bonnett, reporter Julia Hoogland, vice president Maren Stegenga, president JT Remme, historian Layne Saker, parliamentarian Ross Bergman, (second row) Tucker Remme, Colter Thone, Landon Ahrendt, Alex Dewispelaere, Ryenn Stegenga, (third row) Jaden Reisch, Emma Deutsch, Mallie Fick, Andrea Luitjens, Piper Wynia, Grace Ingebretsen, (fourth row) Cash Bonnett, Luke Hansen, Harrison Uithoven, Jacob Madison, Nick Hansen, Ryan Vos, Holden Overgaard, (back) Jack Gangestad, Eli McLendon, Leif Ingebretsen, Andrew Kinsinger, Jace Tofteland, Tucker Holwell and Jesse Aning. Not pictured are treasurer Morgan Ahrendt and sentinel AJ Ossefoort.



Hills-Beaver Creek

Hills-Beaver Creek FFA Chapter members for 2022-23 include (front row, from left) historian John Tiesler, sentinel Luke Fuerstenburg, treasurer Cooper Gehrke, vice president Sylvia Fick, secretary Lanae Elbers, president Olivia Bork, reporter Jack Moser, parliamentarian Blake Leenderts, advisor Cloey Anderson, (second row) Cael Noteboom, Alexander Harris, Elly Klosterbuer, Amalia Ternus, Tyrae Goodface, Taylor Frederickson, Collin Schoneman, (third row) Megan Vis, Brynn Rauk, Riley Tatge, Carter Vande Voort, Beau Bakken, Logan Susie, Taylor Spykerboer, Alexis Gardner-Swenson, (fourth row) Lukas Hubbard, Jamesyn Klosterbuer, Augustus Jacobson, Sawyer Bosch, Cameron Allen, Gracie Fagerness, Bailey Spykerboer, Amber Wiersema, Emma Deelstra, (fifth row) Koel Hartz, Gavyn Leuthold, Clayton Kellenberger, Jamin Metzger, EJ Wegner, Joshua Ternus, Bode Kruger, Quintice Susie, Austyn Pap, Tessa Clark-Crawford, (back) Isabel Wysong, Abigail Harris, Ella Sammons, Claire Knobloch, Ally Birger, Abigail Olson, Jayden Kueter, Mya Erickson and Hadley Spath. Not pictured are Layla Deelstra, Cody Moser, Michael Martinyuk, Joshua Wiersema, Robert Wipf, Micah Bush, Evan Gruis, Taylor Huisman and Cole Rozeboom.

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