



HOME, LAWN & Garden

A production of the Rock County Star Herald and featured advertisers.

Spring 2021 ISSUE

Bluestem adds ‘smoking with style’ to lineup

Chef Skyler Hoiland is tackling a new challenge with his portable, wood-fired smoker barbecue grill. He’s been experimenting with recipes and looks forward to sharing new entrees this summer.

... Page 3B

Think you want stone countertops for your kitchen remodel?

Mark Top’s Mud Creek Countertops in Hills offers a stone-look counter resurfacing that has the durability and style of stone, but not the expense.

... Page 5B

Perennials are low-maintenance but not ‘one and done’ options for landscaping

Luverne horticulturalist George Bonnema weighs in on options for growing the most color for the least amount of maintenance.

... Page 8B

Metal art sculptures tell ag story in local food forest

Local artists created metal sculptures using vintage farm tools. They’re on display in Prairie Ally.

... Page 9B

Photographs
and text by
Mavis Fodness



“It was time for the tree to come down and begin a second life as a table.”

— Ryan Bullerman, Hardwick
Bully’s Big Wood Mill



The Lucas Mill used by Ryan Bullerman saws wood logs horizontally of any length but can only safely saw logs 6-feet in height.

Bullerman’s hobby allows others to preserve family history through wood

From his machine shed west of Hardwick, Ryan Bullerman is turning trees into workable slabs of wood.

Three years ago Bullerman purchased a Lucas slabbing mill, which allows him to cut trunks as thick as 6 feet wide into 3-inch-thick wood planks to become tables, countertops, decorative walls or china cabinets in people’s homes.

“The thing we are finding out is more and more people want to try a lot of this stuff on their own— and have the tools to put it together — but are not able to get it into a form they need,” he said.

Richard Gergen of Pipestone is one person with the skills but no means to render a tree into workable form.

Recently, with Bullerman’s help, he turned the mature walnut tree into a table. A squirrel planted a nut that formed the tree in his yard for 36 years.

“It was time for (the tree) to come down and begin a second life as a table,” he said.

Many of the trees Bullerman receives were destined to be burned but are instead finding a second life through his new hobby.

“It is different — I think that’s what drew me to it. Not everybody is doing it,” he said. “The machinery that it takes is pretty simple. It just takes time to figure it out.”

“It is a good release at the end of the day — to go out there and cut and not worry about anything. I can clear my head. ... Finding different niches I can do makes me happy.”

— Ryan Bullerman,
Bully’s Big Wood



Ryan Bullerman shows samples of tabletops he milled and refinished in his machine shed west of Hardwick. More recently his hobby, Bully’s Big Wood Wood Mill, has evolved into milling slabs for others to refinish.



Mavis Fodness photo/0401 Home Tab 2021 Bullys
Logs piled up outside Ryan Bullerman’s machine shed wait to be milled and repurposed into countertop slabs.

‘Bully’s Big Wood’ Wood Mill gives old trees new life as table tops and more/continued from 1B

The tree removal and the preparation of the logs remind Bullerman of his youth when he and his dad, Bob, prepared firewood as a heat source of the family home and separate workshop.

“I think about all the trees we burned in the wood burner,” he said, thinking of nice wood products lost to make heat.

Today he makes trades with his dad for more appropriate trees to burn, in exchange for trees that would be better repurposed.

“When I look at a tree now I can get a good idea of what it is,” he said.

Dozens of logs line the outside of Bullerman’s machine shed waiting to be cut into usable slabs. Bullerman saved many of the logs from a different fate.

“I would say 99 percent of these trees were going to be pushed down into a hole and burned,” he said.

Bullerman charges \$1 per board foot to cut a tree into usable slabs. There is an extra charge if nails or other objects inside the trunk damage the saw’s cutting chain.

One recent log held an unusual surprise when Bullerman was cutting slabs and cut a golf ball in half.

“I actually hit the thing dead center, half on each side.”

He estimates 20 or 30 years of growth surrounded the golf ball, and it couldn’t be seen from the outside of the log.



Pictured above, walls inside of Ryan Bullerman’s office are constructed of cedar that he milled.

In the photograph at right, plastic wedges are driven between the slab and the log to prevent the mill’s cutting chain from binding as it moves through the log.



Another log Bullerman placed in the mill was partially rotted, which created an unusual hole in the log’s center.

“When I first cut this one I didn’t see it right away — I cut it, slid it off and put it on the floor and asked ‘Does that look like the Statue of Liberty?’” he said.

Those watching agreed, and the unique slab is stored in Bullerman’s garage waiting for repurposing.

No tree goes to waste at Bullerman’s mill.

“When I first started in the business, I am not sure I would have cut a tree like that. I would have been like ‘The middle of the tree is gone’ as well as a whole slab.”

Advice from others has helped Bullerman find a niche.

Justin Kerkhove-Brandt operates Banking Barns in Hills and Steve Winters has a

woodworking shop and wood-drying kiln in Ocheyedan.

“What’s so neat is all these people in this area being able to put stuff together like this,” he said. “There is just room for everybody.”

Bullerman discovered he likes cutting large tree trunks into something usable.

“A lot of guys who have mills and are hobbyists have (a mill) they can cut dimensionally,” Bullerman said. “They can only cut 2-by-4s.”

From his first slab cut, Bullerman made a 3-foot by 9.5-foot dining room table from a single log.

The Lucas slabbing mill, which costs upwards of \$15,000, is similar to a chain saw and uses a long, sharpened chain to cut through logs horizontally.

Bully’s Big Wood/see page 7B





Insure carefully, dream fearlessly.

Nicholas Domagala, Agent

114 W Main St Ste 100 • Luverne, MN 56156
507-283-4695 • ndomagal@amfam.com

On a farm, you don’t work 9 to 5.

Neither do we.



Let us help you cover all you’ve worked so hard to build.

THE ESTENSON COMPANY, LLC

Luverne MN • 507-283-2386
tknoll@iw.net

Auto-Owners

INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

W & N Construction

TOM WALKER
BRYCE NIESSINK

507-283-3999

- Demolition
- Road Grading
- Dirt & Gravel, Rock
- Excavation
- Dozer Work
- Trucking



Free Estimates



Web - w-and-n-construction.com
email - wnconst@hotmail.com
1275 101st St. Luverne, MN 5156

Stay connected to community events with a subscription to the Rock County Star Herald!

www.star-herald.com
507-283-2333



GET THE STAR HERALD SUBSCRIPTION THAT fits your lifestyle!

Get the Star Herald Online

12 months	\$46
24 Hour Access	99¢
Print Edition Only	
In County: 12 months	\$74
In County: 6 months	\$54
Out of County*: 12 months	\$91
Out of County*: 6 months	\$68
Online + Print Edition	
In County: 12 months	\$88
Out of County*: 12 months	\$115

*Mailed as periodicals. Allow up to 2 weeks out of state.



Rock County
STAR HERALD

University of Minnesota scientists discover attacking fungi that show promise against emerald ash borer

Since its introduction, the emerald ash borer (EAB) has become the most devastating invasive forest insect in the United States, killing hundreds of millions of ash trees at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Now new research from the University of Minnesota’s Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center (MITPPC) shows a possible path forward in controlling the invasive pest that threatens Minnesota’s nearly one billion ash trees.

In a recent study published in Fungal Biology, MITPPC researchers identified various fungi living in EAB-infested trees — a critical first step in finding fungi that may be harnessed to control the spread of EAB and ultimately prevent ash tree death.

“We discovered that several different species of fungi attack EAB and other insects, and they can now be further tested for their potential for biocontrol,” said Robert Blanchette, the study’s project leader and professor in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

“This is a very important first step in the search for a biocontrol for emerald ash borer,” Blanchette said.

Larval EAB feed just beneath the bark, leaving behind tunnel galleries

•**Emerald ash borer is a quarantined invasive species. Items that could transport this insect may not be moved without permission from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.**

•**The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a destructive insect pest of ash trees.**

•**EAB attacks all species of ash.**

•**Once an ash is attacked by EAB, it will be killed if it is not protected.**

•**Ash trees can be protected from EAB with available insecticides.**

•**EAB will move only about one half to one mile a year from infested sites. But people can carry it hundreds of miles when transporting firewood and other wood products or nursery stock.**

•**The Minnesota Department of Agriculture monitors this invasive species. Please report any EAB you spot at Arrest the Pest.**



that can stretch up to 20 inches long. Beneath the surface, fungi — some of which may be capable of parasitizing the EAB — may be carried by the larvae as they develop, or may enter the tree through the tunnel galleries. Some of these fungi also seriously affect urban trees, causing rapid wood decay which

result in hazardous tree situations.

From Rochester to Duluth, researchers gathered samples where ash is affected by EAB. Through DNA sequencing, scientists identified fungal isolates and revealed a diverse assemblage of fungi. This included entomopathogenic fungi that attack insects, as

well as other fungi that cause cankers — which help EAB kill trees — and some that cause wood decay.

“Before now, we simply haven’t been sure what fungi are associated with EAB infestations in Minnesota. This project identified those species and, in doing so, opened up new possibilities for managing one of our state’s most devastating tree pests,” said Ben Held, the study’s lead author and researcher in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

As research continues, the scientists will build on the work from this study to determine if any of the fungi can be used to kill the emerald ash borer. Results will also be of value in helping control the insect in other parts of North America where EAB is found.

“Ash trees are vitally important to Minnesota,” said Rob Venette, MITPPC director. “They reduce air pollution, storm water runoff, and cooling costs, all while increasing property values in local communities. It’s critical we work to protect them from this invasive pest.”

The research was funded through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.



NOW THAT'S CURB APPEAL.



pepsi

PEPSI BOTTLING CO.
1801 FORMAN DR., PIPESTONE, MN

get your news online Star-Herald.com

Mark Top’s home resurfacing business, Mud Creek Countertops, is affordable alternative to real stone

By Mavis Fodness

The first customer for Mud Creek Countertops in Hills was the owner himself.

Mark Top said he watched a Facebook video three years ago of someone creating a custom countertop design using paint and epoxy.

He said he was immediately intrigued and hooked on learning the process.

“I thought I could do that and I started messing around with it,” he said.

Top resurfaced all the countertops in his Hills home — twice.

“The first time was OK, but I didn’t like the colors and I didn’t like how it turned out,” he said.

“Last spring — I was a nurse and our hours got cut — I didn’t like my countertops so I redid them.”

Now he’s recreating surfaces in other people’s homes with the look of marble, quartz or any other epoxied design at a cost that’s a third less than the real materials.

Top charges \$30 to \$35 per square foot for one of his surface creations.

“I’m just a hair more expensive than laminate because you’re getting a slightly better product,” he said. “It is way less than stone. Stone can run you \$60 to \$100-\$200 a square foot.”

In addition to kitchen countertops, any surface can get a new look, Top said. Bathroom vanities, backsplashes, shower walls, bar tops and even sinks themselves can be given new life.

“I can do any color, any design,” he said. “Anything with a flat surface I can do this.”

Since watching the video that inspired the creation of Mud Creek Countertops, Top experimented with different brands of epoxies and paints before settling on products from Stonecoat Countertops.

He said he likes how the products are easy to use, have less of a chemical smell and offer support to users.

Longtime interest

Top’s interest in woodworking projects began as a student at Hills-Beaver Creek High School, where he received basic carpentry skills in the industrial arts classes.

Top also worked for a former local carpenter where he learned about customers and customer service.

“(I) found out pretty quickly that people do not want to pay for custom work. They would rather drive to Sioux Falls to buy something already completed,” he said.

His business goals are to offer affordable custom options locally with a strong service ethic.

“I tell my customers ‘if I am not happy with something, I don’t let it out the door,’” he said.

Top is able to construct new countertop surfaces out of medium density fiberboard by making a template from the existing surface or he can use his resurfacing technique on the existing structures.



Mavis Fodness photo/0401 Home Tab 2021 Mud Creek Countertops

Mark Top leans on a new tabletop coated with clear epoxy, paint and metallic powders for a shiny, marble-like appearance. Top’s business, called Mud Creek Countertops, is located in Hills.



Using clear epoxy, Mark Top can create one-of-a-kind sinks like this one with tumbled stones (pictured above).

At left, samples of painted surfaces are stacked at Mud Creek Countertops.

“I tell my customers ‘If I am not happy with something, I don’t let it out the door.’”

— Mark Top,
Mud Creek
Countertops

He prefers to complete projects in the heated workshop constructed in the former telephone repair office on East Third Street in Hills.

He uses a portion of the facility from his dad, Allan, who occasionally helps out when large projects need to be moved.

Each project begins with Top painting a sample. “I recommend customers go online and start looking at stone, send it (the desired look) and I’ll make a sample,” he said.

Examining the picture, Top studies the colors, design and where the surface top will be located. Then he gets to work.

Creative techniques

His favorite technique is completing a “dirty pour,” where clear epoxy and paint are mixed into a quart container and poured on the surface.

Patterns develop as the mixture runs over the surface edges and eventually dries.

Other surface designs involve Top using his hand to introduce the flowing appearance in the surface.

He has also used a paintbrush, spray paint, isopropyl or metallic powders to add sparkle or pops of color on the surface.

“The longer I work with it, the more I learn,” Top said.

After the surface has received the desired look, Top

Mud Creek/continued on 13B



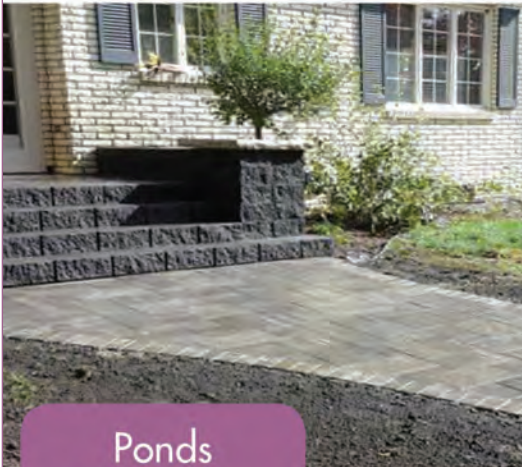
Read
Recycle
Reuse

Please recycle
your newsprint
when finished
with the paper.

Luverne Landscaping, L.L.C.

811 W. Warren Luverne, MN

Professional Landscape Design,
Installation & Maintenance



Ponds
Brick Patios
Retaining Walls
Snow Removal

DIGITAL
IMAGING

Luverne Flowers
& Greenhouses

811 W. Warren • 507-283-4451



HOURS:
Monday-Friday: 8:30 to 5:00
Saturday: 8:00 to noon
Sunday: Closed

Come check out our
home decor.

Flower Bouquets ~ Blooming Plants
Outdoor Patio Planters ~ Hanging Plants



Kevin Jacobsma

Office: 507-283-4220
Cell: 507-920-9932



Chef Skyler Hoiland said briskets are among the most difficult meats to smoke. “It’s one of those things people love, but it takes time to perfect,” Hoiland said. “You can’t cook it too hot or too fast or smoke it too long or too slow. ... That’s the challenge that I love.”

At right, racks of smoked ribs come off the portable grill during last September’s smoking practice at Bluestem Catering.

Hoiland said he hopes patrons will be able to walk up to the grill this summer and select their smoked meat to enjoy along with some potato salad and coleslaw from the indoor coolers.

At far right, Hoiland tends to a grill full of chicken drumsticks on the portable smoker grill last September in the Bluestem Catering lot on East Main Street.



Bluestem Catering portable grill adds ‘smoking with style’ to menu/continued from page 3B

of menu items, including smoked meat that patrons can enjoy fresh off the grill onsite or prepared among other entrees on the take-and-bake menu.

“My hope is that people will be able to walk up to the grill and pick out what they want, like a half rack of ribs, and then go inside and grab a little potato salad and coleslaw from the cooler,” Hoiland said.

“They can sit down with it outside at the catering business or take it to go.”

Days and times for grill operation will be announced on the Bluestem Catering Facebook page.

“I think the smoker will bring a new aspect to the catering business,” Hoiland said. “It’s something different

and new that you can’t get anywhere else.”

The new cooking style is also prompting a new marketing campaign.

“The catering ‘grab and go’ business has been about ‘convenience with style,” he said. “Maybe the grill will be about ‘smoking with style.””

Meanwhile, he’ll take advantage of the first warm days of spring when they happen. “I’ll be ready when the snow melts,” he said.

The grill may travel to some of the 50-plus weddings and local events Bluestem is so far scheduled to cater this summer, including the Buffalo Days Cruise-In at the park.

“I wanted the challenge of a wood fire — not pellet feed, no temperature controls — nothing but wood on the smoker. I enjoy something that holds me accountable. ... I have to tend to the fire, I have to be there, I have to nurture and do different things to make sure it’s at 225 or 250 depending on what I’m cooking. That kind of pressure is what I wanted.”

— Chef Skyler Hoiland, Luverne, about cooking with a wood smoker

IT'S GRILLING TIME!

Steaks • Pork Chops
Hamburgers
Beef Patties

FOR ALL THE SMOKERS...

Ribs, Baby Back Ribs
Old Fashion Hot Dogs
Brisket Pork Butts, Brats

S & S

LOCKER SERVICE

Mon.-Fri.
8am-5:30pm
Sat. 8am-noon
204 S. Main St.
Hills, MN
507-962-3251

After hours call
605-321-6914 507-220-0687
sslocker@alliancecom.net

Mark's

Plumbing Heating And A/C, LLC.

507-283-9245

MARK & CINDY KURTZ, OWNERS
608 W. HATTING ST., LUVERNE, MN

TEMPSTAR®

Heating and Cooling Products

MASTER PLUMER LICENSE
#066849-PM

PLUMBING CONTRACTOR LICENSE
#644664

MAKE YOUR MOVE TO

BEAVER CREEK

Tax abatement for 5 years.

- Easy access to I-90
- Safe small-town living
- Preschool - 5th grade elementary school - 2019 National Blue Ribbon Winner
- Water Splash park opening in Summer 2021
- Well maintained streets
- 5 year tax abatement available for new construction homes

City of Beaver Creek 507-673-2266
Contact Jane at jane@cityofbeavercreekmn.com for more information

GO GREEN THIS SPRING

WE MAKE SURE YOUR GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER. Swing into your local C & B Operations to find the John Deere lawn equipment, parts, tools and attachments you need for a successful spring season.

JOHN DEERE

C&B OPERATIONS

C & B OPERATIONS
1480 KNISS AVE
LUVERNE, MN
(507) 283-4430

C & B OPERATIONS
1760 16TH STREET
EDGERTON, MN
(507) 442-4951

VISIT US AT DEEREQUIPMENT.COM

Graduations is almost here
have you booked your tent for the big day?

We also offer Tables, chairs & Portable restrooms for that big event!

Call us today... we got you covered!

BIG TOP

Tents & Events

Jordan@bigtoprentalsmn.com or visit us at bigtoprentalsmn.com
321 W Hatting St Luverne MN | 605-553-1395 | 507-449-6102
Jordan Smidt, Owner

Call 507-283-2333 to advertise in the Star Herald.



Milled wood slabs stand ready for repurposing into something new.

Bully’s Big Wood/ from page 2B

Bullerman also added large planers to smooth the slab before it is taken to Ocheyedan to be kiln-dried.

“Good drying is key in this,” he said. “When it is dry, it is stable.”

A slab is also lighter (as much as a couple hundred pounds) after it’s properly dried for months in a kiln. A dry slab is relatively straight, stable (no curling and cupping) and ready for finishing work.

While Bullerman can create a finished product, he’s comfortable leaving the finishing work to professionals like Kerkhove-Brandt and Winters.

Bully’s Big Wood Wood Mill will be just another hobby Bullerman keeps himself busy with.

“It is a good release at the end of the day — to go out there and cut and not worry about anything. I can clear my head,” he said. “Finding different niches I can do makes me happy.”

He’s co-owner of VanBully’s Bar and Grill in Iona, builds raised flower and vegetable garden beds and, with his wife, Brandee, buys and sells houses. Each house contains items from his slab-cutting hobby, such as an eye-catching counter, feature wall or island.

“We put something different into a flip house you don’t see anywhere else,” he said.

Others are turning to Bullerman and his slabbing mill to preserve a little family history.

He said he’s worked with a couple of customers who built a new home on their grandparents’ farm, where trees planted by the first generation were removed to make room for the larger house.

Bullerman made slabs that were repurposed as counters, tables or cabinets in the new home.

“I like doing stuff like that,” he said. “To keep stuff on the farm.”



Saw dust is discharged by the Lucas mill’s chain saw as Ryan Bullerman moves the saw through the log. Mavis Fodness photo/0401 Home Tab 2021 Bullys

Mike & Dawn Van Den Top

113 W. Main Street
Luverne, MN 56156

Office: 507-283-9206
Fax: 507-283-9206
Cell: 712-899-4800

manitoucarpets@gmail.com

OPEN
Tues - Fri:
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sat:
9 a.m. - noon

Manitou Carpets

Contact us for your flooring and installation needs!

WE CARRY:

- Large selection of carpet • Wood • Laminate
- Vinyl • Dura Ceramic • Luxury vinyl tile
- And more.....
- Over 50,000 square feet of in-stock flooring available for immediate delivery
- 25 years installation experience
- Factory direct carpet

The news, sports and opinions of Rock County.

STAR-HERALD.COM

JAYCOX
IMPLEMENT, INC.

507-283-2319 | 410 W KOEHN AVE, LUVERNE, MN
WWW.JAYCOXIMPLEMENT.COM

FERRIS 3300

FEATURING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FERRIS SUSPENSION TECHNOLOGY — FOREFRONT™ SUSPENSION, A 2-BELT ICD™ CUTTING SYSTEM, HEAVY-DUTY HYDRO-GEAR® DRIVE SYSTEM AND TRAVEL SPEEDS UP TO 12 MPH, THE ISX™ 3300 IS ENGINEERED TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND OPERATOR COMFORT.

FERRIS

GRASSHOPPER 727T

DELIVERING POWERFUL, HIGH-TECH PERFORMANCE AND UNPARALLELED FUEL ECONOMY, THE GRASSHOPPER MODEL 727T RIDING LAWN MOWER WITH ZERO-TURN MANEUVERABILITY FEATURES AN ELECTRONIC FUEL INJECTION (EFI) ENGINE THAT MAXIMIZES FUEL EFFICIENCY.

GRASSHOPPER

Simplicity

SIMPLICITY BROADMOOR

CAN A LAWN TRACTOR BE BOTH HIGH-PERFORMING AND COMFORTABLE? THE SIMPLICITY BROADMOOR™ ANSWERS THIS QUESTION WITH A DEFINITE "YES!" WITH THE UNIQUE FREE FLOATING™ MOWER DECK, REAR SUSPENSION (SELECT MODELS) AND BREATHABLE ERGONOMIC MESH TRACTOR SEAT, MOWING THE LAWN WILL NEVER FEEL LIKE YARD WORK.

Beautify your neighborhood!

WALLY’S NURSERY

We have everything you need!

LANDSCAPE DESIGN
from concept to completion

LAWN RENOVATION
seeding and sodding

QUALITY NURSERY STOCK
wide variety of shrubs, trees & evergreens, all northern grown

FLOWER GARDENS
wide selection of perennials & annuals

LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE
trees & shrubs, seasonal pruning and maintenance

GARDEN CENTER
everything for your lawn & garden

PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL
school trained and over 45 years in business!

WALLY’S NURSERY

1st corner West of Hills, Minnesota Phone 507-962-3267
SPRING HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 8AM-8PM, SAT. 8AM-5PM, SUN. 1PM-5PM

Hardy perennials offer great flowerbed options, but most aren't 'one and done' plants

By George Bonnema, Luverne horticulturalist

In the realm of flower gardening, we have three types of plants: annuals, biennials, and perennials.

Annual flowers bloom for one season and that completes their life cycle. These are plants we mostly use in our planters and pots.

Biennials grow a rosette of leaves one year and bloom the next year. An example would be old-fashioned hollyhocks or foxgloves.

Perennials are plants that once planted, return year after year. In this article, we'll talk about perennials.

People like the idea of planting perennials because they reason that they'll plant it once and they're done. The planting it once it true. The being done isn't true.

Some perennials multiply very slowly and are happy growing in the same spot for years, actually not wanting to be messed with.

An example here would be peonies. They bloom in late spring every year and at the end of the season or the following spring, you cut them off at ground level and they do a repeat performance.

Most perennials aren't so tolerant. This classification of plants involves a herbaceous crown or a rhizome or bulb that gradually, and sometimes not so gradually, spreads or divides.

Frequently, perennials are used in the landscape where the soil is covered with plastic or fabric to prevent weeds and that plastic or fabric is covered with rock or other mulch.

A hole is cut in the plastic or fabric and the perennial is planted in that spot.

That's good ... for a few years and then it becomes a problem. The size of the hole determines



Peonies are the best example of "one and done" perennials. They can be planted and counted on to return year after year with very little care, compared with lillies or mums that need to be divided every several years.

"The neat thing about these plants (perennials) is that if you learn their time to blossom, you can have color in your landscape for the entire growing season. As one fades, another takes center stage and gives a splash of color."

George Bonnema, Luverne horticulturalist

how much space that perennial plant crown gets to grow. It eventually reaches the perimeter and then what? It might start spreading out above the plastic or fabric and become invasive.

Or most often you will notice a gradual decline in the plant itself or the amount of flowers it produces. That's called "complaining."

The way to remedy the problem is to dig the entire clump, use your spade to chop the crown into at least fourths and replant just one fourth back in that spot.

You will probably have to add soil to fill in for the mass that you removed. Now you have three more divisions to plant elsewhere, to share or throw away. The best time to do this dividing is late summer or very early spring.

Grasses and daylilies are hardy standbys but must be divided every several years

Karl Foerster Feather Reed Grass is a perennial that has become a very popular landscape choice in recent years. It is tolerant of most sites and creates a vertical line and color that gives contrast to make a landscape interesting.

This grass will definitely complain if not divided every five to six years. The center of the clump dies as the outside edge pushes outward until it can't go any further.

The center will not regrow so the clump will keep getting thinner with less vigor until it eventually dies. For this grass, even planted in an open area with no mulch, it will benefit from

periodic dividing.

Stella D'Oro was the first dwarf reblooming daylily introduced years back. It still is a winner in my book, but I think is one of the most abused plants in the landscape because people plant it and from there on ignore it.

I've seen those poor victims trying their best to put out some flowers, but they are so severely overcrowded and root-bound that they barely produce leaves.

They have great potential if you just give them a little attention by dividing every five or six years. So much for the "being done" I mentioned earlier.

Plant for year-round color

Every perennial has its time to bloom. For some it's a short

burst of color, for others, the bloom time can last for a couple of months.

The neat thing about these plants is that if you learn their time to blossom, you can have color in your landscape for the entire growing season. As one fades, another takes center stage and gives a splash of color.

I plan my flower gardens for color for the whole season. Bleeding hearts, daffodils and tulips start the display in spring and that display is ongoing until asters continue through our first frosts.

The variety of perennials available has increased dramatically in the last 15 years. New varieties give us better

Bonnema/continued on 12B

Is my Ash tree worth treating for EMERALD ASH BORER?

Ash trees can be a valuable part of landscape and help to reduce electrical costs by shading your home.

A+ ARBOR CARE, LLC.

MN 20197838
IA 00 094833 00
SD AP 19184

Dave Knips 507-227-4851 or Matt Knips 507-227-7957
arborcareinject@gmail.com
817 E 77th St, Sioux Falls, SD

FIND US ON FACEBOOK
APlusArborCare

New Prairie Insulation, Inc.

Serving Residences & Contractors

FREE ESTIMATES
Insulation

Let us help you with all your insulation needs!

Beaver Creek, MN **507-673-2548 or 1-800-232-7089**

Orv & Sons, Inc.

Plumbing ~ Heating ~ Cooling
507-967-2464

Hours of Operation: Mon. - Fri. 7:00-Noon & 1:00-5:30
Office Hours: Mon. - Fri. 7:30-Noon & 1:00-5:00
CLOSED Saturday & Sunday (Emergency Calls ONLY)

*Licensed for pump installation, sewer installation & Backhoe Services
*Roto-rooter, Pipe Location & Camera Inspection System
*Oxyblast-water treatment Product
*Lennox Furnaces & Air Conditioners

308 S. Broadway Street, Ellsworth, MN 56129

20233 290th Street, Rushmore, MN
\$279,900

4 Beds • 1 Baths • 1770 sqft
Great Looking Acreage. Updated Features inside. 9 Acres.
Extra Storage Shed/Barn Double Detached Garage.

Gene Cragoe broker/owner 507-920-3815
Sherri Thompson realtor 507-227-6830

Cragoe Realty
Selling Real Estate in the Heart of the Prairieland
info@cragoe.com | 507-283-2647 or 800-689-2647

New Construction & Additions

Remodeling
Additions
Siding
Drywall
Windows
Foundation
Concrete

FOR ALL YOUR CONSTRUCTION NEEDS

Oehlerts & Son Construction
Kevin Oehlerts, Luverne
OehlertsAndSonConstruction.com
507-673-2206

Lic.#BC064924

Leenderts LAWN CARE

Lawn spraying, lawn aeration and grass drill for over seeding and new seeding.

Emerald Ash Borers ARE COMING

Do you have favorite ash trees you'd like to save?
Free Estimates
Tree Injections (lasts two years)

Ask about 5% CASH DISCOUNT & 5th TREATMENT FREE w/4-step lawn care purchase.

Call 507-962-3794 or 507-227-2805
ARLENLLC@HOTMAIL.COM fully insured and licensed

HOMEOWNERS and HOMEBUYERS

GIVE US A CALL!

We have buyers for **2-3 bedroom homes**
\$50,000-\$90,000 & \$150,000-\$200,000
If you are thinking about selling, call today!

LANDOWNERS

It's never too late or too early to think about marketing your farm. Let's visit about your farm or the market in general.

SERVICE IS MORE THAN PART OF OUR NAME!

YOUR REAL ESTATE NEEDS are OUR BUSINESS

Jensen Management Service, Inc.
111 N. Cedar, PO Box 836, Luverne • 507-283-2391

William (Bill) V. Weber, broker - 507-220-4803
William (Bill) J. Korth - 507-227-4958
Tamra (Tammy) Jo Makram - 507-227-7010

GO TO OUR WEBSITE TO SEE OUR LISTINGS
JENSENKORTH.COM

Challenge Grant adds metal sculptures to Prairie Ally

Local artists commissioned to create sculptures with farm tools to reflect community ag history

By Lori Sorenson
The Prairie Ally Outdoor Center is establishing a more visual presence along North Blue Mound Avenue in Luverne with metal sculptures and signage.

Started in 2017, the local food forest grows perennial edible plants surrounded by four acres for prairie restoration.

During the 2020 growing season, community members harvested dozens of bushels of produce to consume and share.

They included raspberries, grapes, currants, gooseberries, pears, plums, apples, strawberries, annual vegetables, and flowers that double as medicinal plants.

Prairie Ally also grows a variety of lesser-known fruit and nut species that are gaining popularity again for their hardiness and health benefits. They include serviceberry, elderberry, aronia berry, honeyberry, hazelnut and paw paw.

Recognizing value in Luverne’s food forest, AARP last year awarded the project a Community Challenge Grant to purchase signage and picnic tables and commission local artists for sculptural trellises.

Prairie Ally founder Kim Rockman said the pieces add visual impact to the site.

“Each round picnic table is placed within a garden bed surrounded by berry bushes and native flowers, offering visitors a place of peace and reprieve,” she said.

Commissioned artwork reflects farming history
The artists used pieces of old farm equipment and garden tools sourced from citizens in the area.

One of the sculptures created by Dean and Linda Wenzel, has a dairy theme with antique stanchions, milk cans and a strainer.

The sculptural trellis frame resembles a hip roof or gambrel barn and a note on the sign recognizes contributions from David and Patricia Swenson, Mike



One of the sculptures created by Dean and Linda Wenzel has a dairy theme with antique stanchions, milk cans and a strainer. The sculptural trellis frame resembles a hip roof or gambrel barn. Top right, the collaboratively built corn sculpture will double as a trellis for pole beans. Above right, a large “Prairie Ally Outdoor Center” sign marks the turn-in driveway at Luverne Street and Blue Mound Avenue by the parking lot.



Gehrke and the Stegemann family.

“This fits nicely with the land, which operated as the Rock County Creamery in the 1800s,” Rockman said about the Prairie Ally site.

Lori Hallstrom, a stained glass and metalwork artist, incorporated a variety of objects into her creative sculpture, and a third sculpture collaboratively pieces objects together to represent corn.

“This is where we hope to honor agricultural history that goes back beyond European settlement,” Rockman said.

“The Dakota settled in the prairie areas in southern Minnesota. ...

They grew corn, beans and squash, a planting style known as The Three Sisters.”

The corn sculpture will double as a trellis for pole beans.

A large “Prairie Ally Outdoor Center” sign marks the turn-in driveway

at Luverne Street and Blue Mound Avenue by the parking lot.

This spring, landscape edging will be installed along with botanical signs to mark most of the species planted at the food forest.

Honoring history, while inspiring regenerative farming
Rockman said the grant and its resulting artwork have helped increase community awareness of the food forest and its mission.

“This project will literally and figuratively

create new space for connection, reflection and healing. Nature nourishes, she said. “Nutrient dense, regeneratively grown food nourishes; connection to community nourishes.”

She said at Prairie Ally

Prairie Ally art/see 14B



BILL'S WATER CONDITIONING

BRANDON WATER

SOFTENER SERVICE

Family owned since 1971

SERVICE • RENTAL • SALES

Luverne: 507-283-4448

Brandon: 605-582-6585

www.billswater.com



HENDEL

Landscaping & Seeding

• Complete Landscaping and Seeding

• Commercial or Residential Services • Ponds

• Retaining Walls • Paver Patios • Snow Removal

• Hydro Seeding • Sodding • Over Seeding

Jason Hendel, owner (507) 920-5153

Adrian, MN 56110

Since 1873...

The Rock County Star Herald has reached your doorstep every week, without fail.

It brings you local news and sports, along with many pictures of local faces. It tells you who got married, who died, who's having a sale and why you should care about local government issues.

While the *Star Herald* is proud to be Rock County's oldest business, it is also thankful for its readers — who make a point of keeping in touch with local news through the paper.

Luverne Building Center

not just a small town lumberyard

We are striving to be your ONE STOP for ideas, advice and a helping hand to assist in your home remodeling or building projects.

All with the best service and lowest prices possible!



We've got all your decking needs covered!

We provide drafting and design for new homes, additions, decks, cabinets, any project you desire.



Luverne Building Center

provides FREE Estimates and Quotes on Garages, Pole Barns, Decks, Windows, Kitchen Cabinets, Doors and Siding...

Any of your building projects.



Luverne Building Center

507-283-9151 • 102 E. MAPLE ST., LUVERNE



Land & Home Realty



Dave Hup
Broker/Owner
507-920-5910
dave.landandhome@gmail.com



Billy Cowell
Realtor/Owner
605-254-5450
billy.landandhome@gmail.com



Renee Guy
Realtor
605-359-7515
renee.landandhome@gmail.com

Visit LandandHomeRealty.com for all of our listings

507-449-6111
130 S. Kniss Ave. • Luverne, MN
Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

LAND & HOME REALTY

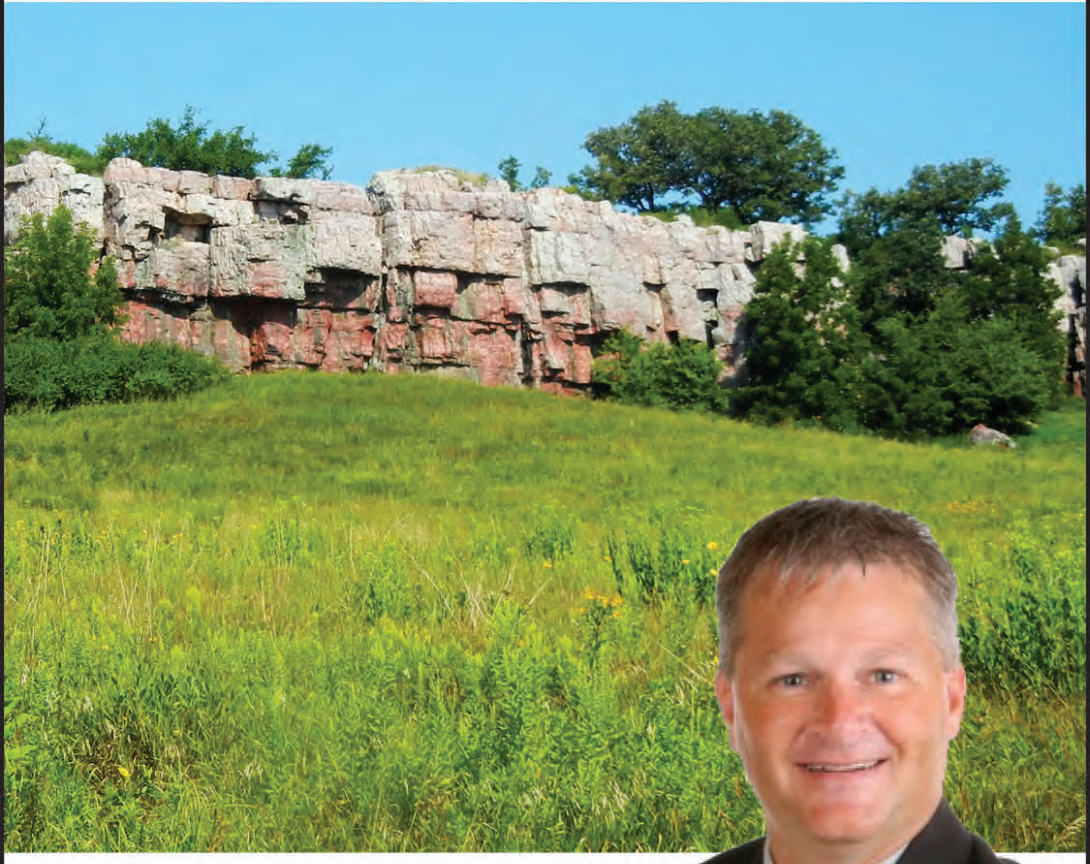


Kevin Aaker
kevin@luvernebodyshop.com

Andrew Hemme
andrew@luvernebodyshop.com

Auto Glass Repaired or Replaced?
Free pickup & delivery from home, farm or work site.

920 Commerce Rd • Luverne, MN
507-283-8711



Jason Vote, Agent
311 W Gabrielson Rd #3
Luverne, MN 56156
507-283-4401



**YOUR CHERISHED POSSESSIONS
OUR COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE**

Protect the things that matter and save by bundling your home and auto insurance. Whatever the future brings, no matter where you are, we've got you covered. Trust in Tomorrow.® [Contact us today.](#)

Kozlowski 
Insurance Agency & Financial Services, Inc.

212 South Kniss, Luverne • (507) 283-3704 or (877) 631-3704
www.kozlowski-insurance.com • Pipestone 888-825-3366



Country Cupboards
"Where Skilled Craftsmen Produce Work With Pride!"
2 miles south of Luverne on Hwy. 75
Phone 507-283-8176

THERE'S LOTS TO LOVE IN LUVERNE.

Find everything you need to build your dream in Luverne, Minnesota, a thriving community bursting with opportunity. With outstanding schools, world-class cultural institutions, tremendous healthcare, a charming downtown and plenty of recreational, retail and restaurant options, you'll find no finer place to raise a family.



The newly-developed **Uithoven Addition** has the perfect single family and twinhome lots to build your new home. You'll be in close proximity to Luverne Public Schools and the Luverne Loop recreation trail.

BUILD YOUR DREAMS IN LUVERNE.
Visit: cityofluverne.org/housing

Luverne MINNESOTA
Love the life!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:
Holly J. Sammons
Economic Development Director
507.449.5033
hsammons@cityofluverne.org
CityOfLuverne.org



Inspiration to Installation

Floors designed with you in mind.
All of you.
Find the products you want and get back to the life you love.
It's as easy as that.

Our vision is creating a better future for our customers, for our people, for our company and for our communities.
Our Mission - Great people. Great products. Great service. Always.
Our Values - Honesty. Integrity. Passion.



Carpet | Hardwood | Laminate | Resilient | Luxury Vinyl Tile & Plank

224 S. Splitrock Blvd.
Brandon, SD • 605-582-2744
www.familyfloorsfurniture.com
Monday & Thursday 9 am-8 pm
Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9 am - 5:30 pm
Saturday 9 am-4 pm

Family FLOORS & FURNITURE, INC.

Want to improve your local wood duck population?

Follow these tips for making a successful wood duck bird house

A few weeks ago, when temperatures were sub-zero, I encouraged you to build a wood duck box. I still have the plans for these boxes; email me at scottarall@gmail.com to request one.

Today the temperatures are reaching the mid 50s and soon it will be time to make sure these boxes are up and ready when the ducks make their return trip back to the Midwest.

Cavity nesting waterfowl are really cool creatures. There are many different ducks that nest in either natural cavities in old dead trees or in the man-made structures we erect for them.

In our area the most common ones are wood ducks and common mergansers. It seems today that if someone sees an old dead tree, the first thing they want to do is cut it down and burn it.

It is this mentality that has reduced the number of suitable natural nesting cavities for these birds to use to a level not high enough to support their healthy populations.

A wood duck brings no nesting material to the cavity. This is why it is important for our structures to be filled about one-third full of coarse wood shavings. Sawdust is a big no-no because when it gets wet, it takes forever to dry out and in many cases will get moldy.

You don't want to fill the box all the way to the top with this material because if you do, the predators will be able to reach in the hole and catch the nesting hen. She should be at least 8 inches below the opening when on the nest.

A wood duck, when ready, will lay one egg and then leave the nest for the day. She will return each day for about 12 days, laying only one egg per day. She will pluck some down from her breast and cover the eggs when she leaves. Because waterfowl nest earlier than other upland birds, it often freezes overnight.

If she did not cover the eggs,



THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall,
Outdoors columnist



Tips for a successful wood duck house:

- Don't attach it to a tree. Predators like raccoons will find these boxes and harass the hen until she abandons the nest and they can then reach in and eat the eggs.
- Install a predator guard. This looks like a big upside-down funnel that the creatures cannot navigate around.
- Set the box at a height you can reach from the ground — about 5 feet off the ground.
- Remove all of the old debris and install new wood shavings. Wood peckers, screech owls, black birds and especially wrens will fill these up with junk. House wrens don't want anyone else nesting near them.

until she abandons the nest and they can then reach in and eat the eggs.

The other is when you erect your nesting box on a post, whether metal or wood, always install a predator guard. This looks like a big upside-down funnel that the creatures cannot navigate around.

Success in properly managed boxes runs around 80 percent in the string or structures I manage every year. Boxes should be at a height you can reach from the ground — about 5 feet off the ground is more than enough.

The other important action for success in nesting boxes is to make sure that you remove all of the old debris and install new wood shavings. Wood peckers, screech owls, black birds and especially house wrens will fill these up with junk. House wrens don't want anyone else nesting near them.

Email me for the plans and make a few of these boxes for erection in the next 3-4 weeks.

I can say that you will feel like mama or papa nature person when you see how successful you can be with this fun and satisfying outdoor activity.

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

they would in some cases freeze and become unviable. She leaves the nest each day until she is ready to incubate the clutch.

Nature is a marvelous thing. When the first egg hatches, the hen will wait for approximately 24 hours and then leave the structure with whoever is capable of following her.

If she had stayed in the nest for those first 12 days, while laying one egg per day, the first egg would have hatched before all the others and she would leave with that duckling, leaving the others that would hatch one per day for the next 11 days to perish.

By laying one egg per day and

leaving for the balance of each day, all of the eggs then get incubated for exactly the same amount of time and will all hatch within the 24-hour nature window. Even under great conditions the number of ducks that live to reach maturity is very small.

A 10-percent recruitment success rate is considered super good. On average about 4 percent of all eggs laid will reach the age of a year.

In order to improve the success rate for ducks using your nesting boxes, it is vital to do several things.

The first is to try to never erect a wood duck box by attaching it to a tree. The predators like raccoons will find these boxes and harass the hen

Since 1948

LUVERNE FARM STORE

Quality & Service

Lawn Care & Maintenance Services

- Fertilization
- Weed Identification & Control
- Crabgrass Control
- Insect Identification & Control
- Lawn Disease Control

- Professional Lawn Mowing
- Lawn Trimming & Clean-up
- Turf Watering Management
- Lawn Aeration

New Services

- Lawn Rolling
- Sidewalk/Driveway Edging
- Gutter Cleaning
- Sprinkler System Repairs
- Outside Window Cleaning

Please call for a Free Measure and Estimate

Contact: Nate Golla
PO Box 927 or 617 S. Kniss Ave.
Luverne, MN 56156
(507) 283-9555 or (800) 956-9556

Since 1948

LUVERNE FARM STORE

Quality & Service

"Quality Auctions since 1988"

The most competitive,honest, quickest, fairest and fastest growing method in marketing.

Call today for a No Obligation Quotation.

Real Estate Retrievers™
Alurate Realty Team - Rewarding you with Results

Elbers Auction Service

"Quality Auctions Since 1988"

Your complete auction service • No sale too big or too small

PO Box 196 • Hills, MN 56138

office: 507-962-3433 • home: 507-962-3432 • cell: 507-920-6131

email: keith@realestateretrievers.com - www.elbersauction.com

FRANKEN CONSTRUCTION

Travis Franken, Lic #20627458 & Insured

1332 181st, Luverne

Cell: 507-920-8253

Call today for a FREE ESTIMATE.

REMODELING • NEW ADDITIONS • SIDING

DECKING • WINDOW/DOOR REPLACEMENT

GARAGE DOORS • CONCRETE

NO JOB IS TOO SMALL!!!

SCHOMACKERS HOME GALLERIES

CARPET & DUCT CLEANING

MATTRESSES PILLOWS SHEETS WEIGHTED BLANKETS

APPLIANCES & REPAIRS LG SPEED QUEEN GE FRIGIDAIRE

CARPET LUXURY VINYL TILE LUXURY VINYL PLANK FEATURING KARND EAN DESIGN FLOORS

DOWNTOWN LUVERNE | SCHOMACKERS.COM | 507-227-2183

THE Sewing Basket

Downtown Luverne | SewingBasketLuv.com

- Newly Remodeled
- Dedicated Class/Project Area
- In-Store Alterations
- New Selections Including Yarn

- Shop our fabrics, notions, kits and machines
- Sign up for classes
- Discover Inspiration

507-920-8715

Bonnema: Perennials are hardy, but most aren’t ‘one and done’ flowerbed plants/

from page 8B

disease resistance and much longer bloom time.

The growers have made container-grown perennials available so planting can happen anytime during the growing season rather than a frantic attempt to get everything planted in the spring.

As each perennial finishes its bloom cycle, it is good to cut off the spent bloom stalks to prevent the plant putting energy into producing seeds.

This keeps the landscape neat, prevents unwanted seedlings, and for some varieties, encourages another crop of flowers.

Effects of cold and heat on Zone 4 and 5 perennials

The winter determines the survival rate. Cold is not the only problem. Alternating cold and warm days as we transition from winter to spring is actually more of a problem.

This year was a prime example: going from below 0 to almost 70 degrees in a matter of a couple of days.

The snow cover is what saved many of the tender perennials. When soil freezes, it expands, just like water. Sometimes that expansion tears the plant roots loose in the frozen ground.

As the ground thaws, those roots reestablish and the plant is good to go.

If not, the plant is dead. That is where a snow cover is a bonus. It insulates the soil and the plants so those temperature fluctuations are moderated.

Many of the plants



Bleeding hearts, daffodils and tulips start the display in spring and that display is ongoing until asters continue through our first frosts. The neat thing about these plants is that if you learn their time to blossom, you can have color in your landscape for the entire growing season. As one fades, another takes center stage and gives a splash of color.

“People like the idea of planting perennials because they reason that they’ll plant it once and they’re done. The planting it once it true. The being done isn’t true.”

listed as hardy for Zone 5 could work in our Zone 4 if it were not for that issue.

We might try “cheating” a little by covering tender plants with a layer of mulch to guarantee that insulation because we don’t have a guarantee of snow ... or we could just stick with Zone 4 perennials.

Some perennials are favorites of mine but are considered “half hardy” or short-lived. Gaillardia, delphinium, and mums are three that come to mind. All three add excellent color but never guarantee reappearance.

Sometimes it is just an issue of too much moisture

around the crown of the plant going into winter and it rots.

New mum varieties offer options with more color and additional hardiness

For mums particularly, leaving the stems in place going into winter gives added protection.

They capture snow right over the crown and if you have ever noticed, next season’s growth is already visible in the fall.

Here is where new varieties give us confidence. The University of Minnesota introduced a series called Mammoth.

They have proven hardy in my garden. Original colors were lavender, coral, bronze and yellow, and just added three years ago was white. They have lived up to my expectations.

Also, here is an example of a plant that does great in the open garden but not so much in a landscape with fabric and rock mulch.

The crown moves quite a lot and demands space to move, but not to the point of becoming an invasive nuisance.

Sun versus shade

Sunny areas offer the most options for perennials. Shade gardens can be really pretty, but challenging as often we need to rely more on contrast of foliage color and texture.

There are perennials that bloom in shade but most often have a short window of color. I use Virginia Bluebells and Old Fashioned Bleeding Hearts for early color.

Astillbe would follow but that is a plant that demands continuous moisture and our climate doesn’t guarantee that.

Hosta, Japanese Ferns, brunerra, and a new introduction, Sun King Aralia, all do well in shade.

If you really want to add flower color to a shade area for the entire summer, consider adding a large container planted with annual plants like impatiens, begonias or coleus.



The University of Minnesota “Mammoth” Chrysanthemum collection includes a variety of colors to brighten flowerbeds and yet remain hardy options. They are creatively named “Bronze Daisy,” “White Daisy,” “Pink Daisy,” “Yellow Quill,” “Lavender Daisy,” “Red Daisy” and “Coral Daisy.”

24 Hr. Emergency Service

Estimates Without Obligation

Power & Lighting Installations

STOP LOOKING

FOR AN **ELECTRICIAN**

FOR PROMPT, COURTEOUS SERVICE

507-283-4716

Cell 507-227-6180

QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1927!

Complete Electrical Service

FOR ALL YOUR WIRING NEEDS

McClure Electric

121 N. Cedar, Luverne, MN

Alan M. Aanenson, owner

RESIDENTIAL

FARM

COMMERCIAL

COMPUTER CLINIC

117 North Kniss Ave

507-449-6143

www.computerclinic.tech

- PC Hardware Sales & Service
- Wifi Systems
- Networking & Security
- Websites, Hosting, Email

Scott & Sean Heibult

scott@computerclinic.tech

sean@computerclinic.tech

Landscape Curbing

For all landscape design and edging needs

Landscape Curbing is based out of Jasper, MN, and offers custom decorative curbing and landscaping for customers in the Minnesota, Iowa, and South Dakota areas. Landscape Curbing believes in offering quality service and work, as well as quality products.

Curbing

Light Excavation

Skid Loader Work

Landscape Designs & Maintenance

Landscape Curbing

Pete Jessen

707 181st Street

Jasper, MN 56144

Cell: 507-227-8356

Call (507) 227-8356 to schedule a free estimate

Spring's

Luverne ACE

So much more than just a Hardware store

Most Well-Stocked Greenhouse

& everything to get your lawn and garden ready!

- Scott's mulch & fertilizer (including the four-step program)
- Garden seeds
- Potatoes and onion sets and bulbs
- Grass seeds
- Weed killers
- Selection of lawn mowers and garden tools
- Aerator, thatcher, tiller and lawn edger available for rent

210 East Lincoln, Luverne, MN | 507-283-4161 |

Mud Creek
Countertops/
from page 5B

seals the top with food-grade matte finish epoxy.

“This is what I recommend pretty much to everyone because it looks more natural and this gives you 95-percent coat against scratches,” he said.

The bottom of the resurfaced project will receive a moisture preventative, especially if the counter is near a sink or a dishwasher.

“Sometimes I will do the whole thing, especially if it’s a young family with kids,” Top said.

Currently Mud Creek Countertops (named after the creek located east of Hills) is a hobby for Top.

Current orders will take a couple of months to complete, as work time on countertops is limited to the weekends.

“If I get a stack of jobs consistently, I am pretty sure I will go full time,” he said.

Inquiries to Mud Creek Countertops can be made on the business’s Facebook page.

Top regularly posts videos and pictures of projects he is currently completing so people can see samples of what he can complete.



Mud Creek Countertops can create countertop edges that look like quarried stone or edges that are smooth.

Owner Mark Top sands the paint drips from the epoxy processes flat before installation.

This (at right) bathroom vanity top has a painted finish to look like granite.

Pictured at far right, various metallic powders are used to create a variety of finishes at Mud Creek Countertops.



Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Offered year-round! By appointment only 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month
Rock County Transfer Station (old Landfill)

Acceptable Waste: paint, aerosol cans, hazardous household, automotive, lawn & garden, or home improvement products which you would like to dispose of properly.

Questions or to set up an appointment: Call Rock County Land Management Office at 507-283-8862 Ext. #4.

SPECIALIZING IN SELLING FARM LAND

I have buyers looking to buy 1/4 sections or more

- Auctioneer
- Real Estate Salesperson
- Licensed Real Property Appraiser

Bill Korth
Auction Service
LICENSED AUCTIONEER
HOME: 507-283-4766
Cell: 507-227-4958
710 N. Oakley
Luverne, MN 56156

LANDSCAPE WITH A NEW HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT

Contact Mortgage Lender
Tyler Bush to get started

SECURING YOUR FUTURE
bankwithssb.com

SECURITY SAVINGS BANK

Member FDIC
Tyler Bush
NMLS# 1640150

ServiceMaster Clean

24/7/365 Emergency Service

Fire & Water Damage Restoration Specialists
Recommended by Insurance Industry

- Mold Remediation/Air Quality Testing
- Residential & Commercial
- Smoke, Odor, Soot Removal
- Quick Response Time
- Water Removal

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

- Scotchgard™ Brand Carpet Protector
- Window Cleaning
- Truck Mount Extraction
- Spot Removal
- Pet Odor Removal
- Area Rug Cleaning

ServiceMaster of Luverne
Toll Free
1-507-283-9473

©2009 ServiceMaster Clean. All rights reserved. Services provided by independent businesses licensed to serve you by ServiceMaster Clean.

www.servicemastersf.com

Spring

The perfect time to sell your home!

Buyers are most active in spring, so if you are thinking about selling let’s get started. Our marketing plan includes making your unique home stand out to attract the most buyers and getting the best price possible.

Contact us for your free market analysis or visit our website at realestateretrievers.com.

Real Estate Retrievers

Allstate Realty Team ~ Rewarding you with Results

Deb Aanenson
Broker/Owner
507-920-9921

Keith Elbers
Auctioneer/Owner
507-920-6131

Jen Rolfs
Associate broker/Owner
507-227-2985

Gene Aanenson
Agent
507-920-9920

Cole Weidert
Realtor
507-220-2297

OFFICES: LUVERNE 507-283-4216 • HILLS 507-962-3433 • PIPESTONE 507-227-2985

1892-2021 Luverne

Love the life!

Your hometown electric utility
Locally owned -
Locally controlled
A partner with

KNOW WHAT’S BELOW BEFORE YOU DIG, CALL:

1-800-252-1166 or go online at www.gopherstateonecall.org
It’s The Law!

Specific information about the work site, as well as marking instructions must be provided. Use white markings or flags to define the entire area where excavation will occur, including a safety buffer. Wait at least 48 hours after submitting the locate request, before you begin your excavation.

Prairie Ally food forest has metal art created by local artists to reflect ag history/

visitors can experience all of that through the recreation, education, food and habitat it provides.

And with its Challenge Grant award, the sculptural pieces showcase community’s agricultural history and its current commitment to sustainable farming.

“We hope to inspire the next generation of growers and land stewards who have the opportunity to build a more equitable and regenerative food system,” Rockman said.

“We believe this project will build more and more intergenerational connections,” she said.

“We hope that people of all backgrounds and cultures come together to share farm and garden memories and wisdom with one another as they stop to stare at the sculptures or sit and enjoy the space.”

Open daily, dawn to dusk, at 308 N Blue Mound Ave., Prairie Ally posts harvest updates on Facebook and Instagram throughout the season.

“Come for the beauty and the bounty,” Rockman said.



The artists used pieces of old farm equipment and garden tools sourced from citizens in the area.

“We hope to inspire the next generation of growers and land stewards who have the opportunity to build a more equitable and regenerative food system.”

— Kim Rockman, Luverne, Prairie Ally food forest



New Twin Homes



7 New Lots

Available in the Uithoven Addition



One Unit Still Available in Round Wind Estates

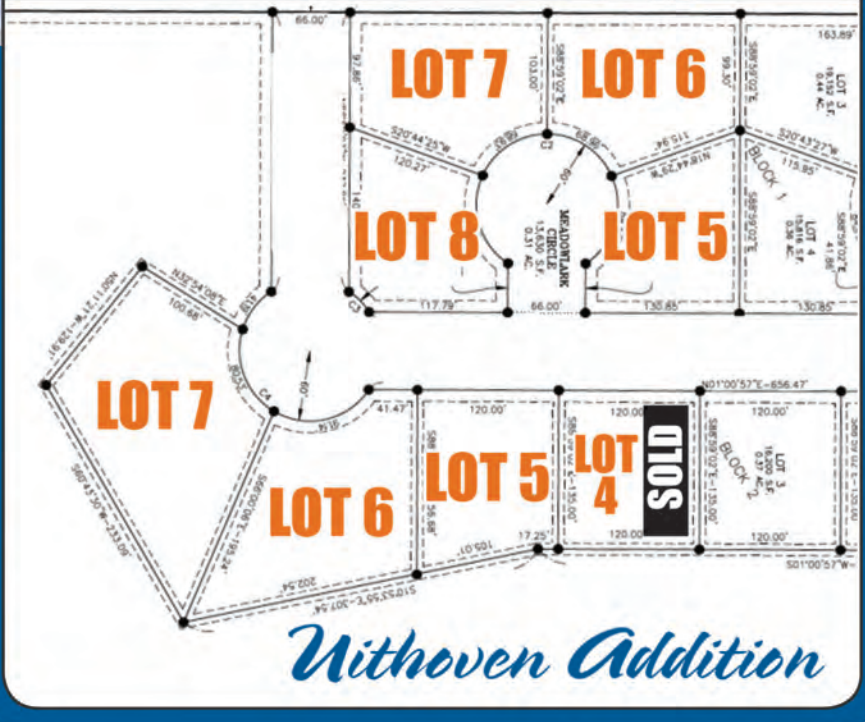
Residential



Agricultural



**Renovations • Remodels
Shops • Cattle Buildings
New Construction
Computer Assisted Design**



CLEVERINGA

CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Merlin Cleveringa, owner
Luverne, MN
cleveringaconstruction@gmail.com • 507-920-5631
Adam Uithoven 507-227-1770 • Derek Sandbulte 507-227-1065
cleveringaconstruction.com | Lic. #BC-690592

Give the gift of your local Star Herald!



Get the Star Herald Online
12 months \$46
24 Hour Access 99¢

Print Edition Only
In County: 12 months \$74
In County: 6 months \$54

Out of County*: 12 months \$91
Out of County*: 6 months \$68

Online + Print Edition
In County: 12 months \$88
Out of County*: 12 months \$115

*Mailed as periodicals. Allow up to 2 weeks out of state.

