



Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, April 15, 2021

In-person service resumes at Rock County offices May 1

By Mavis Fodness

Recent COVID-19 vaccine availability is allowing Rock County departments to resume walk-in transactions on May 1.

County administrator Kyle Oldre told commissioners at their April 6 meeting that county employees met the previous week and supported the reopening plan.

At that meeting, each employee was encouraged to receive the first of two vaccinations at a public

health clinic on March 30. The second is completed in late April.

"Not that every staff member has taken it, but they have been given the opportunity to take it," Oldre said. "We don't see any reason to stay closed after that."

For more than a year anyone wanting to do face-to-face transactions did so by making appointments with that department over the phone or online.

The time between appoint-

ments allowed staff to disinfect prior to the next customer in an effort to lessen the spread of the virus.

Commissioners unanimously supported the reopening plan.

"It felt really good to see that (on the agenda)," said Commissioner Sherri Thompson. "It's like 'we're here' at this point and we can start talking about it."

However, until the state mandate is lifted, individuals

entering the courthouse will need to continue to wear masks and follow the 3-foot social distancing recommendation.

All county buildings were locked down to the public for two weeks starting March 29, 2020. Each county department added barriers, implemented social-distancing guidelines and ways to conduct no-contact transactions.

Departments reopened to the public April 10, 2020, but high

traffic departments such as licensing center, auditor-treasurer's office, library and land management offices were by appointment only.

A no-contact process via drop box at the courthouse also began.

The drop box will continue to be a business option for the public for all county departments, including rural water, after May 1.

"Mainly it means we'll take the signs off the door and say 'come in,'" Oldre said.

'The Barn' salon opens near Hills

Leuthold business gets tax abatement from commissioners

By Mavis Fodness

A new business, The Barn on 60th Salon and Spa, is emerging south of Hills.

The business also brings career ambitions full circle for owner Tammie Leuthold, who expects to be open next month.

"Right now, it seems surreal," she said. "I definitely didn't plan this two years ago."

She did, however, have thoughts of becoming a beautician 30 years ago.

Instead she met Kelly Leuthold at South Dakota State University in Brookings and the two settled near Hills, where they began a family. Kelly operates Leuthold Trucking.

Thoughts of attending the Stewart School to study cosmetology were all but forgotten until daughter-in-law Jamie planned to attend Stewart School for a degree in cosmetology. It was the same path Tammie thought about 30 years ago.

Once family members heard of Tammie's former career plans, they encouraged her to fulfill those plans with Jamie.

Tammie graduated from Stewart School earlier this year followed by Jamie.

Instead of working for someone else, the Leutholds decided to open their own salon and spa.

When an agreement to pur-

Leuthold salon/see page 3

Gimme an L!



Mavis Fodness photo/0415 School Build Commons Terrazzo

'L' appears on new school commons floor

Greg Dalbec, site superintendent with ICS, clicks a picture Monday of the school logo set in the new terrazzo flooring at the Luverne Middle-High School's commons area. Workers with Wisconsin Terrazzo spent the weekend bending the metal for the design before adding the red terrazzo mixture to cure. Once ready, workers will add the other flooring colors before sanding the floor to reveal the rock patterns.

In a remodeling update April 8, Luverne School Board members learned that the construction project at the middle-high school is scheduled to be finished in June, 27 months after the \$31 million project started. As of March 30, \$25 million has been spent on the project.



A worker from Wisconsin Terrazzo sands the terrazzo kick walls Friday in the hallway leading to the new performing arts center at Luverne Public Schools.

Area truckers support late Ellsworth driver

By Lori Sorenson

About 40 trucks, most of them semitractor-trailers, lined Ellsworth's Main Street Wednesday, April 7, for the funeral of Daniel DeBeer at Zion Presbyterian Church.

DeBeer, 33, of Ellsworth, died on March 31 as the result of a trucking accident in Wyoming.

According to crash reports, DeBeer was driving a 2007 Peterbilt commercial truck eastbound on Interstate 80 near Rock Springs, Wyoming, when a westbound 2018 Volvo commercial truck crossed the



median into the eastbound lanes and collided head-on with DeBeer's truck.

The collision, which happened around 3 p.m., caused a fiery explosion that engulfed both trucks in flames.

DeBeer died at the scene. The other truck driver was treated at the scene for his injuries.

The Wyoming Highway Patrol is investigating the crash.

DeBeer, a graduate of Adrian High School, owned and operated DeBeer Farms Trucking and co-

DeBeer/continued on page 5

County squads damaged in deputy collision



Lori Sorenson photo/0415 squads crash

The 2020 Ford Explorers are valued at \$36,000 (minus law enforcement equipment) and are insured by the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust. They are leased through the State of Minnesota fleet services. The adjuster hasn't yet determined if they're totaled.

By Lori Sorenson

The Rock County Sheriff's Office is short two squad cars after a crash last week involving two deputy drivers.

According to the accident report filed by Minnesota State Patrol, deputies Lee Christians and Jonathon Stearns were dispatched to rural Beaver Creek Monday night, April 5, in response to a domestic disturbance.

Stearns, in the lead car, was traveling west on County Road 4 and slowed down to turn left on 95th Street when the Christians squad struck the Stearns squad in the front driver's side door.

Christians reportedly told accident investigators he wasn't expecting Stearns to turn at that intersection and didn't notice

Squads crash/see page 5



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County	Total Cases	DAILY average in last 7 days	Percent Change
Rock	1,174	1	+0.4%
Pipestone	1,020	0	+0%
Nobles	3,889	2	+0.2%
Minnehaha (SD)	28,662	47	+0.5%
Lyon (IA)	1,478	3	+1.2%

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

Date Range	1/24-2/6	1/31-2/13	2/7-2/20	2/14-2/27
Rate	17.00	13.81	7.44	7.44

Vaccine Dashboard: ROCK COUNTY



● People with at least one dose: 2,076
● People with completed series: 1,216
Data as of 03-14-2021

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

School Status

LUVERNE - Elementary: In-person | Middle/High School: In-person
HBC - Elementary: In-person | Secondary: In-person/HYBRID
Current data as of March 16, 2021. Sources: MDH & The New York Times

Sponsored by: Rock County Emergency Management

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Compassionate Friends

Compassionate Friends will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 19, at the Luverne Area Community Foundation office next to Palace Theatre. Meetings are free, confidential and open to any parents and grandparents who have experienced the death of a child — at any age or from any cause. No signup is needed. Call 605-254-2072 or email pat.saum@gmail.com.

Road closed east of Hardwick April 12 for two weeks

County Road 7 between Kenneth and Hardwick will be closed between 190th and 200th avenues for two weeks starting Monday, April 12, for construction. This section of roadway is located 1 1/2 miles north of Kenneth. There is no official detour; use alternate routes. Call the highway department at 507-283-5010.

Nutrition for seniors April 15

Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors 60 and older, sponsored by A.C.E. of SW MN will from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, April 15, via drive thru distribution in parking lot at Generations 319 E. Lincoln, Luverne.

Free food offered April 15

New Life Celebration Church will offer free food at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at the Generations Building on East Lincoln Street in Luverne. Vehicles should enter the west parking lot from Lincoln Street and drive to the double glass doors on the west side of the building where volunteers will load groceries into cars. Walkers should receive pre-packaged groceries on the east side of the building. Call 507-283-4366.

April 14 and 15 dental clinic

#Luv1LuvAll Rock County Oral Health Task Force organized dental clinics on Wednesday, April 14, and Thursday, April 15, at Rock County Health and Human Services. These clinics provide dental care for all ages. Call 612.746.1530 to schedule an appointment. Exams, X-rays and general services will be provided. All forms of insurance accepted.

Donate blood April 20, 21

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Luverne from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, at Grand Prairie Events, and in Adrian from 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 21, at the American Legion. Schedule with RapidPass or call 1-800-733-2767 to schedule an appointment.

The Red Cross will test donations for COVID-19 antibodies to indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to the coronavirus, regardless of symptoms. Testing may also identify the presence of antibodies developed after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

Luverne Palace Theatre opens at 50 percent this weekend with ‘Godzilla vs. Kong’

By Lori Sorenson

For the first time in over a year, the Palace Theatre will be open this weekend for a movie, “Godzilla vs. Kong,” a 2021 American monster film.

Minnesota theaters are allowed to open at half capacity, which for the Palace means 215 may attend at one time, socially distanced and wearing masks.

“You sit with the group you came in with, but you will have to socially distance from others,” Palace director Shawn Kinsinger said Saturday.

“I’m hoping that as May comes around and more people are vaccinated that those guidelines relax more.”

He said he looks forward to activity in general picking up at the Palace after the long pandemic shutdown.

“We’re excited to be at this point,” Kinsinger said. “We have been sitting on a backlog of events waiting to happen. ... Movies are just a start.”

For example, the Luverne High School drama club will perform the musical, “Grease,” June 3-5 and June 10-12.

“The high school kids are pretty excited too,” Kinsinger said. “They’ve been shut down as long as we have.”

Other live theater acts on the horizon include a comedian and the Green Earth Players performance of “Game’s Afoot,” which was set to take stage last spring when the state shut down theaters.

“The set is completely ready and costumes are done,” Kinsinger said, adding that the full cast is still on deck for the show, set for Aug. 20-22 and Aug. 26-29.

“We have some top-quality acts planned for as soon as we can get them in here.”

He said it will also be good to start taking in revenue again.

The Blue Mound Area Theater Board leases the Palace building from the city.

According to BMAT treasurer LaDonna Van Aartsen, the Palace has an annual budget of \$262,300 and usually makes a profit of anywhere from \$5,000 to \$20,000.00

Last year the ending budget was \$117,651.63 with a loss of \$741.43.

“We have had to tap into our savings to keep paying the bills,” Van Aartsen said.

“The bills continue, such as phone, internet, gas bills, insurance, dues, taxes — both payroll and real estate.”

She said Palace staff have still drawn paychecks, due to the COVID-19 Payroll Protection Program.



A light bar from the ceiling is lowered to replace bulbs, one of several maintenance items Palace Theatre staff tackled during downtime of the pandemic shutdown. According to Palace director Shawn Kinsinger, the bulb replacement was a complicated process that involved climbing through a hole in the ceiling of the apartment upstairs to get to the pulleys that lower the light bar.

“We’re excited to be at this point. We have been sitting on a backlog of events waiting to happen. ... Movies are just a start.”

— Shawn Kinsinger, Palace Theatre director

“We did also receive the first round PPP loan of \$9,630 and an EIDL loan of \$2,000, which have both been forgiven,” she said.

BMAT also received \$21,595 in grants.

The Luverne Area Community Foundation granted \$1,595 for a misting sanitizing machine.

The county granted \$5,000 as part of its non-profit pandemic support, and the state gave the Palace \$15,000 as part of its support for movie theaters.

Kinsinger said he’s grateful for the financial aid. “Minnesota as a state is

great as far as taking care of the arts,” he said. “And we’ve been able to stretch it and get farther with it.”

He said theater staff took advantage of the down time to address some maintenance, like light-bulb replacement in the projector and black material repair around the movie screen.

Now, Kinsinger and theater staff and volunteers are looking forward to getting back to the business of normal theater entertainment and he said “Godzilla vs. Kong” is the perfect way to launch

reopening this weekend.

“It holds the record for the highest-grossing box-office opener since COVID started,” Kinsinger said.

“It seems people are willing to come back to the theater as long as precautions are taken. ... It’s been slim picking for Hollywood productions right now. Hopefully they’ll start pumping out more movies this summer.”

Showtimes are 7 p.m. nightly Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 16-18. Tickets are \$5 for kids ages 3-12th grade and \$7 for adults.

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H-BC School Board to appoint new member

Dan LaRock resigns, citing time constraints on schedule

By Mavis Fodness
Hills-Beaver Creek Board of Education will choose a new member to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Dan LaRock from the board. On a voice vote Monday night, board members passed a resolution declaring a school board vacancy by resignation. LaRock did not attend the meeting. Members Renee Knobloch and Tim Bosch were also not at the evening meeting. The resolution established a process for filling the board vacancy with an interim appointee at the next board meeting. An election for a one-year term will take place in November.

LaRock's resignation is effective April 15. In his letter to Superintendent Todd Holthaus, Principal Andrew Kellenberger and the board, LaRock explained why he couldn't complete his current term that ends in 2022. "I am in a season of life where my personal and professional commitments have outpaced my capacity to serve them all effectively," LaRock wrote. "As such, remaining in this elected position would be a disservice to the district as I cannot meet the time and meeting requirements any longer. Please know that this is an incredibly difficult decision for me." Board chairman Arlyn Gehrke said, "He is a very good board member. He will be missed." Fellow board member Ethan Rozeboom said, "Dan is a strong advocate for the community as a whole and the school district. It's unfortunate he's unable to finish his

term out with us." LaRock was first elected to the board in 2015. After the meeting, Superintendent Holthaus reflected on LaRock's contribution to the school district. "He always focused on doing the best for our Hills-Beaver Creek students. His get-it-done attitude assisted the district greatly in getting through some difficult financial situations early on in his time on the board," Holthaus said. "Dan's expertise in so many areas was such an asset to the Hills-Beaver Creek School District." While LaRock resigned his position on the school board, he said he would continue to support the district. "Should the need arise for my participation in a subcommittee or focus group of some kind, I would be honored to consider serving as a committee member," LaRock said. "The district has my full personal support, and that of my family, now and into the future."

LaRock works with SilverStone Group in Sioux Falls, and he is involved in the operation of Rock Ranch, Hills, with his wife, Marie LaRock.

In other business, the H-BC board:
•approved the increase in out-of-state tuition to \$5,629.
•accepted the resignation of Tyler Johnson as K-12 art teacher at the end of the current school year.
•assigned Brianna Leuthold as part-time, long-term substitute for first grade beginning around May 10 and effective through the end of the current school year.

Leuthold salon/from page 1

chase an existing building in Hills didn't materialize, the Leutholds built one on land next to their home in Martin Township along 60th Street. Four people will work in the new business. Joining Tammie and Jamie Leuthold will be Jessica Boelman, who will manage the new salon. Salon services include hair styling, facials, tanning, nails and other amenities. A massage therapist will join the business later this year.

County supports salon with tax abatement
County commissioners approved Tammie and Kelly Leuthold's request for a 10-year abatement of the

county's share of property taxes for the salon. The unanimous decision took place at the commissioners' April 6 meeting. "It is nice to see some construction. Things are happening," said County Administrator Kyle Oldre. Commissioners recently adopted a declining scale for their business development incentive program. For the next five years, the Leutholds will receive a 100-percent abatement of \$565 annually. The remaining four years the abatement will decline by 20 percent each year. No one from the public attended the hearing to provide comment either in person or via Zoom on Leutholds' abatement request.



Mavis Fodness photos/0415 HBC Music Programs 2021

Hills-Beaver Creek Schools band instructor Steve Olson (far left) directs students Monday in the school's gymnasium in Hills, where students use aerosol screens on instruments while at a 6-foot social distance.

A year after cancellations, H-BC spring music programs look different

By Mavis Fodness
Music education has taken different forms at Hills-Beaver Creek Schools this school year, as staff and students follow precautions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. To meet social distance requirements, K-12 music teachers Steve Olson and Amy Comp instruct in the secondary gymnasium, where students can be the recommended 9 to 12 feet apart as they rehearse. All choir students wear masks, said Comp, "which makes singing uncomfortable and, with the social distancing, it's very hard to hear our neighbors while we sing, which has added even more challenges." Comp, who is in her second year of teaching at H-BC, has limited the amount of singing time and turned to more project-based learning such as listening exercises.



Aerosol paper is attached to the bottom of Leeanne Gaugler's clarinet as she practices Monday.

"When the weather was nicer in the fall (and again as we move into the spring) we took our classroom outside sometimes." For band teacher Olson, his students also meet in the gym with the added precautions of bell covers and other devices that inhibit the spread of virus particles by air. He said an aerosol study through the University of Colorado at Boulder provided guidelines that he followed with band members. "We also started at 12-foot interval seating and currently we're at 6 feet," said Olson, who is in his third year at H-BC. "We have a daily rotating student cleaning crew that wipes down the music stands and seats at the end of the every-other-day rehearsals. Since the gym is shared with many others, there's a lot of setting up and tearing down." A year ago, all spring concerts and other music opportunities were canceled when the pandemic was declared in March 2020. While some musical activities outside the district have yet to return, concerts are making a comeback with a new format. On Monday, April 26, virtual elementary choir concerts will be broadcast. Taping will take place early next week for kindergarten through fifth-grade choral concerts. Band students will have their performances live-streamed with the secondary choral students in two separate events.

classroom. "I've also spent more time doing listening projects than I have in the past, which has given us a chance to explore music that I normally wouldn't have experience with my classes," she said. "Our concerts and performance look a little different, but they take just as much, if not more, preparation. Our students worked hard, and they deserve our excitement and support."



Senior Lauren Tatge practices the flute in the H-BC gymnasium with an attached wind guard as a way to keep aerosol droplets from spreading to other musicians.

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Flowers just because? Go for it. Have wine in fancy stemware while you're at it

Gray, rainy weather, combined with some minor sleep deprivation, prompted a recent pity party in my honor.



ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

Why does metabolism slow to a crawl after 50? For that matter, why is gravity so ruthless and gray roots so stubborn?

Are my children happy? Was I a good mom in the fleeting years when I had a chance? Had I been a good daughter and made the most of those final days with my parents?

And there was, of course, the never-ending doomsday news cycle of officer-involved shootings and a hopelessly broken U.S. system of governance.

I must have grown weary of being dreary, because slowly things started turning around.

It started with a Sunshine Foods coupon for "just because" fresh flowers at the grocery store. I couldn't think of anyone at that moment who needed flowers, but I bought two bunches, "just because."

They weren't a big bargain, but they sure paid dividends. The bright yellows, pinks and oranges are still making me happy, three weeks later.

I shared a few with a friend, which also felt good. But mostly it felt luxurious to treat myself for no occasion at all.

Buoyed by the flower splurge, I popped the cork one night on a bottle of wine from my collection I keep on hand to share as hostess gifts.

I drank it from fancy stemware during a weeknight supper with my husband. ... Who doesn't care for wine but was happy that I was happy. Something like, "If momma ain't happy, ain't nobody

happy." Smart man.

Then the sun started shining again, and the gale-force winds quieted for a few days.

So, I took time for coffee on the porch a couple mornings. Reclining back into my plastic Ace Hardware Adirondack deck chair, I breathed deeply, turned my face to the warm sunshine and exhaled.

That Saturday, a neighbor stopped for afternoon coffee after I'd already drunk too much coffee for the day.

But the only thing as good as coffee on the porch in the spring is coffee on the porch in the spring with good company.

It's calving season in the neighborhood and we talked about newborn twin baldies (black with white face markings) romping in fresh bedding and kicking up their heels — happy to be born.

It made me happy to hear about them.

Then, the Easter lily from my mother-in-law burst open two more fragrant blooms. The hibiscus from my sister-in-law that I thought I killed sprouted a green shoot.

And the grand puppy visited long enough to remind me how adorable puppies are and how peaceful it is when they go home.

I still have gray roots, wrinkles and 10 too many pounds, but I forgot about the blues and decided life is really good.

And I am blessed.

Happy spring, dear readers. May you also find little ways to be happy and appreciate the big blessings in your life.

Fighting for our local papers

GUEST EDITORIAL

By U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar

On May 7 of last year, the Hastings Star Gazette printed its last issue. The paper's first issue as The Hastings Independent was published in 1857, a year before Minnesota gained statehood.

Generations relied on papers like this for local news — they told you who was born and who died, whose daughter just broke the county record for the 400-meter freestyle, whose Holstein won a surprise ribbon at the State Fair, and how your local leaders voted.

My dad was a Minnesota newspaper columnist and sports reporter. Even though he worked his way up the ranks to interview everyone from Mike Ditka to Ronald Reagan to Ginger Rogers, he was always, as his managing editor put it, "a champion of those on the outside."

But today, newspapers of all sizes are struggling and closing.

The shuttering of the Star Gazette was helped along by the coronavirus pandemic, but long-term trends in newspaper ad revenue show that the Star Gazette and many local papers like it were already on their last legs when COVID-19 struck.

Ad revenue for U.S. newspapers plummeted from \$37.8 billion in

2008 to \$14.3 billion in 2018. During that time, two other companies, Facebook and Google — worth over \$2.2 trillion combined — became advertising titans.

These two companies don't just control the majority of online advertising; they've built power over the news, crushing local outlets along the way.

It saddens me to think my dad might not have a job in today's tech-dominated world, let alone a chance to interview a U.S. president.

In rural and small-town communities across America, we are seeing the impacts of this consolidation firsthand — expanding "news deserts" where local coverage is increasingly difficult to come by.

We can't stand by and watch this happen to our independent press. That's why I have introduced bipartisan legislation with Senator John Kennedy (R-LA) and Representatives David Cicilline (D-RI)

and Ken Buck (R-CO) to let news publishers join together to get fair terms with these digital titans. The Journalism Competition and Preservation Act will level the playing field for the entire industry — not just a few publishers — by empowering local media outlets to make deals that ensure fair treatment.

By giving independent papers the chance to compete, our bill will also give them the power to demand deserved revenue so that they can invest in quality reporting — ensuring that hardworking reporters can continue to inform their communities.

The Journalism Competition and Preservation Act is a way we can turn the tide on this unprecedented threat to fair and honest competition.

It will help America maintain access to the trustworthy local reporting that is the bedrock of our communities.

Meinerts: 'This is why I love America'

To the Editor:

Thanks for the response, Rae, I was beginning to think that the sea of red was much wider and deeper than I had imagined. My response has been overwhelmingly positive. This is why I love America and freedom. Everyone is supposed to have a voice, but with big tech censorship and biased media it's really difficult to find the ever elusive truth.

I can only imagine the haughty response if I had made an absurd claim such as, if only we had not worn masks we would be done now because we reached herd immunity. I would like to know where you found that knowledge, because I have spent countless hours looking for the truth and only getting conflicting reports from Fauci and his cronies. If your statement is true, wouldn't all of us uncaring, cruel, heartless, even elderly and compromised non-mask wearers already have fallen victim to this deadly virus? The

growth rate of the U.S. death rate has been going down since 2014 — including 2020, so mask wearing and social distancing does not support your views. Again, this is why I love America, you are completely free to do what you feel is best.

The my body my choice phrase you referenced was purely a question I posed about mandatory vaccinations. Please circle back and read my letter. I am adamantly opposed to killing babies.

What was said in my letter was referring to the Jeremy Munson petition for Minnesota counties to join South Dakota. If that ever gains traction, the Dems could exercise their right to move on, just like you told the pipeline workers to do when you terminated their jobs.

You keep masking up and I'll continue fighting for our defenseless unborn babies.

God bless America!

Todd Meinerts, Luverne

Sasker: 'We have a new savior: the vaccine. What will be next?'

To the Editor:

We were gone most of March, so it has been quite a challenge catching up with the letters to the editor. Here's one more opinion.

Beginning with March 11, and Mr. Peterson's comment on unnecessary questions regarding gender on a form; I believe you are correct in saying more was asked than needed to be asked. According to our Creator, there is male and female: Genesis 1, verse 27. Period!

No matter the number of degrees someone has behind their name, one cannot change God's law with a pen. Making new rules does not change facts.

As for Mr. Meinerts' and Mr. Kracht's comments, if we had more of their type of thinking in the chambers of Congress, we would not be in the mess we are in.

And lastly, I feel Jesus has been dethroned as our Savior. We have a new Savior: the vaccine. What will be next?

Thank you for reading this.

Marilyn Sasker,
Luverne

Frakes compares coronavirus between states

To the Editor:

At our Sunday morning Bible class at St. John Lutheran, we discussed when Christians might make exceptions to obeying those in authority (Romans 13).

The conversation turned to restrictions placed on churches during the pandemic, and I defended Governor Walz and his decisions made under executive authority, including those affecting churches.

When I got home, I decided to look up some statistics on the Web to see how Minnesota has fared compared to our South Dakota neighbors led by a conservative Republican governor who placed very few restrictions on the residents

across the border.

Here are the results of my search, based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report at www.covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker

As of April 8, 2021, South Dakota's COVID-19 case count was 13,449 cases per 100,000 residents for a total of 119,705 cases (population of 884,659 residents) for the second-highest rate of cases for all states.

Minnesota's COVID-19 case count per 100,000 residents is 9,445 for a total case count of 540,277 cases (population 5.6 million and rank of 31).

If the same case rate had existed in Minnesota as in South Dakota, Minnesota would have experienced 753,144 cases!

But the comparison is even more staggering in death rates in the two states.

South Dakota experienced 1,946 deaths as of April 9, and Minnesota has had 7,022 deaths. If Minnesota had had the same death rate based on population as South Dakota, 5,298 more Minnesotans would have died from COVID-19 to date for a total of 12,320!

I am so thankful that we have been led by a governor who has made the tough decisions, based on the best recommendations of the CDC experts, to try to keep us all safe during this pandemic.

Esther Spease Frakes,
Luverne

Vink: Both Democrats and Republicans need to address the economy

To the Editor:

I read all the left and right letters to the editor, but I'd like to see both sides address the economy.

Ten years ago I clipped an article from the May 30, 2010, Parade magazine titled "Do We Need a National Sales Tax?" At that time, alarmed by our country's then annual \$1.4 trillion deficit, some economists suggested that the U.S. adopt a national sales tax. The tax typically applies to all purchases, as well as services from haircuts to stock trades. Each one percent of the tax could raise \$1 trillion over 10 years, according to the then Congressional Budget Office. This tax could strictly be used to pay our country's debt, now at \$28 trillion.

Of course, first our Congress would

have to balance each year's budget so no more debt is added. Huge job, but our policymakers got us in this mess, now it's high time to get us out of it.

Over 30 percent of our loans is borrowed from foreign governments, about 70 percent is borrowed from our own people and government holdings, mostly Social Security. And by the 2030 decade, Social Security will be exhausted. Plus, quoting the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, in 10 years our interest will double from where it is today, becoming the fastest growing part of the federal budget.

Imagine what our country could do if not paying nearly \$1 billion in interest each day.

Janice Vink, Luverne

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The *Star Herald* encourages letters to the editor expressing the opinions of readers and intends to print all letters. Letters not meeting the guidelines will not be printed. The *Star Herald* will verify the authenticity of all letters. Letters must have the name of the writer, a signature and address.

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

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

April 2
•Complainant on S. Freeman Avenue and W. Hatting Street reported a controlled gas purge at location.
•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue requested deputy assistance with a civil issue.
•Complainant at BP Expressway reported lost property.
•Complainant on W. Lincoln Street reported property damage.
•Complainant on 241st Street, Jasper, reported squatters at location.
•Complainant on E. Main Street requested a vehicle unlock.
•Complainant on 61st Street reported a driving complaint.
•Complainant on N. Spring Street reported someone is smoking marijuana in the parking lot.
•Complainant on S. West Park Street reported loud engines revving and a bonfire.
April 3
•Complainant on E. Bishop Street reported accidental property damage.
•Complainant on N. McKenzie Street reported a scam phone call.
•Burning was observed in the area near Rock River Road and County Road 4.
•Complainant on 190th Avenue and 61st Street, Kanaranzi, reported an out of control fire.
•Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 3, Beaver Creek, reported a driving complaint.
•Complainant on U.S. Highway 75, Luverne, reported theft at location.
•Complainant on S. Church Avenue, Hills, reported a garbage complaint.
•Complainant on 150th Avenue reported a safety hazard involving a four-wheeler.
•Complainant on Scholten Drive, Steen, reported a controlled fire.
•Complainant at Spring-Brooke intersection, County Road 4, reported a small fire at location.
April 4
•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 12, Luverne, reported a vehicle bumper on roadway.
•Complainant on Highway 23 and 201st Street, Jasper, reported a field fire.
•Complainant on E. Luverne Street reported a dirt bike with children driving

ing it on the street.
•Complainant on Highway 75, north of Sanford, Luverne, reported a pedestrian walking on roadway.
•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported people walking around area with flashlights.
•Complainant on U.S. Highway 75, Luverne, reported people in park after hours.
April 5
•Complainant on 40th Avenue, Garretson, reported underage drinking at location.
•Complainant on E. Brown Street reported someone tried to drill a door lock.
•Complainant on 101st Street and 150th Avenue, Luverne, reported a driving complaint.
•A warrant was issued in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.
•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90 reported a possible impaired driver at location.
April 6
•Complainant on County Road 4, Beaver Creek, reported theft of tools from a motor vehicle.
April 7
•Complainant on 180th Avenue and 211th Street, Kenneth, reported a large object in the roadway.
•Complainant on 150th Avenue, Luverne, reported a found license plate at location.
•Complainant on Highway 75 to Interstate 90 reported a driving complaint.
April 8
•Complainant on N. Estey St. reported vandalism.
•Complainant reported a road closure notice on County Road 7 and 190th-200th Avenue, Kenneth.
•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 3, Beaver Creek, reported a driving complaint.
•Complainant on U.S. Highway 75, Luverne, reported a reckless driver.

In addition, officers responded to 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 deer accident, 1 vehicle in ditch, 7 escorts, 23 ambulance runs, 4 paper services, 11 animal complaints, 3 fingerprint requests, 14 burn permits, 4 alarms, 6 drug court tests, 17 purchase and carry permits, 26 traffic stops, 8 abandoned 911 calls, 3 tests, 1 welfare check and 1 follow-up.



About 40 trucks, most of them semitractor-trailers, lined Ellsworth's Main Street Wednesday, April 7, for the funeral of Daniel DeBeer at Zion Presbyterian Church. DeBeer died in a truck crash in Wyoming on March 31.

DeBeer family supported by area truckers/

owned D & H Waste Solutions & Cattle Barns. He is survived by his wife, Kim (Janssen), and three young children. His friends in the trucking community organized the showing of trucks in Ellsworth the day of DeBeer's funeral. A Go Fund Me page was started with the goal of raising \$7,000 to support DeBeer's family. As of Monday more than \$22,000 had been donated.



Squad cars crash in deputy collision April 5/

continued from page 1 until it was too late. The report states that Stearns had signaled the turn and was wearing his seatbelt. He suffered no apparent injuries. The report also states that Christians was unbelted and was taken to the hospital by ambulance to be treated and released. He returned to work Wednesday. Both squads were damaged extensively and were towed to Luverne where an insurance adjuster examined them Thursday, April 8. The 2020 Ford Explorers are valued at \$36,000 (minus law enforcement equipment) and are insured by the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust. They are leased through the State of Minnesota fleet services and have two replacement squad cars available, if insurance deems them totaled. Regardless, it will be another two weeks before the county squad fleet is back to full capacity. According to the Sheriff's Office, the initial emergency resolved on its own when the



Both Rock County Sheriff's Office squads were damaged extensively and were towed to Luverne where an insurance adjuster examined them Thursday, April 8.

alleged assailant left the premises and was later arrested for DWI in Luverne. Verbrugge said the crash was unfortunate, but he's grateful no one was seriously injured and that the victim of the initial emergency was unharmed.

Thiesse: Soil temperatures rising; corn planting ready to begin in many areas

By Kent Thiesse
Most farm operators across the region reported almost ideal soil conditions; however, rainfall and cooler weather from April 7-12 in most areas delayed the initiation of major fieldwork. It appears that the 2021 planting season may be similar to last year in much of the Upper Midwest, with fairly favorable corn planting conditions in the last half of April. This has been a welcome relief from the difficult spring planting conditions that existed in both 2018 and 2019 across much of the region. Some areas of the Upper Midwest received some much-needed rainfall from April 7-9. Portions of southwest and west central Minnesota received 1-2 inches of precipitation, with even higher amounts in localized areas of central Minnesota. The southern portions of

Minnesota and northern Iowa had lower rainfall amounts. The western half of Minnesota has become quite dry in recent months, along with North and South Dakota and western Iowa. Even though it may seem like crop producers are starting the planting season fairly early compared to recent years, farmers are well within the USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) guidelines to maintain full crop insurance coverage for the 2021 corn and soybean crop. The earliest corn planting date allowed by RMA to maintain full crop insurance protection in most of Minnesota and Iowa is April 11, while April 21 is the earliest planting date allowed for soybean planting for full insurance coverage. Soil conditions prior to recent rains were described as "almost ideal for spring

planting" by farm operators and agronomists in many areas of the Upper Midwest. If we can avoid any further significant amounts of precipitation in the next week or so, most crop producers in the region should be able to begin full-scale corn planting once soil conditions are fit. Following the completion of corn planting, many farmers will be moving directly into planting their soybean crop, provided that field conditions remain favorable. Soil temperatures should not be a concern this spring in many areas of the Upper Midwest, as the soil temperatures warmed up nicely during early April. Research shows that 50 percent corn emergence will occur in 20 days at an average soil temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit, which is reduced to only 10 days with an average soil temperature of 60 degrees F.

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Those attending Living Rock Church's Sunday service and celebration of the church's 10-year anniversary pose for a group photo. **At right:** Cindy and Pastor Billy Skaggs arrived in Luverne 10 years ago to serve the newly planted Living Rock Church on East Main Street and helped establish the church in a former furniture store.

Luverne's Living Rock Church celebrates 10 years of 'blessings'

By Mavis Fodness

"Blessed" was uttered on several occasions this weekend as Living Rock Church celebrated 10 years in Luverne.

The church's first and only minister, Pastor Billy Skaggs, referenced how God was instrumental in getting the church off the ground.

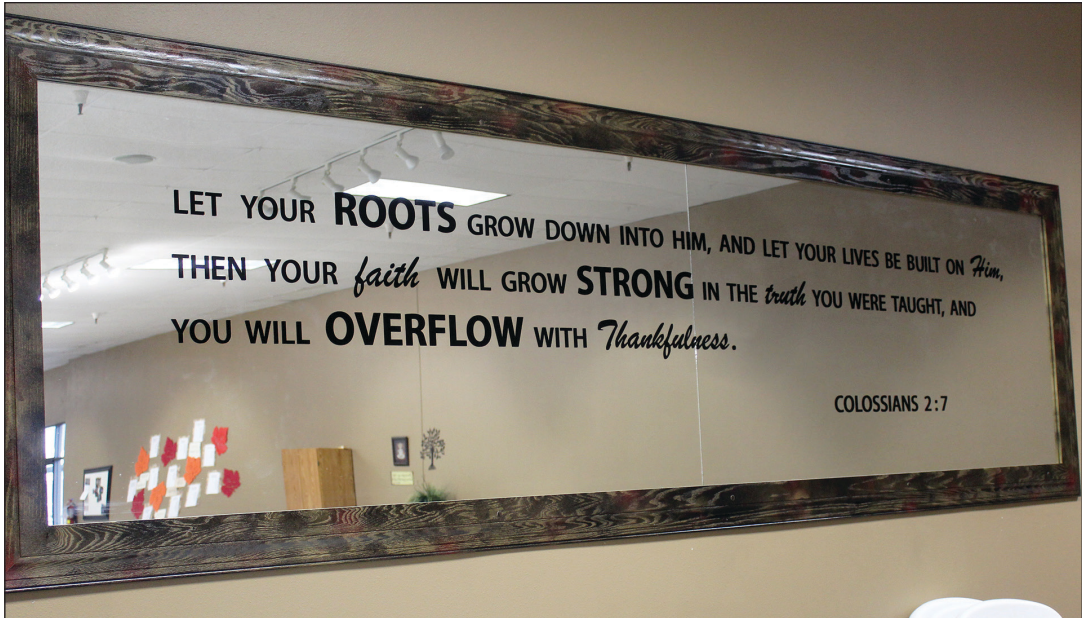
"He has blessed us in the past with blessings upon blessings upon blessings," Skaggs said. "He has blessed us for 10 years."

The initial blessing came in the form of five families whose unsettled lives brought a church to Luverne.

Bill and Jill Speiker of Kenneth, Dale and Deb Bullerman of Adrian, Steve and Terri Steensma, Luverne, Tor and Lori Boen, Luverne, and Dave and Sheila Meyer, Luverne, are the Living Rock Church founders.

"We were kind of in a state of limbo," Jill Speiker recalled.

She said they attended the Church of the Gate in Sioux Falls and discussed



Several verses are displayed in Living Rock Church, but a primary message from Colossians 2:7 reads, "Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him, then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

the idea of a planted church. The Skaggs' son-in-law was a pastor there and knew Billy was an ideal pastor for the new church.

Skaggs said he and his wife, Cindy, knew instantly that leaving Georgia and coming to

Luverne was a good move.

"I was just following the Lord," he said. "This is the longest stint I've had in one spot."

Skaggs said the church was blessed to find a home in the former furniture store on East Main Street.

Another blessing

came as 16 friends and family agreed to fund his salary for the church's first 18 months to encourage church growth. From 10 individuals in 2011, Living Rock Church has grown to 350 members in 2021.

In 2016 Josh Hayden joined Living Rock Church



Mavis Fodness photo/0415 Living Rock 10 Years

as the youth and worship pastor to assist Skaggs, who has undergone two kidney transplants, the most recent in 2017.

The non-denominational church is centered around lessons of the Bible and Skaggs said he strives to make his

weekly messages applicable to everyday living.

"Instead of coming in and attending only on Sundays, we ask people to join life groups and study the word that way weekly," he said. "We have been here 10 years, but we are not done."

1941: Homemaker's School open tomorrow

The following appeared in The Rock County Herald on April 3, 1941.

Homemaker's School Opens Tomorrow

Many Prizes To Be Given Away Daily

Sessions Will Begin at 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday; No Admission Charges

Lock the doors and come to the Luverne armory Friday and Saturday afternoons when The Star and Luverne merchants entertain at their School for Homemakers. Hundreds of Rock county women are expected to attend.

Interesting Program Arranged

Mrs. Eleanor Yenerich, nationality known lecturer and demonstrator, will present a program filled with interesting ideas and helpful suggestions. Working on the very newest of modern kitchen equipment, she will prepare all sorts of interesting, yet inexpensive dishes at



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

the cooking school. On the first day, attractive foods will be concocted for unexpected guests. These will be made up out of the very ingredients and food products that each woman keeps on hand at all times in her pantry. The second afternoon will be devoted to preparing colorful dishes that will tempt jaded appetites. An assortment of appetizing quick yeast dinner rolls will be made on the second day along

Bits, continued on p. 7

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2011)

•Since the spring of 1979, Rock County Highway Department Maintenance Supervisor Walter Stearns has worked through more than three decades of Minnesota season changes.

Friday, April 29, is his last day at the highway department, which concludes 32 years of work for the county in which he was born and raised. ...

On May 7, 1979, Stearns was hired as a fulltime equipment operator. The maintenance supervisor at the time was Russell Swenson, whom Stearns then succeeded 14 years later.

Although being maintenance supervisor never crossed his mind before that time, he has held the title for the last 18 years, managing the county's maintenance staff through 72 season changes.

25 years ago (1996)

•Three Rock County students are among 448 competitors in the 1996 Minnesota State High School League speech tournament Friday and Saturday at Stillwater Area High School.

Matt Ebert, representing Hills-Beaver Creek, is returning to the great speeches category after winning the state contest in 1995. He is a junior and the son of Gregg and Cyndi Ebert of Hills.

Lavelle Kroontje will represent Southwest Christian High School, Edgerton, in the informative speaking category. She is a senior and the daughter of John and Rachel Kroontje, Keneth.

Luverne High School junior Matt Tilstra is competing in the state contest in the discussion category. Tilstra is the son of Harold and Mary Tilstra, Luverne.

All three Rock County students will compete in the A division of the tournament.

50 years ago (1971)

•Viste Manor, the new retirement center apartment build-

ing at Hills, will be dedicated Sunday, April 18, John Nelson, administrator of Tuff Memorial Home, announced. The apartments are located south of the home and will be managed from the Tuff Memorial Home offices.

The sixplex was recently completed and is now ready for occupancy. Some of the apartments are expected to be occupied at once, Nelson said.

75 years ago (1946)

•Alyce Anderson, daughter of Dr. A. M. Anderson, and Luverne high school senior, attained the highest laurels obtainable in Minnesota high school public speaking circles last week.

Participating in the state contest in the dramatic reading division, Miss Anderson was given a rating of superior with her selection, "Elizabeth and Essex". She was one of five to attain that rating, entrants from Fergus Falls, Carlton, Red Wing and Litchfield also winning the honor.

Eldon Michaelson, Luverne's entrant in the state extemporaneous speaking contest, won a rating of excellent.

Jean Ellen Canfield, entered in the original oratory division, received a very good rating.

100 years ago (1921)

•For the first time in at least fifteen or twenty years, the regular state reward of \$200 for the capture of a horse thief, was paid this week by Rock County.

This sum was paid for the capture of John Longnaker, a Hawarden, Ia., lad who on the evening of January 22nd stole a horse and buggy owned by E. M. Hanna, of Beaver Creek township, while the rig was standing on a street of Beaver Creek.

The lad was captured and the rig recovered two weeks later near Beresford, S. D., by A. J. Leech, Mr. Hanna and Elmer Lape, of Larchwood, and less than twenty-four hours after Mr. Lape had furnished a clue as to who the thief might be, the young man was in the Rock county jail.

OBITUARY

Tanya Lehmann

July 10, 1937 – April 7, 2021
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, formerly of Racine, Wisconsin



Tanya T. Lehmann (nee Thompson) passed away comfortably on April 7, 2021, in Oconomowoc. Tanya was born on July 10, 1937, on a farm in Luverne, Minnesota, to Sivert and Lena (nee Snartemo) Thompson. She graduated from Luverne High School in 1955. After two years at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Tanya and a girlfriend ventured to Racine, Wisconsin, in 1957 to work at S.C. Johnson & Sons. There she met the love of her life, Gary O. Lehmann. They were united in marriage on January 23, 1960.

Tanya enjoyed bowling, playing bridge, and learned to play golf at the Kenosha Country Club. Tanya and her bridge friends met for over 50 years. Tanya and Gary moved to Oconomowoc in 1992. She loved farming, antiques, boating, living on the lake, and wintering in Austin, Texas. Tanya's best trait was she had a special gift in making others feel better about themselves.

Tanya will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 61 years, Gary; sons Steven (Lisa), Kenneth (Diane), and Paul (Dawn); grandchildren Tyler, Alyssa, Victoria, Maxwell, Benjamin, Clare, and Erik; brother, Dr. Stanley Thompson of Coon Rapids, Minnesota; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

She was predeceased by her parents and brother Torleif (Arlene) Thompson on November 25, 2013.

A celebration of Tanya's life will be held at the Wilson Funeral Home on Thursday, April 15, 2021, with a visitation starting at 1 p.m. A ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. with a service of committal following at West Lawn Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, please send memorial donations to the Alzheimer's Association or to a charity of your choice.

Online condolences may be shared at www.wilsonfuneralhomeinc.com.

Arrangements were provided by Wilson Funeral Home; 1212 Lathrop Avenue; Racine, WI 53405 / 262-634-3361

(0415 V)



Sub-section team champion Luverne High School will have all 17 competing members participate in Saturday's Section 3A speech championship. They are (front, from left) Roselynn Hartshorn, Grace Ingebretsen, Zoe Perkins, Mia Wenzel, Jessika Tunnissen, Bethany Behr, (second) Chance Tunnissen, Zander Carboneau, Destiny Matthiessen, Rylee Anderson, Maddy Schepel, Brianna Kinsinger, Luke Thorson, (back) Burke Johnson, Xavier Carboneau, Josie Golla and Parker Carboneau.

Luverne speech claims sub-section championship

By Mavis Fodness

Under a new virtual format, Luverne High School claimed the Sub-Section Championship trophy, and all 17 students earned the right to compete in the Section 3A Championship on Saturday.

"Generally there are three sub-section meets, but due to COVID-19, the virtual format and fewer participants, students were combined into two sub-sections this year," said Caroline Thorson, who coaches the Luverne team with Gavin Folkestad.

"That means the top six finishers in each of the 13 categories move on to section competition."

All 17 Luverne team members finished in the top six at the April 6 sub-section meet.

Following are the categories and student placings from the sub-section event:

- Discussion: Burke Johnson, first; Maddy Schepel, third.
- Duo interpretation: Bethany Behr and Brianna Kinsinger, third.
- Extemporaneous Reading: Destiny Matthiesen, third; Grace

Ingebretsen, fifth.

- Extemporaneous speaking: Chance Tunnissen, first; Parker Carboneau, second; Zander Carboneau, third.

- Great speeches: Rylee Anderson, second.

- Humorous: Luke Thorson, third.
- Poetry: Mia Wenzel, third; Zoe Perkins, fifth.

- Prose: Josie Golla, second.

- Informative: Jessika Tunnissen, sixth.

- Storytelling: Xavier Carboneau, first; Roselynn Hartshorn, fourth.

Now is the time to take action against spring gardening invaders

In years past, I have recommended applying a product called Systemic Rose Care as a fertilizer and insect preventative for your roses. Bonide and Beyer are two brands that have this product available, and they are basically the same.



KNOW IT AND GROW IT

By George Bonnema,
Luverne Horticulturalist

plant of the energy it needs to give us the flowers we want to see.

Talking about problems, quack grass is next on my list. There is a spray available to control quack grass in many different settings.

For example, this weed grass has spread into my asparagus patch. It is perennial, meaning the same plant grows year after year. It spreads by a rhizome root that keeps looking to move further.

In an established bed of asparagus, digging the grass out would damage the asparagus crowns. Grass

Beater or Grass Getter are two choices, again under different brand names. Both work well, albeit the effectiveness doesn't show up quickly.

I sprayed last week before there was any sign of the asparagus even though asparagus is listed on the label (I have this thing about using chemicals like this on my food). The product is safe to use for areas like iris and various perennial flowers and plants that are listed on the label.

Speaking about grass weeds, the other pest is crab grass. Unlike quack

grass, crab grass is an annual weed. It grows one season, produces seed and dies. The seed germinates the next season, and you get to deal with it again.

The factor of when the seed germinates is determined by soil temperature. Normally a pre-emergent herbicide to prevent crab grass should be applied a couple of weeks before the lilacs bloom.

That is pretty vague, but then the lilacs don't look at the calendar to decide when they are going to bloom either ... it is determined by temperature.

The word pre-emergent is the key to success. That means the chemical has to be in place to prevent the weeds before you see them. If you missed that window of time, you missed the opportunity to prevent the grass and will have to use an herbicide spray if you want to control it.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Doreen Wiese

Doreen Marie Wiese, 80, Luverne, died Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2021, at the Sanford Luverne Medical Center.

A graveside service will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, April 17, at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Arrangements are provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Luverne, dingmannandsons.com. (0415 DN)

MENU

Monday, April 19: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, carrots, bread, cookie.

Tuesday, April 20: Goulash, broccoli, tropical fruit, bread.

Wednesday, April 21: Chef salad, crackers, creamy fruit salad, cake with frosting.

Thursday, April 22: Baked chicken, au gratin potatoes, peas, dinner roll, gelatin with whipped topping. Half-Price Day in

memory of Ruth Van Westen.

Friday, April 23: Fish square on a bun with tartar sauce, potato salad, three bean salad, dessert.

LSS Dining offers well-balanced and affordable meals. Call Lynette Hoiland at 283-9846 for home-delivered meals.

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

Bits by Betty/continued from page 6

with some tantalizing meat dishes, picturesque pies and other foods.

Mrs. Yenerich is greatly interested in the increased use of this state's own farm and dairy products, and in addition to featuring the use of cheese in new ways, she will use liberal quantities of butter, milk, cream and eggs throughout both sessions.

Distinctive dishes can

be created through the use of seasoning, flavorings and garnishing. Mrs. Yenerich affirms, and so she will impart some of her secrets in seasoning to the women who attend.

Many Prizes to be Awarded

Several hundred free gifts will be awarded to the women attending the school. Prizes will include cooking

equipment, costume jewelry, cookbooks and a huge supply of grocery products, including a year's supply of Rinso given as a single award.

This Homemaker's School is free and every woman in the community is cordially invited to attend. Remember the time, Friday

and Saturday afternoons, from 2 to 4.

(The majority of the merchants cooperating will be found on page 9. The following were reported too late to be inserted in the story on that page).

The Kash Saving Store will set a table at the event.

Coca Cola Bottling Works of Sioux Falls have provided Mrs. Yenerich with several cartons of the beverage to be given away as prizes.

Donations to the Rock County Historical Society can be sent to the Rock County Historical Society,

312 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156.

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to mannmade@iw.net.

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Cardinals' baseball opens season with 7-5 victory over Windom

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals were originally slated to open the 2021 season in Windom against the Eagles on Friday, April 9. Due to wet conditions and mother nature, the game was moved to Luverne.

The Cardinals didn't disappoint the home crowd that braved the cooler weather to come out and watch the home team open the season.

The Cardinals used a pair of big innings to defeat the Eagles 7-5 to open the 2021 season.

Luverne starting pitcher Cade Wenninger set the Eagles down in order in the first inning.

In the bottom of the first Bailey Cowell got his senior season started with a bang. Cowell hit a home run in his first at bat of the season to give the Cardinals an early 1-0 lead.

The Cardinals added two more in the bottom half of the first inning to build a 3-0 lead.



Brennen Rupp photo/0415 baseball photo

Cade Wenninger fires in a pitch during Luverne's season-opener against Windom on Friday, April 9. The Cardinals defeated the Eagles 7-5.

Baseball/page 9

Luverne tennis team kicks off 2021 season with pair of victories

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne tennis team opened the season on Friday, April 9, in Luverne against Fairmont.

Under first-year head coach Lucas Larson, the Cardinals defeated Fairmont 6-1.

In St. James on Saturday, April 10, the Cardinals defeated St. James in doubles action 3-2.

LHS 6, Fairmont 1

Luverne's No. 1 singles player Pierce Cunningham kicked off his season in impressive fashion. Cunningham defeated Ameya Komaragiri 6-0 in the first set and 6-0 in the second set.

Griffen Jarchow won his match in three sets.



Brennen Rupp photo/0415 tennis photo

Pierce Cunningham returns a serve during Luverne's first match of the season against Fairmont on Friday, April 9.

Tennis/page 9

Youth wrestling tournament linked to COVID-19 outbreak

By Brennen Rupp

Rock County families who participated in a youth wrestling tournament in Sioux Falls learned this week that they were exposed to a COVID-19 outbreak at the event.

The Northland Youth Wrestling Association held its 2021 State Wrestling Tournament at the Premier Center Complex in Sioux Falls.

The event took place from Wednesday, March 31, to Saturday, April 3, for Minnesota youth club wrestling teams and included approximately 2,000 wrestlers, in addition to spectators.

Given the reported lack of mitigation, such as masking and social distancing, among participants and spectators at the tournament, health officials warn of an increased risk of COVID-19. The Minnesota

Department of Health has alerted schools and counties around the state of the outbreak.

As of Monday, MDH has linked 16 confirmed cases to the event.

"We know that Minnesotans desperately want to get back to doing the things we all love," said Dr. Ruth Lynfield, the state epidemiologist and medical director for MDH.

"However, COVID-19 is spreading across Minnesota at a high rate. We ask Minnesotans to please be patient and continue to use prevention measures, and not to gather in large groups of people, particularly indoors, and please continue to wear masks and physically distance."

There are nine counties that have confirmed cases associated with this event, including Cass, Le Sueur, Lyon, Morrison, Murray,

Rice, Todd, Wright and Yellow Medicine.

To date, eight schools have confirmed cases associated with this event.

The MDH learned that 64 teams from at least 52 counties participated in the tournament.

The counties included Anoka, Becker, Beltrami, Benton, Blue Earth, Brown, Carlton, Carver, Cass, Chippewa, Clay, Cottonwood, Crow Wing, Dakota, Dodge, Douglas, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, Hennepin, Houston, Kandiyohi, Le Sueur, Lyon, Meeker, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Mower, Nicollet, Nobles, Olmstead, Pennington, Pipestone, Pope, Ramsey, Redwood, Rice, Rock, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Stearns, Steele, Swift, Todd, Wabasha, Wadena, Waseca, Washington, Watonwan, Wright and Yellow Medicine.

LHS softball team sweeps Blue Earth

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals opened the 2021 softball season with a pair of wins against Blue Earth on Thursday, April 8, in Blue Earth.

The Cardinals won the first game of the double header 15-1 and the second game 18-6.

LHS 15, Blue Earth 1

In the first inning played in nearly two years, the Cardinals scored eight runs to put Blue Earth in an early 8-0 hole.

In the following frame the Cardinals added five more runs to build a 13-0 lead.

Blue Earth responded with one run in the bottom of the third, but the Cardinals scored two more runs in the top of the fourth to pick up the 15-1 win.

Billi Connell led the Cardinals offensively, going 4-4 with four doubles. Connell drove in four runs and scored four runs.

Carly Olson went 2-2 at the plate with two home runs. She drove in four runs and scored two runs.

Reghan Bork, Jacey

Smith, Leah Wynia and Shelby Kracht all drove in one run for the Cardinals.

Roz Oye pitched a no-hitter for the Cardinals. She pitched four innings, issuing three walks, one unearned run and striking out five batters.

LHS 18, Blue Earth 6

Blue Earth scored one run in the top of the first inning, but that lead was short-lived, as the Cardinals scored 12 runs in the bottom half of the inning.

Connell went 4-4 at the plate with a home run and a double. Connell drove in six runs and scored three runs.

Oye went 3-3 at the plate with a double. The senior drove in two runs and scored two more.

Kracht went 2-4 with two RBIs.

Bork and Averill Sehr both drove in a pair of runs.

Emma Beyer and Belle Schmidt both scored three runs for the Cardinals.

Olson and Ainslie Robinson both drove in one run for the Cardinals.

Cardinals track athletes open spring season in Blue Earth

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne track and field team competed in its first event in nearly two years on Thursday, April 8, in Blue Earth.

The Cardinals dominated the 100 meters on the boys' side, with three Luverne sprinters holding down the top three spots.

Ashton Sandbulte finished first with a time of 11 seconds and 3 milliseconds. Arekel McLaughlin finished second with a time of 11.8.

LaShad Smith finished third with a time of 11.9. Smith also finished second in the 200 meters with a time of 24.4.

Eli Radkte took third in the 200 meters with a time of 24.9.

Camden Janiszewski took home first place in the 800 meters with a time of

2:08.9. He was also first in the 1,600 with a time of 4:48.6.

Owen Janiszewski finished second in the 1,600 with a time of 5:15.1.

Luverne's 4-by-100 meter relay team was third with a time of 51.0. The team consisted of Radtke, Tyler Rolfs, Zachary Terrio and Gavin DeBeer.

Luverne's 4-by-200 relay team came in second place with a time of 1:40.4. The team is made up of Sandbulte, Eduardo Godines, McLaughlin and Smith.

Luverne's 4-by-400 relay team finished in second place with a time of 3:55.8. The team consists of Camden Janiszewski, Sandbulte, Ethan Rahm, and Sam Emery.

Luverne's 4-by-800 relay team finished in

second place with a time of 9:50.5. The team is made up of Owen Janiszewski, Ryan Fick, Sage Viessman and Emery.

Zach Ahrendt took home first place in the shot put with a throw of 43 feet. Jordan Friedrichsen finished fourth with a throw of 40-3.5.

Ethan Teunissen was second in the discus with a heave of 112-2.5.

Radtke finished in first place in the pole vault with a score of 9-0.

DeBeer finished in fifth place in the long jump by recording a jump of 16-4.25.

Rahm was second with a jump of 35-2.75 in the triple jump.

Gracie Zewiske clocked a time of 13.2 in the 100

LHS track/page 9

H-BC track places third in boys' and girls' division at Slayton meet

By Brennen Rupp

The Hills-Beaver Creek track athletes competed in their first meet of the season on Friday, April 9, in Slayton.

The Patriots met with Murray County Central, Adrian/Ellsworth and Southwest Minnesota Christian/Edgerton.

Southwest Minnesota Christian/Edgerton took home first place in both the boys' and girls' divisions.

Hills-Beaver Creek finished third in both divisions.

"After missing all of last year, it's great to be back at it," H-BC track coach Rex Metzger said. "The kids were anxious to get back to competing on the track."

Tyson Bork finished first in the 100 meters with a time of 11.83. Dewell Rauk finished third with a time of 12.18. Cooper



Katie Beers Wheel-Herald photo/0415 H-BC photo

Larissa Steinhoff and Brynn Rauk compete in the 100 meters during Hills-Beaver Creek's first meet of the season in Slayton on Friday, April 9. The Patriots were one of four teams competing at the meet.

H-BC track/page 9

North American Wetlands Conservation Act helps wildlife thrive in state of Minnesota

My weekly wildlife rides are turning into five-days-a-week wildlife rides this time of year, with my binoculars and a thermos full of coffee looking at all the waterfowl passing through my area.

I get to see all kinds of duck and goose species that I never get to see except during their spring migration.

Some of my earlier columns this year were about wood duck nesting structures and facts and information on the cavity nesting ducks I find so interesting.

The plans for those are still available if you would like them. Just reach out to me at scotttall@gmail.com and I will send them to you. I have forwarded them about 15 times to different readers over the past few weeks.

There is an acronym called NAWCA. This stands for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. It was a piece of federal legislation passed over 30 years ago that has been responsible in great part for the success of waterfowl



species across North America. It integrates and disperses a large portion of the federal dollars spent to conserve wetlands and other critically important wildlife habitat not just for ducks but a whole array of game and non-game species that utilize wetlands and their associated uplands for their survival. In fact, since its inception in 1989 there have been over 2,833 NAWCA projects. The federal dollars expended, \$1.6 billion to be exact, were matched with over \$4.68 billion from partner agencies and individuals to protect and preserve over 29.8 million acres of critical wetlands habitats. The single most

successful part of the NAWCA program is that all federal monies expended have to be matched at least 1-1. As you can see, the match is actually about 3-1. It is this leverage that makes the NAWCA one of the most successful and efficient programs available today. They have completed projects all over the United States and utilize a grants program that state agencies, conservation organizations and wildlife departments can apply for. My Pheasants Forever chapter in Nobles County has utilized some of these dollars to acquire and protect the few natural wetlands that still exist in the intensely farmed areas of southwest Minnesota.

THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall
Outdoors columnist

the next generations of waterfowl. Can you imagine flying over herds of buffalo that numbered in the millions. A quick search of projects in Minnesota shows \$46.8 million in federal funds has been matched with \$176.1 million match money to compete 135 projects totally over 235,628 acres in this state alone. One of the biggest and most successful organization to utilize NAWCA dollars is Ducks Unlimited. The state manager for Minnesota's Ducks Unlimited is a great guy by the name of John Schneider. I have known John for over 10 years, and he is one of the greatest wildlife professionals I know and can call my friend. Ducks Unlimited in Minnesota has what they call a Shallow Lakes Initiative to restore lost wetlands and make those that remain the best they can be. Ducks Unlimited has received money from the

Minnesota Land and Legacy Fund. This is the sales tax money that is spent on conservation in Minnesota. I sat on Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council for six years and helped direct these funds, and this is where I came to understand the role of Ducks Unlimited in wetland protection and restoration in my state. With NAWCA, LSOHC, and Ducks Unlimited, there has been significant improvement. The next time you see some beautiful waterfowl resting as they migrate, say a kind word for the NAWCA, LSOHC and thank Ducks Unlimited for their work to protect and preserve what few wetlands we have left. Scott Rall, Worthington, is a habitat conservationist, avid hunting and fishing enthusiast and is president of Nobles County Pheasants Forever.

H-BC track/continued from page 8

Gehrke finished fourth with a time of 12.68. Liam Raymon finished second in the 800 meters with a time of 2:20.00. Brock Harnack finished third in the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 53.86 The H-BC 4-by-100 relay team finished first with a time of 46.82. The team consisted of Rauk, Bork, Raymon and Cole Baker. In the shot put, Max Scholten finished third with a throw of 40-06.50. Scholten also finished third in the discus with a heave of 109'00. Baker recorded a jump

of 20-05.50 in the long jump to finish second in the event. Bork recorded a jump of 19-11.00 to finish third in the long jump. Baker finished first in the triple jump by recording a leap of 41-04.00. Raymon finished third in the same event with a jump of 38-03.00. Larissa Steinhoff tied for third in the high jump with a recorded jump of 4-06.00. Abby Knobloch finished fourth in the discus by recording a throw of 88-08. The H-BC senior also finished second in the shot

put with a throw of 29-02.25. The H-BC 4-by-100 relay team finished second by clocking a time of 57.83. The team consisted of Abigail Harris, Taylor Durst, Kenadie Fick and Brynn Rauk. Fick finished fourth in the 1,600 with a time of 6:30.49. Rauk finished third in the 100 meters with a time of 14.77. The Patriots will compete in their second meet of the season on Friday, April 16, in Mountain Lake.

LHS baseball/continued from page 8

The Eagles got on the board in the top of the third to trim Luverne's lead to 3-1 The Eagles added another run to make it a 3-2 game. After going dormant after the three-run first inning the Cardinals' bats woke up in the bottom of the fifth inning. The Cardinals scored four runs to build a 7-2 lead. The Eagles scored three runs in the top of the sixth

to trim Luverne's lead to 7-5. Windom was unable to put together a rally in the seventh inning, as the Cardinals held on to pick up the 7-5 victory over the visiting Eagles. The Cardinals collected 13 hits during their season-opening victory over the Eagles. Windom recorded 10 hits. Both teams were clean

in the field committing zero errors. The Cardinals will be back home on Thursday, April 15, when the play host to Pipestone Area. T he Arrows won the first game of their season against Tracy-Milroy-Bala-ton 9-5. Following their contest against the Arrows, the Cardinals will host the TMB Panthers on Friday, April 16.

LHS Tennis/continued from page 8

Jarchow won the first set 6-3, and then dropped the second set 6-3. Jarchow won the third set 10-3 to pick up the victory. Chance Tunnissen won his match in two sets. Tunnissen won the first set 6-4, and then won the second set 6-1 to pick up the victory for the Cardinals. Blake Frahm and Ben Jarchow, Luverne's top doubles team won their opening-match of the season. The duo won the first set 6-4 and then took the second set 6-2 to pick up the victory. Ethan Nath and Logan

Ommen won their match 2-0. They won the first set 6-0 and then took the second set 6-1. Jayson Rops and Kyle Ferguson won their match in straight sets. The duo won the first set 6-1 and the second set 6-0. LHS 3, St. James 2 Griffen Jarchow and Cunningham defeated their opponents in straight sets. The duo won the first set 6-0 and the second set by the same score. Ben Jarchow and Frahm won their match 2-0. They won the first set 7-5

and the second set 6-3. Rops and Miller won a back-and-forth match 2-1. The Cardinals' duo dropped the first set of the match 6-4. Rops and Miller bounced back to win the second set 6-2 to force a third set. In the third set it was Rops and Miller coming out on top, winning the pivotal third set 10-7. The Cardinals will be back in action on Saturday, April 17, when they head to Granite Falls to take on Yellow Medicine East.

Luverne track/continued from page 8

meters to take home first place. Zewiske also was first in the 200 meters with a time of 26.9. Kendra Thorson finished fourth in the 200 meters with a time of 30.4 Isabella Oye finished fifth with a time of 30.7. Elizabeth Wagner finished second in the 800 meters with a time of 2:41.3. Tenley Nelson finished second in the 1,600 with a time of 5:42.1. Jenna DeBates finished third with a time of 5:42.4. Grace Ingebretson was fourth with a time of 6:12.2. Elise Jarchow finished third in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 18.6. She also took home third place in the 300-meter

hurdles with a time of 58.5. The Cardinals' 4-by-100 relay team finished third with a time of 57.3. The team is made up of Oye, Sarah Stegenga, Brynn Boyenga and Mia Wenzel. The Luverne 4-by-200 relay team finished first with a time of 2:01.9. The team consists of Christina Wagner, Wenzel, Boyenga and Averie Brecher. The Luverne 4-by-400 relay team took home first place with a time of 4:13.3. Tenley Nelson, Makenna Nelson, Tiana Lais and Zewiske make up the team. The Cardinals' 4-by-800 relay team took home second place. The team is made up of Elizabeth Wagner, DeBates, Kayla

Bloemendaal and Maria Rops. Jadyn Hart finished third in the shot put with a throw of 31 feet 6 inches. Hart took home second place in the discus with a throw of 73 feet. Elizabeth Wagner tied for second in the high jump with a leap of 4-6. Jarchow tied for first in the pole vault with five other athletes. Lais took home second place in the long jump by recording a jump of 14-10. In the triple jump, Thorson finished fourth with a jump of 30-2.75. The LHS track team will host its first home meet of the season on Friday, April 16.



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Star Herald CHURCH

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

St. Catherine Catholic Church
203 E. Brown St., Luverne
St. Catherine Ph. 283-8502; www.stscl.org
Monsignor Gerald Kosse, Pastor
Sundays 8:30 a.m. Mass. Public mass will be celebrated at FULL capacity in the church. Masses: 9 a.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Sunday. No mass, communion service or rosary at care centers at this time. 5 p.m. Saturdays and 8:30 a.m. mass will be live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/stccluverne/videos/>. Visit www.stscl.org for more information.

Luverne Christian Reformed Church
605 N. Estey St., Luverne
Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982
www.luverneccrc.com — office@luverneccrc.com
Roger Sparks, Pastor
Sundays 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 10:50 a.m. Church Education classes. 6:30 p.m. Evening worship service. Tuesday, April 20: 9:30 a.m. Coffee break. Wednesday, April 21: 6:30 a.m. Ladies' Prayer Time. Sunday, April 18: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 6:30 p.m. Worship service. We are streaming Sunday services live on Roger Sparks' Facebook page at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Send him a friend request if you're not connected. You may also visit our website for delayed broadcasts. Also our services are on local cable TV at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays. In all circumstances, may we joyfully declare: "Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 124:8.

First Baptist Church
1033 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne
Ph. 283-4091; email: fbcluv@iw.net — www.fbcluverne.org
Walt Moser, Pastor
Sundays, 10:30 a.m. In-person worship service. Service is also on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m.

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

Thursday, April 15: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Saturday, April 17: 5:30 p.m. Worship service with Holy Communion. Sunday, April 18—Service of Self Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship service with Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Adult study via Zoom. Monday, April 19: Grace Notes deadline. Tuesday, April 20: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, April 21: 7 a.m. Men's Bible study. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are still available. Online Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. — NEW TIME! Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 p.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 507-449-0291 or 605-215-9834
pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor
Sundays, 10:15 a.m. Worship service; worship online as well. Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne). Also visit els.org with our sister churches for online worship opportunities.

American Reformed Church
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne
Ph. 283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org
Mike Altena, Pastor
Friday, April 16: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible study. Saturday, April 17: 8 a.m. Fellowship Hall reserved. Sunday, April 18: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 10:50 a.m. Sunday school. Tuesday, April 20: 10 a.m. Worship planning meeting. 12 Noon Staff meeting. Wednesday, April 21: 5:30 p.m. Midweek meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer clubs; Youth groups. 7:30 p.m. Awards Night. Worship services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

United Methodist Church
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4529; email: luverneumc@iw.net
Dorrie Hall, Pastor
Thursday, April 15: 1-3 p.m. and 5-6:30 p.m. Food Shelf curbside. Saturday, April 17: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Sunday, April 18: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Worship service. Live streamed on Facebook and YouTube. 4:30 p.m. Genesis to Revelation Bible study. Monday, April 19: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Messenger deadline. Tuesday, April 20: 6:30 p.m. PPR meeting. Wednesday, April 21: 6:15 p.m. FUEL. 6:30 p.m. Confirmation. 8 p.m. AA meeting.

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

Saturday, April 17: 9 a.m. Spring clean-up. Sunday, April 18: 9 a.m. Sunday school. 10:15 a.m. Worship service. Monday, April 19: 6:30 p.m. Confirmation. Wednesday, April 21: 9:15 a.m. Mary Circle. 1:30 p.m. Rebekah Circle. 6:30 p.m. Esther Circle. In-person Worship service and through Facebook Live Sunday. Our Facebook page can be found under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne. We are also on the local Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

St. John Lutheran Church
803 N. Cedar St., Luverne
Ph. 283-2316; email: stjohn@iw.net
www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org
Rev. Dr. Phil Booe, Pastor
Saturday, April 17: 5:30 p.m. Worship. Sunday, April 18: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible study. 11 a.m. Junior choir rehearsal. Wednesday, April 21: 6:30 p.m. Kids for Christ. 7:30 p.m. Youth group. Worship service is 75 people. Services will be available on the Vast channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, cityofluverne.org.

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

New Life Celebration Church
101 W. Maple, Luverne
Ph. 449-6522; email: newlifecelabration@gmail.com
Food mission every third Thursday. This month's food giveaway will be Thursday, April 15 at 4:30 p.m. at the Generations building.

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

First Lutheran Church
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.
Ph. (605) 757-6662
Mark Eliason, Pastor
Sunday, April 18: 9 a.m. Worship at First Lutheran. Masks are highly recommended. Facebook live. Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFcU4>

First Assembly of God Church
1075 110th Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4
Palisade Lutheran Church
211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Mark Eliason, Pastor
Sunday, April 18: 10:30 a.m. Worship at Palisade Lutheran. Masks are required. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook. Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFcU4>

First Presbyterian Church
201 S. 3rd St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek
Ph. 507-935-5025
email: lori.firstpres@gmail.com
Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. Second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Session meeting.

Magnolia United Methodist Church
501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia
Ph. 605-215-3429
email: magnoliannumc@gmail.com
Nancy Manning, Pastor
Sunday, 9 a.m., in-person with livestream available on the church's Facebook site.

Steen Reformed Church
112 W. Church Ave., Steen
Ph. 855-2336
Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship service in-person with livestream available on Facebook and YouTube. Radio worship on KQAD Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 962-3270
Sunday, April 18: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Home. 10 a.m. Sunday school. 10 a.m. Worship at Bethlehem. 6 p.m. 8th-9th grade Confirmation. 5:30-7 pm. 9th-12th grade Youth night. 7-8:30 p.m. 6th-8th grade Youth night. Tuesday, April 20: 2:30 p.m. Tuff Home Bible study. 3:15 p.m. Village Bible study. Wednesday, April 21 a.m. Quilting. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website blchills.org.

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

Many refuse the 'milk' Christ has to offer

It's been a long night. Or a short one. Depends how you look at it. I caught a few winks in the recliner, but most of the night was spent on the floor of the kitchen with a sick lamb. She was clinging to life and I so desperately wanted her to live. I lost a newborn lamb a few days ago and I didn't want a repeat.

We had just picked her up from the big farm earlier in the evening. She baaed all the way home and seemed fine when I put her in her new shelter with her two roommates, Pippi and Pirate. We gave her the name Pansy and supplied her with a few ounces to drink and left the three youngsters to get acquainted.

When I returned for their bedtime feeding, things had changed drastically and I could see our newest addition was in distress. I am definitely no sheep expert, but I decided maybe she was cold and I took her to the house to warm her. She wasn't able to stand and could hardly let out a sound, but I wrapped her in a warm towel and snuggled her on my lap in front of the furnace vent and started googling what to do with a sick lamb.

Google is a wonderful thing when you are looking for answers, but it can also be very disheartening when you are pretty sure what needs to be done, but you don't have the right tools. Google suggested, and the thermometer verified, that the lamb was hypothermic. She needed to get warmed up, which I was working on, and she needed milk in her belly. The problem was she wouldn't drink from the bottle. Tube feeding was an option, but I didn't have the necessary equipment and I wasn't about to call around trying to find one in the wee hours of the morning.

I attempted repeatedly to get her to take the bottle or to at least swallow the milk that I could get into her mouth, but with little

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Erin Jacobsma,
American Reformed
Church, Luverne

success. I tried to reason with her that if she didn't drink she was going to die, but she didn't seem to understand.

As I knelt on the floor watching her struggle to survive, the tears began to flow. Not for the lamb (well, maybe a little), but mostly for the people in my life that the lamb represents, people to whom I have offered Living Water, but they refuse to swallow; people who ignore warning signs; people who brush off any attempts to help them; people who reject the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. My heart ached from the feeling of helplessness as I drifted off to sleep.

And while I cannot make someone drink the Living Water any more than I can make a baby lamb slurp up a bottle of warm milk, I CAN pray for them.

Heavenly Father, You are the Good Shepherd. You are everything that I want, and I want so badly for others to want you, too. By your grace and mercy, pour out your Spirit that all people would repent of their sins and be drawn to you. Replace their heart of stone with a heart of flesh and help them be receptive to hear your voice. I pray that they will know the truth and the truth will set them free. Raise them from the dead because of your great love. Amen, let it be done.

In case you are wondering, Pansy made it through the night until I was able to get a tube to feed her, and she is doing much better.

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Cattlelac Wax assumes name

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

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

ASSUMED NAME: **Cattlelac Wax**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:
573 134th Ave., Luverne, MN 56156 USA
NAMEHOLDER(S):

Name: **Alexis Klarenbeek**

Address: **573 134th Ave., Luverne, MN 56156 USA**

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

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

Signature : /s/ **Alexis Klarenbeek**

MAILING ADDRESS: **None Provided**

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **Alexis_Mesman2223@hotmail.com**

(04-15, 04-22)

Applications of Walleye Wind, LLC

REVISED - NOTICE OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABILITY,
JOINT PUBLIC HEARINGS AND COMMENT PERIOD

Issued: April 5, 2021

In the Matter of the Applications of Walleye Wind, LLC for a Certificate of Need and Site Permit for the Walleye Wind Project and Associated Facilities in Rock County

PUC Docket Numbers: **IP7026/CN-20-269 (Certificate of Need) and IP7026/WS-20-384 (Site Permit)**

OAH Docket Numbers: **5-2500-37257**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold remote-access public hearings on the certificate of need and site permit applications for the up to 109.2-megawatt large wind energy conversion system and the associated facilities proposed by Walleye Wind, LLC (Walleye Wind).

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission has suspended in-person hearings. The Commission is using remote-access technology to conduct hearings to ensure continued public participation and information sharing opportunities. The remote-access public hearings will be held on the dates and times provided below.

Public Hearing – Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Telephone: 1-800-374-0221 Internet (Video Only – No Audio): minnesota.webex.com

Conference ID: 1393353 Event Number: 187 129 8762

Event Password, if needed: **zX3aZmBqy43**

Public Hearing – Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Telephone: 1-800-374-0221 Internet (Video Only – No Audio): minnesota.webex.com

Conference ID: 6099670 Event Number: 187 955 0195

Event Password, if needed: **9B7Tjm67cjd**

You can participate in the public hearings in multiple ways:

•To listen to the public hearing and provide verbal comments, follow the directions above to access the hearing over the telephone. You must join the hearing by telephone if you are interested in listening to the hearing.

PUC Docket Numbers: **CN-20-269 and WS-20-384 Page 2**

OAH Docket Number: **5-2500-37257**

•To view the speaker presentations, follow the directions above to access the hearing over the internet. You must join the hearing over the internet if you are interested in viewing the speaker presentations.

•If you wish to listen to the hearing while watching the presentations, you must join the hearing by both telephone and internet.

•Additional information and instructions are available at: <https://mn.gov/puc/newsroom/webex/>

To find out if a hearing is canceled call 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Information on the application review process and documents related to the proposed project including materials from the public hearings; the certificate of need and site permit applications; and the environmental report are available on the Department of Commerce website at <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/13893/> or the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select eDockets, enter the year (20) and the docket number (269 or 384), and select Search.

Project Description

Walleye Wind, LLC (a wholly owned subsidiary of Nextera Energy Resources, LLC) has proposed to construct and operate an up to 109.2-megawatt (MW) Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) in Rock County. The project would include construction of up to 40 wind turbines with nameplate capacities of between 2.32 and 2.82 MW each. Associated facilities would include collection lines, a collector substation, an operations and maintenance facility, a construction laydown yard, crane paths, gravel access roads, a meteorological tower, and a generation tie line of less than 500 feet connecting the collector substation to the existing Xcel Energy Rock County Substation. The project area encompasses approximately 31,000 acres in Martin, Luverne, Beaver Creek and Springwater Townships. Within the project boundary, the LWECS and associated facilities will be located on lands for which Walleye Wind has obtained wind rights and/or property easements. Upon completion, the project components will occupy approximately 49 acres of land converted to wind turbines and associated facilities approved by this permit.

Hearing and Process Information

The purpose of the public hearings and comment period is to obtain public input on the proposed project and compile the record for the Commission to consider in making a final decision on the certificate of need and site permit applications. The Honorable James Mortenson, an Administrative Law Judge with the Office of Administrative Hearings, will administer the hearings and will provide the Commission with a Report including findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a recommendation.

PUC Docket Numbers: **CN-20-269 and WS-20-384 Page 3**

OAH Docket Number: **5-2500-37257**

The public hearings afford interested persons the opportunity to ask questions of the applicant and agency staff; and to offer oral and written comments on the merits of the proposed project and on possible conditions to be considered for inclusion in a site permit, if one is granted. Members of the public may participate without the necessity of intervening as a party. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: The certificate of need application is reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216B.243 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849. The LWECS site permit is reviewed under Minnesota Statute 216F and Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854. The hearings will be conducted by an ALJ in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, sections 14.57 to 14.62; Minnesota Rules, parts 1405.0200 to 1405.2800; Minnesota Rules, parts 1400.5100 to 1400.8400, where Chapter 1405 is silent; and, to the extent they are not superseded, Minnesota Rules, parts 7829.0100 to 7829.3200. Minnesota Statutes and Rules are available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

Written Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through **May 20, 2021, by 4:30 p.m.** Please include the docket numbers in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:
•Should the Commission issue a certificate of need for the proposed large wind energy conversion system?
•Should the Commission grant a site permit for the proposed large wind energy conversion system?

•If granted, what additional conditions or requirements should be included in a permit?
Comments may be submitted via:

Online: Visit mn.gov/puc, select Submit Comment and follow the prompts.

Email: publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail: Public Advisor – Minnesota Public Utilities
Commission 121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Important. Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.
PUC Docket Numbers: **CN-20-269 and WS-20-384 Page 4**
OAH Docket Number: **5-2500-37257**

Additional Information

Filing Requirements. Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants and interested persons are encouraged to use eFiling: mn.gov/puc, select eDockets and follow the prompts.

Full Case Record. See all documents filed in this matter via the Commission's website at mn.gov/puc, select eDockets, enter the year (20) and the docket number (269 or 384), and select Search.

Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter visit: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling>, select Subscribe to Dockets and follow the prompts.

Project Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email docketing.puc@state.mn.us or call Leesa Norton at 651-201-2246 with the docket number (20-269 or 20-384), your name, mailing address, and email address.

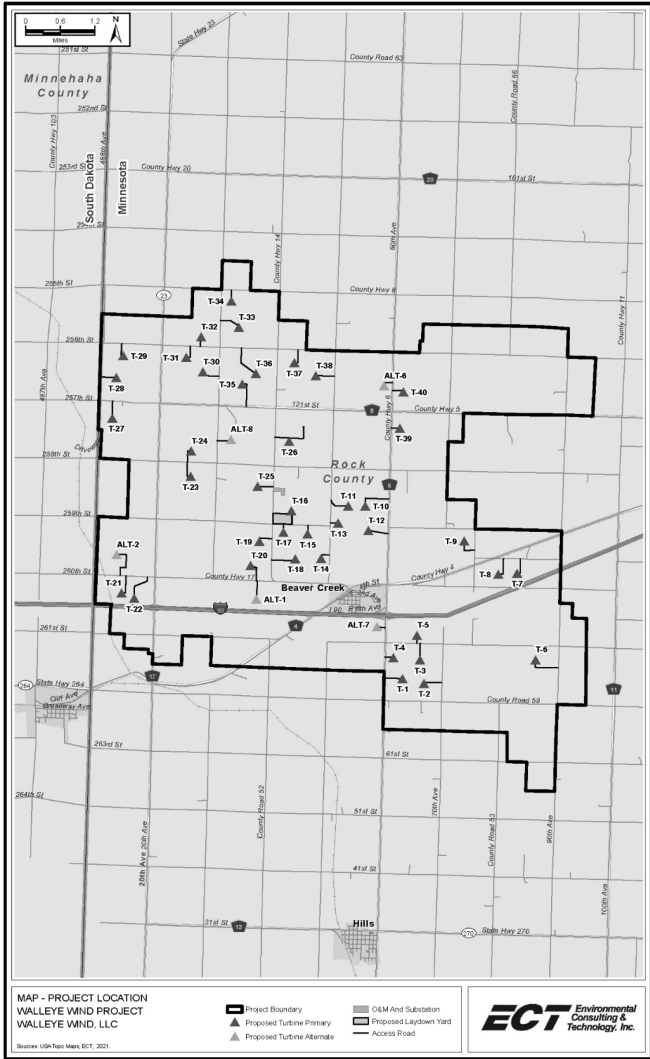
Questions about these dockets or Commission process and procedure? Contact Commission staff, Michael Kaluzniak at mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257, or Charley Bruce, Public Advisor, at publicadvisor.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2251.

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in this hearing, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the hearings.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.

PUC Docket Numbers: **CN-20-269 and WS-20-384 Page 5**

OAH Docket Number: **5-2500-37257**



WALLEYE WIND PROJECT SITE MAP

(04-15)

Schneiderman probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF ROCK

In Re: Estate of
Jolene Faye Schneiderman, a/k/a Jolene F. Schneiderman
a/k/a Jolene Schneiderman,
Deceased,

Court File No. **67-PR-21-45**

**ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR ADJUDICATION OF
INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP
AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR IN
SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 26th day of April, 2021, at 8:30 O'clock A.M., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Rock County Courthouse, Luverne, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship and for the appointment of Harold Schneiderman, whose address is 10058 230th Street, Magnolia, Minnesota 56158, as administrator of the estate of the above named decedent in supervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, said administrator will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the administrator shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 524.3-403 Subd. (a) notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Harold Schneiderman, has reason to believe that the original will of the decedent has been lost or destroyed. Petitioner also states that an authentic copy of said will has been presented to the Court for formal probate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said administrator or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: March 30, 2021

/s/ Terry S. Vajgt
District Court Judge
/s/ Natalie Reisch
Court Administrator

Douglas E. Eisma
Attorney for Petitioner
Eisma and Eisma
130 East Main
Luverne, MN 56156
(507) 283-4828
I.D. #158343

(04-08, 04-15)

Rock County Highway Department seeks bids by May 3

**SIDEWALK, CURB & GUTTER
S.A.P. 067-604-032**

Sealed proposals will be received by the Rock County Highway Department at Luverne, Minnesota until 10:00 A.M. on Monday May 3rd, 2021.

READ CAREFULLY THE PROVISIONS FOR THE WAGE RATES AS CONTAINED IN THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS, AS THEY WILL AFFECT THIS PROJECT.

Attention is called to the fact that the Contractor must comply with the Special Equal Employment Opportunity Provisions as contained in the Proposal. Proposals will be opened and read publicly in the presence of the Rock County Highway Engineer at the Rock County Highway Building located at 1120 North Blue Mound Avenue in Luverne, Minnesota immediately following the hour set for receiving bids for the following Rock County Highway work. Bids will be awarded on Tuesday, May 4th, 2021 at the regular Rock County Board of Commissioners Meeting held in the Law Library at the Rock County Courthouse.

The Major Quantities of Work are: 1,816 Lin. Ft. Remove Curb and Gutter; 1,830 Lin. Ft. Remove Bituminous Pavement; 360 Sq. Yd. Remove Pavement; 9,283 Sq. Ft. Remove Concrete Walk; 7,012 Sq. Ft. 4" Concrete Walk; 1,593 Sq. Ft. 6" Concrete Walk; 1,816 Lin. Ft. Concrete Curb and Gutter Design B624

Plans, specifications and proposals may be viewed and downloaded on Quest at www.questodn.com and at the Rock County Highway Department website, www.co.rock.mn.us/highway. Questions may be directed to the office of the Rock County Highway Engineer, 1120 North Blue Mound Avenue, P.O. Box 808, Luverne, MN 56156-0808 / (507) 283 - 5010.

The non-refundable cost for Plans and one proposal will be \$50.00.

Bids must be accompanied by a certified check or corporate surety bond drawn in favor of the Rock County Treasurer in the amount of at least five percent (5%) of the proposal.

Sealed bids shall be clearly marked "PROJECT NO. SAP 067-604-032"

The Board of Rock County Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects therein.

Rock County is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Mark R. Sehr, P.E.
Rock County Highway Engineer
(04-08, 04-15, 04-22)

Smook probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF ROCK

PROBATE COURT

DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

In Re: Estate of
Myron Edward Smook, a/k/a Myron E. Smook,
a/k/a Myron Smook,
Deceased

Court File No. **67-PR-21-61**

**ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING
FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
IN SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 26th day of April, 2021, at 8:30 O'clock A.M., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Rock County Courthouse, Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named deceased, dated July 26, 2016, and for the appointment of Scott Smook, whose address is 1730 New Brighton Blvd., Ste. 104-172, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55413, as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in supervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, said personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: March 26, 2021

/s/ Terry S. Vajgt
District Court Judge

Douglas E. Eisma
Attorney for Petitioner
Eisma and Eisma
130 Est Main
Luverne, MN 56156
(507) 283-4828
I.D. #158343

/s/ Natalie Reisch
Court Administrator

(04-08, 04-15)

Van Westen probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF ROCK

FIFTH JUDICIAL COURT

DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No. **67-PR-21-8 42**

Estate of
Ruth Van Westen,
Decedent

**NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on April 26, 2021, at 8:30 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 204 E Brown St, Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, May 2, 2017, and codicil(s) to the Will dated, and separate writing(s) under Minn. Stat. 524.2-513 ("Will"), and for the appointment of Keith Van Westen, whose address is 114 W. Dodge Street, Luverne, MN 56156, and Kevin Van Westen, whose address is 2600 S. Grinnell Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

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

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

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings to be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minn. Stat. 501B.41, subd. 5.

Date Filed: March 29, 2021

BY THE COURT

COURT SEAL

/s/ Terry Vajgt
Judge of District Court
/s/ Natalie Reisch
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioners
Benjamin Vander Kooi, Jr.
Vander Kooi Law Offices, P.A.
Street: 127 E. Main Street; PO Box 746
Luverne, MN 56156
Attorney License No: 112124
Telephone: (507) 283-9546
FAX: (507) 283-9629
Email: lawkooi@gmail.com

(04-08, 04-15)

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- Must be familiar with technology, well organized and flexible.
- Full time during the school year. Start date fall 2021.

Send letter of application, resume and completed district application (www.isd2184.net/about_lps/open_employment) to Craig Oftedahl, Supt of Schools (c.oftedahl@isd2184.net) to Luverne Public Schools, 709 North Kniss, Luverne, MN 56156. EOE

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Security Savings Bank is looking for a Full-Time Customer Service Representative to join our growing team at our Hills, MN location. The successful candidate will play a fundamental role in achieving customer satisfaction while enjoying opportunities for growth within our company. Attention to detail with the ability to handle a high volume of transactions is important. **Some of the essential functions and responsibilities for this position include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- Functions as the bank's primary contact; provides exceptional customer service to the public
- Opens and closes accounts
- Assists customers with checking and savings deposits, withdrawal requests, loan payments, cashier checks, internet banking, debit cards, ATM transactions, mobile deposits and other teller duties, to include proof operator duties
- Answers phone calls and handles customers inquiries and concerns
- Builds customer relationships
- Educates and cross-sells bank services
- Complies with all bank and regulatory requirements
- Stays updated on new bank products, services and policies
- Maintains discretion and confidentiality

The following skills and attributes for this position are not required but beneficial:

- Previous experience in conducting banking transactions and internal processing
- Experience in cash handling
- Previous experience performing duties in compliance with policy, procedure and process
- Self-motivated with attention to details
- Team player with a strong work ethic
- Ability to communicate effectively (orally and in writing)
- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications
- Ability to multi-task and organize priorities

Education:

- High school or equivalent (Preferred)

Experience:

- Minimum of one year experience in banking or financial services (preferred)
- Minimum of one year experience in customer service (preferred)

Security Savings Bank currently has eight locations in Larchwood, Inwood, George, Canton, Sioux Falls, Hills, Ellsworth and Luverne. We are proud to be a locally owned, community bank that is highly committed to the area and people we serve.

Security Savings Bank is a family-friendly organization that offers a competitive benefit package to all eligible employees that includes medical, dental, vision, and life insurance, short and long term disability, paid time off, a flexible spending account, and a generous 401k retirement plan.

Pay: \$12.00 - \$15.00 dependent on qualifications

If you are a qualified candidate for this open position, please visit bankwithssb.com/about/careers to view our open positions at Security Savings Bank and find instructions on how to apply.

Submitting an employment application does not guarantee an interview. Applicants are evaluated based on work history, job skills, credit report, background check and other job-related factors. All compensation and benefit programs are administered in compliance with state and federal law.

Security Savings Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, sexual preference or orientation), national origin, age, disability, and marital or veteran status.

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Tinklenberg Lumber & Hardware
OF EDGERTON, INC.

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EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

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ROCK COUNTY SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Rock County is accepting applications for a summer help until April 23, 2021. The position is season/full-time and will include lawn maintenance duties (i.e. mowing and trim work). Applicants must be 18 years of age, possess a valid driver's license and have the ability to load and unload mower from trailer, drive pickup vehicle with trailer to site, and operate riding lawn mower and weed eater.

Minimum pay is \$12.47 per hour.

Applications are available online at

www.co.rock.mn.us/job_opportunities/

for additional questions, please contact the Rock County Administrator's office at the Rock County Courthouse in Luverne, Minnesota at 507-283-5065 or by email to susan.skattum@co.rock.mn.us. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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EMPLOYMENT

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5TH GRADE TEACHER LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE
New London-Spicer Schools. Teaching license required. English Language Arts license preferred. Start: August 2021. To apply visit: nls.k12.mn.us/employment EOE

GROUNDKEEPER TEMPORARY SUMMER POSITION
New London-Spicer Schools. Driver's license required. Open until filled. Start: June. To apply visit: nls.k12.mn.us/employment EOE

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HELP WANTED

CENEX AT WILTON ND
is seeking a qualified General Manager. A multi-location energy cooperative with sales of \$18 million. This financially sound cooperative is located near Bismarck ND. A background in energy, finance, communication, and personnel management is desired. Send resume to: Larry Fuller, 5213 Shoal Drive, Bismarck ND 58503, Email: larry.fuller@midco.net

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Thank you so much to the First Responders in Hills for their assistance and thanks to Luverne Hospital staff and Dr. Chesley for the excellent care. A special thanks to Sue for providing me with goodies and to Pastor Ann Zastrow. The telephone calls and cards were appreciated. I am feeling very thankful and blessed.

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(4.10-4.15)

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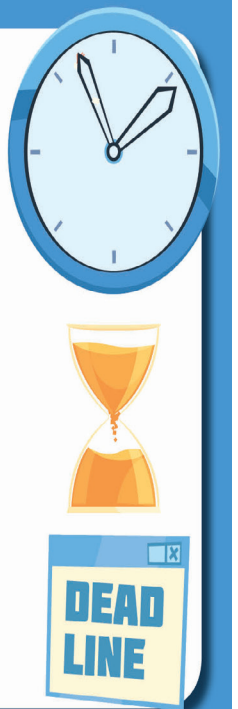
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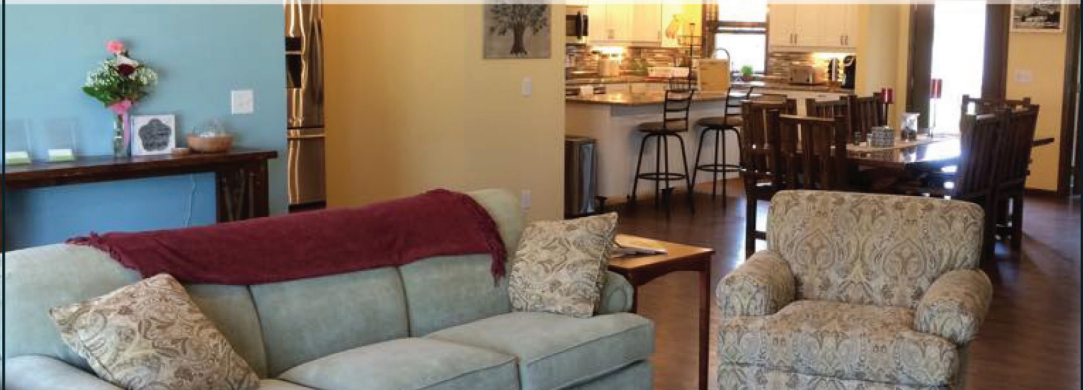
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A note from Mayor Patrick T. Baustian

We're All in This Together



I am happy to continue to report on the signs of our return to normalcy. The return of the St. Patrick's Day parade and recently the Easter egg hunt at the Rock County Court House Square are just a couple of reminders of the events we missed so much a year ago. It's great that we can start to participate in events like these again, however, we can't let our guard down completely. There have been reports of spiking positive COVID test results across Minnesota. As we navigate the road to social and economic recovery, please keep in mind the need to do so safely. Mask up, social distance and wash your hands.

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Governor Walz Announces \$2 Million COVID-19 Grant for Mental Health Support

Funding will support mental health care for health care providers, first responders, and those with serious mental illness who have been impacted by COVID-19

April 1, 2021 — Governor Tim Walz today announced that the state has received a \$2 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support mental health care in Minnesota. The funding will be used for health care providers, first responders, and those with serious mental illness and substance use disorders who have been impacted by COVID-19 and are unable to pay for behavioral health services.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has taken an incredible toll on Minnesotans, including our mental health and wellbeing," said Governor Walz. "I am grateful for this funding from the federal government, which will go directly to Minnesotans in need of mental health care, including our health care and first responder heroes, as well as those with serious mental health needs who are unable to pay for their care due to the hardships of the pandemic."

"Our state's health care providers and first responders have been through so much this past year, and we owe it to them to ensure mental health care is affordable and accessible," said Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. "We also know that the COVID-19 pandemic has made those living with serious mental health conditions and substance abuse disorders even more vulnerable. This funding will be critical to ensuring those Minnesotans can continue to receive the care and support they need."

The Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) will issue money to seven Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) across the state, anticipating that CCBHCs will assess and provide behavioral health care to approximately 6,000 Minnesotans.

With 40 locations across the state serving 27 counties and adjacent to or neighboring seven Tribal Nations, CCBHCs provide integrated mental health and substance use disorder services and coordinate with physical health care and social services. They are designed to serve individuals of all ages, regardless of where they live or their ability to pay.

More information about CCBHCs is available on the DHS website. tinyurl.com/MNCCBHC

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



Sincerely,



Mayor Patrick T. Baustian

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Under new head coach Lucas Larson, tennis team aims to extend state tournament streak to 11

By Brennen Rupp

It turns out the only thing that could stop the Luverne tennis team from reaching the state tournament was the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Cardinals have made the trip to the state tournament in tennis 10 straight years under the guidance of Greg Antoine.

Due to COVID-19, the 2020 spring sports season was canceled in Minnesota, causing many seniors to miss their final season as prep athletes.

Fast forward a year and the Cardinals have a new coach who will look to continue the success the Cardinals program enjoyed under Antoine.

“The program was always successful under coach Antoine,” said Lucas Larson, the new tennis coach for Luverne.

“We’d like to see that success keep going. We want to be competitive in the Big South. We want to win our meets. Our goal is to make it to the state tournament again. We want to keep that streak going.”

The Cardinals have strong veteran leadership, with three seniors and five juniors on the roster. Larson said that having that strong veteran presence has helped him during his first



The Luverne tennis team will be led by three seniors this season. They are (from left) Jayson Rops, John Miller and Ben Jarchow.

few weeks on the job.

“As a first-year coach, you don’t really know what the program is like,” Larson said.

“Them bringing in that leadership has been huge. They know what they want to do and they know what the goals are this season. They want to make the state tournament again. They bring that drive to the team. They know what they’re doing. They are highly skilled.”

Leading the way in singles

“The program was always successful under coach Antoine. We’d like to see that success keep going. We want to be competitive in the Big South. We want to win our meets. Our goal is to make it to the state tournament again. We want to keep that streak going.”

- Luverne tennis coach Lucas Larson

action for the Cardinals are Pierce Cunningham and Griffin Jarchow.

“They’re the top two singles players for us,” Larson said. “They’re outstanding. They’re very mature in their game. They know what they do. They like to attack the court.”

Tennis/page 12



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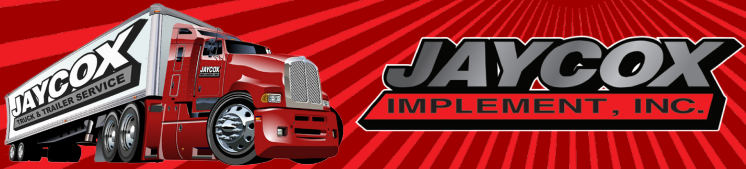
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After reaching section championship in 2019, Cardinals will attempt to reach state tournament for first time in 2021

By Brennen Rupp

In 2019 the Luverne Cardinals softball team reached the section championship game. It was the first time in program history that the Cardinals reached the section title game.

The Cardinals fell to Pipestone Area, the perennial section favorite, 3-1.

With a strong core returning in 2020, the Cardinals had high hopes of taking it one step further. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cardinals never got the chance to run it back.

With four seniors and a strong group of underclassmen, the Cardinals figure to be heavy hitters in the section again in 2021.

“They bring a lot of leadership,” Luverne head coach Brooks Maurer said. “Three of them have been starting since they were freshmen. They have two full varsity seasons under the belt. They bring a lot of experience. A lot of quality leadership.”

Roz Oye is one of the four seniors on the roster. She’ll be the team’s ace pitcher.

“Roz Oye will be our main pitcher,” Maurer said. “Carly Olson is a sophomore that will get some innings. Those two will be the main two-inning getters.”

The Cardinals have a deep lineup with a couple of heavy hitters. One of those heavy hitters is Billi Connell. As an eighth-grader Connell earned all-state honorable mention.

“She’s started since she was an eighth-grader,” Maurer said. “She was all-state honorable mention as a catcher in eighth grade.

After Connell suffered a couple of knee surgeries, she won’t be catching for the Car-



The Luverne softball team will be led by four seniors during the 2021 season. They are (from left) Roz Oye, Ainslie Robinson, Shelby Kracht and Leah Wynia. The Cardinals opened the season with two wins over Blue Earth on Thursday, April 8.

dinals this year.

“She’ll probably end up playing some shortstop or outfield. You can play her anywhere and she’d do well,” Maurer said.

“She is one of the best hitters, baseball or softball, that I’ve ever seen. She gets herself

out. I think she only had two strikeouts two years ago. She’s pretty good.”

Maurer said the team’s calling card this season will be their quickness in the field and on the base paths.

“Overall athleticism is going to be our strength,”

Maurer said.

“We’ve got some girls that are pretty athletic. We have a pretty good mixture in our lineup. We have two or three girls that have good pop in the bat. The rest can all run and move pretty well. If we have to play small ball and bunt a lot

or steal a lot, I think we have the ability to do that this year.”

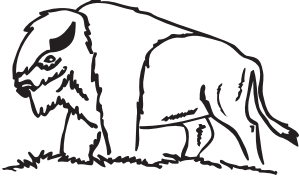
The Cardinals opened the season on Thursday, April 8, with two road victories over Blue Earth.

Softball/page 11



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Luverne baseball team leans on group of five seniors

By Brennen Rupp
The Luverne Cardinals finished the 2019 season with a 16-3 record. The team consisted of 14 players who will no longer be on the roster when the Cardinals take the field for the first time in two years.

The Cardinals will rely on a group of five seniors to help guide them through the 2021 season. Those five seniors are

Bailey Cowell, Ethan Beyere, Cade Wenninger, Riley Anderson and Trevor Halverson. It's a group that's been playing together in the Luverne baseball system since they were young children.

"Ethan Beyer, Bailey Cowell and Cade Wenninger, those three guys have been around baseball quite a bit," Luverne coach Mike Wenninger said. "We expect a lot out of those guys. They'll be leaders for us this season."

It's a group of seniors that have been playing baseball together since they were old enough to carry a bat in one hand and a glove in the other.

"They've been playing baseball for a long time," Wenninger said.

"They've been sticking together. They've been playing on the same team since they were six or seven years old. They mesh well together



Trevor Halverson rounds third base during Luverne's 7-5 season-opening victory over Windom. Halverson is one of five seniors on the Luverne Cardinals' roster for the 2021 season. The other four are Bailey Cowell, Cade Wenninger, Ethan Beyer and Riley Anderson.

and I think they trust one another."

It always takes a few days of practice for a team to knock the rust off.

With there being no spring season last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it took

the Cardinals a little longer than usual to start firing on all cylinders as they gear up for the upcoming season.

"It was a little shaky right away," Wenninger said.

"Some of our kids got some summer baseball in. We

had a couple of people playing fall baseball right away when we thought there wasn't going to be a football season. It still takes a little bit of time. Mentally they are there, but physically they are still juniors since they didn't get that sea-

son. Now they're leading the drills or they're I'm going to be on the mound. They're going to be in the three or four positions in the lineup."

The Cardinals don't have the big bat in the lineup. They won't have a pitcher that's going to shut down a team with overpowering stuff. Wenninger said that his team is solid from top to bottom.

"I don't think we're going to have that dominant pitcher or dominant hitter," Wenninger said.

"I think we're going to be pretty solid all the way around. We have some kids coming into new positions. I think we can manipulate the lineup."

Back in the day under Ron Gardenhire, the Minnesota Twins relied on strong defense, timely hitting, and a pitching staff that limited the free passes they issued. It's basic A-B-C baseball.

The Cardinals are hoping that same recipe will lead to success for them this season.

"We have to be consistent," Wenninger said.

"Being able to play good defense. Throw strikes and don't give away free bases. Just come up with some timely hitting when needed."

The Cardinals opened the season on Friday, April 9, by defeating the Windom Area Eagles 7-5.



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The Luverne track team will be led by a group of 13 seniors during the 2021 season. They are (from front left) Mia Halverson, Ethan Curtiss, Eduardo Godines, LaShad Smith, Arekel McLaughlin, Gracie Zewiske, Regan Feit. (back row) Cameron Kopp, Peter Baustian, Zach Ahrendt, Ethan Teunissen, Justin Dohlmann and Matthauss Dobbe. The Cardinals competed in their first track meet since 2019 on Thursday, April 9, in Blue Earth.

LHS track team has strong group returning after year's hiatus due to COVID-19 pandemic

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals track and field team will be led by a group of 13 seniors this season.

With 10 senior boys and three senior girls, the Cardinals will have plenty of leadership as they embark on the 2021 season after not having a spring sports season last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It’s exciting to have the kids back at it,” Luverne track

coach Pete Janiszeski said.

“It feels great to be working with the kids and helping them strive toward their goals and becoming their best.”

The Cardinals will have a strong group of sprinters leading the way for the boys’ team.

Ashton Sandbulte, LaShad Smith, Arekel McLaughlin and Eli Radtke will all be major players in the 100 meters and 200 meters for Luverne.

In the long-distance competitions, Camden Janiszeski

and Owen Janiszeski figure to lead the way for the Cardinals.

Zach Ahrendt is the team’s top competitor in the shot put.

Ethan Teunissen is the team’s top competitor in the discus.

Radtke is the team’s top competitor in the pole vault.

Ethan Rahm will lead the Cardinals in the triple jump.

Gracie Zewiske will be the team’s top sprinter on the girls’ team.

Kendra Thorson and

Isabella Oye also figure in as key contributors in the 200 meters.

In the 800 meters, Elizabeth Wagner will lead the Cardinals.

In the 1600 meters, Tenley Nelson, Jenna DeBates and Grace Ingebretson will lead Luverne.

Elise Jarchow will be the team’s top competitor in the 100- and 300-meter hurdles.

Jadyn Hart will lead the Cardinals in the shot put and

discus.

Elizabeth Wagner will be the team’s top competitor in the high jump.

In the long jump, Tiana Lais will be Luverne’s top jumper.

Thorson is considered the team’s top competitor in the triple jump.

With such a strong group of athletes returning, it’s fair

LHS track/page 11



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The Luverne boys' and girls' golf teams will be led by five returning letter winners this season. They are (from left) Paige Sandbulte, Morgan Gonnerman, Cheyenne Schutz, Henry Hartquist and Cooper Arends.

Brennen Rupp photo/0415 LHS golf photo

Cardinals' golf team looks forward to competing against other teams for first time in two years

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne boys' and girls' golf teams will be led by a pair of seniors for the 2021 spring season. After having the 2020 spring season cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cardinals will lean heavily on those two seniors.

For the girls, it will be Paige Sandbulte leading the way.

"Paige is our only senior

this year and she has a few years under her belt competing at the varsity level," Luverne girls' golf coach Chris Nowatzki said.

"Paige will be one of our major contributors this year along with three other returning varsity players."

The other two returning varsity members for the girls will be Cheyenne Schutz and Morgan Gonnerman.

After not being on the

course last season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the girls' team will lean on those three returning letter winners.

"It's hard to believe it's been two years since we've been out there as a team and it feels good to be back outside and on the course," Nowatzki said.

"Any success that we have as a team will have to come as a joint effort. We have a core group that are capable of

shooting in the 40's and they will all have to be on their games for us to be successful."

The talent inside the cupboard isn't bare for the Cardinals. Nowatzki said they have talented golfers that have plenty of experience playing on the junior varsity squad.

"We also have three or four girls coming back from playing junior varsity and they will initially be vying for the last two varsity positions,"

Nowatzki said.

"There are a couple of new girls out for golf that show some promise and I'm looking forward to seeing all of them progress as the season goes along."

The boys' team for the Cardinals is in similar waters. After not having a season last year, they'll lean on Cooper Arends and Henry Hartquist.

LHS golf /page 13

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H-BC golf team returns experienced core for 2021 season

By Brennen Rupp

It's been two years since the Hills-Beaver Creek golf team competed in a meet against another school.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no spring sports season in 2020.

It's been two years since the Patriots competed against another team on the golf course. The Patriots were expected to compete against Westbrook Walnut-Grove on Friday, April 9, but due to wet conditions the meet was postponed. As Tom Petty said, waiting is the hardest part.

Despite, having to wait longer than expected to compete against another team, H-BC head coach Dan Ellingson said that him and his team are thankful they are getting the opportunity to practice.

"It feels great," H-BC golf coach Dan Ellingson said.

"They couldn't believe that it's been two years since they've played at a meet. A lot

"Having those two at practice and having the younger kids watch and learn from them is a big deal. They provide great leadership for the team."

- H-BC golf coach Dan Ellingson on the leadership Hannah Fick and Thomas Dysthe provide for the team.



Submitted photo/0415 golf photo

The Hills-Beaver Creek golf team will be led by a pair of seniors this season. They are Hannah Fick and Thomas Dysthe. Both Fick and Dysthe were first-team all-conference two years ago as sophomores.

of time has passed. To have two years pass since the last meet is just so odd."

The Patriots will be led by two seniors during the upcoming season.

Hannah Fick was an all-conference golfer as a sophomore in 2019.

During the 2019 Section 3A meet, Fick tallied a final score of 227.

Thomas Dysthe will lead the boys and was an all-conference golfer as a 10th-grader.

During the 2019 Section 3A meet, Dysthe recorded a final score of 196.

It's been two years since the Patriots competed against another school. Ellingson said having those two seniors to lean on has been huge for his team.

"Having those two at practice and having the younger kids watch and learn from

She's just very consistent. She hits the ball a long way. She's very even-keeled, which I think helps a lot with her golf game."

- H-BC golf coach Dan Ellingson on Tess Van Maanen

the Section 3A meet.

At the state meet she tied for 50th place with a total score of 202. -

"She's just very consistent," Ellingson said.

"She hits the ball a long way. She's very even-keeled, which I think helps a lot with her golf game."

Aside from Dysthe, the boys' team will have four

returning letter winners. Those returning letter winners include Dallas Page, Ethan Kruger, Austin Allen and Jacob Axness.

With a strong core returning, the Patriots have high hopes for success on the links this season.

"Most of our guys are juniors this year," Ellingson said.

"They were on the section team as freshmen. (One goal is) just having those guys get better. We want to be in the top three in the conference. We just want to get better every single match."

With such a strong group returning for the 2021 season, the Patriots will look to build off the success they experienced two years ago. After missing their opportunity last year, the Patriots will be looking to make up for lost time this season.



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H-BC sprinters will lead track team in 2021 season

By Brennen Rupp
The Hill-Beaver Creek football team and girls' basketball team both enjoyed successful seasons during the fall and winter months.
A contributing factor in their success is the work that those athletes put in during track season to become better athletes.

"A lot of our guys and girls go out for track to get better for other sports," H-BC track coach Rex Metzger said.

"At the same time, they know that they can help us on our track as well. A lot of the guys that played football are out running track. It's nice to have those guys that are focused on speed. They come out for track and try to get faster and help us with our sprints."

Tyson Bork, one of four seniors on the roster, brings a wealth of talent to the program.

"He is our main top sprinter," Metzger said. "He made it to the state meet two years ago in the 100 meters."

Taryn Rauk is one of the four senior girls on the track team and one of the top sprinters on the roster for the Patriots.

"We always seem to have good sprinters," Metzger said.

"Both the guys and girls always seem to have good sprinters. Taryn Rauk and Layla Deelstra are our two top sprinters for the girls."

Rauk and Deelstra were both members of the 4x200 relay team that qualified for the state tournament in 2019.

Unfortunately for the Patriots, Deelstra suffered a leg injury at the end of the basketball season and may not be able to compete for the Patriots this spring.

"Layla had a leg injury in



Katie Beers Wheel Herald photo/0415 H-BC track photo

Hills-Beaver Creek competed in their first track meet of the season on Friday, April 9, in Slayton. Pictured are Larissa Steinhoff and Brynn Rauk. The Patriots will be led by a group of eight seniors this season.

basketball," Metzger said.

"I don't know if she'll be back for us this spring."

Rauk and Bork are two sprinters that have been competing for the varsity track team since they were seventh-graders.

Metzger said they bring great leadership to the team.

"They have natural speed," Metzger said.

"They're athletic. They've worked hard during the sum-

mer in our speed programs. They've really bought into the fact that they want to get faster for other sports. It's paying dividends."

Cole Baker is coming off an all-conference season in basketball.

He's carried that success over to track practice where he's primed to be one of the best triple jumpers in the area.

"He'll probably be the top triple jumper in our confer-

ence," Metzger said. "

As a freshman he was a real good triple jumper. His speed has stuck out, so he'll be on a couple of our relays as well."

Ty Bundesen hasn't been on the track team since he was an eighth-grader.

He's back out for track as a junior and gives Metzger another sprinter to utilize on the relay teams.

"He has some good speed

to him," Metzger said.

"We should have a good mix of boys for our relay teams."

The name of the game is speed and the Patriots have plenty of speed and athleticism on their track team.

The Patriots will work to get faster each day and to be firing on all cylinders for the

H-BC track/page 10

A-1

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Luverne Cardinals have 63 trap shooters on the roster for the 2021 spring trap season

By **Brennen Rupp**

The Luverne trap shooting team is entering its fifth year of existence under the guidance of Scott Loosbrock.

They are coming off a season in which they earned first place in their conference and will have 63 members this spring.

“Yeah we are up there pretty high with the numbers,” Loosbrock said.

“Before all the COVID stuff started we were high. This is probably the highest we’ve ever been in terms of numbers.”

Last season the trap shooting team lost it’s first group of seniors. This season they’ll be led by a group of eight seniors.

“These seniors have been with me from the start,” Loosbrock said. “They’ve been with the team since we started.”

With such a large group of young shooters on the roster those eight seniors are great role models for the shooters that are still learning the ropes.

“They are good role models for the younger kids,” Loosbrock said.

“We have a lot of younger kids. They set a good example for them. The new kids don’t know what to do. They have good form and control. The young kids watch that. They pay attention.

“Losing those seniors was our first group of seniors that went out the door. We got a really good group again this year. They are awesome role models for the younger kids that are mostly sixth-graders.”

After not getting a normal spring season last year

“They are good role models for the younger kids,” Loosbrock said. “We have a lot of younger kids. They set a good example for them. The new kids don’t know what to do. They have good form and control. The young kids watch that. They pay attention. Losing those seniors was our first group of seniors that went out the door. We got a really good group again this year. They are awesome role models for the younger kids that are mostly sixth-graders.”

- LHS trap coach Scott Loosbrock on the leadership the eight seniors provide for the younger members of the team

due to COVID-19, Loosbrock is happy for his team that they get to have a spring season this year, even if it does come with certain restrictions.

“We’re still on a limited



Submitted photo/0415 LHS trap photo
Luverne's Holden Overgaard poses for a photo. Overgaard is one of 63 members of the 2021 trap shooting team for the Cardinals this spring. After a two-year hiatus the shooters are excited to compete again this spring.

amount,” Loosbrock said.

“We’re down to five weeks instead of the normal nine weeks. Still having that opportunity is awesome. It’s nice for the seniors to know

they can finish out their career in high school. That’s a big plus. It’s been fortunate to keep doing this and doing what the kids love doing.”

The fact his team gets to

get back out and compete, the 2021 season is already a success in Loosbrock’s book. If one of his shooters gets to compete in the state tournament, it would just be icing on the cake for the fifth year head coach.

“Leah Wynia is kind of our senior girl,” Loosbrock said.

“With her going we are going to have success with her. I’d like to be able to have one of our kids make a state tournament either as an individual or as a team. I’d like to see her come out on top. I have Cheyenne Schutz. She’s a junior. She’s an excellent shot. They were second and third in our conference as far as our females.”

With 63 kids out, Loosbrock said the sky’s the limit for this year’s team.

“Hunter Arendt does a good job as well,” Loosbrock said. “It’s amazing how many kids we have. If we can make it to a state tournament it will be a success.”

The 63 students being out this spring is a big uptick for the trap shooting team from this past fall when there were 32 members on the team.

During the fall season Loosbrock said the focus is to help the younger members learn the basics.

“We get to help them on their form, how they hold their gun, how they stand. It just helps them understand how all this works, so when spring comes, it’s a little less chaotic,” Loosbrock said.

“We focus a lot on their fundamentals. It’s not about how many birds they hit, but more about the fundamentals.”

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H-BC trap team has new leader for 4-year-old program

Brennen Rupp

This is Travis Dwire’s first season as Hills-Beaver Creek’s trapshooting coach, but he’s been around the program since its inception four years ago.

After having no season last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the H-BC shooting team will have 28 members,

seven of whom are seniors.

“It feels great to be back out there,” Dwire said. “We are looking forward to having a season after not having one last year. Just to be back out there again, this season is already a success.”

After having no season last year, Dwire said there isn’t any one individual that’s jumped

out yet as a leader during the first few weeks of practice.

He said the focus for the team leading up to the start of competition is to improve each day.

It’s been two years since H-BC competed in a Minnesota State High School League sanctioned event.

The goal for the H-BC

shooting team this season is to improve upon what they accomplished prior to the COVID-19 shutdown.

“I’d probably just say the simple fact of being back out there to improve upon what we did before,” Dwire said.

“We want to make sure the kids are going out there and having a good time. We want

them to have good memories. We want them to take some of these skills that they’ll learn and take with them for the rest of their lives.”

With 28 members the H-BC trap team will look to continue to build off the success they’ve enjoyed during the first three years of the program.

Hills-Beaver Creek track/continued from page 8

section meet.

“Our goal this year is to get faster,” Metzger said.

“By the end of the year if we can shave some time off our 100 times or our 200 times. Our goal is to get better every practice. To be very competitive in our relay events.”

The Patriots competed in their first meet of the season in Slayton on Friday, April 9. It was the first competition for the H-BC track team in two years.

Bork finished first in the 100 meters. Dewul Rauk finished third in the 100 meters.

Liam Raymon finished second in the 800 meters.

Brook Harnack finished third in the 300 meters hurdles for the Patriots.

In the discuss Skyler Steensma finished second.

In the shot pot Max Scholten finished third.

Cole Baker finished second in the long jump. Bork finished third in the same event.

Baker took home first place in the triple jump. Raymon finished third in the triple jump.

For the girls, Brynn Rauk finished third in the 100 meters.

In the shot put, Abby Knobloch finished in second place.

Larissa Steinhoff tied for third in the high jump for the Patriots.

“A lot of our guys and girls go out for track to get better for other sports. At the same time, they know that they can help us on our track as well. A lot of the guys that played football are out running track. It’s nice to have those guys that are focused on speed. They come out for track and try to get faster and help us with our sprints.”

- H-BC track coach Rex Metzger on the strength of this year's track team



Katie Beers Wheel Herald photo/0415 H-BC track photo
Hills-Beaver Creek competed in their first track meet of the season on Friday, April 9, in Slayton. Pictured are Eli Taubert and Brock Harnack.



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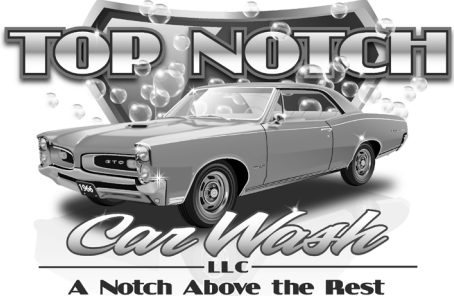
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Luverne softball/continued from page 3

Luverne won the first matchup 15-1 and then won the second meeting 18-6.

In the first game Connell went 4-4 with four doubles. Connell also drove in four runs and scored four runs.

Carly Olson went 2-2, with two home runs. Olson drove in four runs and scored two runs.

Oye picked up the win, pitching four innings and recording five strikeouts.

In the second game, Connell went 4-4, with a home run and a double. Connell drove in six runs and scored three runs.

Shelby Kracht went 2-4, with a double and drove in two runs.

Oye went 3-3 at the plate. The senior drove in two runs and scored two runs.

Averill Sehr drove in a pair of runs and scored two runs for the Cardinals.

Ainsley Robinson went 2-3 at the plate. Robinson

“(Connell will) probably end up playing some short-stop or outfield. You can play her anywhere and she’d do well. She is one of the best hitters, baseball or softball, that I’ve ever seen. She gets herself out. I think she only had two strikeouts two years ago. She’s pretty good.”

- Luverne head coach Brooks Maurer

drove in one run and scored two runs.

Oye also pitched two innings and gave up one hit.

Olson picked up the win for the Cardinals, pitching three innings.

Maurer said the goal for his team this season is to get better every day. With a strong core, the Cardinals figure to be key players in the Big South conference this spring.

“Early in my career, I would base it on wins and losses,” Maurer said.

“The more you get into it, the more you realize the most enjoyable part is the growth of the team. Are we improving, either game to game or week to week? Are the kids working hard? If we improve as a team and as individuals from game one until the last game of the regular season, to me that’s what defines success.”



Brennen Rupp photo/0415 LHS softball photo
Roz Oye figures to be Luverne's top pitcher for the upcoming season. Oye is one of four seniors on the Cardinals' roster.

Luverne track and field/continued from page 5

to say the Cardinals will be one of the best track teams in the Big South Conference.

“Right now we’re just taking things one day at a time and trying to help the kids find their niche,” Janiszski said.

“We just want the kids to focus on leaving practice each day a little better than they were.

The Luverne track team competed in their first meet of the season on Thursday, April 8, in Blue Earth.

In the 100 meters the Cardinals took home first, second and third place.

Sandbulte took home first place. McLaughlin finished in second place. Smith finished in third place.

In the 200 meters, Smith finished in second place.

Radtke finished in third place. Radkte also finished in first place in the pole vault competition.

In the 800 meters, Camden Janiszski took home first place.

In the 1,600 meters, Camden Janiszski finished

in first place. Owen Janiszski finished right behind him in second place.

Ahrendt took home first place in the shot put.

Ethan Teunissen took home first place in the discus.

For the girls, Zewiske took home first place in the 100 meters. Zewiske also took home first place in the 200

meters.

Christina Wagner finished in second place in the 800 meters.

Tenley Nelson took home second place in the 1,600 meters.

Jenna DeBates finished right behind Nelson in third place.



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Luverne Cardinals tennis/continued from page 2

Blake Frahm and Ben Jarchow make up the top doubles team for the Cardinals.

“They play very well together,” Larson said. “You can tell they’re comfortable with each other. They look really good working together.”

Due to having no season last year, Larson believes they missed out on getting an infusion of youth into the program.

“We have no eighth-graders this year,” Larson said.

“With that year missing, people want to enter a sport in seventh grade so they can get going from the ground up. We have four seventh-graders and no eighth-graders. I have to imagine that was impacted by not having the season last year.”

Despite having no season last year, Larson noted that his team has looked sharp during the first few weeks of practice.

“It’s clear that our top-level guys have been playing, even though they didn’t have a spring season last year,” Larson said.

“I know some of them go to the indoor courts in Sioux Falls.”

The Cardinals opened the season with a 6-1 victory over Fairmont on Friday, April 9, in Luverne.

Pierce Cunningham didn’t lose a set in his match. Cunningham defeated his competition 6-0 in the first set and



Brennen Rupp photo/0415 LHS tennis photo

Pierce Cunningham competes during Luverne's season-opening match against Fairmont on Friday, April 9. Cunningham is the team's top singles player for the upcoming season.

6-0 in the second set.

Griffen Jarchow won his first match of the season 2-1. Chance Tunnissen won

his first match of the season in straight sets.

Frahm and Ben Jachow won their first match of the

season in straight sets.

The Cardinals then defeated St. James 3-2 in St. James on Saturday, April 10.

There were no single matches played, it was only doubles.



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Luverne boys and girls golf/continued from page 6

Arends and Hartquist are the only two returning letter winners for the boys' team.

"We have a very young and inexperienced team, so we will rely on Henry and Cooper to provide consistent scoring for our team," Luverne boys' coach John Sichmeller said.

The Cardinals have other talented golfers on the roster. However, they've yet to experience what it's like competing at a varsity meet.

"We have some other kids who have shot some good scores, but shooting a good score in a meet is different than just going out to play with your friends," Sichmeller said.

"Those two players have proven that they can do it, so we will rely on them, especially to start the season while the other players gain some experience on the varsity level."

"We want to win as many matches as possible. Without having a season last year, we don't know much about our competition and where we stack up with the other teams right now. We will focus on our scores and continually lower our scores."

- LHS boys' coach John Sichmeller

After not having a season last year, Sichmeller is unsure of what to expect early in the season. He said the goal for his team is to win as many of their meets as possible and continue to improve each time they go out to the course.

"We want to win as many matches as possible," Sichmeller said.

"Without having a season last year, we don't know much about our competition and where we stack up with the other teams right now. We will focus on our scores and continually lower our scores as the season goes on."

Nowatzki has similar goals for the girls. With three varsity golfers returning, the Cardinals hope to be players in a tough section.

"My goal has always been for us to be competitive and that has not changed for this

"My goal has always been for us to be competitive and that has not changed for this year. We have a strong section and competition is always tough.

Our goal is to continue to work hard and try to get better throughout the season so we have a good chance of advancement during section tournament play."

- LHS girls' coach Chris Nowatzki on what he expects from this season

year," Nowatzski said.

"We have a strong section and competition is always tough. Our goal is to continue to work hard and try to get better throughout the season so we have a good chance of advancement during tournament play."

With so much unknown heading into the season the Cardinals main focus this season is on self improvement. The goal is to lower the scores each time they take the course.



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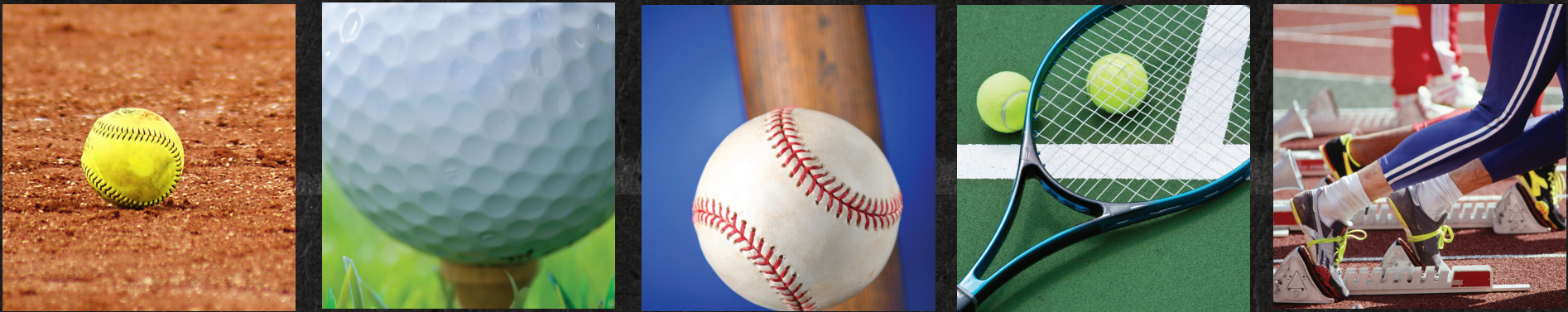
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Luverne Cardinals

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April 13	Redwood Valley	A	April 13	Worthington	H	April 13	Windom	H
April 15	Pipestone	H	April 15	Hills-Beaver Creek	H	April 15	Pipestone	A
April 16	Tracy-Milroy-Balaton	H	April 19	Big South Division (girls)	A	April 19	Fairmont	A
April 19	Windom	H	April 19	Big South Division (boys)	H	April 22	St. James	H
April 22	St. James Area	A	April 26	Big South Division (girls)	A	April 27	Adrian	H
April 23	Fairmont	H	April 26	Big South Division (boys)	A	April 29	Jackson County Central	A
April 27	Pipestone	A	May 3	Big South Division (girls)	A	May 6	Redwood Valley	H
April 29	Jackson County Central	H	May 3	Big South Division (boys)	A	May 10	Edgerton	A
May 6	Blue Earth	H	May 6	Pipestone	A	May 11	Worhinton	H
May 10	Adrian	H	May 12	Adrian (girls)	H	May 18	Adrian	A
May 11	Worthington	A	May 20	Buffalo Lake-Hector	A	May 20	Edgerton	H
May 18	Murray County Central	A	May 24	Big South Championship	A	Mav 27	Marshall	H
May 20	Marshall	A	May 25	Section	A			
May 24	Adrian	A	June 8 & 9	State Tournament	A			
May 25	Worthington	H						



BOYS' TENNIS			TRACK		
April 8	Fairmont	H	April 8	Blue Earth	A
April 10	St. James Tournament	A	April 16	Cardinal Relays	H
April 15	Blue Earth	A	April 23	Redwood Valley	A
April 17	Yellow Medicine East	A	April 29	Luverne Invite	H
April 22	Worthington	H	May 7	Fairmont	A
April 27	St. James	H	May 10	Pipestone	A
April 28	O'Gorman	A	May 20	Luverne Varsity	H
April 29	Redwood Valley	A	May 25	Luverne Varsity	H
May 1	LQPV Triangular	A	May 27	Worthington	A
May 3	Madison	A	June 3	Sub Section 3A	H
May 6	Pipestone	A	June 10	Redwood Valley (Section)	A
May 13	Vermillion	H	June 18 & 19	State Tournament	A
May 15	St. James Quad	A			
May 18	BSC	H			



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