



Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County’s oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, April 30, 2020

Community partners launch #strongertogether ‘Rock Solid’ campaign

By Lori Sorenson

The coronavirus pandemic is crushing economies all over the globe, as well as right here in Rock County.

That’s why the Chamber and the city of Luverne are partnering with local media — the Star Herald and radio station — to launch a gift card campaign this week called #strongertogether – Rock Solid.

The idea is for customers to buy gift cards now to use in the future

when stay-at-home orders are lifted.

“It’s a way to drive people to our local businesses,” said Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere. “I don’t want people shopping on Amazon. I want them to shop here.”

As part of the campaign, the local partners started a “Share the Luv Fund” that will kick in extra money for businesses for each set of gift cards purchased.

“We have different state and fed-

eral aid coming down the road, but the goal is to inject much needed cash flow into our local Rock County businesses right now,” Lanphere said.

The way it works, the “Share the Luv” fund will give \$25 extra for each \$100 in gift cards purchased, \$50 extra for each \$300 purchased and \$100 extra for each \$500 purchased until the Share the LUV Fund money is gone.

“If it isn’t all gone, we will schedule another sales drive for later June,

July, August etc. until all the funds are gone,” Lanphere said.

On Friday, she received two pledges of \$10,000 each for the matching campaign, which has a goal of raising \$40,000 between May 18 and June 5.

A live KQAD/KLQL radiothon will be at 10 a.m. Monday, May 18, when buyers will have a chance to purchase gift cards from the local businesses, and Share the Luv fund

will kick in extra cash to help the merchants.

There is no cost for businesses to participate and the Chamber and partners are not taking any proceeds. “We hope that this campaign helps our local businesses during this challenging time,” Lanphere said.

But businesses do need to sign up in order to be part of the #stronger-

#strongertogether/see page 2

Rock County numbers slowly rise

Eight residents as of Tuesday confirmed to have coronavirus

By Lori Sorenson

As Rock County’s confirmed coronavirus cases still number in the single digits, its neighboring counties to the east and west are reporting rapidly rising cases.

As of Tuesday morning, Rock County had eight cases, but Minnehaha is up to 1,939 and Nobles has 477, both stemming from outbreaks in meat processing plants in Sioux Falls and Worthington.

While it appears Rock County is an oasis in between, local health professionals and emergency responders urge residents to remain vigilant about social distancing.

“We are not immune,” said Tammy Loosbrock, CEO of Sanford Luverne. “It will be coming and we will see our numbers go up as well.”

She said the hospital and other local members of Rock County’s emergency response have been preparing and training for weeks, but all cases will have better outcomes if medical workers aren’t overwhelmed with numbers all at once.

“It’s important to remember all the principles that we’ve been stressing to prevent spread,” Loosbrock said, referring to social distancing and frequent hand washing.

“Also, it’s important to wear a cloth mask when you’re out in stores and anywhere you can’t socially distance.”

While Sanford Luverne continues to test patients based on the department of health criteria, an increasing source of frustration is access to accurate data to track the

Coronavirus/continued on page 3



Mavis Fodness photos/0430 HBC Teacher Parade

Four school buses and 30 personal vehicles in the Hills-Beaver Creek teacher parade drove through the district communities of Steen and Beaver Creek and ended in Hills (pictured above). Residents lined porches, parks and boulevards to wave and hold signs to greet teachers Friday.

School parade brightens spirits in Hills, Beaver Creek, Steen

Photos and text by Mavis Fodness

Teachers and staff of Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools took to the streets Friday afternoon in a “Teacher Parade” through the district’s communities.

The group of almost 50 district employees climbed into about 30 personal vehicles and four school buses for the drive through Steen, Beaver Creek and Hills.

The event took about an hour to complete.

“We miss your faces!” was a theme for the parade organized by the secondary school staff.

Math teacher Nora Wysong was one of the organizers.

“We felt it was important to let students know how much we missed them,” she said. “We decided, ‘Why not a ‘Honk Parade’ and brighten their day.”

Under the district’s distance learning plan, teachers have been talking with students through computers using

H-BC School teacher parade/continued on page 8



The Fick family of rural Hills parked near the city park in Hills where they greeted teachers with signs of “I love Mrs. Tollefson,” “We miss you,” and “Teachers are heroes.” Pictured from left are Ben, Abigail, Lily and mom, Lisa. In the inset photo, preschooler RaeLynn Poncellet holds a sign, “I Miss You!” to teachers as they passed through Steen.

Rock Ranch raises funds to raise roof on arena

By Mavis Fodness

Dreams of a Rock Ranch indoor arena are becoming a reality as builders lift the rafters into place this week.

Dan and Marie LaRock began their equine therapy program in 2016, and for the past two years, they dreamed of an indoor facility to avoid weather-related program cancellations.

Seven months ago they began a pledge campaign for a \$680,000 indoor arena. Today, the steering committee is \$40,000 from reaching its goal.

“We are very humbled by the generosity of our entire region,” Dan LaRock said.

“We have more than 60 donors to the campaign. They live all over the Upper Midwest — Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and Montana.”

Last fall, concrete footings were poured for the 80-by-300-foot

“We are very humbled by the generosity of our entire region.”

—Dan LaRock, Rock Ranch

building that includes the riding arena, five horse stalls, a conference room, offices, restrooms and a handicap-accessible viewing platform.

A new 60-by-100-foot outdoor arena is also planned on the six acres the LaRocks have devoted to the ranch’s expansion.

Marie works full time with Rock Ranch, and Dan, who works with SilverStone Group, Sioux Falls, does the ranch’s finances.

Seven other individuals serve

Rock Ranch arena/see page 3

School year ends virtually; grad dates set

By Mavis Fodness

Area schools will finish the 2019-20 school year in virtual classrooms.

The announcement was made Thursday, April 23, through executive order by Minnesota Governor Tim Walz due to the continuing coronavirus pandemic.

“To preserve the health, safety and lives of Minnesotans, it is necessary to extend the distance learning period of all Minnesota school districts and charter schools for the remainder of

the 2019-20 school calendar year,” the order read.

Luverne Superintendent Craig Oftedahl clarified the decision in a letter to parents shortly after Walz’ April 23 announcement.

“This means that students will not be returning to the school building this spring, but will continue to share content and materials through our distance learning programs,” Oftedahl wrote.

No virtual classes will be con-

ducted Friday and Monday as teachers prepare for the final three weeks of the school year beginning on Tuesday.

Classes will end May 22 with commencement ceremonies still taking place two days later.

“Graduation will be held in some format on May 24,” Oftedahl wrote. “Details concerning the format will be determined over the next couple

School year ends virtually/see p. 5

County relaxes feedlot capacity restrictions

By Mavis Fodness

Local livestock producers have permission to exceed their feedlot capacity permit, if needed, due to coronavirus outbreaks shutting down meat processing plants.

Rock County commissioners on April 21 approved a resolution — The Rock County Feedlot Permit Relief for 2020 – that allows local feedlots to exceed maximum capacities up to 90 days.

The shortage of the operation of pork and beef processors has left thousands of live market hogs and cattle in area barns and feedlots with no place to go.

The relief applies to all of Rock County’s 620 feedlots, but producers must apply for it online, according to Doug Bos, Rock County’s feedlot officer.

“Basically, it (the permit relief resolution) gives a 45-day ‘pass’ to

exceed their registered or permitted animal unit numbers,” he said.

“This also allows a 45-day ‘pass’ on zoning requirements to temporarily exceed conditional use permit thresholds.”

Producers must request the “pass” or waiver, which is automatically granted, by sending an email to MPCA.COVID19REGFLEX@state.

Feedlot capacity/see page 3



Opinion
Obituaries

Page 4
Page 7

Public notices 10

www.star-herald.com

Volume 145, Number 18

Luverne, MN 56156 USPS 468-040

How to reach us

507-283-2333 PO Box 837
editor@star-herald.com Luverne, MN 56156

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

A note about community events:

The Announcer and Star Herald will not list the activities and events that are canceled; it is assumed that most planned gatherings are canceled, per CDC mandates for safe social distancing. However individual inquiries should be directed toward appropriate planners. See www.star-herald.com, for the latest coronavirus coverage.

Blood drive May 5 near Valley Springs

The Community Blood Bank will accept donations from 2 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 5, at Beaver Valley Lutheran Church in Valley Springs. Because of social distancing requirements, donations are accepted by appointment only. Sign up at www.cbblifeblood.org. Click “news” to find the Beaver Valley blood drive information and appointment link. Call the Community Blood Bank at 1-877-877-3070.

Beaver Creek Township meets May 11

Beaver Creek Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 11, via Zoom (in order to accommodate social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID19). Anyone interested in joining the meeting through Zoom should contact the township clerk at 507-227-2061.

Community Ed Summer Brochure

The Luverne Community Ed Summer Brochure was distributed in the April 26 Luverne Announcer. Peruse the pages but **WAIT to register until** the Governor lifts restrictions. **Things may change.** Community Education will be following the state/school guidelines. Watch for future announcements on website, Facebook, newspaper and radio.

Help with coronavirus challenges

In response to residents and organizations overwhelmed by challenges related to the coronavirus, the Luverne Area Chamber is lining up volunteers to shop and/or deliver for those individuals who are unable to leave their homes. The intent is to coordinate this as a service to residents supporting our local businesses. A protocol will minimize contact between volunteers and people requesting services. To join the list of volunteers, call the Chamber at (507)-283-4061.

Hospice dinner and auction rescheduled

Sanford Luverne Hospice Dinner and Auction scheduled for April 18 has been rescheduled for Saturday, Aug. 29. Ticketholders should save their tickets to use then. Raffle drawings for the Blue Mound Quilters quilt and the cash raffle have been rescheduled for Aug. 29 also. Call the Hospice office at 507-283-1895 or email Helen Saum at helen.saum@sanfordhealth.org with questions.



Planting season spurred by sunshine, warm temps

Temperatures reached the upper 70s for several days in a row this past week, and area farmers took advantage of warming soil to get a big chunk of spring planting done. Curt Sandbulte, with his daughter, Alena, in the buddy seat plants a field near Beaver Creek Wednesday just north of the Palisade Lutheran Church west cemetery. Many farm operators have said soil conditions this spring are fit for planting across southern and western Minnesota; but, persistent cool soil had been a concern prior to mid April.

(Lori Sorenson photos)

#strongertogether Rock Solid campaign/continued from page 1

together gift card campaign. They need to call the Chamber, 507-283-4061, or email luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us. “We need to put this campaign together very quickly,” Lanphere said. “We want all Rock County

businesses to participate and hope that we can sell \$100,000 in gift cards or certificates.” The telethon will also be promoted through the Chamber, Star Herald and KQAD/KLQL in print, on air and online through June 5.

People can order gift cards or certificates from the Chamber through the mail, email or by calling 507-283-4061. After June 5, staff will contact merchants with the total number of \$25 gift cards purchased from their businesses and

the Chamber will arrange pick-up and payment of those cards by check through the Chamber office. “Our goal is to have a check in your hand and all gift cards mailed out to purchasers by June 12,” Lanphere wrote in a letter to businesses.

Signs of Gratitude support community crisis fund

By Lori Sorenson

When the Luverne Area Community Foundation set up the Covid-19 Help Fund last month, director Emily Crabtree knew the funds were needed to help people, but she had no idea how the community would respond with donations. Her goal was \$100,000. “We figured go big,” Crabtree said, and she’s already halfway. “The donations have come from people with a desire to help,” she said. “People who have a little or more than a little extra to set aside for needs that will come in the months ahead.” After launching the campaign at the start of April, Crabtree said she’s fielded phone calls about the fund asking how LACF plans to use it, and those inquiries were followed up with gifts.



“People have written notes with their mailed checks with sincere thanks for taking care of our community and they hope this gift will help,” she said. “The needs around Covid-19 aren’t going to go away soon; in fact they will likely linger into the fall with the potential for a second wave. We hope that through our ‘GoBig’ Community Crisis fund we will have the means to help our community and its residents get through this. We are in this together.” To donate to the fund, go to www.luvacf.org or mail a check to LACF (memo Covid-19) at PO Box 623, Luverne. LACF is a registered 501(c)(3) and donations are tax deductible. Organizations that qualify for keeping the communities of Rock County stable should contact LACF about potential needs for the coming months due to unforeseen stresses on programming. The first grants will be administered as needs arise in May. So far, the LACF received a \$20,000 grant from the Minnesota Council of Foundations Disaster Relief Fund and accepted local donations of nearly \$23,000. This, combined with a special “Signs of Gratitude” cam-

aign, brings the total so far to more than \$43,000 for the Community Crisis Fund for public emergency Covid-19 help. **Signs of gratitude** “Signs of Gratitude” that are popping up on lawns and boulevards around Rock County are what Crabtree calls “an opportunity to create community support in a time when you feel a little or lot helpless.” She said the idea came from her own personal “meltdown” one day as the mom of a senior high school student, wife and sister of health care workers, sister-in-law of an essential worker and as a “hardy Minnesotan” sheltering at home. “Hence my meltdown,” Crabtree said. “But the one thing I did know I could do is say thank you. Thank you to health care workers, our essential workers and all those who are working hard to stay socially distant.” She noticed a social media post about gratitude through signs. “I have a senior sign in my yard, and each time I drive by it, it makes me feel good that someone remembered that a senior lives here who may be struggling with disappointments,” Crabtree said.

“Maybe ‘Signs of Gratitude’ could do the same thing.” She enlisted the help of Mark and Annie Opitz at Quality Printing and launched the Signs of Gratitude Campaign to thank essential workers and encourage social distancing. Five dollars of every \$20 sign purchased is donated to the Community Crisis Fund at LACF to help with future needs. They can be ordered on the Quality Printing website at <https://qualityprinting.presswise.com/catalog/?g=11&y=1057>. In the first round of orders 82 signs were sold. “The vision of yards filled with messages of hope and gratitude has begun,” Crabtree said. “Hopefully making those they are meant for feel the support they need to continue through every day.” The second round of sign orders are due May 6. “We hope to double the order and have signs in all eight communities in our county,” Crabtree said. “If we can do nothing else, we can always say thank you.” For questions about Signs of Gratitude or about the Community Crisis Fund, call LACF at 507-220-2424 or email emily@luvacf.org.

24/7 ... Rain or Shine ...

Your local, independent agent will be there.

Working for you-meeting your needs.

Buffalo Ridge INSURANCE

South Hwy. 75, Luverne, MN • Ph. 507-283-2381

Auto-Owners INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS



Marilyn Bloemendaal, CPCU



Steve Stenlund, CIC

WIN

An Edible Landscaping Consultation

Eligibility: Rock County private and public landowners

Entry deadline: May 18, 2020

25 entrants randomly selected. Consultation includes site visit by designer and customized plant list with care and usage by December 31. \$250 value

ENTER: projectfoodforest.org/rock

What's in an edible landscape? Fruit and nut trees, berry bushes, vines, perennials, and self-seeding annuals designed to operate as an ecosystem.

Sponsored by



Your One Stop Guide to Local Businesses

DR. MICHAEL SMITH

Most Insurance Accepted

Chiropractic

Chantel Connell

Sales Representative

Advertising

Rick Peterson

General Manager

Chiropractic

Viking Electric LLC

Tim Gangestad Owner

(507) 290-2595

Electrician

Luverne Minnesota

Love the life!

City Offices

City

LUVERNE HEALTH & WELLNESS

Codie Zeutenhorst, DC

Chiropractic Acupuncture Massage

Chiropractic

Brosz Engineering Inc.

PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING & LAND SURVEYING SERVICES

Land Surveying

Local property taxes still due by May 15

By Mavis Fodness

Local property taxes are due May 15, and penalties will still be imposed for late payments, according to Rock County Auditor Treasurer Ashley Kurtz.

She said state officials recently notified county auditors the annual payment date will not change amid the coronavirus pandemic.

“May 15 has to stay the date,” said auditor Ashley Kurtz.

However, counties can choose to waive or lessen normal late fees.

First half payments in Rock County will face the same late penalties as in the past, commissioners decided unanimously at their April 21 meeting.

“Property owners already planned on paying this,” said

Commissioner Stan Williamson

Kurtz confirmed many first half property taxes, especially escrow payments, have already been received in the auditor’s office.

Once the May 15 taxes are collected, the auditor’s office divides the money between the county, cities, school districts and local townships for their 2020 operating budgets.

Property owners may still request an abatement on late tax penalties; however, commissioners have declined requests in the past unless the payment was postmarked before the due date when delivered by the post office.

Payment of second half property taxes due this fall may be handled differently, according to board discussion.

Coronavirus cases/

from page 1

virus spread. For one thing, because tests are still in short supply in many areas, not everyone gets tested (they have to meet MDH criteria), and positive cases often take several days to get reported.

“I’m frustrated about the reporting part of it,” said Rock County Emergency Management Coordinator Kyle Oldre.

But he conceded that local response is the same regardless. “Keep your social distance and wear masks when you’re out and about.”

He did mention a few encouraging developments in the past several days.

Out-of-state health care licensure approved

Gov. Tim Walz on Saturday signed Executive Order 20-46, authorizing certain out-of-state health care professionals to provide aid in Minnesota during the COVID-19 peacetime emergency.

“That’s a really big deal for us,” Oldre said. “I appreciated that.”

He said he’s still concerned about pharmacists and other professionals not included in the order, but it addresses immediate staffing concerns.

“If we have staff get sick, the most likely source for us is 25 miles to the west, not 200 miles to the north.”

According to the governor’s order, virus hot spots in Minnesota risk overwhelming local health care providers, and long-term care facilities are facing critical staffing shortages.

Executive Order 20-46 allows hospitals and care providers the flexibility to temporarily hire qualified professionals who would otherwise be required to obtain a license from the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice or the Minnesota Board of Nursing to provide intensive care services and meet the health care needs of Minnesotans.

Feedlot capacity/

from page 1

mn.us. Requests can be completed by individuals or grouped by company.

Among other information requested online, producers must provide that the site:

- has adequate storage capacity for the additional manure that may be generated.
- has adequate land available to apply manure at agronomic rates.
- can meet all applicable setbacks during manure application.

Records must be kept referencing the number of animals, when they arrived and when they left, for each feedlot.

Currently, each feedlot is assigned a maximum animal unit threshold, which cannot be exceeded without re-registering or re-permitting with the Rock County Land Management Office.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency contracts with the LMO annually to enforce regulations for feedlots under the 999 animal unit threshold. MPCA regulates feedlots over 999 animal units.

An animal unit ranges from 1.4 (a mature dairy cow)

to 0.003 for a chicken under 5 pounds. In Rock County the average feedlot is permitted for 300 to 720 animal units, according to Bos.

Feedlot operators who do not submit a request for permit relief could face enforcement action if they exceed their permitted animal units.

All applicants receive email approval, a copy of which is sent to respective counties’ feedlot officers.

During the waiver period, feedlot owners or managers must try to reduce animal units on site to the permit levels as soon as practically possible.

The first waiver is for 45 days or until June 1 with the possibility of applying for an additional 45 days.

“We are not sure how this is all going to turn out,” Bos said.

Originally the relief was only for hog producers, but with regional beef packing plants ceasing operations due to the coronavirus outbreak, cattle producers were also included.

“They (MPCA) will handle the relief requests in the same way as hogs,” Bos said.



Mavis Fodness photo/0430 Rock Ranch Update

As construction continues in the background at Rock Ranch west of Hills for a new indoor arena, Dan and Marie LaRock (far left) work with volunteers Monday to prepare the ranch and its horses for the 2020 therapy sessions. From left are Dan and Marie LaRock and volunteers Lisa Dinger, Alexis Gardner-Swenson, Dolores Bundeson, Sylvia Fick, Michaela Abels and Gus Jacobson. The organization hopes to be in operation this summer for youth programs.

Rock Ranch nears fundraising goals for new arena/

from page 1

on the Rock Ranch steering committee, which has fundraising help from 15 additional volunteers.

In October they kicked off the capital campaign with fundraising calls, grant writing and presentations to prospective donors.

The campaign recently received a pledge of \$125,000.

“We have actually received two total gifts at that level during the campaign,” Dan said.

Once the campaign is finished, the LaRocks plan to release a full list of the donors.

Programming set to begin in a month

The new facility will open this summer for the ranch’s three programs — Ride Rock Ranch Program for youth, the equine assisted psychology (EAP) program and Senior Saddles.

“We will be starting our summer programming in June this year,” Marie said. “Our summer schedule is nearly full for our Ride Rock Ranch Program, with just a few openings left in August.”

The equine assisted psychology (EAP) program contracts with two mental health professionals with an additional equine specialist joining the program this summer.

The EAP uses the EAGALA model of therapy, which has openings for use by local mental health providers and other seeking this service.

“We see opportunity for our counseling program to grow,” she said.

The ranch’s third and final program, Senior Saddles, has no scheduled sessions this spring.

It’s for adults 55 and older to participate in equine-related activities with a focus on senior groups from retirement communities, assisted living centers and nursing homes.

“Our Senior Saddles program is on hold until our nation can get through the COVID pandemic,” Marie said.

Plans are also in the works for fall and winter Ride Rock Ranch lessons to start in October by continuing a partnership through community education for the horseback riding lessons.

For individuals who own their own horses, the ranch is making open riding times available.

“Eventually we would like to offer clinics on several topics of equine training to the public,” she said. “We anticipate our growth in sessions and services to increase



Mavis Fodness photo/0430 Rock Ranch Update

Workers with Balster Construction of Pipestone put rafters into place Monday for the new indoor arena at Rock Ranch. Volunteers with the nonprofit equine therapy organization kicked off a capital campaign in October and, as of Friday, are \$40,000 from the \$680,000 goal.

appropriately with our ability to provide services year-round.”

Donations roll in for operations

To operate a summer program for Rock Ranch, organizers need an operating budget of almost \$40,000.

On #Giving Tuesday, an online fundraising event through Facebook, Rock Ranch set a goal of \$5,000 and received almost \$11,000 for horse care and other related expenses.

“We also raise operational money to help provide scholarships for riders and those who need mental health support,” Dan said. “New equipment will include an accessible lift for persons with limited mobility. We will also need a new arena rake, and riding equipment for both the indoor and outdoor arenas.”

Last year the ranch’s eight horses were shown to 278 visitors and used in 122 sessions, a 144-percent growth in four years.

On average, one horse costs between \$1,200 and \$1,500 for feed and care each year.

“The budget will certainly grow as we move to a year-round operation,” Dan said.

Donations accepted at riderock-ranch.org

ranch.org

Rock Ranch is a nonprofit charitable organization. All contributions are tax deductible. More information and how to donate is available at the ranch’s website, riderock-ranch.org.

Individuals and/or groups can sponsor a rider or horse as well as still contribute to the indoor arena capital campaign.

“We are humbled and thrilled that our broader communities linked arms with us to bring Rock Ranch arena to life so quickly,” Dan said.

“The project and the programs are so worth it for our region. Rock Ranch is excited to serve children, our senior population and people who need mental health support for years to come.”

About Rock Ranch

Founded in 2016 by the LaRock Family, Rock Ranch provides opportunities for persons to improve themselves physically, cognitively, socially and psychologically while learning horsemanship in a Christ-filled setting.

The ranch is located west of Hills.

They are members of PATH International (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship) and EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association).



Hass-A-stitch is still stitching and still on main street, just a bit further to the east. Please see us for all your mending, alterations, and embroidery needs at 412 East main.

Call or text 507-220-2139 or send me a message on Facebook.



TRANSFORM YOUR BATH OR SHOWER IN AS LITTLE AS ONE DAY

CALL NOW to Schedule a FREE Virtual In-Home Consultation Now and SAVE 15% Payments as LOW as \$149 per month And Receive a **FREE** Premium Shower Door Upgrade Offer Expires 05.31.2020

BCI BATH & SHOWER

877-378-0529



Tillie Clark turns 90 on May 3rd!

Greetings may be sent to: 216 N. McKenzie St. Apt. 301 Luverne, MN 56156



OMAHA STEAKS SINCE 1917

THE BUTCHER'S BUNDLE

- 4 (5 oz.) Butcher's Cut Filet Mignons
- 4 (4 oz.) Boneless Pork Chops
- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
- 4 (3 oz.) Gourmet Jumbo Franks
- 4 (2.8 oz.) Potatoes au Gratin
- 4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets
- Omaha Steaks Seasoning Packet

\$298-\$91* separately **COMBO PRICE \$69.99**

+ 4 MORE BURGERS FREE THAT'S 20 MAIN COURSES!

ORDER NOW! 1.844.331.1614 ask for 61086TVG www.OmahaSteaks.com/dinner397

‘Homesick’ at home

If home is where the heart is, I’m homesick for other meaningful places in my life

Many of us are spending more time at home now than ever before.



Global pandemics of highly infectious diseases with no known treatment or vaccine tend to have that effect, I guess.

In mid-March, most of our lives were changed in ways that are pretty hard to believe.

When the students left school on March 16, it was not a good feeling.

Bringing everything to my house that I needed to teach from home was an even weirder feeling.

When I got my home office set up and started to see some students and colleagues again over Zoom conferences, it felt a little better.

But recording videos of myself teaching and having 95 percent of all communication done via email is no way to do my job.

When people ask me how distance learning is going, my standard reply is, “Better than I expected,” which is true.

But it’s still not very much fun.

While I’m definitely getting more used to this new normal, I’m also sick of it.

I’m homesick.

Yes, you read that right.

After being at home almost non-stop for six weeks, I’d say I’m homesick.

I’m sick of being at home. But I’m also missing other “homes.”

Think of the old saying, “Home is where the heart is.”

Indeed, home is more than just the house I live in.

For me, my classroom full of students and school full of co-workers is also home.

Supporting students at spring sports, concerts, and especially graduation also feels

IN OTHER WORDS

By Jason Berghorst,
reporter

like home.

And I’m sure missing those things, like so many of you are.

Being at church is like being at home for me. I miss that home and the people there.

I suppose the list could go on, but you get the point.

And maybe you’re a little homesick, too.

Homesick for the places and people outside of home that make life meaningful and enjoyable.

While technology allows me to teach, talk to students, attend meetings, worship, and see friends and family over the computer screen, it’s no cure for my homesickness.

If you’re like me, you’ve been keeping a mental list of all the things you took for granted and promising not to do so when they return.

Maybe we’re all realizing how many “homes” we really have.

While it might be a while until we can safely return to our other homes, recognizing the value they have in our lives is a good first step in treating this homesickness.

Being grateful for the blessings that I still have, especially my good health, helps a lot, too.

The forced separation that has caused my homesickness has, and continues to be, a necessary and valuable thing.

Not only has it slowed the spread of the virus, saved lives, and given our medical providers valuable time to prepare, it’s helped me realize what really matters.

And I can’t wait to go home again.

Covid-19 brings an increase in sexual assault, sexual exploitation, and domestic violence

Local organization, Southwest Crisis Center, offers support and resources

GUEST EDITORIAL

By Sara Wahl, Executive Director of Southwest Crisis Center

Earlier this month, Minnesota Governor Walz reported that two-thirds of police calls over the weekend were related to domestic violence.

As individuals are coping with the uncertainty of the COVID-19 virus, loss of income and staying in their homes, the stress can be overwhelming. Abusers often resort to the use of manipulation, power, control and violence, correlating to higher incidence of sexual assault and exploitation.

In Southwest Minnesota, the rural landscape already lends itself to isolation. Add to that calls for social distancing and stay-at-home orders, and there is a perfect storm for escalating instances of both domestic and sexual violence.

The staff and advocates at the Southwest Crisis Center provide critical assistance to individuals experiencing domestic and sexual violence and as critical sector workers, will continue to provide those services throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness

Month, and while we’re certainly drawing attention to that abuse, we’re also preparing to help those who might be in a vulnerable situation due to domestic concerns.

We know that the stay-at-home order and this time of uncertainty is going to increase anxiety, anger and frustration and when that happens, individuals and families are at risk of physical harm at the hands of others.

The Southwest Crisis Center is raising awareness this month about sexual assault and how communities can respond to reduce the occurrence or to encourage reporting and support. Survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence have access to a 24-hour safe line to report incidents

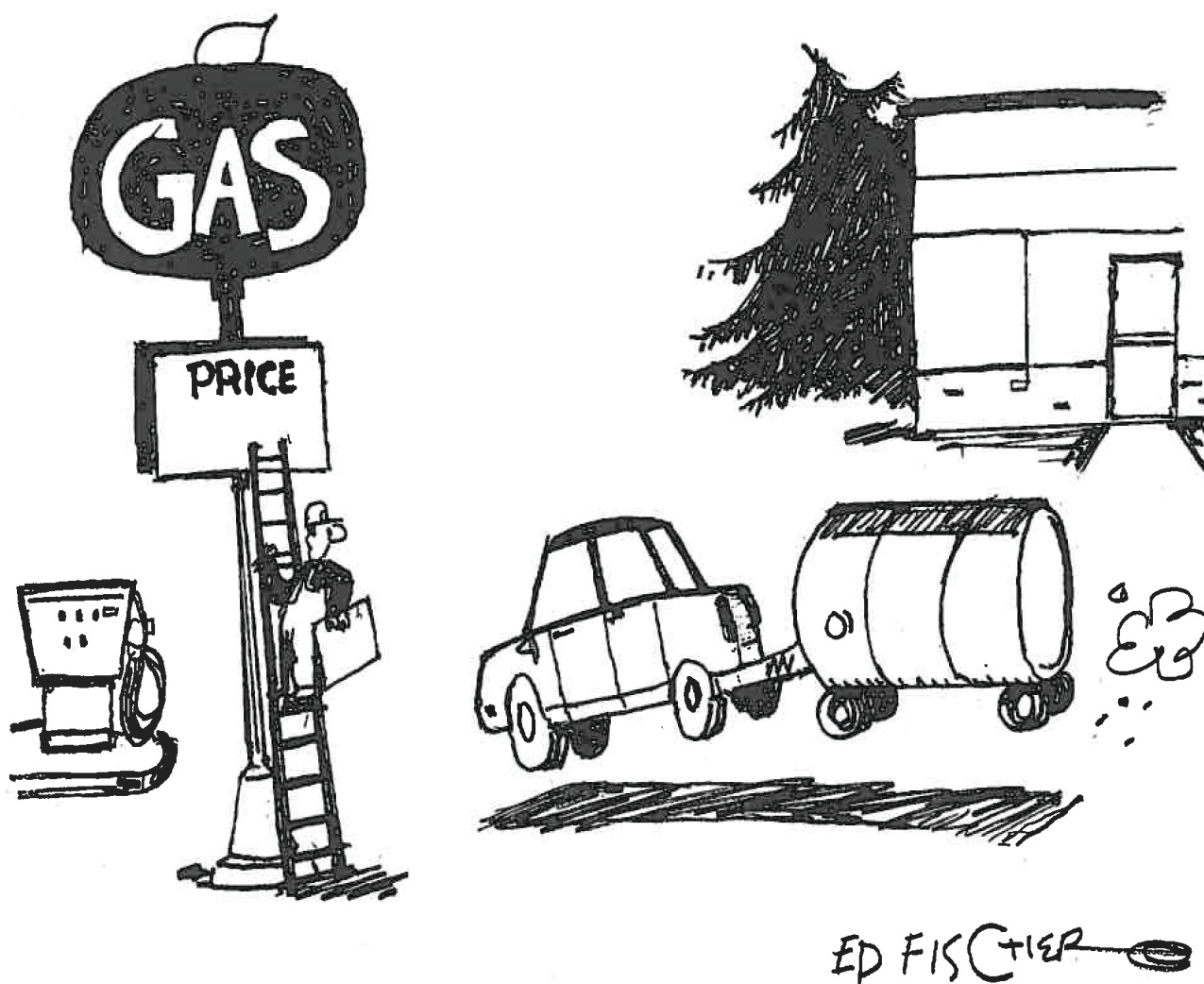
or seek resources.

It’s important to believe someone when they disclose that they have experienced sexual violence. You can be aware of how your friends and family are behaving and be supportive.

Often the best thing someone can hear is, “I believe you. Thank you for sharing.”

We’re here to help those who experience sexual violence.”

Southwest Crisis Center serves residents of Jackson, Cottonwood, Nobles, Rock, and Pipestone counties who are or have been victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, sex trafficking, sexual harassment, stalking, and child abuse. Visit www.mnswcc.org



Controlled burns in the spring provide more benefit to wildlife than harm

One of the most misunderstood wildlife habitat management practices is spring burning of grasslands. I get calls all the time, and have for the past 20 years, with folks all upset about wildlife management agencies burning all the nests of pheasants, ducks and other ground-nesting songbirds.

I liken burning of grasslands to when you can finally get out in the spring, everybody rakes their yards and applies fertilizer to stimulate the growth of their yard grass. At the same time, they apply different chemicals to reduce weeds and prohibit the germination of crabgrass.

All of this work is done in an attempt to make the curbside appeal of their homes. Others water regularly and often only on odd-even watering days. These are the proper methods to achieve these desired lawn goals.

Burning grasslands does many of the same things as lawn care.



THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall, columnist

There are two basic kinds of grasses: cool season and warm season. Cool season grasses are the ones that will green up in the spring first. The most common cool season grass that you see in wildlife lands is called smooth brome grass.

The problem with this grass is that, although it works well for nesting, it doesn’t provide much shelter for wildlife when the snow flies. If you get half inch of snow and a wind, this grass will lie as flat as a pancake and then provide no winter cover of

any kind of wildlife. The second big drawback to smooth brome grass is that as a cool season grass it greens up first and will grow 10 inches tall before any of the warm season grasses even begin to grow.

Soil temperatures need to reach at least 65 degrees before warm season grasses get growing. This delay gives the cool season grasses such a big head start every year that they can and do choke out the desirable warm season species.

A field of perfectly mixed warm

season grasses, which stand up great in the winter winds and snow, but with no management over a period of 10 years, won’t last because the cold season grasses will choke out the warm season varieties. The invasive cool season smooth brome grass completely dominates a site within a decade.

Burning the grass in the spring singes off the growing brome grass and turns the ground black. This black ground absorbs the sunlight and heats the soil in a very short time. The result is the warm season grasses will start growing about 30 days earlier than they normally would.

The jumpstart of the desirable warm season grasses sets back the undesirable smooth brome grass. Fire also burns the many small volunteer trees that like to overgrow grassland habitats. Trees in grasslands reduce nesting cover and make grassland habitats less productive.

But what about the wildlife nests?

Spring burning is a short-term pain for a much higher long-term gain. You do burn some nests and those birds will have to re-nest in a different location. This is why experts never burn the entire spot. Usually about 30 percent of an area is burned, leaving lots of other nesting grass for the nests that were not destroyed. Burning is not completed after May 20, a date before the peak of the nesting efforts begin.

So, the next time you see a spring fire in wildlife habitats, remember that the end result of that burn is more birds, better habitat and higher wildlife production overall.

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

E-mail: editor@star-herald.com Web site: star-herald.com
Phone: 507-283-2333 Fax: 507-283-2335

Published Thursdays by Tollefson Enterprises
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 117 West Main, P.O. Box 837, Luverne, MN 56156. Periodicals postage paid at Luverne, Permit #33 and at additional mailing offices.

General manager: Rick Peterson
Advertising: Chantel Connell
Production: Heather Johnson
Production: Danae Meinerts
Production: Alexis Hanson
Office manager: Deb Lusty
Office assistant: Jennifer Nelson
News staff:
Lori Sorenson, editor
Mavis Fodness, reporter
Esther Frakes, copy editor

Rock County
STAR HERALD
Rock County's newspaper since 1873

(ISSN 0889-888X)
SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$74 per year in Rock County; \$91 per year all other areas. Single copies \$1.25

Entire contents copyrighted by
Tollefson Publishing Roger Tollefson, publisher

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.



Happy Birthday, Allison!

Ron and Jane Cote and their son, Wyatt, on the mandolin, brought their musical talent to a birthday party at the end of Pine Drive today in Luverne for Allison Grieme, whose name is celebrated in colorful chalk in the driveway. In addition to leading the group in singing Happy Birthday, the Cotes played a number of country western songs and wrapped up with their signature song, "Happy Trails," all from a social distance.

Rick Peterson photos/0430 cotes birthday singing



KNOW IT AND GROW IT

By George Bonnema,
Luverne Horticulturalist

Spring season is moving along fast

It seems that we are on track for an earlier than average spring, and that means that this is the time to apply crab grass preventer.

Crab grass is an annual weed. The seeds don't germinate until the ground temperature is warm, and that is happening now. This is a pre-emergence herbicide, so once the seed has germinated, the product will not be effective.

This is also the time to apply systemic rose care to your landscape roses. This product is the absolute best fertilizer and insect deterrent you can use.

Make the application now and then pencil in on your calendar another two applications, one in six weeks and another six weeks after that. That will result in your plants performing to the max for the season.

This product is not a fungicide, so if your rose variety is susceptible to black spot or mildew, you will still have to spray to prevent those diseases.

All cool-season garden vegetable crops should be planted soon if you haven't already done so. Getting those plants to be established before the ground gets too warm will mean the difference between great or not so great production.

Crops that like warmer soil are tomatoes, peppers, melons, sweet corn, beans, cucumbers, sweet potatoes and okra. For these warm season varieties, there is no advantage to planting too early. In fact, if the ground temperature is too cold, often the seed will rot instead of germinate.

In past years, the flowering crab trees have often been in bloom for Mother's Day, and it seems that this year we will see them putting on their display a week earlier ... such an exciting time to see all the wonderful color that makes our natural world a gift to enjoy!

Bonnema is a gardening enthusiast and former greenhouse owner. He can be reached at flowergb@iuu.net.

Friendly community competition emerges between Adrian, Ellsworth to lift spirits

Decorating contest runs through May 8

By Lori Sorenson

The cities of Adrian and Ellsworth are competing for bragging rights for "most patriotic community" as part of a pandemic effort to lift spirits among residents.

According to Adrian Community Assistant Megan Vortherms, the two city offices announced it earlier this week to residents.

"We decided we need to bring some excitement and fun to our communities so we thought why not a little friendly competition between our towns," she said.

"We are asking all residents to participate. Any age can join and it is all being done while practicing social distancing."

The information sent to residents asked them to decorate their homes and/or front yards and windows under the patriotic theme, "Proud to be an American."

"Once you are done decorating, we ask that you take a picture of your home and post it on your town's Facebook page and write #BetterTogether," the residents were told.

"We are hoping our communities have fun with this and we



"We are all in this together" is a friendly competition between the communities of Adrian and Ellsworth. Announcing the event are (top, from left) Danielle DeBeer with her dog, Sadie, John Faber, Kaci Palmer, (bottom) Adrian Peace Office Ashley Kane, Kendra DeBeer, and Kyler and Bryson Kunkel.

see a lot of red, white, and blue around our two towns," Vortherms said.

All pictures need to be posted by Friday, May 8, for social media readers to react with "likes" on each town's Facebook page.

Each "like" will be counted as a vote, and the competition will continue until 8 a.m. Monday, May 11, when winners will be announced.

Ellsworth Mayor Tasha Domeyer credited Vortherms for the idea, but said it will be a welcome diversion.

"I hope people go out and have a little fun with it," she said. "It will give us something to talk about besides the coronavirus."

Whichever town's picture receives the most likes will be the winner of a trophy with "COVID-19 #BetterTogether" on it to display at their city hall for the year, along with bragging rights for the honor.

"We can't wait to see everyone's yard and all of our American Pride," Vortherms said. "Join the fun and remember to only decorate your home and make sure to be following the social distancing rules."

Vortherms can be reached in Adrian at 507-483-2849. Domeyer can be reached through the Ellsworth Facebook page.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2010)

As the maiden voyage of Honor Flight Southwest Minnesota takes off this weekend, it will carry 110 veterans from Rock, Nobles, Pipestone and Murray counties.

Honor Flight exists to ensure World War II veterans have a chance to see the national World War II memorial that was built in Washington, D. C., in their honor.

When the flight departs, all attention will be on the veterans, but for at least one of the guardians, it will be a trip of a lifetime.

Rock County Historical Society President Betty Mann will be a guardian on the flight. That means she'll help take care of one or two of the aging veterans on board.

But she's no spring chicken herself. She'll turn 80 years old on Saturday, May 1, while she's in D. C. with the Honor Flight group.

"A lot of people don't want to admit that they're 80, but I don't regret a bit the age that I am," she said. "I have a full life, and you have to make the best of every day that you have."

25 years ago (1995)

While walking his dog Saturday afternoon, Arnie Vink, Luverne, noticed a large pile of garbage carelessly dumped in a creek by the Rock River near their home.

Heaped into the creek were two television sets, an old portable stereo, two kitchen chairs, fluorescent ceiling fixtures with mercuric bulbs still attached, two old and broken car batteries, a vacuum cleaner, a bag of clay pigeons, a girl's 10-speed bike and a third-place trophy from the 1987 local BMX championship races.

Concerned the batteries and light fixtures would cause environmental damage, Vink waded into the creek up to his waist and hauled the items up on the creek bank near the road.

"I piled all that stuff up there, hoping that whoever threw it would drive by and at least feel a little bit guilty," Vink said. "I'm getting awful tired of people dumping their garbage. ... This isn't the first time I've been in there picking stuff out of that creek."

His wife, Gloria, took the BMX trophy home, since that was the only piece of garbage that may be used to identify the litterers. Then they called Rock County Law Environmental Officer Rick Dillon Monday morning.

Strangely, however, when Dillon went out to inspect the site Monday morning, all the garbage was gone except the two deteriorating car batteries. "It was probably the same people who dumped it earlier who picked it up after Arnie hauled it all up by the road," Dillon said. "Our concern is that it gets hauled to a legal solid waste disposal facility and not another ditch."

50 years ago (1970)

The mother of eight children, who was born and raised in Rock County, has been named its "Mother of the Year" for 1970. Representing all mothers of the county this year is Mrs. Nelson (Clara) Sandager of Hills. The nominating letter was written by her friend, Mrs. Vernon Danielson, also of Hills. ...

It is fitting that Rock County's "Mother of the Year" should be Mrs. Nels Sandager of Hills. For she was born and has lived all her life in the county she represents.

75 years ago (1945)

The War in Europe is over!

That was the good news which brought joy to millions the world around, Monday morning, May 7.

All morning long, Monday, Rock county residents remained beside their radios, tense and hushed, listening to the flood of bulletins coming over the air. They first heard that the "unconditional surrender" order issued by Admiral Doenitz was "unconfirmed."

Then at about 8:37 a.m., they heard their radio announcers shouting "the war is over, the war is over, the unconditional surrender has been officially confirmed."

100 years ago (1920)

At a meeting between Mayor C. O. Wright and the police officers in the Mayor's office last evening, the policemen were instructed that beginning tomorrow, May 1st, the traffic laws are to be strictly enforced. Under the instructions given by the Mayor, muffler cut-out fiends are to receive particular attention, and the laws are to be enforced with absolute impartiality.

In discussing the meeting Mayor Wright declared that the traffic laws will be strictly enforced, and if necessary special motorcycle officers will be put on duty in the various parts of the city to apprehend offenders. It is understood that in this work the Mayor has the unanimous support of the members of the council.

The beginning of the crusade against traffic law violators was fixed for tomorrow in order that some warning might be given to motor car drivers.

OBITUARY

Matthew Franken

Matthew Vernon Franken, 44, Luverne, died peacefully on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at his home.

In accordance with Minnesota Executive Order and CDC guidelines, a private family visitation was held. A ceremony to celebrate Matt's life will be at a later date.

Matthew Franken was born on March 16, 1976, to Larry and Pamela (Harnack) Franken at the Luverne Community Hospital in Luverne. He was raised in Luverne and attended Luverne Public Schools, graduating from Luverne High School in 1994. He attended Dakota State University in Madison, South Dakota, for one year. He then went to Mankato for a short time before returning home to Luverne.

Matt first worked for Skattum Confinement constructing buildings and installing equipment. He then worked at the Luverne Building Center and later joined his brother's crew at Franken Construction. Matt eventually began his own business in 2014, working as a drywall finisher.

Besides coaching hockey, which he loved, Matt played golf and was a member of the Luverne Country Club for many years. He enjoyed time with

his family and lazy lake days. His nieces enjoyed jumping on his shoulders for a good game of "chicken" at the lake. He adored those same nieces and attended their events whenever he could. Matt genuinely cared for others and was welcoming to all.

Matt is survived by his parents, Larry and Pamela (Harnack) Franken, Luverne; three siblings, Tammy Crow (son Elijah) of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Travis (Kairie) Franken (children Hailey and Erik, Kenedee, and Tiana) of Luverne, and Abbey (Ryan) Behr (daughters Payton, Tenley, and Kendyl) of Luverne; aunts Cheryl Edstrom and Karen (Dale) Bosch; uncles Bryon (Kristi) Franken, Ron (Jan) Harnack and Alan (Zoe) Harnack; and many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Howard and Wilma Franken; maternal grandparents, Vernon and Fanny Harnack; and an uncle, Gene Edstrom.

Arrangements are provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, www.hartquistfuneral.com. (0430 F)



Outdoor artistic expression at Southwest Youth Services

Southwestern Youth Services students in Magnolia enjoyed some outside fun last week first by coloring with chalk on the sidewalk to enjoy the nice weather. SYS is considered "essential" and is also operating under rigorous COVID-19 restrictions, according to SYS educator Carol Naasz. "The kids are feeling more confined than usual as all on-site family visits and occasional off-campus excursions are currently not allowed," she said. In addition to the chalk project, the group cooked hotdogs on the grill, ate watermelon and afterward played softball with staff. "It was a really enjoyable day and provided some relief for cabin fever," Naasz said. Submitted photos



Volunteers needed for statewide 'Minnesota Responds'

Partnership helps all healthcare systems with response

Minnesota Responds is a partnership of local and statewide volunteers to assist health-

care systems in emergencies that can overwhelm hospitals and clinics and improve overall response capabilities.

Minnesota Responds is recruiting medical (RNs, LPNs, CNAs) and others with medical type backgrounds, such as veterinary, dental, chiropractor and others. "Non-medical" volunteers are also needed to contrib-

ute skills and expertise during the COVID-19 crisis. We are looking for individuals that are working or retired and willing to offer assistance. An individual DOES NOT HAVE to be in the health care field. Anyone interested in helping the community is encouraged.

To register, have your personal information, licenses, certifications, competencies, and contact

information available.

Contact the volunteer coordinator, Jen Nelson, at Southwest Health & Human Services at 507-829-0227. To register online, go to mnresponds.org and click on "Register Now." For the organization information, click on the county in which you live and select SWHHS MN Responds Volunteer Group.

1877: Grasshopper scourge causes three-year lag in township organizing

Rock County will celebrate its 150th Anniversary this year. The news will be the history of Rock County, townships, and communities. The following appeared in the Rose History of Rock County, printed in 1911.

County and Township Organization — 1870-1878 (continued from 04-23 edition)

Mound

The grasshopper scourge of the early seventies had a depressing effect on the settlement of Rock county, and it was three years after the creation of Springwater township before there was any more township making. Mound township was the next to perfect an organization, and when that was done Gregory township was reduced to the three northern townships. Mound township was named in honor



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

of the vast pile of rock that lies within its boundaries and was created April 21, 1877, after considerable discussion. A petition signed by J. F. Shoemaker and twenty-one others was presented to the board April 21, asking that the board take the necessary action, and at the same time a remonstrance signed by Charles Helgeson and eighteen others was presented. After consideration the commissioners decided that the township was ready

for organization and named May 3, 1877, as the date for holding the first town meeting, which was held on the northeast quarter of section 34. Title to Mound township lands have been given by the government to the following named persons:

John F. Shoemaker (25-30), James Kelley (25-34), Cadawallader Jones (35), Miranda J. Skinner (28), Eugene A. Loomis (26), Joseph Dickson (36), Sarah McNeal (28), Tollef

O. Tollefson (12-14), Charles F. Brannick (20), Lewis A. Lewison (32), James Green, Jr. (30), Clarence E. Older (34), Nelson R. Reynolds (30), William H. Patterson (32), S. Torgeson Omas (4), Francis Brannick (20), Ben Rice (32), Lawrence McDermott (26-36), Gerald McEnery (18), William H. Glass (34), Dennis McCarthy (28), Edward E. Needham (18), John Kelley (32), George Mead (26), Henry C. Wilson (2), Halvor Larson (4), Andrew Torgeson (10), Mary Plum (24), Peder O. Froke (10), Thora Torgeson (4), Otter Knudsen (14), Anders Froke (10), Ole Olsen (12), Jens O. Plomason (2), Andrew Olsen (2), Terge Anderson (4), Andrew Erickson (26), Sven Olesen (12), Ellen Helgeson (8), Jens. O. Helgeson (8), Cadwallader J. Lynch (24), Michael McCarthy (20), Heinrich Hofelman (6),

Ole Knudson (10-14), Rasmus Halvorson (12), Dennis Denovan (22), Serat Anderson (14), William C. Davis (6), Jens Peterson (10), William Ward (34), John Green (30), Michael Chambers (22), Christopher Helgeson (8), Terence Lee (28), Frederick R. Wheareatt (22), Horace F. Kilgore (20), Andrew Olson (2), James Cady (22), Fred B. Redfield (24), Zane R. Biggs (24), Heirs of Nels Nelson (13), James C. Kelley (24), Jay R. Mason (2), Clarence A. Dike (18), Clarence B. Davis (6), Edward O. Krook (14), Lewis Wold (32).

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 manmade@iu.net.

CELEBRATIONS

Card showers

Tillie Clark will celebrate her 90th birthday on Sunday, May 3. Greetings may be sent to her at 216 N. McKenzie Street, Apt. 301, Luverne, MN 56156.

Anna Mae Ver Steeg will celebrate her 95th birthday on Thursday, April 30. Greetings may be sent to her at 203 Oak Drive, #223, Luverne, MN 56156.

READ THE NEWS
ONLINE!

Star Herald

MENU

Monday, May 4: Egg bake with sausage, cheesy hash browns, green peas, coffee cake.

Tuesday, May 5: Taco salad with taco meat, cheese, salsa, shredded lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, corn chips, pineapple, churro.

Wednesday, May 6: Chicken noodle soup, candied carrots, choice fruit, dinner roll, sherbet.

Thursday, May 7: Goulash, lettuce salad, pineapple chunks, garlic breadstick, pudding.

Friday, May 8: Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, stewed tomatoes, fruit salad, bar.

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

Call Lynette Hoiland at 283-9846 to arrange to pick up a dinner or for home-delivered meals.

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

get a head start

REGISTER FOR SUMMER TERM

Over 20 years of delivering online courses.

apply for free!

SUMMER TERM STARTS JUNE 8, 2020

www.mnwest.edu • 800-658-2330

Facebook Twitter Instagram

Minnesota West COMMUNITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

A Member of Minnesota State. An affirmative action equal opportunity educator/employer.

www.star-herald.com

With over 40 years of experience Cragoe Realty is your TRUSTED name in real estate

Buying or selling real estate? You'll be SOLD on us!

606 N OAKLEY STREET LUVERNE | \$129,900

Neat two bedroom Ranch type home with double garage. This home is a corner lot. Water Softener and Water Heater stay with the house. New Furnace. Nice Deck, ABC seamless permanent siding on the house. Interior freshly painted, garage painted. This is a must see home.

FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS LOG ONTO WWW.CRAGOE.COM

From left, Renee Guy, realtor 605-359-7515
Sherri Thompson, realtor 507-227-6830
Gene Cragoe, broker/owner 507-920-8315
Emilie Boelman, administrative assistant

Cragoe Realty Selling Real Estate in the Heart of the Prairieland.

Your hometown real estate broker for over 27 years
Gene Cragoe, broker lic. in MN & SD info@cragoe.com • 507-283-2647 or 800-689-2647

Census 2020 efforts continue

Respond to Census now in order to prevent need for in-person visit later; deadline is May 9

The U.S. Census Bureau began sending reminder notice postcards this week to roughly 69 million households that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census. About 53 percent of households across the country have already responded since invitations began arriving on March 12. Those households that have not yet responded to the census will receive an in-person visit by a census taker to collect their information later this summer.

According to the Census Bureau's online response map tracking the nation's participation in the census, almost 79 million households have already responded online, by phone or by mail.

The Census Bureau strongly encourages the public to respond online at 2020census.gov.

Households can respond online in English or 12 other languages or by phone.

Households can also respond by mail using the paper questionnaire that was recently mailed to every non-responding address.

Households that received a census invitation in the mail and have yet to respond will receive a paper questionnaire by April 30. Households will receive

another reminder postcard in the mail between April 27-May 9.

The Census Bureau pushed back this mailing to allow the paper questionnaire package to arrive several days ahead of the postcard.

The postcard is one reminder in a series of reminders that the Census Bureau has mailed non-responding households since mid-March urging them to respond.

Census takers will visit every address that does not respond on their own to collect responses in person.

Coronavirus and the Census

- The 2020 Census is underway and the most important and safe thing you can do is respond online, by phone, or by mail. It has never been easier to respond to the 2020 Census.

- Responding now will minimize the need for the Census Bureau to send census takers out into communities to follow up with households.

Here's what to know

- The census counts every person living in the United States, regardless of age or citizenship status, every 10 years in years ending in 0.

- It's in the Constitution. It's important
- It's about money, power, and data.
- Every 10 years we help decide how taxpayer dollars come back to our communities. The 2020 Census will help to distribute billions of dollars in federal resources to your community.

- Our community gets resources based on census population counts, which help pay for hospitals, emergency services, schools, roads, and more.

- An accurate and complete census helps businesses, community leaders and elected officials make informed decisions every day.

It's easy

For the first time, people can respond online and by phone, in addition to the mail-in option. Your response impacts funding for your community for critical services for the next 10 years.

The next decennial census happens in 2030.

It's safe and confidential

Your data is protected and it's confidential. Federal law protects your responses, which cannot be shared with law enforcement, immigration agencies, or housing authorities.



Mavis Fodness photo/0430 HBC Teacher Parade

Brandi Balster drove daughters Amara (left) and Tenley into Steen Friday to view the Hills-Beaver Creek School District teachers' parade, as a light rain began to fall.

H-BC School teacher parade/

from page 1

the Zoom app. Teachers last met with students face-to-face March 16. Virtual classroom instruction began March 30.

"We tell them in Zoom meetings how wonderful it is to see their faces," Wysong said. "But there is something special about physically seeing those smiles and seeing them."

Teachers met at the secondary school in Hills, affixing signs to personal vehicles and buses. Individuals were cognizant of social distancing guidelines, staying six feet apart.

The parade was met with a rain shower through the first community.

"Even though it was raining, there was a great turnout in the city of Steen," said Superintendent Todd Holthaus at Monday's school board meeting.

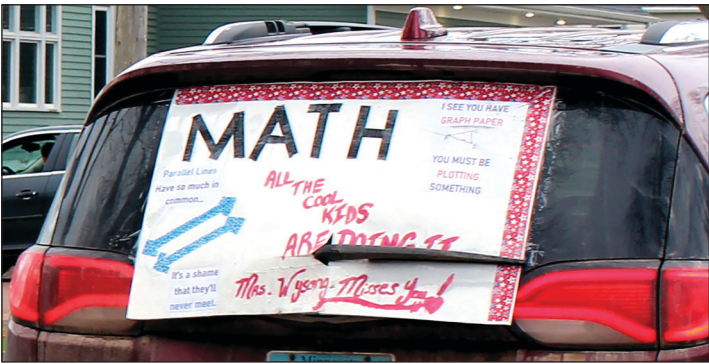
Preschool- through high school-aged students dotted the parade route that wound through Beaver Creek and ended back in Hills. Students and parents appeared on porches or along boulevards to wave and shout words of greeting as vehicles honked in return.

"I saw a lot of smiles, a lot of students I haven't seen in a while," Holthaus said. "Boy, it was good for the soul."



Special education teacher Jill Stiefvater and her daughters, Lauren (in lap) and Bryn, wave to students and parents while hanging onto the sign "We Miss You" as the teacher parade would its way through Hills and ended at the school.

At right: Secondary math teacher Nora Wysong included an inspirational sign on the back of her minivan.



Below: A Hills-Beaver Creek School District bus wraps up the teachers' parade Friday as the route winds its way through Hills.



Help your community get the funding it needs for programs and services like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, Medicaid, health clinics, education, and much more.

Complete the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail. It's easy, safe, and important.



For more information, visit: **2020CENSUS.GOV**

READ US ONLINE!
star-herald.com

Star-Herald.com

Get your Star Herald news anywhere, anytime.



Offering two ways to read online.

Read the newspaper online or browse through stories at www.star-herald.com in the **e-edition** format, available to all online subscribers at no additional cost.

Benefits for online subscribers

- Access to articles before they appear in print.
- All information from our print edition. (Plus some extra online-only content)
- News and information updated daily.
- Videos, photo galleries and columns from the Star Herald Staff.
- Easy search tool.
- Section jumps, hot links to websites and email addresses add to the overall experience.
- Print, save, or mail articles and pictures that you 'clip'.
- For 'on the go' reading, download the entire publication or specific sections to read offline.
- Set up email notifications based on keywords.



E-EDITION



BROWSER

Online Edition Subscription Rates:

\$46

per year

that's only 88¢ per week!

If you're an existing Star Herald Print subscriber:

Add the **Online Edition** for the remainder of your print subscription.

Call **507-283-2333** for information

USDA reports record enrollment in key farm safety-net programs

Producers signed a record 1.77 million contracts for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2019 crop year, which is more than 107 percent of the total contracts signed compared with a 5-year average. USDA also reminds producers that June 30 is the deadline to enroll in ARC and PLC for the 2020 crop year.

"Producers for several years have experienced low commodity prices, a volatile trade environment and catastrophic natural disasters," said Richard Fordyce, administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA). "Farmers looking to mitigate these risks recognize that ARC and PLC provide the financial protections they need to weather substantial drops in crop prices or revenues."

Producers interested in enrolling for 2020 should contact their FSA county office. Producers must enroll by June 30 and make their one-time update to PLC payment yields by Sept. 30.

FSA attributes the significant participation in the 2019 crop year ARC and PLC pro-

grams to increased producer interest in the programs under the 2018 Farm Bill and to an increase in eligible farms because of the selling and buying of farms and new opportunities for beginning farmers and military veterans with farms having 10 or fewer base acres.

USDA service centers, including FSA county offices, are open for business by phone only, and field work will continue with appropriate social distancing. While program delivery staff will continue to come into the office, they will be working with producers by phone and using online tools whenever possible.

All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with the FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency are required to call their Service Center to schedule a phone appointment. More information can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

For more information on ARC and PLC, download the program fact sheet or the 2014-2018 farm bills comparison fact sheet. Online ARC and PLC election decision tools are available at www.fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc.

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, priest

Services are live-streamed through the St. Catherine Facebook page at 9 a.m. Sundays.

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

We are streaming Sunday services live on Roger Sparks' Facebook page at 9:30 am and 6:30 pm. 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 pm on Wednesdays and at 6:30 pm 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

Sunday 10:30 a.m. worship service can be viewed live on Facebook through a link on the website: www.fbcluverne.org or directly on our Facebook page: First Baptist Church of Luverne MN. Services are posted to the website on Tuesday and are available to view, along with past sermons. Vast Channel 3 will also air our service Thursdays at 8 p.m.

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

Online, TV and Radio Worship. Pr. Ann, Pr. Ron and organist Beryl Haugen will be recording worship services until we can meet together as a group. Each week we will update our recorded1 worship. Online: Sundays at 9 a.m., our worship service can be viewed live from our website at www.graceluverne.org on the Facebook insert, 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 PM and Fridays at 6:30 PM. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 AM.

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

Online worship and devotions at home. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne). Also visit els.org for online worship opportunities with our sister churches.

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

Join us for live online worship Sundays at 9:30 AM at www.arcluverne.org/watch-live/ or on our Facebook page @arcluverne. Services can also be viewed at a later time through these same avenues. Worship services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 PM and Wednesdays at 4 PM. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

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

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

Sunday, 10 a.m. Worship Service — live streamed. **Thursdays 1-3 pm** — Rock County Food Shelf curbside. **Saturday 8 pm** — AA Meeting. **Sunday 10:30 am** - Worship Service - Services held on radio and live on Facebook. YouTube will also have services posted. ALIVE Youth Group lessons will led by areas leader as shared. **Monday 8 pm** — AA Meeting. **May 6 Wednesday, 6 pm** - Last Day of FUEL and Confirmation. **8 pm** — AA Meeting.

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

Jason Cunningham, Pastor
Worship through Facebook Live at regular 10:15 time on Sunday morning. 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
Gary Klatt, Pastor

Sunday Morning Service will be recorded at 5:30 p.m. with necessary personnel and will be available on the Vast channel 3 Tuesday at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and online at the chamber website. Pastor Klatt is available for family visits in their homes by invitation or at church for groups of less than 10 for the purpose of worship and prayer.

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

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

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

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

First Lutheran Church
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.
Ph. (605) 757-6662
Laura Phillips, Pastor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 962-3270

Maggie Berndt-Dreyer, Pastor

Worship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills will be online only through the end of March. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills MN Sunday morning at 10:30AM. 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

Jesus' resurrection brings light, hope

(Read John 20:19-22, Luke 24:13-35)

A few weeks ago the coronavirus crisis came upon us with a sudden rash of closings and life changes. Much confusion ensued, and several people I knew seemed to be panicking.

As this unfolded over several days, I started to think about a passage from J.R.R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

There is a place deep into the story when Hobbit Sam is wondering what the future holds:

"There, peeping among the cloud-wrack ... Sam saw a white star twinkle for a while. The beauty of it smote his heart, as he looked up out of the forsaken land, and hope returned to him. For like a shaft, clear and cold, the thought pierced him that in the end the Shadow was only a small and passing thing: there was light and high beauty forever beyond its reach."

Tolkien was a Christian and the themes of hope and light overcoming despair and darkness permeate his most famous work.

At this same time, we are passed Easter Sunday and the celebration of Jesus' resurrection from the dead — the event that is the foundation of our Christian faith and our ultimate source of hope.

Easter was very strange this year. Most years the church is full and the worship electric. This year I preached to an empty sanctuary for our video recording.

On top of this, Easter Day brought a blizzard, the first time that has happened during my 20 years as a pastor. It could have been easy to lose hope.

The Christian church has long spoken of an "Easter season" or "Great Fifty Days" that stretches from Easter Day until Pentecost. Augustine once referred to this as the season of "Alleluia" and it's a time when the stories of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances to his followers are read and freshly considered.

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Jason Cunningham, First Presbyterian Church, Luverne

As I've been reading these passages and preaching on them, I have been freshly impressed by how they speak of light piercing darkness and hope defeating despair.

Take, for example, the disciples of Jesus hiding out in fear in John 20. Risen Jesus enters this atmosphere of despair and says to his disciples, "Peace be with you!" (John 20:19-22).

Or consider what happens in Luke 24. Two followers of Jesus are walking on a road from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus discussing their disappointment about the death of Jesus. A stranger starts walking with them and begins a conversation. The two followers of Jesus express how their hope had been shattered when Jesus died. That stranger turns out to be Jesus who explains what the Scriptures say about the Messiah: that he would be crucified, and die, and RISE AGAIN! In the end, those two followers of Jesus come to a sudden recognition that they are in the very presence of the Risen Christ. As a result, their hearts are lifted.

Reading these stories over again can lift our hearts.

These are challenging and heavy times, but I believe that this shadow is a thing that will pass and that there is light and high beauty beyond its reach. In the Christian church, the resurrection of Jesus and our ongoing realizations about what that means give us a source of light and hope.

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

Call Rick or Chantel to place your ad!

283-2333

Read us online!

Rock County
STAR HERALD
www.Star-Herald.com

Trust in Him



Papik Motors
283-9171
PAPIK.COM
Luverne, MN
Rock Rapids, IA

HSS HILLS STAINLESS STEEL & EQUIPMENT CO., INC.
506 W. Koehn, P.O. Box 987, Luverne, MN
PHONE 507-283-4405
Church is Important - Please Attend!

Buffalo Ridge Insurance
507-283-2381 www.buffaloridgeins.com E-mail: info@buffaloridgeins.com

McClure Electric
Alan M. Aanenson, owner
Farm, Home & Commercial Wiring
Luverne, MN Phone 507-283-4716

TUFF MEMORIAL HOME
A HOME WITH A HEART!
Hills, MN • 507-962-3275

MINNWEST BANK
116 East Main Street • Luverne • 507-283-2366
Hwy. 75 • 800 South Kniss • Luverne • 507-283-9131
www.minnwestbank.com • Member FDIC • MoneyLine 888-616 BANK

Advertise Here

SECURITY SAVINGS BANK
bankwithssb.com 507.449.6000
Member FDIC Luverne, MN

HARTQUIST
Funeral and Cremation Services
Pipestone • Luverne • Lake Benton • Jasper • Tyler
www.HartquistFuneral.com

Pizza Ranch
110 E Main, Luverne 507-283-2379

CWG Business Insurance.
Tri-State Region Period!

MANLEY
Manley Minnesota
1-800-615-3704
Open six days a week - Closed on Sundays
To God be the Glory.

Luverne ANNOUNCER

First Farmers & Merchants
303 E. Main, Luverne, MN
507-283-4463
www.ffmbank.com
We believe in you.™
Member FDIC. And the community.

Summons for an adverse claims action

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF ROCK

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Case Type: Quiet Title

Henry W. Wallin
Plaintiff,

vs.

Carol L. Bernardin and any
unknown Personal Administrators,
successor Personal Administrators,
heirs, successors and assigns of the
above Defendant and all
unknown persons claiming any
right, title, estate, interest or lien
in the real estate described
in the Complaint herein,

Defendants

SUMMONS

Court File No 67- CV-20-71

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney an Answer to the Complaint which is herewith served upon you within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

That this action involves the determination of title to the following described premises, located in Rock County, to wit:

The South Four (S.4) feet of Lot Four (4) of Lot Five (5), in Block Ten (10), of Original Plat of the City of Hills, Minnesota, subject to easements of record, if any.

The object of this action is to determine the adverse claim of said Defendants and each of them in or to the hereinbefore described real estate, and to obtain judgment that the Plaintiff is the absolute owner in possession of said real estate, and that none of said defendants have any right title, estate, lien or interest whatsoever in or to said real estate, or any part thereof.

Dated: March 6, 2020

/s/ Glen A. Petersen I.D. #290506
Glen A. Petersen
Petersen Law Office PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiffs
225 N. Tyler St., PO Box 671
Tyler, MN 56178
Telephone: (507) 247-5515
(04-23, 04-30, 05-05)

City of Luverne filing for candidacy opens May 19

NOTICE OF FILING

AFFIDAVIT OF CANDIDACY FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS CITY OF LUVERNE, MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that filings for office of Mayor and Council Members open May 19, 2020, and shall close June 2, 2020 at 5 o'clock p.m. Filings or other questions should be addressed to the City Clerk, City Offices, 305 E. Luverne Street, P O Box 659, Luverne, Minnesota, 56156. Telephone 449-9898.

Any qualified and eligible person may file an Affidavit of Candidacy individually, or an application signed by at least five voters may be filed on behalf of and accepted by a qualified and eligible person.

The offices to be elected for which filings are open are as follows:

Mayor - 1 (4-year term)
(North) Ward I Alderman - 1 (4-year term)
(South) Ward II Alderman - 1 (4-year term)

Jessica Mead,
City Clerk
(04-30)

ISD #2184 School Board meets March 26

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2184, ROCK COUNTY, LUVERNE, MINNESOTA.

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, ISD #2184, was held via "Zoom" from the District Office on March 26, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Katie Baustian, Jodi Bosch, Colleen Deutsch, Eric Hartman, Tim Jarchow, Shelley Sandbulte, and Reva Sehr. Absent: none Also present: Craig Oftedahl, Marlene Mann, Jason Phelps, Stacy Gillette, Ryan Johnson, Jordan Winter, Dave Mulert – ICS Construction, Jeff Weber, Caroline Thorson, Tom Rops, Austin Maxwell, April Wallace, Jason Berghorst, Marie Atkinson-Smeins, Amanda Fields, Courtney Graanstra, Diane Kindt, Becky Rahm, Kari Lais, Peter Janiszkeski, and Mavis Fodness – Rock County Star Herald.

Chairperson Bosch called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. It was noted there is an addendum to the agenda. Motion made by Baustian, second by Deutsch, to approve the agenda with addendum. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Sehr, Jarchow, Bosch and Sandbulte. Those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Administrative reports were given.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Sehr, to approve the February 27 and March 19, 2020, school board minutes as presented. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Sehr, Jarchow, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Superintendent Oftedahl and Dave Mulert with ICS gave a building project update.

Business Manager Marlene Mann reviewed the school district bills. The Student Activity check register and the Construction Account check registers were presented. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Jarchow, to approve payment of the bills as presented in the amount of \$1,369,280.28.

Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Hartman, second by Deutsch, to receive the Student Activity report showing the balances as of February 29, 2020. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: None. Motion carried.

The revised 2019-2020 budget was not presented. Business Manager Marlene Mann did submit a report showing the expenditures and revenues to date. This will be tabled to a later meeting.

Motion made by Hartman, second by Sehr, to approve the following SW/WC Service Cooperative Contracts for 2020-2021:

Membership Agreement - \$0.00
Health and Safety Management Assistance - \$3,206.06
Regional Management Information Services - \$22,518.50
Basic Technology Services - \$2,200.00
E-Rate Coordination Services - \$2,850.00
Special Education Services - \$164,468.29
Total - \$195,242.85

This reflects an increase of \$2,326.78. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: None. Motion carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Deutsch, to approve the purchase of two Thomas school buses through the State Contract. Cost for each bus is estimated at \$99,000.00. Two buses will be traded-in. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, and Sandbulte. Those who voted against: None. Motion carried.

It was noted that item 8.7 –Weight Room Equipment Quote would be tabled. We have not received the second quote from Gopher Sport.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Baustian, to approve the Licensed Seniority List. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Deutsch, to approve Connor Hoffman as volunteer baseball coach. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Sandbulte, second by Jarchow, to approve Jeremy Olson as volunteer softball coach. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Hartman, second by Deutsch, to accept the retirement of Cathy Mulder, Elementary Cook, effective at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Sehr, to accept the resignation of Greg Antoine as Head Boys Tennis coach effective at the end of the 2019-2020 season. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Hartman, to approve the hiring of Jon Schomacker as Summer Recreation Coordinator for a salary of \$9,000. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Sehr, to accept the resignation of Brian Snyders as MS Football coach effective March 19, 2020. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Hartman, second by Sehr, to approve the hiring of Joel Evans as MS Football coach effective with the 2020-2021 school year. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Hartman, to accept the retirement of Sue Hup, Elementary teacher, effective May 27, 2020. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Sehr, to approve the hiring of Joan Goebel as long-term paraprofessional substitute for the remainder of the school year. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

It was noted that we have received the Notice of Intent to Negotiate from both AFSCME 2558E (paraprofessional/admin. assistant/food service) and AFSCME 2558F (custodian).

There were no committee reports. The upcoming meeting dates were reviewed. Motion made by Jarchow, second by Deutsch, to adjourn the meeting. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Hartman, Jarchow, Sehr, Sandbulte and Bosch. Those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Date: March 26, 2020

Tim Jarchow,
Clerk
(04-30)

Public hearing set for May 12

CITY OF LUVERNE

COUNTY OF ROCK

STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON VACATION OF A PORTION OF AN ALLEYWAY PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUTE §412.851

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the City Council on the 12th day of May, 2020, in the Council Chambers of City Offices located at 305 East Luverne Street, Luverne, Minnesota 56156, at 5:00 p.m., or by telephone or electronic means according to MS §13D.021 due to the COVID-19 health pandemic.

The public hearing is to consider the vacation of a portion of the North-South alley of Block 27 in Van Eps and Vary's Addition, City of Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota.

A complete copy of the legal description is available for inspection by any person during business hours in the office of the City Clerk, 305 East Luverne Street, Luverne, Minnesota. Due to the COVID-19 health pandemic, please call the City Clerk's Office at 507-449-9898 to schedule an inspection, or request an email copy at jmead@cityofluverne.org. Published upon order of the City Council of Luverne, Minnesota.

City of Luverne, Minnesota
By /s/ Jessica Mead
City Clerk
(04-23, 04-30)

County property tax abatement hearing May 5

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing is hereby scheduled at 9:10 a.m. on May 5, 2020, on (4) proposed property tax abatement requests from the following individuals, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 469.1813 and 116J.993 through 116J.995 consisting of new home construction with following locations:

Applicant	Legal Description	Estimated Abatement Value
Tyson & Jenna Metzger	Lot 9, Block 3, Spring Brook Addition, City of Beaver Creek	\$4,091
Dianne & Elbert Lee West Jr.	Lot 15, Block 3, Spring Brook Addition, City of Beaver Creek	\$2,710
Ronald & Cheryl Hup	Lot 7, Block 3, Park View First Addition; City of Hills	\$3,170
Greg & Erica Kracht	A tract of land in 30-012N-44; Magnolia Township	\$9,525

It has been proposed that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Rock grant a Property Tax Abatement on these properties in an amount not to exceed 100 percent (%) of the County's portion of the real estate taxes related to new residential home construction on the subject properties for a period not to exceed five (5) years.

This Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed Property Tax Abatement as required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.1813, subdivision 5. The proposed abatement percentage and terms may be modified at the public hearing.

If you wish to offer comment relative to the public hearing being held, we ask you to submit a comment by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 4th. Comments can be submitted in writing to the Rock County Administrator's Office; PO Box 509; Luverne, Minnesota, or submitted by e-mail to: kyle.ldre@co.rock.mn.us

Due to restricted access to all county buildings for compliance of the COVID-19 we are providing live access to the meeting through a teleconferencing service; meeting access can be found at www.co.rock.mn.us

Kyle Oldre,
County Administrator
(04-30)

Luverne EDA public hearing set for May 11

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

LUVERNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing has been called and will be held for the Luverne Economic Development Authority, on Monday, the 11th of May, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. to consider public input regarding the sale of a Lot 1, Special Industry Second Addition, in the City of Luverne, Minnesota to John M. LeBrun. The meeting and public hearing will be held by telephone pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.021 in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

Members of the Economic Development Authority will participate by conference call pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021. Any person wishing to monitor the meeting from a remote location is encouraged to contact EDA Director Holly Sammons no later than 7:30am on Monday, May 11, 2020 for instructions on how to access the conference call line. Any citizen may also submit written questions or comments prior to the hearing by addressing them to the Economic Development Director, PO Box 659, Luverne, MN 56156-0659.

Questions about this meeting may be directed to EDA Director Holly Sammons at 507-920-9772 or hsammons@cityofluverne.org

BY ORDER OF THE LUVERNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Patrick Baustian, President
Luverne Economic Development Authority
305 E. Luverne St.
Luverne, MN 56156
Phone: 507-449-2388

(04-30)

Rock County Highway Department seeks bids by May 11

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS C. P. 067-401-021

Sealed proposals will be received by the Rock County Highway Department at Luverne, Minnesota until 11:00 A.M. on Monday, May 11, 2020.

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 19, 2020, at the regular Board of Commissioners Meeting held in the Law Library at the Rock County Courthouse.

The Quantities of Work are: 2,830 gals of 4" ReflectORIZED Edgeline Pavement Marking Paint – White & 1,440 gals of 4" ReflectORIZED Centerline Pavement Marking Paint – Yellow.

Plans, specifications, and proposals may be viewed, and downloaded at www.questcdn.com and at the Rock County Highway Department website, www.co.rock.mn.us/highway.

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 067-401-021".

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
(04-16, 04-23, 04-30)

Read the Public Notices online
www.star-herald.com
DEADLINE FOR LEGALS is
MONDAY @ 10 a.m.

LAWN & GARDEN

Lawn Care: Lawn aerating, garden tilling, mowing, thatching, lawn edging, hedge trimming; and other odd jobs. Free estimate, 507-227-2445. (4.25-5.14)

MISCELLANEOUS

HAVE A UNIQUE SERVICE OR BUSINESS? Get the word out to over 1.4 million households. Call WIDE AREA CLASSIFIEDS today, 507-359-7326. (tc)

CARDS OF THANKS

The family of Arnold Callsen would like to thank all who had a part in caring for Arnie during his illness and at the time of his passing. Your thoughts, prayers and acts of kindness were deeply appreciated during this difficult time.

Judy Callsen and family
(4.25-4.30)

The family of Larry Tweet would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers, sympathy cards, phone calls, text messages, food, flowers, memories and stories during our time of sorrow. A special thanks to the Hardwick American Legion and Gary Reker for giving him a military funeral. Hartquist Funeral Home and all of the caring people at Grace Lutheran Church. Larry will truly be missed.

Sincerely,

Roger and Barb Tweet

Paul Tweet

Tonya Larsen

Mark Tweet

Leroy and Sue Tweet

Kayla Richter

Arica Tweet

Melissa Tweet

(4.25-4.30)

FOR SALE

For Sale: 1997 Mercury Villager. It's a runner with minimal rust. \$250 or best offer. Call 507-227-5919. (4.25-5.14)

FOR SALE

For Sale: Landscaping rock 1.5 and 3/4-inch rock. Also do stump grinding. Call Wayne Biever Construction, 507-227-4521 or 507-283-4614. We also have yard dirt. (4.25-5.14)

RENTALS

For Rent: Two-bedroom house for rent in Luverne. Call 507-215-2619. (tc)

FOR RENT

2 & 3 Bedroom Townhome
* Available Immediately
* One-stall Garage
* Updated Amenities
* Quiet Neighborhood
* \$750 (2 bed)/\$825 (3 bed) /month. Utilities OYO
Call Schomacker's 507-227-2183 for showings.

RENTALS

For Rent: Two-bedroom house available now. Stove and refrigerator furnished. No smoking, no pets. Call 507-283-4095 or 507-290-1948. (4.30-5.16)

Oakwood Apartments

401 Oak St., Ellsworth

• 1 Bedroom Unit Available

Unit Available
Cable, Water, Sewer & Garbage Included.
Rent Based on Income
AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY
Van Binsbergen & Associates, Inc.
320-269-6640 ext. 13
Equal Housing Opportunity

www.vanbllc.com



EMPLOYMENT

The City of Hills is taking applications for a part-time seasonal maintenance position. Must be 18 or older to apply. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Contact the Hills City Office at 301 South Main Avenue or call 962-3290 to request an application. (4.16-5.2)

Interested in
Advertising
in the Classifieds?
IT'S EASY!
Call
283-2333

EMPLOYMENT

SEASONAL PUBLIC WORKS WORKER

The City of Luverne is seeking applicants for the 2020 summer season in the Public Works Department. Job duties include various types of manual labor and operation of light equipment in the maintenance of City streets, parks, and landscaping. These are seasonal positions and not intended to last beyond late summer or early fall.

Desirable qualifications: Valid Class D driver's license, building or grounds maintenance experience and good driving record. Pay will be based on experience and qualifications; min. \$11.73/hr. Applications will be accepted until positions are filled, first review date May 8, 2020. Application packets are available online at www.cityofluverne.org or from City Clerk Jessica Mead at City Offices, 305 E. Luverne Street, PO Box 659, Luverne, MN 56156 (507) 449-9898. EOE.

Luverne
MINNESOTA
Love the life!



mcAn

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



EMPLOYMENT

FULL-TIME SCHOOL COUNSELOR

KMS Public Schools - August 2020. Qualifications: Current Minnesota Licensure. Apply online: www.kms.k12.mn.us; Attach: letter of interest, resume, three letters of recommendation, transcripts and copy of license.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER OPENING

KMS Public Schools - August 2020. Qualifications: Current Minnesota Licensure. Apply online: www.kms.k12.mn.us; Attach: letter of interest, resume, three letters of recommendation, transcripts, copy of license.

SEED/FEED/GRAINS

PROTECT YOUR YIELD

from soybean white mold and SDS. Ask your seed dealer for Heads Up® Seed Treatment. Cost-effective. Proven results. headsupt.com/plant20 or 866/368-9306

ONLY \$279 to reach a statewide audience of 1.7 million readers!!! **1-800-279-2979**

WANTED TO BUY

WANTED: ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES

Running or not. Titled or not. Prices will fall soon. Sell now while prices are high! Call Dan at 612/720-2142

NEED SOME CASH!

Sell us your unwanted gold, jewelry, watches & diamonds. BBB A plus rated www.GetGoldGeek.com/mnna Request your 100 percent free, no risk, no strings attached appraisal kit. Call Gold Geek today: 844/467-0301

MISCELLANEOUS

DISH NETWORK \$59.99

For 190 channels! Add high speed internet for only \$19.95/month. Call today for \$100 gift card! Best value & technology. Free installation. Call 855/562-4309 (some restrictions apply)

DONATE YOUR CAR

truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 844/220-9501

MISCELLANEOUS

MOBILEHELP

America's premier mobile medical alert system. Whether you're home or away. For safety and peace of mind. No long term contracts! Free brochure! Call today! 855/610-5151

AT&T WIRELESS

Two great new offers! Ask how to get the new iPhone 11 or Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e on us with AT&T's Buy one, Give One offer. While supplies last! Call 855/332-0464

ENJOY 100% PERFECTLY TENDER

and guaranteed! 20 main courses plus get 4 free burgers. Order the Butcher's Bundle - only \$69.99. Call 844/331-1614 mention code: 61086TVG or visit www.omahasteaks.com/dinner397

DIRECTV

Switch & save! \$39.99/month. Select all-included package. 155 channels. 1000s of shows/movies on demand. Free Genie HD DVR upgrade. Premium movie channels, FREE for 3 months! Call 877/350-0094

READ THE STAR HERALD FOR FREE ONLINE!



With coronavirus information changing daily, news is too important not to share. So, we're offering it for free at www.star-herald.com. We'll continue to print as long as presses keep running, but we're committed to connecting our community whether in ink or online.

ORDER YOURS TODAY!

Order before May 6th

Call Quality Printing 507-283-1718

or Go to this link

<https://qualityprinting.presswise.com/catalog/?g=11&y=1057>

When we feel like we can do nothing else during this Pandemic WE CAN SHARE GRATITUDE.

\$20 each



Display a sign of gratitude for your community and people who are doing what we are called to do during this difficult time.

\$5 of every sign will go to support the Community Crisis Fund at the Luverne Area Community Foundation, established to support the organizations that will help our friends and neighbors in need.

Signs of Gratitude Campaign Sponsored by:



Luverne Area Community Foundation



QUALITY PRINTING
PAPER, SIGNS & PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

SIGNS OF GRATITUDE

SUPPORTING EACH OTHER THROUGH GOOD TIMES AND BAD.
WE WILL GET THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS SUPPORTING EACH OTHER.

Circle of friends before
the Coronavirus



Circle of friends today



205 E WARREN ST, LUVERNE, MN 56156

We want to thank our customers for their patience,
loyalty, and continued support.
To our Staff, words cannot describe my appreciation
for your dedication to serving our customers.
- Jason Oye

A note from Mayor Patrick T. Baustian *We're All in This Together*

From our community health care professionals:

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) now recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies) especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. If you are not having any symptoms and are going out in public, wearing a cloth face covering will help you from spreading any infection. If you do wear a cloth face covering, the CDC notes it is important to wash it every day to get rid of any trapped viruses or bacteria.

Everyone can work to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your elbow or sleeve, or a tissue and then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands afterwards.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom or before eating. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your face – especially your eyes, nose and mouth – with unwashed hands.
- Stay home if you have cold- or flu-like symptoms, for seven days after your illness onset or three days after your fever resolves without fever reducing medicine, and avoid close contact with people who are sick.

City parks are
now open!
Please continue
to follow
social distancing
protocol.

*Mask manufacturing and
needs in the community:*

Currently between Barb Bork and her Sewing Basket sewers, St John's Lutheran Church, and many other individual community sewers, more than 1000 cloth masks have been made and handed out to organizations in the health care field or educational field in Rock County. If you know of anyone in need of cloth masks please let either Barb Bork know at (507) 227-1589 or myself at 507-920-7406. We have more masks coming in so please let us know if you can use some and we'll get them to you.

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

Help US keep YOU informed!

The City of Luverne occasionally needs to contact customers with important notifications. Please provide contact information so you will receive notifications about City services. You may receive automated messages about changes in City Operations including the City Offices, Liquor Store, Pool & Fitness Center, Refuse and Recycling pickup, Electric, Water & Sewer services as well as temporary water shutoffs, planned electric outages and other important messages. Please update your contact information by completing the online form at www.cityofluverne.org/info.

For Minnesota-specific information on the virus, along with resources about keeping yourself and those around you safe, the MDH <https://www.health.state.mn.us/> website has everything you need. Otherwise, read more from the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/> on how to stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Mayor Patrick T. Baustian
Luverne
MINNESOTA
Love the life!

