



Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, July 1, 2021

Luverne’s Fourth of July celebration returns to The Lake

Inflatables, face painting, bean bags and fireworks, ‘Foam Dance Party,’ Hula Hoop contest are new

By **Lori Sorenson**

Luverne’s Fourth of July celebration returns to The Lake this weekend with all the classic holiday attractions, including free inflatables, face painting, a bean bag tournament and fireworks.

The Davis Lake Triathlon includes team and individual competition with a Minnow Race. There’s also a 3-mile kayak, 2-mile bike and 1-mile run and a 5-mile kayak, 7-mile bike and 2-mile run. New this year will be Hula

Hoop Contest and “Zero Gravity Foam Dance Party.” There will be bingo under a tent, a food court and beer garden with food and beverages from local bars and restaurants. Stories from the Grave will

tour three cemeteries on golf carts (call the Chamber for reservations) leaving from Maplewood Cemetery starting at 9 a.m. Ron and Jane Cote will perform a “Freedom Concert” on the courthouse lawn from 5 to 8 p.m.

The fireworks will begin at 10 p.m. with bleachers available at The Lake. Details can be found on the back page of this paper and at the Chamber website, www.luvernechamber.com or by calling 507-283-4061.

Resource officer talks move forward

By **Mavis Fodness**

Luverne School District may work with the Rock County Sheriff’s Office and the city of Luverne for a school resource officer.

Total cost for an officer, equipment and vehicle is estimated at \$98,000. The district, city of Luverne and sheriff’s office would each pay a third of the costs.

Sheriff Evan Verbrugge presented the costs and ideas for the program to Luverne school board members at their June 24 meeting.

Verbrugge cited city park vandalisms last December by high school students as an issue that could have been solved more quickly if a school resource officer had been available.

An officer could also work with the school on truancy cases, thefts, assaults, harassing communications and bullying.

The DARE program at the elementary could resume and ALICE program (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) could have support instruction.

Building community relations within the schools would also be a priority for the school resource officer, Verbrugge said.

“Law enforcement should be talking with these kids and educating them on what law enforcement relationships should be between the two of them and reaction with one another,” he said.

At their June 10 workshop, board members discussed how the officer would fit into an educational setting.

The board voted unanimously at their June 24 meeting to move forward with a school resource officer.

Board member Jeff Stratton, who is a Rock County deputy

Resource officer/see page 14



Local pilot Rick Wenzel flies over Hardwick’s Main Street Saturday during the Jubilee Days Parade.

Mavis Fodness photos/0701 Jubilee Days 2021

Hardwick gets blue skies, sunshine for Jubilee Days

With rain showers occurring most of the morning and early afternoon, the weather turned sunny Saturday afternoon in time for Jubilee Days in Hardwick. The annual celebration featured a community dinner and adult and children’s activities. The parade, however, took center stage, with community members enthusiastically attending and participating in the event that was canceled during the pandemic.

At right, Joseph Bullerman gestures, “Look, Mom, no hands!” as he rides with Dean Wenzel pulling a float for the Hardwick Zion Lutheran Church.

Below right, Linda DeSplinter celebrates Green Lantern’s “Burger Battle” win by handing out candy Saturday night during the Jubilee Days parade in Hardwick.

Below left, Genesis Roos waves to the crowd during the parade.



City buys more lots

By **Lori Sorenson**

Luverne City Council members met in closed session Tuesday, June 22, to discuss the purchase of a residential lot on East Maple Street.

They approved \$108,600 to buy the property at 315 East Maple Street from the Pam Bode estate.

The council intends to move the house and garage at a later date to 115 West Warren Street, which the city bought in 2018 for \$35,000 from James Mehlhaff.

The lot was cleared and prepared to sell as future residential housing, and mov-

ing the Bode house and garage would fit the city’s intent for that parcel.

Meanwhile, the Maple Street purchase means the city owns all but one parcel on the south half of that block — Clint Mulford’s property on Spring Street.

The city bought the others as follows:

- 319 East Maple St. from Adam Smetsrud for \$15,000 in 2019.
- 321 East Maple St. from Clint Gehrke for \$6,000 in 2019.
- 313 East Maple St. from Chase and Ray Mangel for

City buys lots/see page 2

Noon closed for grades 9, 10

By **Mavis Fodness**

Luverne ninth- and 10th-graders will spend noon breaks on campus this fall, as the new school commons allows for greater seating capacity.

School Board members at their June 24 meeting voted unanimously to close the noon lunch period for freshman and sophomore students beginning the 2021-22 school year.

Juniors and seniors will still be allowed to leave the school campus during their lunch.

Sheriff Evan Verbrugge supported a closed noon hour for all students to curb excessive vehicle speeds in the school

parking lot and on Highway 75.

“It is not as bad now as when we had the four lanes (on Hwy. 75). Before, it was a race track to ... where they were going,” he said.

Board members supported revoking a junior or senior student’s open lunch period privileges if abused.

Incoming senior class president Griffen Jarchow shared results from students who recently completed a school lunch survey.

He said students are encouraged that more food choices are a possibility in the new kitchen.

“They will be willing to stay if the food is higher in both quality and quantity,” he said.

Mann retires

By **Mavis Fodness**

Luverne School Board members applauded retiring business manager Marlene Mann at their June 24 meeting for her dedication to the district.

“She has done a remarkable job for the Luverne School District for 55 years,” said Superintendent Craig Oftedahl.

“She has been an integral force in creating a stable financial picture for this district. It has been an honor to work with such a loyal and

Mann retires/see page 5



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School employees get wage increases

By Mavis Fodness
Luverne School Board members increased the salaries of supervisory and exempt employees at a special June 10 meeting. Superintendent Craig Oftedahl conducted evaluations with each of the positions. For three employees, he recommended a per-month raise while recommending two other positions be compensated for added duties.
“I didn’t want to do everyone at 3 percent,” he said.
District Food Service Director Ann Rigney received the largest increase based on her performance and the addition of 20 days to her contract.
For the added time Rigney will set up the new middle-high school kitchen and prepare food selections for up to five service lines planned for the 2021-22 school year.
Her salary was \$37,738 for 2020-21 and will now increase to \$44,512 for the

2021-22 school year.
Technology coordinator Wade Hiller will receive an increase of \$3,995 based on added duties created during distance learning and upcoming one-to-one technology for elementary through high school students.
His salary was \$76,005 for the 2020-21 school year and will be \$80,000 for 2021-22.
Three employees received salary increases of \$100 per month for the 2021-22 school years:
•Business manager Marlene Mann, \$84,205;
•Administrative assistant/payroll Brenda Teal, \$54,442;
•Transportation supervisor Brad Goembel, \$65,891.
Board members accepted Oftedahl’s recommendations. Board member Katie Baustian was absent.
The board also approved hiring Stacey Thone as a sixth-grade teacher for a salary of \$42,417.



Mavis Fodness photo/0701 School Build Last Panel

Last piece of the construction puzzle in place at school

Gil Haugen Construction workers maneuver the final 55-foot precast wall panels into place Tuesday morning, June 22, fully enclosing the Luverne Middle-High School performing arts center. Once in position, the 53,000-pound panel was welded into place and the seams caulked. Finishing work now begins on the construction project, including the performing arts center floor, and auditorium seating is expected to be finished at the end of this month.

Property values dip below \$3 billion in county for first time in five years

Gevo market value dips 27-percent, reducing county tax revenues by \$107,000 in 2022

By Mavis Fodness
Rock County’s largest taxpaying company, Gevo Inc., received a \$3.2 million drop in market value, according to information presented at the annual board of appeals and equalization meeting on June 22.
The meeting is the final local appeal option for property owners who question the assessed value of their homes, land or

buildings.
The 2021 market value is used to determine property tax amounts paid in 2022.
No one from the public attended the county’s appeal hearing Tuesday night.
Assessor Tom Houselog outlined the positive and negative changes in property values, which are primarily based on sales occurring between

Oct. 1, 2019, and Sept. 20, 2020.
At an overall value of \$2.973 billion for 2021, the county’s overall property value totals dropped below \$3 billion for the first time in five years.
In 2020, overall value was \$3.1 billion.
The overall 4.47 percent drop is attributed to a decline in sales

Property values/see 14

Phone system switch improves Rock County 9-1-1 service

Since transfer to Alliance Communications, no emergency disruptions reported

By Mavis Fodness
Rock County recently switched to a new phone service and so far has had no issues with emergency 9-1-1 services.
Deputy county administrator Susan Skattum oversaw the transition that finished in late April.
“The E911 issues were resolved immediately once the call paths were built within our network and the (phone) numbers were ported/switched carriers,” she said.
The county’s phone provider is now Alliance Communications. Previously the service was provided by Vast Broadband.
The law enforcement center on North Blue Mound Avenue was the first to be switched from the hybrid system of copper lines and fiber, Skattum said.
All of the county’s 15 departments are now entirely on the fiber network.
County commissioners supported the change from Vast Broadband to Alliance Communications in March, shortly after a problem with the copper phone connections through Vast.
The problem left the county intermittently without emergency 9-1-1 and/or administrative phone services over a two-month period.
County administrator Kyle Oldre brought the problem and potential solution to commissioners at the March 16 meeting.
“We are having a bad time with our phone system,” Oldre said. “A lot of it is out at the law enforcement center and that is a bad place to be having trouble with phones.”
On March 8 the Rock County Sheriff’s Office posted on their social media page

that the office was without administrative phone lines as well as the 9-1-1 services.
“Our 911 is being rerouted to Nobles County,” the social media post said. “They will answer and call us over the radio if it is an emergency.”
The problem was traced to the copper lines and a third-party phone company trying to transfer out-of-state calls to Rock County.
Under Alliance the phone system is entirely on the fiber network. The county now pays rent for handsets located in each office.
“At this time it is difficult to determine what the savings are as things are still changing,” Skattum said. “The biggest benefits we have seen are efficiency and quality of service.”
Since the transition the county’s number of phone lines went from 51 to 36 lines, a 70 percent reduction.
Fifteen phone lines remain with Vast for fire alarms, elevator and boiler alarm services.
In two months, Alliance technicians reduced the original 20 call paths down to 12, which are used by the 22 business numbers (office and fax numbers) and 68 phone extensions.
The rental for 68 handsets averages \$4.75 a month.
“This rental cost replaces a phone system purchase and will ensure that the equipment remains current,” Skattum said.
The county purchased the previous phone system in 2016 for \$54,500. That system used copper lines for incoming/outgoing calls and the county’s fiber network for interoffice and transfer calls.

H-BC parental interest brings after-school child care back

By Mavis Fodness
An after-school child care option returns to Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary this fall.
The H-BC School Board approved hiring a director and an assistant at their June 14 meeting.
Hourly rates were set at \$25 per hour for the director and \$20 per hour for the assistant.
The director will work with school officials to develop enrichment activities and tailor events as an extension of the school day.

With the two adult hires, the program will immediately accept 20 students and hire additional staff as demand grows.
“We’re starting small and working larger,” said Superintendent Todd Holthaus.
The yet-to-be-named program in Beaver Creek is open to the school’s kindergarten through fifth-grade students at a cost of \$10 per student per day.
The program will operate only during the school year and will not be open during early outs,

holidays, in-service or snow days.
Program hours will be after school until 5:30 p.m.
As the program begins, officials anticipate operating at a deficit, possibly losing \$12,000 in its first year.
The district last operated an after-school child care program about eight years ago.
Enrollment opens in late August ahead of the opening of the 2021-22 school year on Sept. 7.

H-BC after school/see 5

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Shining the light

*Service Over Self kids
give and receive blessing*

For the past four years, teams of Christian kids from the Luverne area have served on a weeklong, in-town mission trip doing the things locally that youth groups often travel hundreds of miles to do in other places.



THE NORTHVIEW

By Brenda Winter, columnist

*The teens politely
listened to the
woman speak.
“He was accepted to
West Point. ...
“Twenty-three days
after his high school
graduation he
was killed by a
drunk driver.”*

the new light bulbs.

She returned the blessing. “Before you go, there’s something I want to show you,” she said, returning with a faded picture of a group of high school kids.

Pointing to the tall, hand-some kid in the back row she said, “This is a high school picture of my son David and his friends from Show Choir. In high school they performed in Europe. They had so much fun.”

The teens politely listened to the woman speak.

“He was accepted to West Point. ...

“Twenty-three days after his high school graduation he was killed by a drunk driver.”

The kids looked again at the kid in the picture. Averting their eyes, they blinked back tears that were joining hers.

“I just wanted to tell you, and to ask you to tell the others, don’t drink and drive.”

They nodded.

A quiet group of kids walked back to their car and a woman in a condo stayed behind with brighter light bulbs.

Both having been blessed.

Come on, Rock County – be the leaders you’re known for being

STAR HERALD GUEST EDITORIAL

By Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian

I was recently invited, among other community leaders across the state, to be a Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Ambassador. As ambassadors, it will be our focus to promote and encourage fellow Minnesotans to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

I plan to continue communicating through the Rock County Star Herald to help inform, educate, promote and put aside any misinformation that citizens of Luverne and Rock County might have about the COVID-19 vaccine and importance of getting vaccinated.

It was March 6, 2020, that Minnesota had its first positive COVID-19 infection. On April 2, 2020, the Luverne Sanford Clinic had the Luverne community’s first COVID-19 positive infection, and on April 9, 2020, the first positive COVID-19 infection was reported in an area nursing home.

The infections of COVID-19 were on a fast and steep uphill climb. On April 8, 2020, Smithfield Foods in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, had their first COVID-19 diagnosis, and on April 15, 2020, JBS in Worthington had their first COVID-19 infection.

In September of 2020, Rock County lost its first resident to COVID-19. As you can see how fast this virus infected our area population, this was just the start of our pandemic locally.

These COVID-19 infection rates were mirrored and duplicated not only locally but nationally and across the world.

Over the past year, we had weekly Rock County partner meetings with our public health

representatives into early 2021. These meetings were pretty grim at first as infection rates and deaths were reported by local, state, national and world health officials.

These meetings were very straight-forward and informative for area elected officials, school superintendents, nursing home health care professionals and health care officials. They gave us information and direction on how to help guide our decisions as we attended with our boards via Zoom.

In Luverne we have always tried to make the best decisions at the City Council level for our community.

This last year is no different in that decisions were made in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic in trying to keep the pandemic rates under control, keeping our citizens out of the hospital, and most importantly, trying not to lose any more citizens to this deadly virus.

Losing one was enough; we lost 19 residents of Rock County to COVID-19.

The first vaccine doses were delivered to the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne on Dec. 14, 2020. Since then, vaccination clinics have been available throughout Minnesota to help any and all residents of Rock County receive their COVID-19 vaccinations.

Our current vaccination rates in Rock County are much lower than the rest of the state.

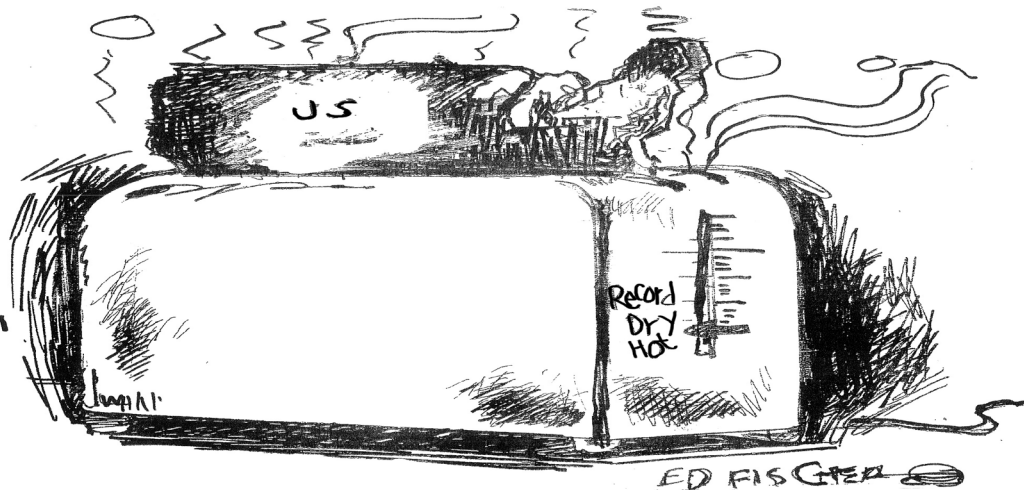
Historically our residents of Luverne and Rock County have been leaders in getting important tasks completed. One of these was the Census 2020. Luverne’s count within Rock County finished as one of the top percentages in the state. Our citizens were up to the task of being counted so as to be fully recognized for our population count.

The COVID-19 vaccine percentages for our county are a complete opposite. Statewide, over 63.5 percent of Minnesota residents are completely vaccinated, but Rock County’s vaccination rate is one of the lowest in the state at 48.9 percent!

We are normally leaders, but this isn’t the case with our COVID-19 vaccination rates.

And with the highly contagious COVID-19 Delta variant taking hold around the globe, I strongly urge all citizens of Luverne and Rock County to step up to the plate.

Be the strong leaders that you all have been as residents of Rock County for generations. You care about your businesses, your co-workers, your neighbors, and most importantly your families. Please do your part and get your COVID-19 vaccination.



Enjoy your Fourth of July; summer is just beginning

Before you know it, we’ll be hitting the unofficial midway point of summer.

I know the first day of summer was just a little over a week ago.

Yet once the Fourth of July comes and goes, we unfortunately shift our thoughts toward the dog days of August, then Labor Day, then back to school, and summer is over.

Don’t shoot the messenger, but that is the way it goes ... if you let it.

So here are a couple of ideas that have worked for me, and maybe they can help slow the passing of summer.

I just did this last week, mostly because I was too lazy to do it earlier. I finally moved our winter boots that have been sitting by our back door to the basement.



FOR WHAT IT’S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, general manager

Doing so helps me feel like winter just ended and we have the whole summer ahead of us.

Now would be a good time to start that summer diet you’ve been putting off since April. Watch a rerun of the Kentucky Derby.

Do that spring cleaning again. Wear your sandals without socks. Get your bike out of the shed and actually ride it.

Go to JJ’s and pretend it just opened

for the summer. Drink a green beer. Hand out May baskets.

You do a couple of these things and then you look at your tanless legs and you’ll think summer has just started.

If none of these helpful hints slow the summer down, try this one: Christmas is still 177 days way.

Enjoy your Fourth of July! – There is still a lot of summer fun yet to be had.

Ladd questions Star Herald COVID-19 editorial

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the “BIG thumbs up” in the June 24, 2021, edition of the Star Herald.

According to your “Covid Corner” table on page 2A, 3,637 people in Rock County have the completed series of the Covid shot. There are approximately 9,687 people living in Rock County. That pencils out to approximately 38 percent of Rock County residents having received the completed series.

I disagree with your assessment that 38 percent of fully inoculated Rock County resi-

dents is the reason life in Rock County has been able to return to “pre-pandemic normal”. There are other factors playing into this return to normalcy, such as immunity due to having had the Covid virus.

I would also like to suggest a retraction of the last sentence in the paragraph written in the “BIG thumbs up.” It may have been bold and foolish of you to assume that you possess the insight as to why Rock County residents may or may not have been part of “the effort” to return to normal. I accept your apology.

Sherri Ladd, Luverne

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ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report
June 18

- Complainant on S. Walnut Avenue reported theft.
- Complainant on W. Lincoln Street reported someone keeps throwing a ball in her yard.
- Complainant on W. Main Street requests a warrant check.
- Complainant on W. Main Street reported a vehicle repossession.
- Complainant on E. 3rd Street and Central Ave., Hills, reported a parking issue.

- June 19
- Complainant at Red-bird Field reported possible narcotic activity.
 - Complainant east-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 3, Beaver Creek, reported a possible grass fire.
 - Deputies westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 13, Luverne, assisted MSP.
 - Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported graffiti on walls.
 - Complainant west-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 6, Beaver Creek, reported vehicle without headlights on.
 - Complainant east-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 9, Luverne, reported a vehicle swerving.

- June 20
- Complainant reported a lost wallet.

- June 21
- Complainant on E. Adams, Luverne, reported a stolen vehicle at location.
 - Complainant at 41st Street and 20th Avenue, Hills, reported a grass fire.
 - Complainant north of 21st Street and 20th Avenue, Hills, reported a fire at location.

- Complainant on Highway 75 and 151st Street, Luverne, reported a bale of hay on the shoulder of the roadway.
- Complainant east-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 3, Beaver Creek, reported driver almost ran them off the roadway.

- June 22
- Complainant on S. Water Avenue, Hills, reported suspicious activity.
 - Complainant on Hawkinson Park reported vandalism at the park.
 - Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported theft from the store.
 - Complainant on 175th Street, Luverne, reported a gift card scam.
 - Complainant on 2nd Avenue, Beaver Creek, reported an incident of care-

- less driving and road rage.
- June 23
- Complainant on W. Gabrielson Road reported a possible stolen license plate.
 - Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue requested to speak to a deputy.
 - Complainant on W. Edgehill Street reported suspicious activity.
 - Complainant on State Highway 23 and 241st Street, Jasper, reported a grass fire.
 - Complainant on County Highway 4 and County Road 17, Beaver Creek, reported vehicles speeding and was almost struck.
 - Complainant west-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 5, Luverne, reported a construction barrel in lane of traffic.

- June 24
- Complainant on 120th Avenue, Luverne, reported a suspicious vehicle.
 - Complainant on N. Spring Street reported a possible leak.
 - Motorist assist on Highway 75 and 91st Street, Luverne.
 - Motorist assist on Christenson Drive and Bluemound Avenue.
- June 25
- Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported suspicious activity.
 - Complainant on 41st Street and railroad crossing, Hills, reported train blocking road.
 - Complainant on E. Howe Avenue reported damage to property.
 - Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported child locked in vehicle.
 - Complainant on Highway 23 and 181st Street, Jasper, reported a driving complaint.
 - Complainant on Interstate 90, mile marker 19, Magnolia, reported a driving complaint.
 - Complainant on S. 4th Street, Beaver Creek, requested extra patrol at location.
 - Complainant on 20th Avenue, Valley Springs, South Dakota, reported a fire at location.

- In addition, officers responded to 2 motor vehicle accidents, 1 deer accident, 9 escorts, 17 ambulance runs, 2 paper services, 2 animal complaints, 5 fingerprint requests, 4 burn permits, 1 background check, 3 gas drive-offs, 1 alarm, 3 drug court tests, 4 purchase and carry permits, 3 stalled vehicles, 7 traffic stops, 7 abandoned 911 calls, 4 tests, 3 welfare checks, 2 reports of cattle out, 1 curfew check and 2 follow-ups.



Mavis Fodness photo/0701 Officer Stearns Oath

Stearns takes service oath

Jonathon Stearns (right) repeats the service oath administered by Rock County Sheriff Evan Verbrugge Tuesday, June 22, at the evening meeting of the Rock County Commissioners. Stearns was hired as a deputy sheriff in February and recently finished field training with the local law enforcement officials. Stearns, a 2018 Luverne High School graduate, is the son of Jeff and Victoria Stearns of Luverne. He replaces Greg Lingen, who resigned in December after 22 years of service.

Library announces summer activities

The Rock County Library is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. For additional questions, contact library personnel at 507-449-5040 or rocklibrarystaff@gmail.com.

Monthly trivia nights with locally written questions are the first Thursdays of the month at Take 16 on East Main

Street in Luverne for teams of one or more individuals. No pre-registration is necessary. Library personnel conduct the event.

Story Time at the Park features songs and stories with children's library Bronwyn Wenzel each Tuesday through July at a different park in Luverne. The events begin at 10:30 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring

a chair or blanket. The schedule is:

- July 6, Evergreen Park, North Blue Mound Avenue.
- July 13, Kolbert Park, 801 W. Warren St.
- July 20, Veterans Park, 1211 N. Elm St.
- July 27, Hawkinson Park, East Adams Avenue.
- Zoom Man @ the Park takes place at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 22, at Hawkinson Park.

Marlene Mann announces retirement/from page 1

committed person.” The board approved Mann's retirement, and her last day will be July 31.

A full-time district business manager is being sought. Start date will be August.

- In other personnel matters, the board:
- accepted the resignations of Mike Wenninger as varsity baseball coach effective June 13; Kerri Baker as high school math teacher, effective June

15; Lucas Larson as junior high girls tennis coach, effective June 15; Jessica Knorr, as paraprofessional, effective June 15; and Julie Fettes as English teacher, effective June 23.

- raised the two-hour food service worker hourly rate for the 2021-22 school year to \$14.93, up from \$13.75.

- set the substitute teacher daily rate at \$130 per hour, an increase from \$126.

- increased the regular and special education

bus driver compensation by \$2 to \$97 per day and the preschool bus driver compensation by \$1 to \$48. Activities drivers remained at \$15 per hour and overnight bus drivers stayed at \$130 per day.

- hired Madeline Jenkins as speech/language teacher for a salary of \$44,385.

- approved a maternity leave request from Meghan Elgersma, special education administrative assistant, for 12 weeks beginning Aug. 31.

H-BC after school/continued from page 3

Survey reveals need for child care

Hills-Beaver Creek school officials surveyed elementary families about after-school child care options this spring.

More than half of the 66 responses indicated an interest in an after-school child care program. The majority (35 percent) of those interested had first-grade students.

In other survey findings:

- Participants would use the after-school child care at least twice a week. Twenty-eight percent indicated they would use the program five days a week.

- Cost was cited as the biggest factor that may prevent families from enrolling their children in the school's after-school program.

- Respondents indicated that the program should

focus on interaction and socialization activities (66 percent) and recreation and outdoor play (55 percent).

- Most supported paying \$50 single-child/five-days-week rate (41 percent) and the same percentage of parents supported the \$15 per day.

- The majority of the respondents (79 percent) agreed with picking up their children no later than 5:30 p.m.

H-BC decides to pay MSHL extra fees

By Mavis Fodness
The Hills-Beaver Creek School District made a final payment of \$3,156 last week to the Minnesota State High School League, ending a seven-month standoff with the non-profit interscholastic high school sports organization. The amount is in addition to a \$1,161 payment in December.

Board members were quiet before the payment was approved during their June 14 meeting.

The action reverses a resolution the board passed in December, where board members declined to pay an additional \$28.22 per student fee while larger schools paid a lower amount. H-BC proposed a more modest payment of \$1,161 because MSHSL was placing a “greater financial burden on smaller classification members.”

Representatives of the smaller classified “A” schools recently met with MSHSL officials who clarified the formula used to determine the additional payments.

They would reduce MSHSL debt and reflected students competing annually in more than one MSHSL activity offered in the winter, fall and spring each year.

Prior to the vote, director Ethan Rozeboom inquired if MSHSL officials have put plans into place to prevent falling into operating debt again. Superintendent Todd Holthaus was unaware of any solid plans to sell sponsorships to events.

Fees for the next school year won't be known until the fall. A new, possibly more equitable formula is being developed, Holthaus said.

After the meeting Holthaus said the district is paying the amount the MSHSL governing board requested last fall. That amount, \$4,317, was in addition to regular membership fees.

The extra money would assist to reduce MSHSL's operating debt. The debt was created when the coronavirus pandemic canceled the large income-generating state tournaments in 2020.

H-BC had 104 high school students during the 2020-21 school year.

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Submitted photos

Signs along the June 24 Service Over Self parade route thanked volunteers for their contributions.

Youth wrap up week of local projects

By Mavis Fodness

More than 125 local youth and adults last week volunteered with “Service Over Self,” sponsored by Rock the Edge youth group.

They completed projects such as siding homes, painting, washing windows and landscaping during the weeklong annual mission project.

“What an amazing week sharing Christ’s love with our neighbors,” said organizer Becky Ossefoort.

On Thursday afternoon, June 24, as a conclusion to the Service Over Self event, the volunteers climbed onto trailers and toured each of the work sites, finishing with a parade on Main Street Luverne.

“Those who were there to wave and cheer were amazing,” Ossefoort said.

Volunteers gave out Cups of Sunshine during the parade and to Service Over Self recipients. Inside the cups were treats and information about the youth group.

“Our little parade wasn’t out of pride, but rather showing students how the community is both behind their work and how much they appreciate what is done,” Ossefoort said.

“We feel it’s as

Above and at right: Volunteers with the Service Over Self celebrated four days of volunteer work by touring each of the completed projects and parading down Main Street Luverne Thursday afternoon, June 24.

important — if not more important — as showing our love and support when sports teams have send-offs.”

This is the fourth year for the Service Over Self event.



CELEBRATIONS

Card showers

Donna Connell will celebrate her 80th birthday on Monday, July 5. Greetings may be sent to 39767 Clearmont Rd., Battle Lake, MN 56515.

George and Donna Scholten will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Thursday, July 8. Greetings may be sent to 202 Oak Drive, Luverne, MN 56156.

Open house

Judy Ripley will celebrate her 70th birthday with a celebration from 1-3:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 10, at the American Reformed Church in Luverne.

MENU

Monday, July 5: Closed.

Tuesday, July 6: Ham pasta salad, creamy cucumbers, fresh fruit, bar.

Wednesday, July 7: Roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, California Normandy, bread, bar.

Half-Price Day sponsored by American Reformed Church.

Thursday, July 8: Sub sandwich, peas and cheese salad, fruit, cookie.

Friday, July 9—Sugar Cookie Day: Chicken alfredo, fettucine pasta, mixed vegetables, mandarin oranges, sugar cookie.

LSS Dining offers well-balanced and affordable meals.

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

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

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2011)

•The Rock County Sheriff’s Department is investigating a burglary on Main Street that occurred in the early morning hours of Sunday, June 26.

According to Sheriff Evan Verbrugge, officers were called to the Herb ’N Legend store on East Main Street at 4:40 a.m.

Employee Andrew Van Hoof, who lives in the apartment above the store, told officers he heard a crash around 4:20 a.m. He went downstairs and noticed the front door was smashed and there were rocks on the floor amid the broken glass. ...

Storeowners Terry Gray and Monty Hagedorn are still tallying their losses, but damages are estimated at several thousand dollars.

25 years ago (1996)

•New Rock County employee Doug Bos is busy learning the ropes these days.

As the assistant director of the Rock County Land Man-

agement Office, he’s handling a triple challenge. Not only is he a new employee, but he’s creating a new position as part of the new Land Management Office team. He is assistant to Director John Burgers.

50 years ago (1971)

•As of July 1, the United State Post Office Department will fade into the past after serving the country for nearly 200 years, but in its place will be a new organization, the United States Postal Service, an independent establishment of the government formed to meet the changing needs of growing society.

According to Luverne Postmaster Arlo Bierkamp, the need has come into being due to an overwhelming need to move the largest volume of mail in history over great distances more swiftly and more efficiently.

75 years ago (1946)

•Opening Laudon Drug Store in the Connell Drug Store location Monday was Curtis M. Laudon, formerly of Slayton.

The past two weeks, workmen have been engaged in remodeling the interior with the result that the store now gives the impression of having more light and greater depth. Some of the fixtures have been changed, and new ones will be installed as soon as they arrive.

Mrs. Laudon is associated with her husband in the business.

100 years ago (1921)

•A bathing pool in the city park is now an accomplished thing. It is not as large nor as elaborate as the one planned in connection with the enlarging and beautifying of the park, but it answers fairly well for the present and is, in fact, a big improvement.

The pool is located at the south edge of the park, and is particularly well designed for children. However, it is large enough to accommodate grown people also, although the depth is less than most swimmers prefer. But it is deep enough to permit the use of spring boards for diving, and is yet absolutely safe for children whether they can swim or not.

Rain revives gardener’s spirit to tackle gardening chores

We were blessed with a wonderful rain shower on Monday afternoon, and my gardener’s spirit is revived!

It is disheartening to watch the vegetable and flower crops you carefully nurtured succumb to extreme heat and drought. I am grateful!

I noticed that the slugs have arrived. I was hoping that the dry weather would have curtailed their ap-



KNOW IT AND GROW IT

By George Bonnema, Luverne Horticulturalist

pearance, but the damaged leaves on some of my hosts are evidence of their chewing activity. Slug bait pellets are very effective if you apply the product before the beauty of the leaves is destroyed.

I recommend spraying roses with a fungicide to prevent black spot which

will be showing up soon at this point in the season. Several chemicals are effective in preventing this disease, which is easy to prevent but hard to control. Applying spray to both upper and lower leaf surfaces is important.

Several perennials have finished their first bloom

It is disheartening to watch the vegetable and flower crops you carefully nurtured succumb to extreme heat and drought.

cycle. Cutting off the old flower heads will encourage a second round of flowers later in the summer. When cutting off the flower heads of roses, make the cut just above a five-leaflet leaf. The first leaves under the flower are usually three-leaflet leaves, and cutting at that

point will most often result in a stem of leaves rather than flower buds. Cut back far enough to keep the bush shaped.

This is also the right time to apply an insecticide to vining plants like pumpkins and squash that are susceptible to squash

vine borer. Apply the spray at the base of the stem just above ground level. That is where the adult lays eggs and the resulting larvae bore into the stem. The damage you will notice first is wilted leaves, at which point you have pretty much lost the battle. In a couple of weeks, the entire plant will collapse due to the feeding activity of the borer inside the vine.

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

OBITUARIES

James Sandstede

James Gilmore Sandstede, 76, Luverne, died Wednesday, June 23, 2021, at the Sanford Hospice Cottage in Luverne.

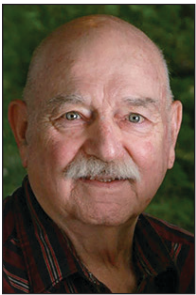
A time of fellowship was Sunday, June 27, at the Dingmann Funeral Home. A private graveside service will take place at a later date.

James Sandstede was born March 29, 1945, to Melvin and Florence (Taubert) Sandstede in Luverne. He graduated from Hills High School in 1963.

Growing up, James learned to be a mechanic from his father who owned his own full-service station in Steen.

James joined the U.S. Navy following high school graduation. He served during the Vietnam War in several positions while serving on the assigned aircraft carrier after he completed his required training. He progressed through the ranks steadily until it was time for his discharge from the service.

He was offered the opportunity for promotion to the rank of sergeant if he would stay for another tour, but he chose to take the honorable discharge and return



home. James married Geraldine Top on May 20, 1967. They had four sons, Chad, Wade, Donny and Danny, who all kept them busy and always on their toes.

James worked for Luverne Farm Store and later Ferrell Gas for many years before he started his own business. He worked for the Luverne Police Department for several years as a reserve officer.

James enjoyed racing and working on race cars for many years. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and just being outdoors. He also liked working with his hands, especially woodworking and fixing anything.

James is survived by his wife, Geraldine, of Luverne; three sons, Chad of Alaska, Wade (Kathleen) of Maple Grove and Donny (Erin) Sandstede of Luverne; and three brothers, Larry, Merlyn and Kevin Sandstede.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Danny.

Arrangements were provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Luverne, dingmannandsons.com (0701 F)

Rodney Fikse

Rodney Dale "Mac" Fikse, 61, died Saturday, June 19, 2021.

He was born Dec. 2, 1959, to Everett and Catherine Fikse. He grew up in Hills where he attended Hills Christian School through the eighth grade and graduated from Hills-Beaver Creek High School in 1978. After graduation he moved to California, where he resided until his death.

He is survived by his sib-

lings, Leroy Fikse of Artesia, California, Judy DeBondt of Bakersfield, California, Lois (Alan) Leuthold of Hills, Joni (Steve) Michael of Larchwood, Iowa; brother-in-law Harlan "Butch" Kruse of Rock Rapids, Iowa; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers Eugene, Donovan and Gary; a sister, Faith Kruse; and nephew Aaron DeBondt.

(0701 F)

Faith Kruse

Faith Lavonne Kruse, 67, Rock Rapids, Iowa, died Sunday, June 13, 2021, at her home in Rock Rapids after an eight-month battle with cancer.

A memorial service was Thursday, June 17, at the Christian Reformed Church in Rock Rapids. Burial was at the Riverview Cemetery in Rock Rapids.

Faith Fikse was born on Feb. 1, 1954, to Everett and Catherine (Proost) Fikse in Rock Rapids, Iowa. She grew up in Hills, where she attended Hills Christian School through the eighth grade and graduated from Hills-Beaver Creek High School in 1972.

Faith married Harlan "Butch" Kruse on April 19, 1975. They lived in Rock Rapids. Faith worked at K-Products from 1973 to 1999. From 1999 to 2004 she worked at the Foreign Candy Company in Hull, Iowa, and from 2004 until 2013 she was employed at Kruse Rendering.

Faith was a member of the Christian Reformed Church in Rock Rapids and was active in the VFW women's auxiliary, the American



Legion Auxiliary and was a hospice volunteer. She was known as a wonderful cook. She and her husband Butch enjoyed traveling for four winters to Texas. They also enjoyed spending time with their grandchildren and attending their events.

Faith is survived by her husband; sons Deric (Erika) Kruse of Larchwood, Iowa, and Lance (Marie) Kruse of Rock Rapids; three grandchildren, Brooklyn, Carter and Mason; her siblings Leroy Fikse of Artesia, California, Judy DeBondt of Bakersfield, California, Rodney "Mac" Fikse of Artesia, Lois (Alan) Leuthold of Hills, and Joni (Steve) Michael of Larchwood; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Eugene, Donovan and Gary Fikse; nephew Aaron DeBondt; and parents-in-law Harry and Donna Kruse.

Arrangements were provided by Jurrens Funeral Home of Rock Rapids, jurrensfuneralhome.com.

(0701 F)

DEATH NOTICES

Barbara Nelson

Barbara Emery Nelson, 79, New Hope, formerly of Luverne and Sioux Falls, died Jan. 21, 2021, at Methodist Hospital in St. Louis Park.

A memorial service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 10, at Minnehaha Funeral Home in Garretson, South Dakota.

(0701 SN)

Donald Spease

Donald Spease, 87, Luverne, died Thursday, Oct. 29, 2020, at the Parkview Manor Nursing Home in Ellsworth.

A celebration of his life will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 10, at the First Baptist Church in Luverne.

(0701 DN)



Mavis Fodness photo/0701 Splash Pad Ribbon-cutting

Beaver Creek celebrates splash pad opening with ribbon-cutting

Members of the Beaver Creek City Council, community and Luverne Area Chamber celebrated the new splash pad Thursday afternoon, June 24, in a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The public splash pad is free to use and is located on the north side of the elementary school. Pictured (front, from left) are Annie Opitz, Cris Oeltjenbruns, Beaver Creek clerk Jane Blank, Beaver Creek Mayor Josh Teune, Beaver Creek maintenance supervisor Travis Helgeson, Vivienne Tatge, Nora Tatge, Betty Mann, Becky Walgrave, (second) Aaron Blank, Anita Blank, City Council members Pat Bender and Al Harnack, Kathy Fick, Lila Tatje, (back) Jim Van Maanen, Lloyd DeBoer, Steve Cattnach, Caleb Ellingson and Tyler Bush.

COLLEGE NEWS

Krueger graduates from U of Nebraska

Ashton Krueger, Luverne, graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences as a member of the honors program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

To graduate from the honors program, students must maintain at least a 3.5 grade-point average, complete a culminating senior project or research thesis, and fulfill other curricular requirements.

Hagen named to dean's list at Riverland

Ana Hagen, Hills, was named to the Spring 2021 dean's list at Riverland Community College in Austin.

To be named, students must earn a GPA of 3.25 to 3.99.

Sawtelle graduates from UW – Stout

Kammon Sawtelle, Luverne, graduated in May 2021 from the University of Wisconsin – Stout in Menomonie with a Bachelor of Science degree in human development and family studies.

Stratten earns degree at NDSU

Jaylin Stratten, Luverne, graduated after the Spring 2021 semester from North Dakota State University in Fargo with a Bachelor of Science degree in management information services.

Golla awarded Concordia scholarship

Josephine Golla, Luverne, has been awarded an Excellence scholarship in music/BREW at Concordia College in Moorhead.

Golla is the daughter of Nate and Molly Golla of Luverne.

Minnesota West releases dean's list

Minnesota West Community and Technical College has released the Spring 2021 semester dean's honors list. To be eligible, students must earn a minimum of 12 graded credits with at least a 3.5 GPA.

The following area students were named: from Adrian, Libby Ahlers, Caleb Hornstein, Elizabeth Tesch, Emily Zemler; from Hills, Annie Bos, Calvin Erickson; from Luverne, Sara Kozak, Tenley Nelson, Justyce Ripka; from Kenneth, Kymberly VanderZiel and Julia VanderZiel; from Lismore, Elizabeth Erwin and Sydney Knips; from Rushmore, Dalton Gravenhof and Aunna Groenewold.

Boltjes named to dean's list at Concordia

Ashlee Boltjes, Luverne, has been named to the Spring 2021 dean's list at Concordia College in Moorhead. To be eligible, students must earn a 3.7 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale, with 12 or more graded credits.

Fick makes dean's list at Baylor

Tyler Fick, Beaver Creek, was named to the Spring 2021 semester dean's list at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. To be eligible, students must earn a 3.7 GPA or higher with at least 12 graded credits.

Fick is studying in the Robbins College of health and human sciences.

1949: Fritz wins county spelling bee

The following appeared in The Rock County Star-Herald on March 24, 1949.

Luverne Girl Wins County Spelling Crown

Margaret Fritz, who is a pupil in the eighth grade of the Luverne junior high school, won the county spelling contest Saturday of a possible 100 words correctly in a written test, also taken by pupils from 11 other Rock county schools.

Shirley Hawes of district 45, placed second, and spelled 80 out of 100 words correctly. Third place was won by Mary Lou Wynn of Magnolia who spelled 79 words right.

Winner, parent, teacher and County Superintendent V. M. Barrett will go to Minneapolis April 10 where Miss Fritz will take part in the state contest sponsored by the Minneapolis Tribune.

There, all county winners will participate in a written examination. Survivors of the written examination will compete in an oral spell-down for the state championship.

The words fiasco, effigies, beige, doggerel and



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann,
president Rock County
Historical Society

typifies, were, according to Superintendent Barrett, the five words which gave Rock county students the most difficulty in Saturday's contest.

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@iw.net.



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New business, The Barn on 60th, opens south of Hills

Building represents career change for salon owner

By Mavis Fodness
On Thursday, June 24, Tammie Leuthold celebrated the opening of her new hair salon and spa called The Barn on 60th with an open house.

Constructed this spring, the new facility features hair styling for the whole family, facials, tanning, nails, hair extensions and other amenities. Mekayla Kolbrek will provide massage therapy later this fall.

As The Barn on 60th, the business celebrates its rural location (it's located two miles south of Hills on 60th Street) with a farmhouse design style.

The business opened in May fulfilling a career path Leuthold began 30 years ago.

"It feels great," she said. "I love the fact that I can work with friends and family — it doesn't even feel like work."

Jessica Boelman is the Barn's manager. Daughter-

in-law Jaimee Leuthold is the third stylist.

Boelman manages the appointments that can be made in-person, by phone or online at www.barnon60.com. A full list of services and prices is also online.

"We've had a good response so far," Leuthold said.

Leuthold had thoughts of studying cosmetology 30 years ago but her plans were delayed as she and her husband, Kelly, started a family and a business near Hills.

Thoughts of cosmetology were all but forgotten until two years ago, when Jaimee decided to enroll in Stewart School of Cosmetology in Sioux Falls.

Leuthold decided to join her, graduating this spring.

Phone number for The Barn on 60th is 507-962-3300.



Tammie Leuthold (far right) hosted an open house Thursday, June 24, for her new business, The Barn on 60th Spa and Salon. Located south of Hills, the business features a full line of services for men, women and children. Joining Leuthold as stylists are Jaimee Leuthold (center) and Jessica Boelman, who is also the business manager.

Mavis Fodness photos/
0701 Barn on 60th



At right: A full-line of products are available for purchase at The Barn on 60th Salon and Spa. **Far right:** The Barn on 60th features a farmhouse look with earth tones and wood materials. **Below:** The stylist area features four work stations and two sink areas. **Below right:** Decor features some farm humor.



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Panther Brats

Pineapple Brats

Mushroom & Swiss

Ranch Brats

Honey BBQ Brats

Smoked Fajita Brats

Regular Brats

Onion & Pepper Brats

Chicken Alfredo Brats

Ball Park Brats

French Onion Brats

Mac N' Cheese Brats

Jalapeno Beer Cheddar

Chicken Bacon Ranch

Reuben Brats

Minnesota Brats

Gourmet Patties

Bacon Cheese Burger Patties

Rib Patties

Seasoned Ground Pork Patties

Pizza Patties

Mushroom & Swiss Patties

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Ground Beef (1/3 lb.) Patties

Ground Beef Patties (1/4 lb.) Patties

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Junior Legion now 11-3

Team goes 2-1 in New Ulm Junior Classic under new coach

By Jason Berghorst

The Luverne Junior Legion baseball team is now 11-3 on the 2021 season.

The team, comprised of 16 baseball players who have recently finished ninth and 10th grades, began the season by hosting the Buffalo Days tournament June 4 and have been busy ever since.

Jared Pick is in his first year of coaching the team, replacing Mike Wenninger after serving as Wenninger's assistant last summer.

"Our season has been going well," Pick said. "The team is off to a good start."

The Junior Legion team went 3-1 this week, including a 2-1 performance at the New Ulm Junior Classic Tournament over the weekend.

In New Ulm, Luverne defeated Hutchinson 15-0 and Excelsior 3-2 Friday before losing to Omaha Gross 11-2 Saturday. Rain then ended the tournament before its scheduled conclusion.

Luverne then traveled to Tracy Monday night and came home with an 11-7 extra-inning win.

The Junior Legion team hosted New Ulm Gold Tuesday (June 29) and travels to Pipestone Thursday (July 1).

Luverne 15, Hutchinson 0

Luverne opened the New Ulm tournament Friday by defeating Hutchinson 15-0 in five innings.

Connor Connell pitched a no-hitter, striking out 10 Hutchinson batters while pitching the entire game.

Connell led Luverne at the plate as well by scoring three runs off of two hits.

Kaden Anderson scored two runs off of three hits. Elliot Domagala and Kai Buss also plated two runs each for Luverne.



Jason Berghorst photo/0701 Junior Legion Stroh

The Luverne Junior Legion baseball team runs its record to 11-3 on the 2021 season. In this earlier season game, Jacob Stroh pitches against Marshall Black.

Box Score		
Hutchinson	0 0 0 0 0 0	0
Luverne	3 9 2 1 1 X	15

	AB	R	H
Hein	1	1	0
Anderson	3	2	3
Serie	3	0	0
DeBoer	2	1	1
Connell	3	3	2
Sneller	2	1	1
Stroh	2	1	0
Domagala	0	2	0
Buss	3	2	1
Sudenga	1	1	0
Kroski	1	0	0
Jurrens	1	0	0
Halverson	0	1	0
Kinsinger	1	0	0

Luverne 3, Excelsior 2

In its second tournament game of the day in New Ulm Friday, Luverne Junior Legion defeated Excelsior 3-2.

The game was scoreless through five and a half in-

nings before Jacob Stroh hit a double in the bottom of the sixth that scored two runs for Luverne.

The team then added one more run in the sixth inning to take a 3-0 lead. Excelsior scored two runs in the top of the seventh but it wasn't enough.

Anderson, Connell and Riley Sneller each plated a run for Luverne.

Stroh also pitched the first 6 1/3 innings for Luverne before Austin Ossefoort came to the mound to get the last two outs.

Box Score		
Excelsior	0 0 0 0 0 0 2	2
Luverne	0 0 0 0 0 0 X	3

	AB	R	H	BI
Hein	1	0	0	0
Anderson	2	1	0	0
Serie	1	0	0	0
DeBoer	3	0	0	0
Connell	3	1	1	0
Sneller	3	1	1	0
Stroh	1	0	0	2
Ossefoort	2	0	0	0
Buss	2	0	0	0

Omaha 11, Luverne 2

The Luverne Junior Legion team fell 11-2 to a team from Omaha Saturday in New Ulm.

Luverne scored the first run of the game in the second inning and each team added one more run in the third. Omaha added a run in the fourth to tie the game 2-2.

Omaha then opened up the game by scoring eight runs in the fifth inning and one more in the sixth inning to take the 11-2 victory.

Zach DeBoer pitched the first five innings for Luverne. Ossefoort came to the mound in relief for the last two innings.

Box Score		
Omaha	0 0 1 1 8 1 0	11
Luverne	0 1 1 0 0 0 0	2

	AB	R	H	BI
Hein	2	1	1	0
Anderson	3	0	0	0
Serie	3	0	0	0
DeBoer	2	0	1	1
Connell	1	1	0	0
Sneller	2	0	0	0
Stroh	1	0	0	0
Halverson	1	0	0	0
Domagala	2	0	0	0
Dammann	1	0	0	0
Kroski	1	0	0	0
Sudenga	1	0	0	0
Buss	1	0	0	0
Kinsinger	1	0	0	0
Eidem	1	0	0	0

Luverne 11, Tracy 7

Luverne needed one extra inning to defeat Tracy 11-7 in Junior Legion baseball Monday night.

The Cardinals entered what should have been the final frame of a seven-inning contest with a 5-3 lead.

Luverne scored one more run in the top of the seventh

Junior, continued on 10

Redbirds run record to 14-3

Locals win six straight, two more games this week

	AB	R	H	BI
Nath	4	0	0	0
Paquette	5	1	1	1
Johnson	3	1	1	1
S. Wenninger	4	2	2	1
Zeutenhorst	4	2	1	1
Haugen	5	1	2	1
Lundgren	5	1	4	1
C. Wenninger	4	0	0	0
Maurer	1	0	0	0
Beyer	4	1	3	2

Luverne 15, Tracy 4

Luverne traveled to Tracy Sunday afternoon for the first of two road games played that day.

The Redbirds had productive bats in the 15-4 victory over the Express in seven innings.

Ben Serie and Lundgren each produced three hits, one RBI and scored three runs in the contest.

Wenninger also plated three runs off of two hits. Haugen and Colby Crabtree had two hits apiece, with Crabtree adding three RBIs.

Zeutenhorst pitched the complete seven-inning game for Luverne.

Box Score		
Luverne	3 0 2 4 3 0 3	15
Tracy	3 1 0 0 0 0 0	4

	AB	R	H	BI
B. Serie	4	4	3	1
Lundgren	5	3	3	1
Wenninger	3	3	2	0
Zeutenhorst	5	2	1	1
Haugen	5	2	2	1
Crabtree	5	0	2	3
Maurer	4	0	1	0
Buss	4	1	1	0
W. Serie	4	0	0	0

Luverne 2, Ruthton 1

Luverne completed its second of two games in two towns on Sunday by defeating Ruthton 2-1.

Will Serie, who plays most of his summer baseball on the Luverne Junior Legion team, made his Redbirds debut in the Sunday games.

"We were short players at the last minute on Sunday and Ben (Will's older brother) said Will was home, so we went and picked him up," Maurer said.

Will Serie made the most of the opportunity by leading the team with two hits in his second game.

The Redbirds' two runs were scored by Zeutenhorst and Maurer.

Maurer pitched the entire contest for Luverne. He struck out eight and gave up three hits and run.

Box Score		
Luverne	0 0 0 0 1 0 0 1 0	2
Ruthton	0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0	1

	AB	R	H	BI
B. Serie	3	0	0	1
Lundgren	4	0	0	0
Wenninger	3	0	0	0
Zeutenhorst	3	1	0	0
Haugen	3	0	1	0
Crabtree	4	0	1	1
Maurer	3	1	0	0
Buss	3	0	0	0
W. Serie	3	0	2	0

Ethan Beyer added three hits for Luverne, with two RBIs, and scored one run.

Skyler Wenninger and Codie Zeutenhorst plated two runs each for the Redbirds.

Box Score		
Hadley	0 1 0 0 0 1 0 1 0	3
Luverne	0 0 2 0 0 3 1 3 0	9

Luverne Legion team defeats Minneota

By Jason Berghorst

The Luverne American Legion baseball team traveled to Minneota Thursday, June 24, and came home with a 3-1 victory.

Luverne's scheduled game in Tracy Monday was rained out. The team played in Jackson Tuesday (June 29) and travels to Pipestone Thursday (July 1).

The Luverne American Legion team is now 3-2 on the season.

Luverne 3, Minneota 1

Ethan Beyer led the way

for Luverne from the pitching mound and the plate during his team's 3-1 victory in Minneota Thursday.

Beyer pitched a complete game for Luverne. He struck out 11 Minneota batters, gave up five hits and walked none.

Minneota took the lead by scoring one run in the fourth inning but was unable to plate any additional runs in the game.

Minneota's lone run was scored when the runner on third base enticed the Luverne catcher to throw to

third, and the Minneota runner stole home.

Luverne scored two runs in the sixth inning and one more in the seventh.

During the sixth inning, Cade Wenninger hit a long ball that the outfield missed in the sun, which allowed Beyer to score and Wenninger to make it to third.

Wenninger then scored when Colby Crabtree hit a pop-up. Passing errors by Minneota basemen allowed Wenninger to score from third.

Beyer led the Luverne offense with three of his team's four hits and scored one run.

Wenninger and Trevor Halverson scored one run each for the victors.

Box Score		
Luverne	0 0 0 0 0 2 1	3
Minneota	0 0 0 1 0 0 0	1

	AB	R	H	BI
Beyer	3	1	3	1
Wenninger	4	1	1	1
Crabtree	2	0	0	0
Overgaard	2	0	0	0
Sehr	3	0	0	0
Ripka	3	0	0	0
Herman	3	0	0	0
R. Anderson	2	0	0	0
Halverson	0	0	1	0
K. Anderson	3	0	0	0

Five Cardinal seniors led 'really dangerous' varsity baseball team

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne baseball team finished doorsteps away from reaching the 2021 state tournament.

The Cardinals finished the season with a 20-5 record and fell one game shy of reaching the section championship game.

"If we could have played a little better defense, we could have been really, really dangerous," longtime Luverne baseball coach Mike Wenninger said.

"It was pretty solid all year. Our hitting was phenomenal. We had a great team batting average (.369). Our defense was our old Achilles heel."

The Cardinals were led this season by a group of five seniors that included Bailey Cowell, Cade Wenninger, Ethan Beyer, Trevor Halverson and Riley Anderson.

After not having a



Submitted Photo

The 2021 Luverne High School baseball team includes five seniors. They are (from left) Ethan Beyer, Riley Anderson, Cade Wenninger, Bailey Cowell and Trevor Halverson.

season in 2020 due to COVID-19, the Cardinals were unsure of what to expect in

the 2021 season. The one thing they were sure of is they had a group of upper-

classmen that had plenty of experience playing together on the diamond.

"Back in their junior legion tournament, they made it to the junior legion state tournament and made a little run there," Wenninger said. "So you knew that they were good players and had good coaching."

At the beginning of the season that experienced group did a great job of leading the way as the Cardinals waded into uncharted waters.

"With COVID-19, our seniors were still playing like juniors and our juniors were still playing like sophomores," Wenninger said.

"They missed a lot of structure. They got to play summer baseball, which is great, but it's not that daily structure. They missed a full year of that. The seniors did a great job of settling us in. They're just people that you can count on."

Out of the five seniors,

two of them will be playing baseball at the collegiate level.

Beyer will be playing at Concordia-Moorhead and Wenninger will be playing at Briar Cliff in Sioux City, Iowa.

"Between Cade and Ethan, I would call them the left- and right-handed versions of one another," Wenninger said.

"Cade's left-handed and Ethan's right-handed. Both are very intelligent baseball players. They're both willing to give up anything to play. They both can play multiple positions. They don't miss signs. They're both great contact hitters. They can both pitch. They both logged in over 30 innings on the mound. They're very accountable and dependable kids."

Cowell will be playing

Five, continued on page 10



Rapid Speedway photo

Colton Arends wins the Stock Cars A Feature at Rapid Speedway Friday night. Pictured are (from left) Todd Faber, Rob Wenzel, Maddie Wenzel, Teresa Arends, Raylan Leuthold (in front), Paul Arends, Anna McCarty, Colton Arends, Boyd Leuthold (with trophy), Cody Johnson, Joey Streeter and Seth Miller.

Arends, Fitzpatrick win feature races

By Jason Berghorst

Colton Arends of Luverne and Dylan Fitzpatrick of Magnolia both picked up feature wins at area dirt track races Friday night.

Area tracks canceled Saturday night’s scheduled races, including the second race of the LSR Enduro series in Slayton, because of rain.

Rapid Speedway

Arends won his fifth Stock Cars feature race of 2021 and third of the season at Rapid Speedway in Rock Rapids, Iowa, Friday night.

Chad Overgaard and Thomas Kracht, both of Luverne, placed fourth

and fifth in the same race.

Eric Gaul of Luverne placed second in the Hobby Stocks feature race.

Murray County Speedway

Magnolia’s Dylan Fitzpatrick led Rock County racers competing at Murray County Speedway in Slayton Friday night.

After winning his heat race in the Hobby Stocks class, Fitzpatrick went on to win the feature race in the same class.

Silas Top of Hardwick placed third in the Bombers A feature race.

Below are the place finishes of Rock County racers last weekend.

Rapid Speedway – June 25 Sportsman’s A Feature

B. Boeve Beaver Creek 4

USRA Hobby Stocks A Feature
E. Gaul Luverne 2
C. Wessels Luverne 16

USRA Hobby Stocks B Feature
Trevor Kracht Luverne 15

USRA Stock Cars A Feature
C. Arends Luverne 1
C. Overgaard Luverne 4
Thomas Kracht Luverne 5
C. Kelderman Hills 14
S. Overgaard Luverne 19

Modifieds A Feature
J. Smith Luverne 2

Murray County Speedway – June 25 IMCA Hobby Stocks A Feature
D. Fitzpatrick Magnolia 1

MCRA Bombers
S. Top Hardwick 3

Five/continued from page 9

football at Minnesota West. Wenninger said that if Cowell wanted to, he could play baseball at the next level.

“He may try some baseball when he’s there,” Wenninger said.

“He’s always been an infielder his entire life. This year we needed to solidify the outfield defense. We wanted to have one guy that could add some stability out there. He’s naturally quick and a naturally gifted athlete. That was a big help for us to have him in center field. He’s a great leadoff hitter. If he got on base for us, there was a high chance he was going to be scoring. He was a great leadoff hitter and center fielder for us.”

The departures of the five seniors will be a tough blow for the Cardinals, but they’ll return a strong core

of players that includes Casey Sehr, Connor Connell, Braydon Ripka, Connor Overgaard, Luke Bosch, Kaden Anderson and Trygve Gangestad.

The Cardinals figure to be players in the Big South Conference again in 2022. The sustained success that they’ve been able to attain is a testament to the program that Wenninger and his staff have built.

“Our baseball association has done such a wonderful job with our youth,” Wenninger said.

“They really emphasize playing in house and playing in Luverne. We’re not trying to make each kid a year-round baseball player, but when it’s baseball season they’re playing baseball and getting a lot of great opportunities.”

Attention to detail leads to successful dock fishing



THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall, columnist

little as 12 inches of water.

When I catch a fish, I move this hooked fish toward the shore to avoid spooking the other fish that might be close. I work my way toward the deeper end of the dock each time moving toward the shore with a hooked fish to create the least amount of disturbance possible. When I have fished in and around the entire length of the dock with, say, a green jig, I will cut it off and tie on another color.

I figure that every fish that was going to bite on the green one will have done so in the first few minutes. I can often catch several more fish with a different color jig that would not bite on the green one.

I work the dock in the same manner with the new color, and when I have worked the entire dock again, I will move on to the next dock. I always fish under or very near the dock.

Many anglers will be sitting on the end of the dock with their bait worked anywhere from 10 to 30 feet out into the lake. The fish I am targeting are right under their feet. If there are any little kids that have been pounding up and

down the dock, I will just move on.

Any fish that were there in this very shallow water environment are long gone by the time I would show up. As I am leaving, the anglers that were there when I got there will all tie on the jig color that I just got done using. They will then catch very little over the next hour.

Tying a quality fishing knot is vital. A snap swivel allows you to remove one jig and put on another without having to retie the knot, but it destroys the live bait or artificial lure’s action and reduces the number of bites that you will get.

Taking the time to retie the knot and avoiding any unnecessary attachment hardware is worth the time and effort.

One other detail that gets by most casual anglers is the fact that the hook size and bobber size should match the bait size.

A really little crappie minnow on a big walleye hook has a less realistic action when suspended below a bobber or when set stationary on the bottom. The same can be said for bobber size. A crappie trying to pull under a big bobber will feel

the resistance and let go of the bait.

The bobber has to be so small as to just barely float the hook and bait.

You can take these little tips to whatever level of perfection that you desire. After a while these seemingly minute details become habit and quite effortless.

I learned some of the best fishing tricks from a mechanics teacher by the name of Wayne Grantz.

Every time I saw him heading home on his moped with a batch of fish caught from the same area that I had just covered, he shared one little fishing tidbit at time, and over time I did become a better angler.

I have one additional tip: The longer the stretch of calm winds and bright sunny days, the more fish that will be seeking shelter in the shade under docks. The water is generally a few degrees cooler in the shade so this is a great heat of the summer tactic.

Time your dock fishing efforts to coincide with this weather pattern and those should be better than average days at the lake.

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



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For Sale by Owner

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Call Brenda for inquires: 605-595-2184

\$499,500



Check out this spacious 5 bedroom, 3 bath, ranch-style home with a priceless walk-out view. Fresh paint and flooring throughout the home make it move-in ready. Main entrance and garage include zero-radius entry. Main floor features large bathrooms and doorways for improved accessibility. This home features a 2-sided gas fireplace, master-bathroom with whirlpool tub, and efficient geothermal heating and air-conditioning. The 5th bedroom is currently used as a man-cave featuring in-floor golf putting.

The beautiful lot includes updated no-maintenance landscaping, and cement curbing for low-maintenance lawn care. Location perfect for small-town living with quick access to the interstate.



Please Recycle

Get your fishing questions answered by DNR

Anglers can get their fishing questions answered on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources’ fishing page at mndnr.gov/fishing.

The page answers questions like: What species can I fish for? What kind of bait is legal? What kind of fish can I keep?

It also is a mobile-friendly source of information on when, where and how to fish.

Users will find links to

Website, mndnr.gov/fishing is also mobile-friendly source of information about when, where and how to fish

LakeFinder, which provides maps and detailed information on lakes throughout the state, and the new StreamFinder tool that provides a description, species list, regulations and access information for trout streams throughout Minnesota.

The DNR fishing page

also includes an online version of Minnesota fishing regulations plus an online version of the 2021 Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet, which is available in print anywhere DNR licenses are sold.

Contact Benji Kohn, volunteer mentor program coordinator, 651-259-5178.

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

Sundays 8:30 a.m. Mass. Public Mass will be celebrated at FULL capacity in the church. Masses: 9 a.m. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Friday at the nursing homes – check the bulletin. All Sunday masses will be live streamed on at on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/stccluverne/videos/>. Visit www.stscl.org for more information.

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

Sundays 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 6:30 p.m. Evening worship service. We are streaming Sunday services live on Roger Sparks' Facebook page at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Send him a friend request if you're not connected. You may also visit our website for delayed broadcasts. Also our services are on local cable TV at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays. In all circumstances, may we joyfully declare: "Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 124:8.

First Baptist Church
1033 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne
Ph. 283-4091; email: fbcluv@iw.net — www.fbcluverne.org
Walt Moser, Pastor

Sundays, 10:30 a.m. In-person worship service. Service is also on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m.

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

Thursday, July 1: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Saturday, July 3: 5:30 p.m. Worship service with Holy Communion. Sunday, July 4: 9 a.m. Worship service with Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Fellowship coffee and treats. Monday, July 5: Office closed. Tuesday, July 6: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, July 7: 7 a.m. Men's Bible study. 7:30 a.m. Mom's Bible study at Wildflowers. Thursday, July 8: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are still available. Online Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. – NEW TIME! Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 p.m.

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

Sundays, 10:15 a.m. Worship service; worship online as well (at els.org). Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne) for other classes and events.

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

Friday, July 2: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible study. Sunday, July 4: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. Services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

Rock River Community Church
(formerly First Assembly of God)
1075 110th Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4
Ph. 612-800-1255; email info@rockrivercommunity.church
Bob Junak, Pastor; Annette Junak, Assistant Pastor

Sundays, 9 a.m. Sunday school; 10 a.m. Worship service. Children's church for ages 3-6th grade and nursery for ages 0-3 provided during our services. Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Worship service. All services are in-person and all are welcome.

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

Thursday, July 1: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf curbside. New location 208 W. Maple Street. Saturday, July 3: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Sunday, July 4: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Worship service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis to Revelation Bible study. Monday, July 5: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Wednesday, July 7: 6:30 p.m. Rocky Railway FUEL Fun Night. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Thursday, July 8: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf curbside. New location 208 W. Maple Street.

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

Sunday, July 4: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. In-person Worship service

and through Facebook Live Sunday. Our Facebook page can be found under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne. We are also on the local Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays. Wednesday, July 7: No committee meetings.

St. John Lutheran Church
803 N. Cedar St., Luverne
Ph. 283-2316; email: stjoh@iw.net
www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org
Rev. Dr. Phil Booe, Pastor

Saturday, July 3: 5:30 p.m. Worship. Sunday, July 4: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10:15 a.m. Sunday school and Adult Bible study. 7 p.m. Online Bible study. Worship service is 75 people. Services will be available on the Vast channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, cityofluverne.org.

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

New Life Celebration Church
101 W. Maple, Luverne
Ph. 449-6522; email: newlifecelebration@gmail.com
Food mission every third Thursday.

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.
igtwlb@WOW.net
Bill Bates, Pastor

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

Sunday, July 4: 10 a.m. Joint worship with Holy Communion at First Lutheran Church. Masks are no longer required if fully vaccinated. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook 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
Mark Eliason, Pastor

Sunday, July 4: 10 a.m. Joint worship with Holy Communion at First Lutheran Church. Masks are no longer required if fully vaccinated. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook. Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFcU4>

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

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. Second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Session meeting.

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

Sunday, 9 a.m., in-person with livestream available on the church's Facebook site.

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

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship service in-person with livestream available on Facebook and YouTube. Radio worship on KQAD Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

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

Sunday, July 4: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Home. 9:30 a.m. Youth time. 10 a.m. Worship service at Bethlehem with Holy Communion. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website blchills.org. Tuesday, July 6: 2 p.m. Tuff Home Bible study. 3:15 p.m. Tuff Village Bible study. Wednesday, July 7: 9 a.m. Quilting.

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

Liberty and justice for all

The very first Pledge of Allegiance, written in 1892, simply read, "I pledge allegiance to my flag and the republic for which it stands: one nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all."

In 1923, the words, "the flag of the United States" were added to the pledge. In 1924, the words "United States of America" were added. And in 1954, the words, "under God" were added.

But although the pledge itself has undergone small changes over the years, what has remained constant is the ideal that each and every person has a right to liberty and justice.

Ask any patriotic American and they'll tell you that we know that liberty and justice come at a great price. They have been handed down to us by those men and women who have gone before us fighting for our freedom and even sacrificing their lives for the cause. So, it isn't as easy as just being "born free" because freedom, as they say, isn't free.

The same is true about our condition before God. We are not born free, but instead we are conceived and born as slaves to sin (Psalm 51, 1 Corinthians 2).

Patrick Henry famously said, "Give me liberty or give me death," but without being set free from sin, death is the only other choice. The Bible is clear: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," and "The wages of sin is death." (Romans 3, 6)

Like the freedoms won for us by the blood of American fighters, our freedom from sin and death must be won for us through blood as well. The guilt we have inherited, as well as the penalty we deserve, must be satisfied because God is just.

But we are so enslaved to wickedness that

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Rev. Dr. Phil Booe
St. John Lutheran Church, Luverne

the blood of millions of people would still not be a worthy enough sacrifice to reconcile us to God. Nothing we could do or sacrifice can make up for our rebellion. Therefore, it was only by his mercy that God has given us liberty — true freedom — through the blood-sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross.

He has given us justice, too. However, justice has not been served against us — who deserve the punishment — but God took it upon himself out of his love for us.

For those who have faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, you have been set free. Paul writes in Romans 6, "We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin." And in chapter 8, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death."

So, dear Christians, what do we do with this new-found freedom? St. Peter tells us, "Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God."

With liberty and justice from God himself, you are now free to live according to God's will. Seek him through his word. Gather together in worship. Live your lives in faith toward God and love toward one another.

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RENTALS

For rent in Luverne. Two-bedroom apartment with central air, on-site laundry and one-stall garage. No pets and no smoking. Located in quiet area. 507-920-0406. (6.26-7.15)

MISCELLANEOUS

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In search of a live-in personal care housekeeper to live with me. Call Donna 507-920-0646. (tc)

Looking for donations of scrapbooking supplies, cardstock, ribbon, buttons and old greeting cards for volunteer projects. Call Rose, 507-220-0675. (6.26-7.15)

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EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted: Looking for a full-time truck driver to run local. Home every day, hours vary, pay based on experience. Must have Class A CDL. Call 507-920-5469 or 507-227-0607. (tc)

Help Wanted: Reliable, honest person for housekeeping at Hillcrest Motel. Hours and days will vary. Possible opportunity of additional responsibility. Stop at Hillcrest Motel. (6.17-7.3)

Help Wanted: The Rock County Fair is looking for janitorial help during the fair, July 28-31. Hours will be from 1-9:30 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday. If you are interested, please contact Adam Kinsinger, 507-220-3278. (6.19-7.8)

EMPLOYMENT

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- Researching and reporting on levy configurations for the Superintendent and School Board
- Administer employee benefit programs with assistance from payroll and HR
- Monitor purchase orders and requisitions to ensure adherence to budget guidelines
- Code purchases for proper reporting including yearly audit.

Application Deadline: Position open until filled

Start Date: August 2021

Apply: Send a letter of application, 3 letters of recommendation, college transcripts and completed district application to Craig Oftehl, Supt. of Schools (c.oftehl@isd2184.net)

District Application: District certified application and information concerning the district can be found at the following link:
www.isd2184.net/about_lps/opem_employment

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Klosterbuer Mini Acres assumes name

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CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

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ASSUMED NAME: **Klosterbuer Mini Acres**
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:
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NAMEHOLDER(S):

Name: **Rabeca Klosterbuer**

Address: **118 E. Church Ave., Steen, MN 56173 USA**

Name: **Brandyn Klosterbuer**

Address: **118 E. Church Ave., Steen, MN 56173 USA**

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

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Signature : /s/ **Rabeca Klosterbuer**

MAILING ADDRESS: **118 E. Church Ave., Steen, MN 56173 USA**

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **Klosterbuermini@acres@gmail.com**

(07-01, 07-08)

ISD #2184 School Board meets June 10

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

A special meeting of the Board of Education, ISD #2184, was held in the District Office and via zoom on June 10, 2021, at 6:45 p.m.

The following members were present: Jodi Bosch, Eric Hartman, Tim Jarchow, Reva Sehr, Jeff Stratton, and David Wrigg. Absent: Katie Baustian. Also present: Craig Oftedahl, Marlene Mann, Ryan Johnson, Jason Phelps, Amy Sahly, and Mavis Fodness – Rock County Star Herald.

Chairperson Eric Hartman called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Bosch, second by Jarchow, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Jarchow, second by Sehr, to approve the hiring of Stacey Thone as Sixth Grade Science Teacher for a salary of \$42,417.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Discussion was held regarding the Supervisory and Exempt Employees' Salaries. It was noted that reviews had been completed with all five employees.

Motion made by Jarchow, second by Bosch, to approve Business Manager Marlene Mann's 2021-2022 salary of \$84,205.00. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Bosch, second by Stratton, to approve Administrative Assistant/ Payroll Clerk Brenda Teal's 2021-2022 salary of \$54,442.00. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Jarchow, second by Bosch, to approve Transportation Supervisor Brad Goembel's 2021-2022 salary of \$65,891.00. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Stratton, second by Jarchow, to approve Technology

Coordinator Wade Hiller's 2021-2022 salary of \$80,000.00. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Jarchow, second by Stratton, to approve Food Service Director Ann Rigney's 2021-2022 salary of \$44,512.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Bosch, second by Sehr, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Dated: June 10, 2021

Reva Sehr, Clerk
(07-01)

ISD #2184 School requests quotes for bakery products

REQUESTS FOR QUOTES
LUVERNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Notice is hereby given that quotes for bakery products will be received until 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2021, at the Office of the Superintendent, Luverne High School, Luverne, Minnesota.

Detailed specifications and information are available at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools.

The School Board reserves the right to reject any and all quotes and bids and to waive any technicalities.

Reva Sehr, Clerk
(07-01, 07-08)

ISD #2184 request bids for dairy products

REQUEST FOR QUOTES
LUVERNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Notice is hereby given that bids will be received until 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2021, at the Office of the Superintendent, Luverne High School, Luverne, Minnesota, for the furnishing of the following products:

A. Dairy Products

Detailed specifications and information are available at the Office of the Superintendent of Schools.

The School Board reserves the right to reject any and all quotes and bids and to waive any technicalities.

Reva Sehr, Clerk
(07-01, 07-08)

ISD #2184 School Board meets May 27

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 in the District Office and also via Zoom on May 27, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Katie Baustian, Eric Hartman, Tim Jarchow, Reva Sehr, Jeff Stratton and David Wrigg. Absent: Jodi Bosch. Also present: Craig Oftedahl, Marlene Mann, Ryan Johnson, Jason Phelps, Stacy Gillette, Brooklyn VerSteeg, Jason Berghorst, Becky Rahm, Marie Atkinson-Smeins, Caroline Thorson, and Mavis Fodness – Rock County Star Herald.

Chairperson Eric Hartman 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 Jarchow, to approve the agenda with addendum. Motion unanimously carried.

Marie Atkinson-Smeins, Elementary School Counselor, presented information to the school board in regard to the lessons and activities she conducted this past school year.

Administrative reports were given.

Motion made by Jarchow, second by Sehr, to approve the April 22, 2021, School Board minutes as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Stratton, to approve the May 13, 2021, School Board minutes as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Stratton, to approve receipt of the following donations:

1/4/2021	Papik Motors (GM)	\$500–Discovery Time iPads
1/4/2021	Blandin/Rock County	\$1000–Discovery Time iPads
1/5/2021	Papik Motors (Headway)	\$500–Summer Recreation
1/25/2021	Luverne Rotary Club	\$2200–Community Education
2/8/2021	Berkley Inc.	\$500–Discovery Time iPads
		\$306.50 – Nature Explore Fundraiser
3/22/2021	That's My Brick	\$300–Summer Recreation
5/26/2021	American Legion	\$500–Nutcracker Fine Arts Project
5/24/2021	Luverne Area Chamber	

Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent Oftedahl gave a building project update.

Business Manager Marlene Mann reviewed the school district bills. Motion made by Jarchow, second by Stratton, to approve payment of the bills as presented in the amount of \$1,382,935.34 which includes payroll of \$983,838.24; the building project bills as presented in the amount of \$568,631.37; and student activity bills in the amount of \$7,232.49. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Jarchow, to receive the Student Activity Report showing the balances as of April 30, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to set the date for fuel quotations to be received as July 15, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. It was noted we are required by law to post the request for quotations for at least 30 days. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to approve the 2021-2022 Student Accident Insurance with Student Assurance Services. Motion unanimously carried.

The 2021-2022 School Board meeting schedule was reviewed by the School Board members. It was requested to add a School Board work session on August 12, 2021. Motion made by Sehr, second by Stratton, to approve the schedule with the addition of August 12. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Stratton, second by Sehr, to rescind Policy 809 – Covid-19 Face Covering Policy effective June 1, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

Discussion was held regarding the addition of two Gaga Pits to the Elementary Playground areas. Motion made by Jarchow, second by Baustian, to approve two Gaga Pits for the Elementary Playground areas. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Stratton, to accept the retirement of Barb Antoine, Paraprofessional, effective August 31, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to approve a request for maternity leave from Ann Sandager, English teacher, for 12 weeks beginning approximately September 26, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Jarchow, second by Sehr, to approve the hiring of Christina Aukes as Elementary teacher for the 2021-2022 school year at a salary of \$42,417.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Jarchow, to accept the resignation of Rudi Vennard, Speech-Language Teacher, effective June 2, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Wrigg, second by Jarchow, to approve the hiring of Amy Chapa as ECFE/Discovery Time Teacher at an hourly rate of \$29.18. Motion unanimously carried.

Marlene Mann, Business Manager, presented a revised budget to the School Board. Motion made by Wrigg, second by Stratton, to approve the revised 2020-2021 Revenue and Expenditure budget. Motion unanimously carried.

Committee reports were given. Member Stratton reported on the Continuing Education Committee meeting. He expressed his thanks to Jason Phelps and Colette Hansen for their work on development of a google form for teaching staff to use to submit their continuing education credits.

The upcoming meeting dates were reviewed. Superintendent Oftedahl requested if the June 10 school session could be moved to 5:00 p.m. with the possibility of a special school board meeting that day as well. Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Dated: May 27, 2021

Reva Sehr, Clerk
(07-01)

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BROWSER

County property values drop, decreasing revenues for 2022/continued from page 3

amounts, Houselog said. Ag/rural land, for instance, dropped 7.07 percent in value followed by a 12.96 drop in apartment market values. Overall industrial, commercial and residential properties increased 11.78, 5.44 and 7.83 percent respectively. Non-commercial seasonal recreation and mobile home park values stayed the same during the same period.

Market value drops for Agri-Energy LLC

Each spring property owners can appeal estimated market values that determine the following year’s property taxes.

Gevo officials appealed the \$12.5 million property value placed on the 23-acre industrial Agri-Energy plant west of Luverne for 2022.

Gevo currently pays

\$376,674, the most of any company in Rock County. Gevo officials told Houselog, based on the unique nature of this small ethanol plant and the lack of isobutanol produced in 2020, a reduction in market value was warranted.

Houselog negotiated a 27 percent decrease (or a decline of about \$3.2 million) in market value, and both parties agreed. Gevo will pay about

\$107,000 less in 2022 taxes using current tax levy rates.

The new market value for Agri-Energy is \$9.1 million.

More reductions may be negotiated next year, Houselog said.

Grand Prairie Events sale means no taxes

Another reduction in 2022 property values occurred when the

non-profit Generations (formerly Rock County Senior Citizens) purchased the Grand Prairie Events building in Luverne.

The building sale prior to July 1 means the new non-profit owners will pay no taxes in 2022.

Under the new ownership, Generations President George Bonnema told commissioners prior to the June 22 equalization meeting that he met with

the three banks in Luverne. Each bank will share in the \$600,000 loan to the organization that also operates the local meal site.

Generations plans to also operate their new building as an events center for now.

By completing the sale from Mike and Wanda Jarchow prior to July 1, the group is exempt from paying the estimated \$23,000 in taxes.

School resource officer talks/ continued from page 1

sheriff and attended the meeting via Zoom, abstained from the vote.

The city, county and school will work together to define the officer’s role and the hiring process that could be a current officer or potentially a new hire.

“It has to be the right person,” Verbrugge said. “If we have someone, we can’t just throw them in there, because it is not going to be the right fit.”

A multi-year contract between the entities may be considered.

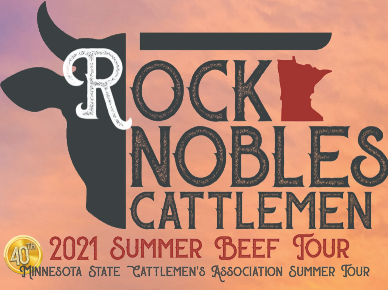
The officer, who could be working as soon as January, could also work one day in the Hills-Beaver Creek School District.

H-BC is considering joining the pairing and will decide later this month if they will share in the costs.

In early June, Verbrugge and Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian met with Luverne school officers.

Verbrugge said the city is negotiating a new five-year law enforcement contract and noticed the increase in phone calls about how to proceed with issues and calls requesting an officer to the school campus.

He said he sees an officer at the school as a proactive resource rather than a reactive one for the city of Luverne.



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