



Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, July 6, 2023

'It could have been ugly. ... They saved our lives'

Firefighters rescue men trapped in grain bin

By Lori Sorenson

Years of emergency training and specialized equipment led to a successful grain bin rescue Wednesday afternoon in rural Rock County.

"It feels really good," Luverne Fire Chief David Van Batavia said after the incident.

"Three guys were in the bin, and three guys came out. No one was injured."

Involved in the incident were Ron Fick, Jim Fick and Mel Fick at the grain storage facility at 1159 101st St. southwest of Luverne.

The 911 call came in to dispatch at 2:28 p.m. that a man was stuck in a grain bin. When rescue crews arrived at 2:34, they discovered three men were in the bin.

Jim was buried nearly over his head, and Ron was entrenched up to his chest. Mel had shut off the unloading equipment and was frantically working to clear corn from Jim's face so he could breathe.

Van Batavia said firefighters from Hills and Luverne worked together methodically to properly respond.

"It was time-consuming, but it was a well-run scene," he said. "Everybody did their part and everyone was on the same page."

Firemen took turns working in the bin, switching out frequently to take a break from the heat.

Van Batavia said grain bin accidents require a patient approach that's different from fire calls or crash scenes.

"We're used to responding quickly at accidents and fires, but these are different," he said.

"When someone's buried like



Luverne Fire Chief David Van Batavia captured this image from atop the grain bin where first responders worked to free Ron Fick and Jim Fick after corn avalanched on top of them on Wednesday, July 28.

H-BC sells bonds for new elementary school project

Solid credit rating, management lead to low interest for H-BC Elementary School bond sale

By Mavis Fodness

Bids to finance a portion of the \$29.975 million needed for the new Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary School in Beaver Creek came in with interest rates lower than anticipated.

Five bids were submitted for the \$20.5 million bond sale on June 20.

Hilltop Securities of Dallas, Texas, submitted the lowest bid of 3.8352 percent interest.

At their June 26 meeting, H-BC board members approved granting the 20-year general obligation bond to Hilltop Securities.

All five bids were lower than the pre-interest sale rate of 4.35 percent estimated by Ehlers Inc., the district's public financial advisers, in the May presale report.

Aaron Bushberger with Ehlers presented the final sales results to board members.

"Actually prior to the (April 11) election we were assuming 5 percent," he said. "So we were below both thresholds — really good news here."

The lower-than-expected interest rates result in an additional \$696,279 in premium and interest savings from the presale estimates. The savings will be applied to the building project.

The highest of the five bids was 3.9105 percent from Northland Securities on behalf of Security Savings Bank in Hills.

"To have five bids within seven or eight basis points is really indicative where the market is at this time," Bushberger said.

"Overall, you're getting more funds at a lower interest rate — both positives for the district."

H-BC district voters approved a two-question \$29.975 million

Grain bin rescue/see page 5

H-BC bond sale/see page 3

Council approves TIF for Sybesma Addition housing project

By Jason Berghorst

Luverne City Council members approved a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district for the proposed multi-family housing project at their regular meeting June 27.

The project in the Sybesma Addition would have 30 mixed income, two-story townhomes built along Highway 4 west of the current Rock Creek Townhomes on Oak Drive.

The four-structure development would provide two-, three- and four-bedroom townhomes, each with an attached garage and an in-unit laundry.

The Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership (SMHP) is proposing to develop, own and asset manage the development, just as it does the existing Rock Creek Townhomes.

The SMHP is applying for

funding through the multi-family consolidated request for proposal and for housing tax credit programs.

According to Luverne City Administrator Jill Wolf, in order to apply for the funding mechanisms, the project is required to adhere to income limits of 50 to 60 percent of area median income.

In addition to the funding options, the housing partnership asked the city to sell the land for

\$1 and to create a TIF district in order to make the project financially feasible.

The way tax increment financing works, the new owners of the bare lot will pay full taxes on the improved property, but the difference between the current tax amount and the new tax amount will pay down the TIF debt.

After the TIF expires, in this

Housing project TIF/see page 3



A rendering by ISG architects shows what the front of the Kids Rock! Child Care Center will look like.

Kids Rock! Child Care Center announces name and \$1 million fundraising campaign

By Lori Sorenson

"Kids Rock! Child Care Center" is the name chosen for the community day care center in Luverne, and local leaders and organizers have launched a campaign to raise \$1 million in donations to help pay for

construction.

"Kids are the center of this project," said Luverne Economic Development Authority Director Holly Sammons, who has been instrumental in organizing the project and securing funding. "The center will serve

many families and businesses throughout Rock County."

She explained the rationale behind the name of the facility, which was the result of a visioning process with

Kids Rock!/continued on p. 2

First class of LHS Alumni Hall of Fame inductees announced

By Jason Berghorst

The first group of inductees into the new Luverne High School Alumni Hall of Fame have been named by the Hall of Fame committee.

The Class of 2023 includes six individuals and one team. In alphabetical order, the honorees include:

•The players, coaches and manager of the 1964 state championship basketball team.

The team brought statewide fame to Luverne during an era when there was only one class of competition, there were no girls' sports, and the state basketball tournament was the most focused-on high school sports event in Minnesota.

•Quentin Aanenson, Class of 1939. Aanenson was a celebrated World War II fighter pilot whose first combat mission was during

D-Day in 1944. He was featured in the nationally known documentaries, "A Fighter Pilot's Story" and the Ken Burns series, "The War."

•Jim Brandenburg, Class of 1963.

Brandenburg is an internationally known nature photographer. He was a contract photographer for National Geographic magazine and commissioned to create a nature stamp by the U.S.

Alumni Hall of Fame/see page 3



COMMUNITY EVENTS

Senior Nutrition July 6

Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors 60 & older, sponsored by A.C.E. of SWMN, will be from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, July 6, as a drive-thru distribution in the parking lot off Maple Street on the east side of Generations Event Center. Pre-registration is required. Call Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064.

Dementia series begins July 7

Free "Getting to Know Dementia" will take place from 2:30 to 3:45 p.m. on July 7 and 21, Aug. 4 and 18 and Sept. 8 at the Presbyterian Church in Luverne. The information sessions are hosted by the Alzheimer's Alliance LLC. Contact Elena at 605-545-0758 for more information.

Blue Mound Cemetery picnic

The Blue Mound Cemetery Association annual picnic will be at noon Tuesday, July 11, at the home of Randy and Kathy Remme on Tuesday. Bring potluck items and drinks. Plates, cups, napkins and silverware will be provided.

SAIL classes start in Luverne

New SAIL classes meet from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays from July 11 through Sept. 28 at Generations Event Center in Luverne. The free classes, Stay Active and Independent for Life, improve strength and balance. Call A.C.E. of SWMN manager Linda Wenzel, 507-283-5064 or A.C.E. volunteer Corey Ziegler, 507-920-0587.

Tour de Donut July 15

The annual Tour de Donut will be Saturday, July 15, at The Lake in Luverne. Start time of the first event is 7 a.m. New this year are 7- or 11-mile tours on the Luverne Loop or the Luverne Loop and Ashby Trail. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/donutMN>

Free summer events at Plaza, courthouse, parks

Live music on the Plaza hosted by Luverne Street Music, will celebrate their 10th anniversary. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 10, at the Plaza on Main. Bring chairs.

Summer crafts and activities, hosted by Rock County Opportunities, provides free activities and fun for all ages at the Plaza on Main from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Thursday, July 13.

Jim Brandenburg's Touch the Sky Prairie Nature Walk with naturalist Pat Doyscher will meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 15, at at Waterfall Trail.

Zumba Fitness & Fun is a free exercise class hosted by Luverne Aquatic & Fitness at the Plaza on Main from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 17.

Fun at the Beach books, a child reading outreach program, is hosted by Rock County Community Library at the Plaza on Main from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 18.

A Fun Day for Kids, hosted by Quality Printing, will provide free activities and games at the Plaza on Main at 10 a.m. Wednesday, July 19.

Community Ed

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

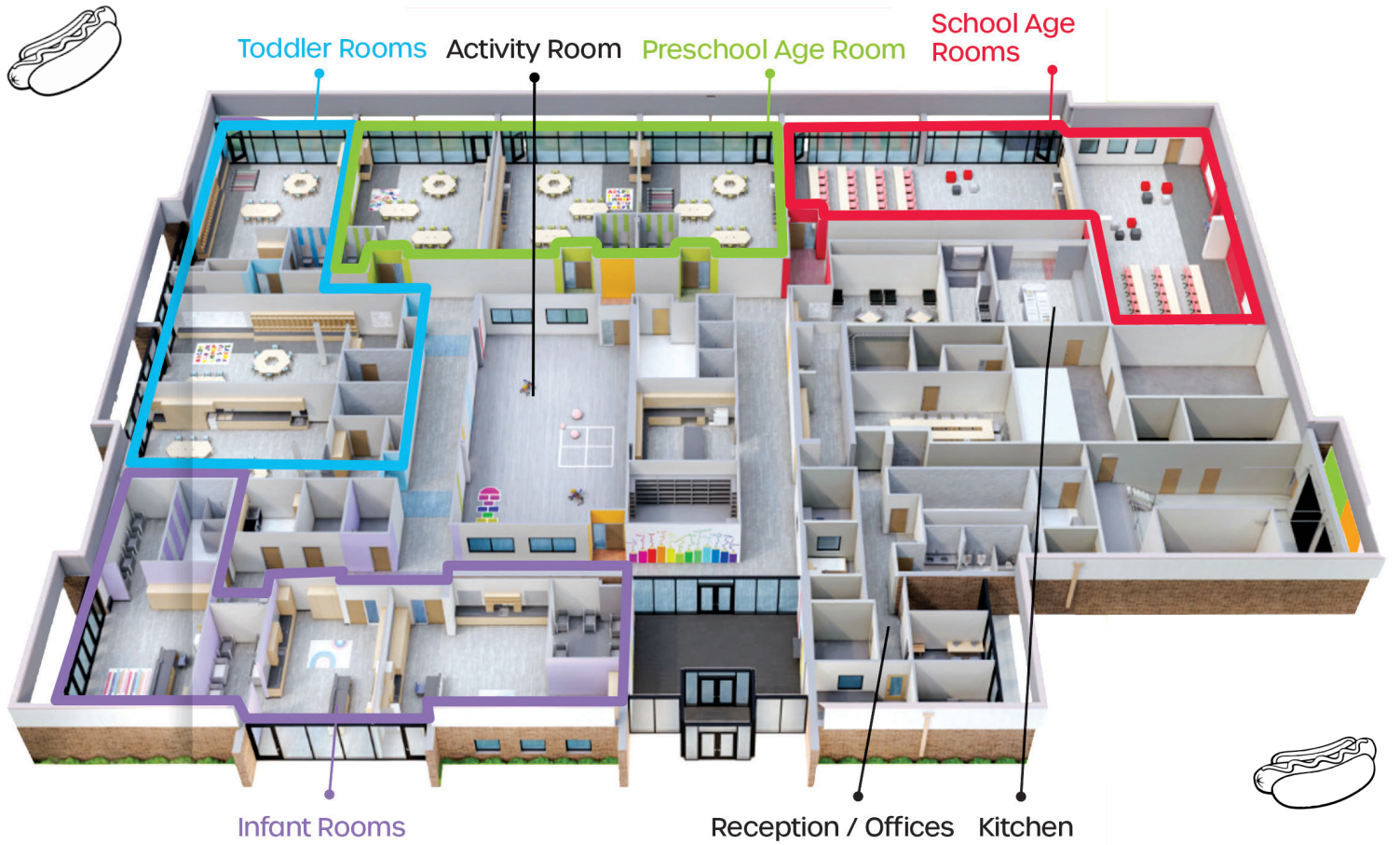
Defensive Driving next refresher four-hour class is July 10.

Paint and Snack Classes for grades K-4 during the 2022-23 school year are July 17 and Aug. 14. Fee is \$33/class.

Students (grades K-6) can decorate **Summer themed cookies** at B's Bakehouse on July 12. Register by July 5. Fee is \$35.

Grade 5 through adult can work on a clay project with an instructor during **Open Studio**. Reserve two hour blocks of time on July 8. Fee is \$25 and covers materials and firing.

Grades 3-5 and age 14-adult can learn the basics of knitting at **Knitting for Beginners** on July 10. Fee is \$28 and includes yarn and needles.



The new facility, which will open in phases, will eventually have capacity for 24 infants, 42 toddlers, 60 preschoolers and 60 school-age children. An architect's drawing shows how the 30,000 square feet in the former TCI building will be used.

Kids Rock! Child Care Center/continued from page 1

many involved. "Not only does 'Rock' refer to our geographic location, but it also symbolizes the rock-solid foundation we want to provide for kids and young families," Sammons said.

After decades of searching for a solution to the local child care shortage, Sammons said it's rewarding to see a finish line. She compared it to giving birth.

"I feel like we've been 'pregnant' with this project for a very long time. The contractions are starting and it's time for labor and delivery," she said. "We're ready to give birth to this project and watch it come to life."

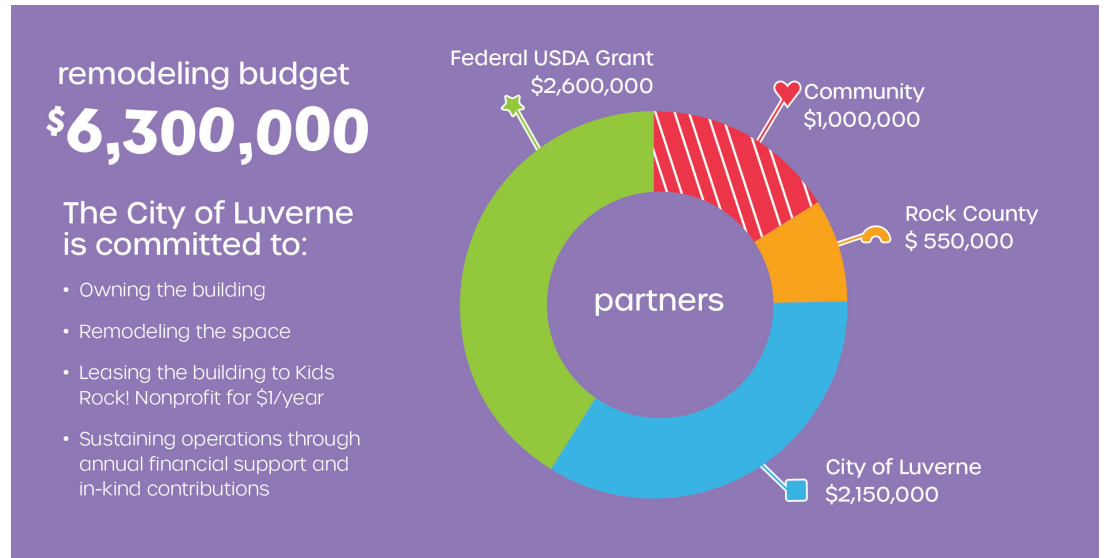
The city of Luverne, with support from Rock County and federal funds, is converting the former Total Card Inc. building (originally Tri-State Insurance) into a day care center.

The city paid \$515,000 in March 2022 for the 30,000-square-foot office building, which needs \$6.3 million in renovations to become a child care facility for up to 186 children.

Studies show a current day care shortage of 120 slots, and that doesn't account for more than 100 new jobs coming online with new employers in the next year. Many of those workers will also need child care.

The new facility, which will open in phases, will eventually have capacity for 24 infants, 42 toddlers, 60 preschoolers and 60 school-age children.

The city has committed \$2.15 million toward the project. Rock County will pay \$550,000, and a grant through the USDA will



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— Holly Sammons, Luverne EDA director

cover \$2.6 million.

A community fundraising campaign is expected to contribute \$1 million, and the Kids Rock non-profit announced those fundraising goals this week.

"A community-based child care center will fill a critical role in the social infrastructure of a healthy community, allowing children, families, businesses and communities to thrive," is on the cover of a colorful brochure touting the Kids Rock! Child Care Center.

The mission of the non-profit is to "build a rock-solid foundation that prepares children to thrive socially, emotionally and academically," with a vision to "invest in children for the future of our communities."

Community donations goal is \$1 million

Community donations will help pay for cribs and cots, highchairs, tables, desks, chairs, stools and flexible seating.

It will help fund interior remodeling, rugs and carpet, office equipment and commercial kitchen necessities.

It will also help pay for strollers, wagons, trikes, scooters and outdoor playground equipment, as well as balls and toys for the indoor activity room.

Additional funds will be needed for learning equipment required by the Minnesota Department of Health. For example, equipment is needed for block play,

gross motor skills, dramatic play, nonmobile play, manipulatives and library, music, art, science sensory exploration.

Kids Rock! partners with LACF to accept donations

Kids Rock! Child Care Center is partnering with the Luverne Area Community Foundation to accept charitable donations.

Contributions over \$1,000 will be recognized on a permanent donor board in the facility.

Checks payable to LACF can be sent to 102 E Main St., Luverne, MN 56156. Call 507-220-2424 for information.

Renovation work on the building starts this summer with a projected opening late in 2024 or early 2025.

Once construction is complete and the center is furnished, the city will turn over the facility to a non-profit for \$1 per year.

The city will continue to subsidize its operation, maintenance, snow removal, lawn care and utilities.

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H-BC bond sale/from page 1

bond referendum on April 11.

Because plans for the new elementary school and improvements at the Hugo Goehle gymnasium and secondary school occur over a two-year period, an additional bond sale of \$8.475 million will take place next year, possibly in April.

"The second (bond) issue is going to be dependent on, if you need the funds or not, where your bids come in," Bushberger said. "We will really be able to get a real good and accurate picture at that point."

Bid letting is expected to take place in October or November.

H-BC received a solid credit rating

Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools received an "A+" credit rating for the June 22 bond sale, along with a "AAA" credit rating from the Minnesota Credit Enhancement Program.

Noted in the S&P Global credit report is a stable outlook in the district and the state, primarily due to a growing tax base.

In 2023, assessed values from residential assessments increased 19 percent from the previous year. Preliminary data has assessed values of agricultural land increasing 20 to

30 percent in 2024.

"This growing tax base somewhat mitigates the large debt burden and future elevated debt carrying costs," the report stated.

Currently the district has \$6.875 million in debt from the secondary school built in 2010. This debt will be retired in 2035.

Key to the district's credit stability is its financial management team, according to the report.

"We believe (H-BC) has good policies and practices that resulted in significant growth in general fund reserves, which averaged an annual \$400,00 surplus over the past eight years," the report noted.

Also noted was the district's reserve policy to maintain 20 percent of general expenditures.

The report noted a downside scenario that if the district unexpectedly materially draws down its available reserves, the credit rating could be lower.

As a participant in the state's credit enhancement program, however, H-BC can use the state's higher credit rating for the bond sale.

Under the program, if the H-BC district fails to repay its debt, the state will service the debt from its general fund.

Housing TIF district/from page 1

case 25 years, local governments will benefit from taxes paid on the full value of the developed property.

Wolf said the TIF housing district would help pay for the infrastructure and is expected to generate around \$99,000 in tax increment financing over 26 years.

"What a great project for the city of Luverne," said Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian. "There's always a waitlist out at the Rock Creek Townhomes, so this is needed."

Wolf told the council the city's recent housing study identifies a need for the

proposed housing project.

"The housing study did show a need for 33 units at that 50 to 60 percent of area median income level," Wolf said. "This (project) would be 30 units so it would just about meet that need."

The SMHP has indicated it plans to apply for the funding in July and will find out this fall if the Luverne project is accepted.

If the application is denied this year, the partnership intends to apply again for funding next year.

If approved this year, construction on the housing project could begin in 2024.

Alumni Hall of Fame/from page 1

Postal Service.

•**Jerilyn Britz**, Class of 1961. A professional golfer for 26 years, Britz won the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) tour in 1979 and was the first woman inducted into the Rock County Hall of Fame.

•**Warren Herreid, Sr.**, Class of 1938. Herreid had a distinguished 41-year career with the Minnesota National Guard. He was instrumental in founding Luverne's "Last Man's Club," the Rock County Veterans Memorial and the Southwest Minnesota Honor Flight and is the inspiration behind the Herreid Military Museum in Luverne.

•**Betty J. (Soutar) Mann**, Class of 1948. Betty Mann has been the force and inspiration behind the celebration, preservation and education of the history of Rock County for generations. She had the vision for the Rock County History Center and was instrumental in its fundraising and construction.

•**Monti Ossenfort**, Class of 1996. Ossenfort was a stand-out quarterback for LHS and the University of Minnesota, Morris. He began his NFL career in 2001 and has advanced through the ranks

with the Houston Texans, New England Patriots and the Tennessee Titans. In 2023 Ossenfort was hired as general manager of the NFL Arizona Cardinals.

The Alumni Hall of Fame is intended to recognize the accomplishments of former Luverne students while inspiring current students to strive for greatness in their professional or personal lives.

New members will be honored during an induction ceremony in the new Luverne High School Alumni Garden Oct. 6 and introduced at the Homecoming football game that evening.

A new class of inductees will be added to the Hall of Fame each fall during LHS Homecoming ceremonies.

The Alumni Hall of Fame is organized by the Luverne Education Legacy Fund (LELF) and the Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

Committee members include Superintendent Craig Oftedal, former teachers Jeanne Bowron and Elmer Menage, current teacher Jason Berghorst, School Board member Mike DeBates, LHS alumni Emily Crabtree and Gary Papik, and Chamber Director Jane Lanphere.



Jayson Rops, a 2021 Luverne High School graduate, spent last semester studying at Leuphana University in Germany and traveling throughout Europe. He is pictured here in front of the the Colosseum in Rome.

Rops returns from semester of study abroad in Germany



By Jason Berghorst

Luverne High School 2021 graduate Jayson Rops returned in May from Luneburg, Germany, where he spent the semester studying abroad at Leuphana University.

Rops, who just completed his sophomore year at the University of South Dakota, studied in the city just south of Hamburg, Germany, from January to May as part of the University Studies Abroad Consortium.

"I had thought about studying abroad but was uncertain about the cost and being so far away from my family and everything I knew," Rops said.

"But eventually I decided that I was just going to do it and didn't let myself back out of it," he said.

Rops, the son of Tom Rops and Jodi Rops, joined 25 other university students from all across the nation in the program.

"The thing I enjoyed most about my semester was all the people in the program with me," Rops said. "I met some really cool people."

As a history major planning to become a teacher, Rops also enjoyed the opportunity to study near and visit so many historic sites.

In all, he visited seven European countries: Germany, Denmark, France, Greece, Italy,



During his semester in Germany Jayson Rops had the opportunity to travel throughout Europe. He is pictured in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

Ireland and England during his semester abroad.

"Seeing all that history and iconic landmarks was surreal," Rops said.

Rops and another student from Texas resided with a host family in Luneburg, a city of about 70,000 people that included classic German architecture, cobblestone roads and

plenty of bars and breweries.

He attended classes Monday through Thursday and was able to take advantage of his passport and inexpensive transportation to visit so many other locations.

After two years of German classes at LHS, Rops said he could understand more German than he could speak.

While at Leuphana University, he took German language classes and a Nazi German History course.

"I think this opportunity will benefit my career as a teacher," Rops said.

"It will also benefit my life in general because I was exposed to an entirely new culture and society and learned things from a completely different perspective."

Rops said he hopes to return to Europe in the future to visit Paris and Rome again, specifically the Louvre Museum and Palace of Versailles.

"There is just so much history in those cities and Paris, especially, was beautiful," he said, adding that the opportunity to study internationally was worth it.

"I highly recommend studying abroad to everyone. Even if they are unsure about doing it, just do it," he said. "It was the best four months of my life."

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What's on your wish list for Luverne, Part II?

Two years ago this month, I wrote a column about my Top 5 wish list for Luverne.



IN OTHER WORDS

By Jason Berghorst, reporter

I thought it would be fun to look back at my 2021 hopes for my hometown and see if any wishes had been granted.

The following made my list two years ago:

5. Dar's Pizza opening a Luverne location.
4. Kwik Trip coming to Luverne.
3. A larger Lewis Drug in town.
2. A permanent Star Herald sports reporter.
1. A normal school year after 1 1/2 years of pandemic impacts.

I'm happy to report that three of my five wishes have been granted — or will be soon.

A Kwik Trip convenience store will soon be under construction in Luverne. I have to admit, this wish is coming true sooner than I expected.

Last winter Greg Hoogveen started as the Star Herald sports reporter. He's doing a great job and our sports photos have never been better.

We had an almost completely "normal" school year in 2021-22. In fact, it turned out to be the best year of my career so far.

Not too bad, right?

But we can't get too comfortable. I have wishes yet to be granted.

So here's my updated 2023 Top 5 Wish List for Luverne (including the remaining ungranted wishes from the 2021 list):

5. A larger Lewis Drug in Luverne, similar to the newer

medium-sized Lewis Drugs in Sioux Falls. It's unlikely to happen, but one can wish.

4. A "Dar's South" in Luverne or a rebirth, in some way, of the old Smooky's Pizza. If you believe rumors, this one is possible.

And now the new wishes:
3. Citywide recycling pickup every Friday.

I can't be the only one who struggles to keep track of the correct Fridays and misses recycling day. Or pulls the bin to the street on the wrong Fridays. Or, in the summer especially, is out of town on recycling Friday. Let's just do every Friday like we do when there's a fifth Friday in the month.

2. A restaurant that serves breakfast, especially on the weekends. ... A new sports bar opening this fall has me optimistic that we will have more sit-down restaurants open on Sundays. And if we're lucky, that will again include breakfast options.

1. Continuation of our local institutions. I know this one is rather broad, but my wish really is that Luverne continues to remain vibrant so our local institutions can remain strong.

Our businesses, organizations, churches and schools need Luverne to continue to be progressive and growth-oriented in order to survive and thrive. I wish for this mindset to continue for years to come.

I'll check back in two years and see how my wishes are doing. Meanwhile, what's on your wish list for Luverne?

Kudos to local firefighters for grain bin rescue

We often don't know what we need until we need it, and that's likely the case for most people finding themselves in need of emergency assistance.

Until we need help, we don't know what kind of help is available, and many who have needed help for fires, crashes or medical emergencies will attest to the quality firefighters and first responders we have in Rock County.

On Wednesday, June 28, Luverne and Hills firefighters were called to a grain bin accident at the Fick farm where two were trapped in avalanched corn and a third was trying to help them. (See the related story.)

In the moments that elapsed before the Luverne Fire Department arrived, they were focused on survival. What they didn't know was that a trained force of emergency responders would swoop onto the scene knowing exactly what to do with exactly the right tools.

The Ficks are seasoned farmers accustomed to all sorts of

hazardous farming situations. They knew the dangers of working in grain bins and thought they were acting responsibly.

But the corn didn't care as it crashed in from the sides of the bin. That's the thing about farming. It's as unpredictable as the markets and the weather that dictates who succeeds and who fails.

What is predicable, though, is the life-saving skill of our local firefighters who train for disasters that can — and have — taken lives in the past. They've learned from close calls and tragic endings.

And they've rehearsed on countless Monday nights for untold hours for worst-case scenarios like the one on June 28.

They've thrown their Rescue Randy dummy into flowing grain and rescued him. Over and over.

So when they showed up at 1159 101st St. at 2:34 p.m. on June 28, things got heated but their heads were cool.

And the outcome was positive. Three men were in the bin. Three came out. No one was hurt.

Many of us will never need emergency responders to come to our rescue, a blessing for which we should be thankful.

But those of us who have needed local help — in a fire, crash or medical emergency — can attest to the fact that we are blessed with the best.

Kudos to the Luverne Fire Department and the Hills firefighters who assisted for the successful grain bin rescue last week. Thank you for your hours of training and for being ready when you were needed.

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL



Altena: '...you and I are called to expose the deeds of darkness'

To the Editor:

If you drove past my house and saw me trying to mow my lawn with my snowblower, at best you would assume I was not fulfilling the intended purpose for my snowblower, right?

And yet I believe that scenario represents the mindset of Gov. Walz and every Democratic representative and senator in Minnesota.

I'm guessing most of you have heard the story from a few weeks ago of Gov. Walz signing a bill that requires school districts and charter schools in Minnesota to stock "period products" in boys' bathrooms.

Common sense would say, "How foolish; God did not create males with a need for feminine products."

However, in her infinite wisdom, the bill's sponsor, Rep. Sandra Feist,

VOICE OF OUR READERS

DFL-New Brighton, argued, "Not all students who menstruate are female ... We need to make sure all students have access to these products ... Non-female menstruators face a greater stigma and barrier to asking these questions."

The \$2 per pupil in the education finance bill will go toward supplying free menstrual products for both male and female students.

There are 821,000 pupils in Minnesota. (Check out [https://alphaneews.org/walz-signs-bill-requiring-schools-to-stock-period-](https://alphaneews.org/walz-signs-bill-requiring-schools-to-stock-period-products-in-boys-bathrooms)

[products-in-boys-bathrooms](https://alphaneews.org/walz-signs-bill-requiring-schools-to-stock-period-products-in-boys-bathrooms)).

In addition to the absurdity of this bill, Gov. Walz also signed a bill that makes Minnesota a "trans refuge state" where minor children, regardless of their state of legal residency, can obtain on-demand puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and irreversible surgeries — with or without the knowledge or consent of their parents.

House File 146 is also a threat to parental rights nationally, since Minnesota courts now have the legal right to unilaterally strip custody

from a fit parent who objects to experimental, harmful treatments in response to gender identity confusion that is possibly, or even likely, temporary.

That's right, Minnesota could take away your child if you refuse to subject him or her to harmful, experimental "gender affirming care."

Friends, regardless of what political party you may identify with, these new laws are the result of those who have been deceived and handed over to a depraved mind.

Regardless of whatever religious beliefs you might hold, putting feminine products in boys' bathrooms, murdering unborn babies, and potentially removing minor children from parents for protecting their children is evil and is in opposition of God's intent for his created order.

The Bible, which in part serves as an owner's manual for God's created order, includes instruction how God establishes governing authorities to "punish those who do wrong and commend those who do right."

Many of our governing authorities have that backward and are commending those who do wrong and punishing those who do good.

Followers of Jesus, you and I are called to expose the deeds of darkness.

In the meantime, with the Apostle Paul, "I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." I Timothy 2:1-2

Pastor Mike Altena, Luverne

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

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

June 23

•Complainant on State Highway 23 and 91st Street, Beaver Creek, reported a fire.

•Complainant on E. Luverne Street reported vandalism.

•An outage was reported.

•Complainant on E. Highway 23, Beaver Creek, reported theft/larceny.

•A warrant was issued on 61st Street, Beaver Creek.

•Complainant on N. Freeman Avenue reported vandalism.

•Complainant on E. Main Street reported property damage.

•Complainant requested roadside assistance on S. Kniss Avenue.

•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a civil issue.

June 24

•An issue with curfew was reported on U.S. Highway 75.

•Complainant on W. Mead Court reported suspicious activity.

•A weather alert was reported for Rock County.

•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 15, Luverne, reported a driving complaint.

•Complainant on 141st Street, Luverne, reported property damage.

•Complainant on N. Lindale Street reported property damage.

•Complainant on W. Edgehill Street reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant on Highway 75 and Interstate 90 reported debris.

•An outage was reported on Main Street and Kniss Avenue.

June 25

•Assistance from another department was requested eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 5, Beaver Creek.

•Complainant on 190th Avenue, Luverne, reported vandalism.

•Complainant on Highway 23, mile marker 10, Jasper, reported a road and drive laws issue.

•Complainant on 40th Avenue, Hills, reported theft.

•Complainant in Steen reported a driving complaint.

June 26

•Complainant south-

bound on Highway 75, near airport in Luverne, reported a pedestrian.

•A warrant was issued on 61st Street near Beaver Creek.

•Complainant on Oak Drive reported a fire.

•A warrant was issued on W. Hatting Street.

•Complainant on E. Warren Street reported counterfeit.

•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported a fire.

•Complainant on County Road 4 and Rock River Drive reported suspicious activity.

June 27

•Complainant on E. Dodge Street reported theft.

•Complainant on 71st Street, Luverne, reported a fire.

June 28

•Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 1, Beaver Creek, reported a driving complaint.

•A warrant was issued from Nobles County.

•Complainant on 101st Street, Luverne, reported a fire.

June 29

•Complainant on Edgehill Street reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant on Kniss Avenue and Edgehill Street reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant on 101st Street, Beaver Creek, reported property damage.

•Assistance from another department was requested in Hills.

•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant reported a civil issue.

•Complainant on Edgehill Street reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 10, Luverne, reported a driving complaint.

In addition, officers responded to 3 motor vehicle accidents, 1 deer accident, 1 escort, 13 ambulance runs, 4 parking violations, 7 paper services, 5 animal complaints, 2 fingerprint requests, 7 burn permits, 1 alarm, 3 stalled vehicles, 53 traffic stops, 13 abandoned 911 calls, 2 tests and 1 report of cattle out.

Grain bin rescue/continued from page 1

that, you just want to hop in right away and help, but we have to set up ropes and equipment and get everybody set up properly.”

A key piece of equipment, he said, is what’s called a grain bin tube, an aluminum cylinder that’s assembled around a victim trapped in grain.

It’s lowered around the victim — pounded in like a fence post, and grain is removed from the tube via a portable auger to eventually lift out the trapped person.

That’s what happened Wednesday, except that a second tube was needed from the Hills Fire Department to help Ron.

“We didn’t realize until later that more than one person was trapped in the bin,” Van Batavia said.

Meanwhile, the Rock County ambulance service was on the scene, and Sanford air med was called for standby during the nearly two-hour episode.

As it turned out, air transport wasn’t needed, and the Ficks were treated and released, one at Sanford Luverne and two at the scene.

But the outcome could have been much different.

“They saved our lives”

“It could have been ugly,” Ron said, recounting the moments inside the bin leading up to the 911 call.

He said the three of them were unloading corn from a large 48-foot bin when a chunk of corn plugged the auger.

He and Jim climbed up the outside ladder of the bin, climbed down the ladder on the inside, and walked across the grain down to the center bottom of the bin.

“The corn where we were standing was probably only three feet deep,” Ron said.

“And then all at once, it was like a big avalanche. The corn (piled against the bin wall) let go and came down on us.”

Fortunately, at that moment, Mel climbed the bin to check their progress and was able to shut off equipment and call for help. He then climbed back in the bin to help.

“He laid across the corn, using his body as a dam so that the corn couldn’t come down any farther until 911 arrived,” Ron said. “We have to thank him, too.”

In hindsight, he said they should have approached the plugged auger differently, but at the time they thought they were doing the right thing.

“Just like every other farmer, we thought we were doing it the proper way, and it ended up not being that way,” Ron said.

“We know better. We’ve heard all the stories. We thought we were being very cautious and it backfired.”

In the days since the accident, he said people have been supportive.

“We’ve had so many guys call and neighbors and friends tell us, ‘We do the same thing, and we’ve been in the same situation many times,’” Ron said.

Other than being stiff and sore, he said Friday that they feel fine, but shaken.

“They saved our lives,” he said. “We really appreciate the firemen and first responders. They really did an excellent job. We couldn’t have gotten by without them.”

The practice of saving lives

Fortunately for the Ficks and others who have been trapped in grain, Hills and Luverne firefighters are trained for grain bin



Luverne Fire Chief David Van Batavia supervised the July 28 grain bin rescue from atop the grain-handling facility on the Fick farm at 1159 101st St. southwest of Luverne. He captured this image of the yard filled with emergency vehicles from Luverne and Hills. Below, firefighters take turns working in the heat, and hydrate between their shifts.



rescues.

Van Batavia said firemen train annually in the CHS bins with “Rescue Randy,” the 180-pound, 6-foot-tall dummy. “We throw him in one of those big bins and then we rescue him,” Van Batavia said.

Without the grain tubes he said the Ficks wouldn’t have gotten out of the bin on their own.

“Absolutely not,” Van Batavia said. “You would never get anywhere on that call without the tubes. The only thing you could do is to start taking it out the bottom.”

This response isn’t preferred, he said.

“That’s your initial reaction — just open the door and let the corn out, but you get this rush of corn and then nothing,” he said.

The bottlenecked corn then needs to be shoveled.

To illustrate how effective the tubes are in protecting victims from crushing pressure, he said firemen had to wait until the next day to recover the equipment from the Fick bins after they removed corn.

And then they dis-

covered the welds on the aluminum had been broken. “It’s crazy the amount of pressure it kept off them,” Van Batavia said.

The tubes will need to be replaced, but he said CHS and New Vision have been generous about providing funding for local firemen to have them on hand.

“It’s a smart thing for them to have out there, to make sure everybody has what they need,” he said.

Van Batavia said he remembers the first one he

assisted with in 2010. “We ended up punching a bunch of holes in the bin to get the corn out,” he recalled.

Since then, he said he’s helped with three additional grain bin rescues and also a trench cave-in at a construction site.

Despite new rescue techniques and equipment, grain bin accidents are often fatal, according to the National Ag Safety Database.

Just over 200 farmers have died as a result of grain bin suffocation accidents over the past 30 years, the organization reports.

It takes four seconds for an adult to sink knee-deep in flowing grain and be rendered unable to get free without assistance. In just 20 seconds, an adult can be fully engulfed and die from suffocation.

Rescues are difficult because of the force of downward-flowing grain.

Research shows that 900 pounds of pull is required to raise an adult mannequin covered with corn, which is why grain bin rescues are so difficult.

Meanwhile, the Ficks are glad to be among the survival statistics.

“Between the rescue workers and God watching over us, we are here today,” Ron said.

“I just gotta put that out there. There were some guardian angels watching over us, that’s for sure.”

Blue Mounds State Park announces July programs

The Blue Mounds State Park has announced its July programs and events. Contact blue-mounds.statepark@state.mn.us or 507-283-6050 with questions.

Colors of the Prairie will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Friday, July 7, at the Eagle Rock Vista. Walk the prairie (up to a mile) to see what plants are blooming in early July. Bring sun and insect protection, a water bottle, and good walking shoes. All ages welcome.

Making Tracks Nature Cart will be from 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 8, at the picnic area. Explore the different tracks animals leave behind and imagine how they move and make prints.

Historic Geology Hike will be from 10-11:30 a.m. Thursday, July 13, at the Eagle Rock Vista Parking Lot. Travel back through time with the naturalist on this 1.5-mile hike along the Bur Oak Trail down to

the historic quarry. From ancient rivers to glaciers to park trails, explore the park’s ever-changing landscape. Bring insect and sun protection and good walking shoes. Note: *The trail is not stroller or wheelchair friendly.*

Built Like a Bison will be from 2-3:30 p.m. Saturday, July 15, at Eagle Rock Vista. Big, bold, and beautiful; bison have been roaming the prairies of North America for hundreds of years. Discover what it takes to be built like a bison and thrive on the prairie at this stop-and-go style program.

Storytime on the Plains will be from 5-6 p.m. Saturday, July 22, at the bench across from Campground Host. Long before writing, people have been sharing their culture, history and values through storytelling. Hear stories that have been shared on the Great Plains for centuries. Bring a blanket or chair. All ages are welcome.

City of Beaver Creek Public Hearing Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Beaver Creek, Rock County, Minnesota will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, July 14th at 7:00 p.m. to consider a tax abatement request from Austin and Hannah Christensen pursuant to Minnesota Statute 469.1813. The request is to abate 100% of the City’s portion of real estate taxes related to the building improvements on the subject property for a period of 5 years. The subject property is located at 805 Ridgeview Rd, Beaver Creek, MN and is legally described as: Legal Description: Parcel No. 13-0147-000, Lot 15 of Block 3 in Springbrook Addition and a street address of 805 Ridgeview Rd, Beaver Creek MN.

The public hearing will be held in the Beaver Creek City Council Chambers, 311 E First Ave, Beaver Creek, Minnesota. All interested persons are invited to attend and be heard. Those unable to attend are invited to send written comments, prior to the hearing, to: Beaver Creek City Council, PO Box 74, Beaver Creek, MN 56116.

CELEBRATIONS

Card showers

Arlene Lee will celebrate her 90th birthday on Wednesday, July 12. Greetings may be sent to her at 203 Oak Drive, Apt. #129, Luverne, MN 56156.

Neil and Sharon Dohmann will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Thursday, July 20. Greetings may be sent to them at 410 E. Luverne Street, Magnolia, MN 56158.

Open houses

A 90th birthday open house for **Faye Schilling-DeBoer** will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, July 9, in the fellowship hall of the Zion Presbyterian Church, 420 S. Broadway Street, Ellsworth, MN.

MENU AT GENERATIONS

Monday, July 10: Parmesan chicken, green beans, fruit cocktail, breadstick.

Tuesday, July 11: Tater tot casserole, mixed vegetables, warm peaches, dinner roll.

Half-Price Day sponsored by American Reformed Church.

Wednesday, July 12: Ham pasta salad, creamy cucumbers, cantaloupe, dessert.

Thursday, July 13: Diced turkey and gravy over mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, dinner roll, warm

fruit crisp.

Friday, July 14: Meatballs, mashed potatoes, carrots, bread, dessert.

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

Call Pam Franken at 283-9846, extension 11 to reserve one day prior, 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.

1943: Berg continues story about arriving in Luverne

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

The following appeared in *The Rock County Herald* on Nov. 4, 1943.

(Continued from last week when Nels Berg, in his first four months in Luverne, broke 100 acres of prairie with oxen.)

When my brother told me I could guide an ox by talking to him, I wouldn't believe it, but I soon learned to say 'gee' and 'haw' and the oxen understood what I meant."

Mr. Berg explained that he did not learn any English while staying at the Haga home, as the boys would always play tricks on him when he asked them to say something in the American tongue. That fall, after repeated requests from friends, he decided to go to Canton, in hopes that there, he'd have a better chance to learn English. One day he started from Luverne at 5 a.m. and

that night at 6 o'clock, tired and hungry, he walked into the hotel at Canton. He had never been to Canton before but managed to get there without any help, he states. In case he would have become lost, however, he had a note pinned to his shirt, which read, "Please direct this man to Canton, S.D.," which might have helped him if he had become lost among people who could not understand Norwegian.

When he told the man in

Bits, continued on page 7



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann,
Rock County Historian

Meeting a challenge

Boelman travels to all 50 states ... without leaving her Luverne home



Mavis Fodness photo/0706 50 States Reading Boelman
Enore Boelman holds the 50 States Challenge log she recorded each of the 50 books she read since Jan. 1. While Rock County Community Library patrons have a year to complete the challenge, Boelman finished in half that time. Now she's reading books for the summer reading challenge.

By Mavis Fodness

Enore Boelman sat down with her first book in January, and six months later she's read 50 of them.

The 92-year-old Luverne woman is just one of a handful of Rock County Community Library patrons to finish the "50 States Challenge."

"I didn't know I would be able to finish before the end of the year, but once I got started, I got into it," she said.

The Challenge requires patrons to read 50 books, each set in a different state. The books must be checked out from the Plum Creek Library System.

The Challenge began Jan. 1 and ends Dec. 31.

Rock County Librarian Calla Jarvie said she's surprised patrons are finishing the challenge only halfway through the year. To be on pace to finish by the end of the year, 25 books, e-books or audio books should be finished.

"Everyone who completes the challenge will get a prize," Jarvie

"It makes me feel good. I'm glad I did it."

-Enore Boelman

said. "We're just not sure what that is yet."

Sheets to record the book selections by state are still available at the library.

"If you haven't started, it's not too late," said Boelman, who read 50 large-print books that her daughter, Becky Sehr, brought her from the library.

"She really got into the challenge, often saying, 'Get down there and get me my next book,'" Sehr said.

Boelman raised eight children on a farm and later opened a day

care business. She then worked 20 years in the lunchroom at Luverne Public Schools.

She turned to reading once she retired in 2015.

"Her whole life she would like to read, but she didn't have the time," Sehr said.

The 50 States Challenge prompted Boelman, who prefers Christian fiction, to read other genres. She skipped over some authors' offensive language, but finished all the books and later said she liked some books she wouldn't have picked up otherwise.

For example, Boelman now reads mystery novels. "I couldn't quit until I found out who did it," she said. "I can see why people get hooked on reading mysteries."

Now that she's completed the 50 States Challenge, Boelman has moved on to the library's summer reading program with a satisfied feeling.

"It makes me feel good. I'm glad I did it," she said.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees include Wratz

The South Dakota Rock and Music Association will induct a Luverne man to its 2023 Hall of Fame.

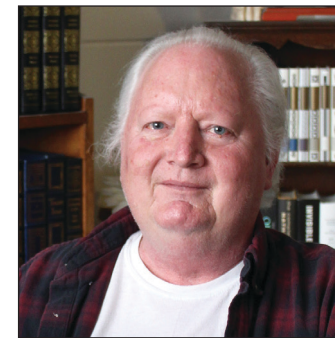
Robert Wratz was a guitarist, lead vocalist and songwriter with the band named Star Child. Wratz and others will be inducted Sept. 30 in Sioux Falls.

Star Child originally began as a three-piece rock band in 1973 and introduced the area to artists such as David Bowie, REO Speedwagon and early Fleetwood Mac.

When the fourth and fifth members were added, the band played hits from

Queen, Led Zeppelin, Foreigner and Tommy Brolin's James Gang.

"They were in their own world playing off-the-wall music by artists who were relatively unknown at the time in their rockin' corner of the Midwest," wrote the South Dakota Rock and



People, go to page 7

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2013)

•The Comfort Inn in Luverne is now a Quality Inn with a new look and updated features.

According to local management, the name change is prompted by a corporate decision, but it will remain under the same ownership.

The exterior has adopted Quality Inn colors—primarily gold and green—and the interior has new flat-screen TVs, new beds, bedding, in-room furniture and lobby furniture.

The name change went into effect May 17, but the hotel has been steadily improving since it came under new ownership last fall.

25 years ago (1998)

•Minneota writer Bill Holm has a perfect word for participation in the Blue Mound Writers Series. In this fifth year of the Saturday night gatherings in the front yard of the Blue Mounds State Park Interpretive Center, Holm kicked off the new series and more than 100 people came to hear him. Holm remembered Manfred, the man who created Siouxland and was a mentor and friend to many young writers. Holm read from "The Frederick Manfred Reader" and also shared a poem he'd written in which he characterized Manfred as, "a tall man scribbling in a low room." Luverne artist and musician Chris Nowatzki performed before the reading. Holm was introduced by Luverne High School student Jens Larson.

50 years ago (1973)

•Kenny and son Larry Goebel in the senior division, and Dale and son Tim Knoll, junior division, took top honors Sunday in the annual Father-Son Golf Tournament at the Luverne Country Club.

In the senior division, Kenny and Larry Goebel fired a 142 net to edge Bud and Perry Noll with a 143. Bud Noll fired a 144 with son Dave for a third place finish.

High senior net went to Arlo and Jim Bierkamp. Longest Drive on Number 7 was won by Dave Noll, and Jim Golla had the longest putt on Number 1. Perry Noll was closest to the pin on Number 3, and Kirk Authier was closest to pin on Number 6.

In the Junior Division, Dale and Tim Knoll fired a 144 to take their event with Bud and Andy Noll at 146 and Don and Randy Spease in third with a 147.

High Junior Net went to Dave and Todd Connell. Rick Connell had the longest drive on Number 9 and the longest putt on Number 5. Andy Noll was closest to the pin on 3 and Mark Goebel was closest to the pin on Number 6.

In all, 68 participants vied for honors in the tournament. Chairmen for the vent were Ed Winter and Don Lien.

75 years ago (1948)

•Lillian Wiese, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Wiese, of Luverne, has purchased Dot's Beauty Shop from Eva Borg

and took possession Tuesday. The business will hereafter be known as Lillian's Beauty Shop.

Miss Wiese came here from Litchfield where she has been employed the past 1½ years at the Hollywood Beauty Shop. She will serve as manager-operator of their business, and will be assisted by Elsie Schmidt. The shop is located in the Rock County Bank basement.

100 years ago (1923)

•Additional indications of the presence of oil deposits in Rock county, this time in Vienna township, were encountered Thursday afternoon of last week, in drilling for a well on the J. S. Thompson half section farm two and a half miles north of Magnolia, operated by Eli Leech.

First symptoms of oil were in a rock-like formation of a deep bluish color, that when ground fine appears to be putty sand, and while wet has an easily pliable and somewhat adhesive character, but becomes hard when dried.

This was encountered at a depth of about 365 feet, by Well Driller A. C. Ridenour, of Steen, and in connection with this substance, the water being slushed out assumed a decidedly oily surface, in spite of frequent skimmings.

The putty-sand formation was found to be more than fifteen feet in depth and Mr. Ridenour, who is a well driller of many years' experience, has found this formation before in drilling wells.

OBITUARIES

James Hoiland

James Russell June 20, 2023, while at the Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Jim went to be with his Lord at the age of 88 years, three months and 25 days.

Jim was a lifetime member of Bethany Lutheran Church in Luverne. He was proud to have used his carpentry skills to build the education addition for the church in 1967.

He served the church in nearly all capacities during his life and held many offices. He was a school board member for numerous years for the Magnolia, Minnesota, school district. He was a member of the Kompen Cottage Crew where this Norwegian treat was made and enjoyed. As he loved snowmobiling, Jim was a former member of the Rock County Snowmasters. He enjoyed fishing and especially enjoyed the trips he made to Lake Minnewaska and to Canada. Jim will be remembered for his notable saying, "Well sure!", and his private, but very generous nature.

Jim is lovingly survived by his wife, Lorena; four children, Cheryl (Mark) Laleman of Cottonwood, Minnesota, Marcia (Hank) Bayne of Sioux Falls, Julie (Trevor) Hansen of Bellevue, Nebraska, and Michael (Lynette) Hoiland of Luverne; 13 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and numerous other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Obert and Alma Hoiland, and a brother, Roger Hoiland.

A funeral service was held Monday, June 26, at Bethany Lutheran Church. Burial followed at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne. To view Jim's life tribute video or funeral service, please visit www.hartquistfuneral.com. Arrangements were under the care of Hartquist Funeral Home.



Jewell Gimble

Jewell Ann Gimble, 79, center her life around her two children, her students and her steadfast faith. She found joy in God's creation and could often be found outside enjoying her flower garden.

Jewell's love for animals, flowers and all things outdoors began in her childhood growing up on the farm, and she shared this love in her classroom, teaching her students about all of the different wildflowers and introducing them to butterflies that they watched grow from caterpillars. She was also a bit of a shopaholic and enjoyed curating the perfect outfit.

Jewell grew up and was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick, Minnesota, and she was a longtime member of Zion Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls.

Left to cherish her memory are her son, Joel Gimble of Sioux Falls; daughter, Wendy (Justin) Nelson and granddog, Duck of Plattsmouth, Nebraska; sister Judy Carlson of Luverne; sister-in-law Dianne Carlson of Pipestone, Minnesota; and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Gene "Rusty" Gimble; her brother, Steven Carlson; and her parents-in-law, Eugene and Lois Gimble.



Following graduation, Jim entered the United States National Guard where he honorably served as a cook from 1956-1962.

In addition to serving his country, Jim began working in carpentry construction. He went on to build many houses in Luverne and the surrounding area.

On February 17, 1957, Jim was united in marriage to Lorena Kindt at Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick, Minnesota. Jim built their family home in 1958. In 1970 Jim switched career paths and went into farming full time as he and his brother Roger took over the family operation. In January 1997 Jim and Lorena moved into a house in Luverne.

Jim remained active on the farm. He also continued his passion for gardening. He always made a point to share his bounty of vegetable produce intentionally with others in the community throughout his life. He also enjoyed spending time fishing, both on the open water and ice fishing.

Later in life, he offered advice whenever able to his son and grandson in their businesses.

In May of 2023, Jim suffered a mild heart attack. A short time later, he was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. On Tuesday,

the hotel that he had walked the entire distance from Luverne, he was treated royally, and received a bounteous dinner. He recalls how they told the cooks, "Here's a man who walked all the way here from Trondheim, Norway, and is mighty hungry. See that he gets all he wants to eat."

In the hotel, all the women employees were Norwegian except one. Mr. Berg made a bargain with her that if she would teach him English, he would teach her Norwegian. "We had school every night," he recalls, "and we both profited by it."

He was staying in the hotel at the time of Canton's big fire. He was the first one in the hotel to notice the blaze at the other end of the block, and it was he who gave the alarm in the hotel. "The minute I hollered 'fire', you should have seen the people pour out of their rooms," he declared. The blaze destroyed nine buildings before it was brought under control, Mr. Berg stated.

He worked in Canton as a carpenter, and later, obtained a job with a building crew which was constructing depots and warehouses along the railroad from Mason City, Iowa, to Chamberlain, S.D.

It was while thus employed that he had an encounter with the Indians at Pukwana, S.D. The crew was out of lumber one Saturday afternoon so he and another companion went out along the drive to enjoy a picnic. They were enjoying themselves, discussing various subjects, finally coming to the topic of Indians. About that time, Mr. Berg was looking in the distance, and there looking at them was an Indian. "We were plenty scared, but we didn't let on we'd even seen him," Mr. Berg said. "We left our lunch and began turning handsprings and summersaults, and acted like we were half crazy. All the while, though, we were getting closer to a little valley. The minute we got into the valley and out of sight, we beat it for home. We never did see the Indians again, but we didn't go around for them either."

When he came back to Luverne from Canton, he entered the employ of George Soutar, contractor and builder, with whom he worked two and one-half years before going into business on his "own hook." Many of the buildings in Luverne have known the pounding of his hammer during the many years he was actively engaged as a builder. He retired about 12 years ago.

Mr. Berg was married in the old Presbyterian church here in 1884 to Anna Lee. They became the parents of six children, two of whom are living. They are Frank Berg, Minneapolis, and Mrs. Ruth Fanford, of near Beresford, S. Dak. He also has four grandchildren. Mrs. Berg died two years ago, and now he and his only brother, Thor, live at their home on East Lincoln street.

He has been in poor health for a number of years, suffering with asthma. For five and one half years, he never slept in anything but a chair, it being impossible for him to lie down. He is able to sleep in a bed now, however.

Mr. Berg is a member of Zion Lutheran church here and attends services regularly. He is interested in world affairs, and reads both daily and weekly newspapers and listens to the radio.

Discussing the war, and the world at large, Mr. Berg gave his philosophy as follows: "I don't know if it will be in this war, or whether it will be something worse later on, but I'm afraid of the people if this country don't mend their ways, they are going to suffer even more than they are now. We know how God punished the ungodly in early time because of their wrong doings, and He is the same God today as he was then."

Mr. Berg says he never entered politics. "I was always too busy with my other work," he declared.

Donations to the Rock County Historical Society can be sent to the Rock County Historical Society, 312 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156.

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to mannmade@iw.net.

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Later in life, he offered advice whenever able to his son and grandson in their businesses.

In May of 2023, Jim suffered a mild heart attack. A short time later, he was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. On Tuesday,

the hotel that he had walked the entire distance from Luverne, he was treated royally, and received a bounteous dinner. He recalls how they told the cooks, "Here's a man who walked all the way here from Trondheim, Norway, and is mighty hungry. See that he gets all he wants to eat."

In the hotel, all the women employees were Norwegian except one. Mr. Berg made a bargain with her that if she would teach him English, he would teach her Norwegian. "We had school every night," he recalls, "and we both profited by it."

He was staying in the hotel at the time of Canton's big fire. He was the first one in the hotel to notice the blaze at the other end of the block, and it was he who gave the alarm in the hotel. "The minute I hollered 'fire', you should have seen the people pour out of their rooms," he declared. The blaze destroyed nine buildings before it was brought under control, Mr. Berg stated.

He worked in Canton as a carpenter, and later, obtained a job with a building crew which was constructing depots and warehouses along the railroad from Mason City, Iowa, to Chamberlain, S.D.

It was while thus employed that he had an encounter with the Indians at Pukwana, S.D. The crew was out of lumber one Saturday afternoon so he and another companion went out along the drive to enjoy a picnic. They were enjoying themselves, discussing various subjects, finally coming to the topic of Indians. About that time, Mr. Berg was looking in the distance, and there looking at them was an Indian. "We were plenty scared, but we didn't let on we'd even seen him," Mr. Berg said. "We left our lunch and began turning handsprings and summersaults, and acted like we were half crazy. All the while, though, we were getting closer to a little valley. The minute we got into the valley and out of sight, we beat it for home. We never did see the Indians again, but we didn't go around for them either."

When he came back to Luverne from Canton, he entered the employ of George Soutar, contractor and builder, with whom he worked two and one-half years before going into business on his "own hook." Many of the buildings in Luverne have known the pounding of his hammer during the many years he was actively engaged as a builder. He retired about 12 years ago.

Mr. Berg was married in the old Presbyterian church here in 1884 to Anna Lee. They became the parents of six children, two of whom are living. They are Frank Berg, Minneapolis, and Mrs. Ruth Fanford, of near Beresford, S. Dak. He also has four grandchildren. Mrs. Berg died two years ago, and now he and his only brother, Thor, live at their home on East Lincoln street.

He has been in poor health for a number of years, suffering with asthma. For five and one half years, he never slept in anything but a chair, it being impossible for him to lie down. He is able to sleep in a bed now, however.

Mr. Berg is a member of Zion Lutheran church here and attends services regularly. He is interested in world affairs, and reads both daily and weekly newspapers and listens to the radio.

Discussing the war, and the world at large, Mr. Berg gave his philosophy as follows: "I don't know if it will be in this war, or whether it will be something worse later on, but I'm afraid of the people if this country don't mend their ways, they are going to suffer even more than they are now. We know how God punished the ungodly in early time because of their wrong doings, and He is the same God today as he was then."

Mr. Berg says he never entered politics. "I was always too busy with my other work," he declared.

Donations to the Rock County Historical Society can be sent to the Rock County Historical Society, 312 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156.

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to mannmade@iw.net.

LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

For more information about library happenings, call 507-449-5040.

Story Time in the Park is at 10:30 a.m. Thursdays through July at the following locations.

- July 6, Evergreen Park
- July 13, Kolbert Park
- July 20, Veterans Memorial Park
- July 27, Hawkinson Park

Traveling Story Time continues in city or county parks in all the communities outside of Luverne in July.

- Monday, July 10, 10 a.m., Hardwick; 10:45 a.m., Kenneth
- Wednesday, July 12, 10 a.m., Beaver Creek; 10:45 a.m., Hills; 11:30 a.m., Steen.
- Monday, July 17, 10 a.m. Magnolia; 10:45 a.m., Kanaranzi.
- Wednesday, July 19: 10 a.m., Hardwick; 10:45 a.m., Kenneth.
- Monday, July 24, 10 a.m., Beaver Creek; 10:45 a.m., Hills; 11:30 a.m., Steen.
- Wednesday, July 26, 10 a.m., Magnolia; 10:45 a.m., Kanaranzi.

a.m., Beaver Creek; 10:45 a.m., Hills; 11:30 a.m., Steen.

• Monday, July 17, 10 a.m. Magnolia; 10:45 a.m., Kanaranzi.

• Wednesday, July 19: 10 a.m., Hardwick; 10:45 a.m., Kenneth.

• Monday, July 24, 10 a.m., Beaver Creek; 10:45 a.m., Hills; 11:30 a.m., Steen.

• Wednesday, July 26, 10 a.m., Magnolia; 10:45 a.m., Kanaranzi.

Arts & Crafts provides an hour of fun for kindergartners through fifth graders. The event begins at 3 p.m. each Wednesday through July.

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CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Loren Wenzel

A celebration of life for Loren Wenzel (LHS Class of '63) will be at 12 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 12, at Generations, 105 S. Estey Street, Luverne.

To view obituary and crematory information, please visit <https://multismemorial.com/obituaries/loren-alvin-wenzel/>



1945-2023

People/continued from page 6

Roll Music Association on its website.

"It was an ambitious and memorable six-year ride that had them holding on to the edge of their respective seats from beginning to end."

Other band members over the years included Mark Olson (drums), Chuck Salisbury (bass, vocals), Allen Hanson (lead vocals), Clint Kennedy (guitar, vocals, songwriter), and Keith Myhre (guitarist).

Menning pens autobiography

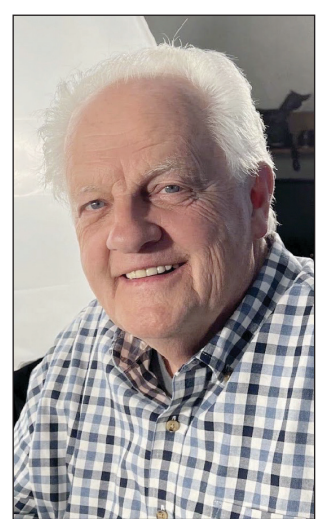
Former Rock County resident and state legislator Marion "Mike" Menning has published an autobiography, "Becoming Ambassadors of Jesus."

The book chronicles his childhood growing up in a poor dairy family and struggling to graduate from high school. After achieving a college education and starting a business, he served

two terms in the late 1970s and early 1980s representing southwest Minnesota in the state Senate.

He then entered full-time ministry for 34 years in the Christian Reformed Church and the CRC World Relief in eastern Europe. He is a former pastor of Mountain Springs Community Christian Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he currently lives.

"Becoming Ambassadors of Jesus" is available on Amazon.



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Independence or in dependence?

The founders of the United States of America risked everything to form a nation that would be different from any other. Independence and freedom were their goals, and many believed they were fools for taking on a world power like Great Britain.

Our war for independence was won. A person could say that independence is woven into the fabric of our nation and a part of the DNA of every citizen. We are a fiercely independent bunch.

Growing up, I dreamed of the day when I could make all my own decisions. I looked forward to being an adult and not having to always do what I was told. I wanted to be independent.

The older I got and the more independent I became, the more I recognized that I needed relationships with people. As I read the Bible, I learned that I was not created by God to live my life completely independently. We were created by God for community – community with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and community with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Jeremy Wiersema, Steen Reformed Church

*As I read
the Bible, I
learned
that I was not
created by God
to live my life
completely
independently.
We were
created by
God for
community –
community
with God the
Father, Son
and Holy Spirit
and
community
with our
brothers and
sisters in
Christ.*

to be independent. We were created and saved by Jesus' death on the cross so that we could live together as a community of people belonging to God. We must continue to make every effort to become one nation under God. It is time we think about what independence really means. We are to live in dependence on God and in relationship with each other instead of trying to be so independent.

St. Catherine Catholic Church
203 E. Brown St., Luverne
St. Catherine Ph. 283-8502; www.stscl.org
Monsignor Gerald Kosse, Pastor
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass. Masses: 9 a.m. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Friday at the nursing homes – check the bulletin. All Sunday masses will be live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/stcluverne/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.luverneccr.com — office@luverneccr.com
Joe Steenholdt, Pastor
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 6:30 p.m. Evening worship service. We are streaming Sunday services live on YouTube 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
103 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne
Ph. 283-4091; email: fbcluv@iw.net — www.fbcluverne.org
Wait 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
Thursday, July 6: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Sunday, July 9: 9 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion. VBS Kickoff! 5:15-5:50 p.m. supper and VBS 6-8:30 p.m. Monday, July 10: 6-8:30 p.m. VBS. Tuesday, July 11: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. 6-8:30 p.m. VBS. 6:45 p.m. Ministry meeting. 8 p.m. PPC meeting. Wednesday, July 12: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 6-8:30 p.m. VBS. Thursday, July 13: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are available. Online worship: Sundays 9 a.m. at www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab; or Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 605-215-9834
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor
Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School and Bible class. 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. 507-283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org
Friday, July 7: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. Sunday, July 9: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. Comm 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
1075 110th Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-9070; email: info@rockrivercommunity.church
Bob Junak, Pastor
Come as you are—Sundays @ 10 a.m.: Main Service. Kids church age 3-6th grade—Nursery. Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m. Midweek Service—Kids age 3-6th grade.

United Methodist Church
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4529
Wednesday, July 5: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Prayer chapel. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Saturday, July 8: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Sunday, July 9: 9:30 a.m. FUEL/Adult Sunday School. 9:45 a.m. Coffee. 10:30 a.m. Worship service. Prayer Warriors after service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible study. Monday, July 10: 6:15-7:30 p.m. VBS. 6:30 p.m. Genesis to Revelation Bible Study. Tuesday, July 11: 6:15-7:30 p.m. VBS. 7 p.m. Scouts. Wednesday, July 12: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Open Prayer Chapel. 6:15-7:30 p.m. VBS. 8 p.m. Meeting. Thursday, July 13: 6:15-7 p.m. VBS. Live streamed on Facebook and radio.

First Presbyterian Church
302 Central Lane, Luverne
Ph. 283-4787; email: fpcemilie@gmail.com
Wednesday, July 5: 7 p.m. Committee meetings if called. Friday, July 7: 2:30-3:45 p.m. Getting to Know Dementia, Session 2. Sunday, July 9: 9:30 a.m. In-person Worship service. (View on Facebook under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne, City of Luverne's LUV TV or on the local Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays). 10:30 a.m. Farewell Brunch in honor of Rev. Dr. Val Putnam. Monday, July 10: 12:30 p.m. Caring Friends. Wednesday, July

12: 7 p.m. Session meeting.

St. John Lutheran Church
803 N. Cedar St., Luverne
Ph. 283-2316; email: stjohn@iw.net
www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org
Saturdays: 5:30 p.m. Worship Service. Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Service. 10 a.m. Fellowship Time. 10:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study. Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Bible Study. 6:30 p.m. Catechesis Class. 6:30 p.m. Kids for Christ. 7:30 p.m. Youth Group. Services will be available on the Vast Channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, cityofluverne.org. Holy Communion is offered on 2nd and 4th weekends and Liturgical Feasts.

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

New Life Celebration Church
101 W. Maple, Luverne
Ph. (605) 368-1924; email: newlifeccelebration@gmail.com

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
305 E. 2nd St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick
Ph. (507) 669-2855; zionoffice@alliancecom.net
Jesse Baker, Pastor
Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Bible study. Worship service on Luverne cable at 3:30 p.m. every Thursday and Friday.

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

First Lutheran Church
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.
Ph. (605) 757-6662 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Mark Eliason, Pastor
Sunday, July 9: 10 a.m. JOINT worship service with Holy Communion at Palisade Lutheran Church. All are welcome. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @FirstLutheranValley Springs; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish. Tuesday, July 18: 7 p.m. First Lutheran council meeting.

Palisade Lutheran Church
211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — palisadchurch@alliancecom.net
www.palisadelutheran.org
Sunday, July 9: 10 a.m. JOINT worship service with Holy Communion at Palisade Lutheran. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @PalisadeLC; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish. Thursday, July 13: 1:30 p.m. Palisade WELCA meeting. 7 p.m. Palisade Lutheran Council meeting.

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

Magnolia United Methodist Church
501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia
Ph. 605-215-3429
email: magnoliannumc@gmail.com
Nancy Manning, Pastor
Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Service 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
Sundays: 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 / bethlehemofhills@gmail.com
Nita Parker, Pastor
Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 9 a.m. Sunday school. 10 a.m. Worship Service. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website blchills.org.

Hills United Reformed Church
410 S. Central Ave., Hills
Office Ph. 962-3254
hillsurc@alliancecom.net
Praveen Muthasamy, Pastor
Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 5 p.m. Evening worship service.

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

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Luverne Redbirds win two games, suffer first loss of season to Fairmont

By Greg Hoogveen

The Redbirds fell for the first time this year 6-1 to Fairmont at home Friday, June 30.

Earlier in the week Luverne won two games, beating Brookings 11-1 at home June 27 and topping Lakefield 10-0 on the road June 28.

The Redbirds are now 13-1 for the season with five regular season games in July.

Luverne is scheduled to travel to Worthington Wednesday, July 5, and host the Fox Lake at noon Sunday, July 9.

Redbirds 11, Brookings 1

The Redbirds put the Brookings Cubs to bed, winning 11-1 at home Tuesday, June 27.

The Cubs took an early 1-0 lead after the first inning and then were not able to score again.

In the bottom of the second inning Luverne put together four runs.

Declan Beers walked in for the first score, and Derek Lundgren crossed home on a Skyler Wenninger single in the following play.

The Redbirds added two more runs when Ben Serie singled to left field to score Cade Wenninger and Carter Sehr.

In the third inning Luverne knocked in five more runs to extend the lead to 9-1.

Cade Wenninger scored for a single to right by his brother Skyler Wenninger.

Serie singled again to left scoring Sehr.

Nick Smith singled to left scoring Skyler Wenninger.

Newt Johnson double on a long ball to the fence sending Serie and Smith home.

In the fourth inning the Redbirds added two more runs for the 11-1 win.

Sehr grounded into a fielder's choice to the shortstop and reached first on an error. Lundgren scored from third, and Cade Wenninger was out advancing to second.

Skyler Wenninger singled to left field, scoring Sehr.

Skyler Wenninger and Serie led Luverne with three RBIs each. Sehr scored three



Greg Hoogveen photo/0706 rbirds score
Charlie Reisch (left) and Newt Johnson hi-five after the Redbirds scored two players back-to-back. Luverne beat Brookings 11-1 June 27 at home.



Greg Hoogveen photo/0706 rbirds beers
Declan Beers connects for a base hit against Brookings June 27. Luverne won the game 11-1.



Greg Hoogveen photo/0706 rbirds safe
Skyler Wenninger reacts to an error against Brookings. Luverne won 11-1.

runs on one hit, courtesy of Skyler Wenninger and Serie.

Cade Wenninger took the mound pitching three innings, allowing one run on three hits, striking out six batters.

Sehr relieved Wenninger for three innings, not allowing a run on three hits and striking out four batters.

Serie finished the last inning with zero runs, zero hits and striking out one batter.

BOX Score
BRKN 1 0 0 0 0 0 x x
RBirds 0 4 5 2 0 0 x x x

BATTING	AB	R	H	RBI
Luverne				
S. Wenninger	3	1	3	3
Serie	4	1	2	3
Smith	4	1	2	1
Johnson	3	0	2	2
Paquette	4	0	0	0
Beers	3	1	1	0
Lundgren	4	2	1	0
C. Wenninger	3	2	1	0
Sehr	3	3	1	1

2B: Johnson 2, S. Wenninger
Total Bases: S. Wenninger 4, Johnson 4, Smith 2, Serie 2, C. Wenninger, Lundgren, Sehr, Beers

PITCHING

Luverne	IP	H	R	ER	SO
C. Wenninger	3	3	1	1	6
Sehr	3	3	0	0	4
Serie	1	0	0	0	1

Pitches-Strikes: C. Wenninger 47-31, Sehr 54-35, Serie 13-8

Batters Faced: C. Wenninger 12, Sehr 12, Serie 4

Redbirds 10, Lakefield 0

The Redbirds leaped over the Lakefield Frogs 10-0 on the road Wednesday, June 28.

The Frogs were unable to get off the pad, connecting only three hits and not scoring a run.

The Redbirds took an early 3-0 lead after three innings.

In the first inning, Johnson grounded out, knocking in Beers, and then Sehr singled to drive in Serie.

In the third, Lundgren was out on a fly ball to right field as Sehr tagged up and scored from third base.

In the top of the sixth inning, Luverne let loose with the hitting machine,

scoring seven runs.

Beers singled to center, scoring Lundgren from third.

Braydon Ripka singled to center, driving in Beyer and Beers.

With two outs, Johnson doubled to score Ripka.

Sehr then singled, scoring Johnson.

Lundgren drove in Sehr, and Beyer doubled, scoring Cade Wenninger.

Sehr led Luverne at the plate with three hits, scoring two runs and two RBIs.

Ripka, Johnson and Sehr all contributed two RBIs in the game.

Lundgren started the game, pitching three innings, allowing no runs on one hit, striking out three batters.

Beyer came in to relieve Lundgren, going four innings with no runs on two hits and struck out four batters.

BOX Score
RBirds 2 0 1 0 0 7 0 x x
LKFL 0 0 0 0 0 0 x x x

BATTING	AB	R	H	RBI
Luverne				
Beers	2	2	1	1
Reisch	1	0	0	0
S. Wenninger	1	0	0	0
Ripka	3	1	2	2
Serie	4	1	1	0
Overgaard	1	0	0	0
Johnson	4	1	1	2
Sehr	4	2	3	2
C. Wenninger	3	1	1	0
Lundgren	3	1	1	2
Beyer	1	1	1	1
Nath	3	0	0	0

2B: Beyer, Johnson, Sehr
Total Bases: Sehr 4, Beyer 2, Ripka 2, Johnson 2, C. Wenninger, Serie, Lundgren, Beers

PITCHING

Luverne	IP	H	R	ER	SO
Lundgren	3	1	0	0	3
Beyer	4	2	0	0	4

Pitches-Strikes: Lundgren 60-32, Beyer 55-40

Batters Faced: Lundgren 14, Beyer 15

Fairmont 6, Redbirds 1

The Redbirds fell for the first time this season 6-1 to Fairmont Friday, June 30, at home.

Luverne took the early lead in the second inning with Beyer sacrificing to the pitcher, getting thrown out advancing to first, and Sehr scoring from third.

That would be the Cardinals' only score in the game. Fairmont took it from there, scoring six runs of their own.

Fairmont had 12 hits in the game; Luverne managed 6, with one team error.

Serie took the mound for Luverne, pitching five innings, allowing five runs on ten hits, and striking out four batters.

Zeutenhorst and Cade Wenninger both pitched two innings, allowing one run on two total hits.

BOX Score
FRMN 0 0 1 2 2 0 1 0 0
RBirds 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

BATTING	AB	R	H	RBI
Luverne				
S. Wenninger	4	0	0	0
Serie	4	0	1	0
Smith	4	0	2	0
Paquette	2	0	1	0
Ripka	2	0	0	0
Beers	4	0	0	0
Sehr	4	1	2	0
C. Wenninger	3	0	0	0
Lundgren	2	0	0	0
Beyer	2	0	0	1

Total Bases: Smith 2, Sehr 2, Paquette, Serie

PITCHING	IP	H	R	ER	SO
Luverne					
Serie	5	10	5	4	4
Zeutenhorst	2	2	1	0	1
C. Wenninger	2	0	0	0	8

Pitches-Strikes: Serie 87-57, Zeutenhorst 35-21, C. Wenninger 29-18

Batters Faced: Serie 29, Zeutenhorst 10, C. Wenninger 7



TIMEOUT

By Greg Hoogveen Sports Editor

Everyone needs a timeout

When I started my job at the Star Herald, I was asked to do a sports column from time to time.

Having been here for just over seven months and feeling more confident about my position, I decided it's time.

The first thing I had to do was to come up with a name for my sports-related column. After a few suggestions that went a little off, such as "Sports Shorts" (a nod to my short stature), I decided to call it "Timeout."

The Timeout column will reflect a brief break in the action of reporting sports to cover related topics or experiences I may have encountered or to share a favorite photo or photos.

There are many times I have wanted to expound on an athlete or a team's performance in a sports story or educate people on inside lingo that hockey players use.

For example, if you didn't wear a bucket and someone goes top shelf, your chicklets may get knocked out. But that's no reason for a celly.

Or have you ever wondered what Salto or Kip means in gymnastics?

These are just a few things my Timeout column may cover. ... Information or experiences to enrich the sports experience I cover on a day-to-day basis.

So, when you see my column on the page or online, take a "Timeout" in your week and give it a read.

If you have an idea for something sports related you would like to see covered in the Timeout column, let me know at sportseditor@star-herald.com.

Weekly race results



By Greg Hoogveen

Following are the local race results for the week of June 27-July 3.

Rapid Speedway

6/30/2023 Rock Rapids, IA
Rain Out

Murray County Speedway

6/30/2023 Slayton, MN
Sport Compact
DNF - #24J Joshua Uhl, Luverne

Hobby Stock

3rd - #16B Zachary Bierman, Adrian
DNF - #17 Evan Schettler, Adrian
DNF - #15B Isaac Bullerman, Adrian

Stock Car

DNF - #117L Chad Lonneman, Adrian

Hartford Speedway

6/30/2023 Hartford, SD
Rain Out

Worthington Speedway

No Races

Huset's Speedway

No Races

Luverne Country Club hosts 24th Annual ladies invitational June 27

By Greg Hoogveen

The Luverne Country Club hosted the 24th Annual Ladies Invitational Tuesday, June 27.

Eighteen teams participated in the 18-hole, four-person scrambler this year.

Members and guests were invited to play. Teams were placed into two flights with champions honored in each.

Taking first place in the first flight was the team of Kaye Johnson, Karla Nieman, Brooke Pierson and Paula Lammert with a score of 64.

The second flight first place went to the team of Colleen Nath, Barb Elbers, Sharla Reisch and Shawn Elbers with a score of 76.

Upcoming tournaments at the Luverne Country Club are Member-Guest July 7-8, the Senior Club Tournament Aug. 12-13, Men's Club Tournament Aug. 19-20, and the Ryder Cup on Sept. 16.



(In the photo at left) Taking first place in flight one of the Luverne Country Club Ladies Invitations June 27 was the team of Kaye Johnson, Karla Nieman, Brooke Pierson and Paula Lammert with a score of 64.



(In the photo at right) Taking first place in flight two of the Luverne Country Club Ladies Invitations June 27 was the team of Colleen Nath, Barb Elbers, Sharla Reisch and Shawn Elbers with a score of 76.

EMPLOYMENT

Ellsworth Public School is seeking a Title I instructor. The possible candidate should have a current MN teaching license in elementary education or the ability to obtain a license. If you are interested in the position and have a bachelor's degree, we may be able to assist you in obtaining a license. This position will be open until filled. The starting date for this position will be August 21, 2023. A complete application will include:

- Letter of interest; •Resume; •Transcript(s); •Three letters of recommendation; •District employment application (<https://www.ellsworth.mntm.org/Application.pdf>) which can be found on our website under Staff. Application materials can be emailed to amy.labat@ellsworth.mntm.org or mailed to: Amy Labat, Principal Ellsworth Public School 513 S. Broadway St. Ellsworth, MN 56129 (6.24-7.13)

EMPLOYMENT

Ellsworth Public School is seeking a Preschool instructor. The possible candidate should have a current MN teaching license in early childhood education or the ability to obtain a license. If you are interested in the position and have a bachelor's degree, we may be able to assist you in obtaining a license. This position will be open until filled. The starting date for this position will be August 21, 2023. A complete application will include:

- Letter of interest; •Resume; •Transcript(s); •Three letters of recommendation; •District employment application (<https://www.ellsworth.mntm.org/Application.pdf>) which can be found on our website under Staff. Application materials can be emailed to amy.labat@ellsworth.mntm.org or mailed to: Amy Labat, Principal Ellsworth Public School 513 S. Broadway St. Ellsworth, MN 56129 (6.24-7.13)

GARAGE SALES

Garage Sale: 509 W. Dodge Street, Luverne. Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. 1945 vintage tricycle, antique wagon, picture frames, copper fire extinguisher lamp, home decor, books, clothes, shoes, garden tools, unique items. (7.1-7.6)

Garage Sale: 427 W. Brown Street, Luverne. Thursday, July 6, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday, July 7, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, July 8, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Vintage, antique, unique and miscellaneous items, cupboard/trunk. (7.1-7.6)

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EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

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EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

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We are looking for someone fun and flexible to join our team! Hours will typically be day hours, Monday through Friday, with the possibility of other shifts to meet the needs of the individuals receiving supports. If you are dependable, hard-working, patient, caring, and ready to be part of a team, this may be the job for you! Experience working with various disabilities a plus, but is not necessary - we will train the right person! Applicant must pass a background study, driving check, DOT physical, and drug test.

Fill out the application on our website to apply:
www.rockcountyopp.org/employment-application

Contact 507-283-4582 or info@rockcountyopp.org with questions.

Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools
OPEN POSITION

COOK'S Assistant Part-Time Opening 2023-2024

Position: Part-Time Cook's Assistant

- Work Time Hours: 168 work days, 10am-2pm
- Qualifications: Ability to work in sanitary school food service department. Must be available for training in proper food and sanitation in food service area. Previous food experience desired but not necessary. Current driver's license.
- Application Deadline: Open until filled.
- Starting Date: August 28, 2023
- Apply To: Amanda Rozeboom, Business Manager, Hills-Beaver Creek Schools, PO Box 547, 301 N. Summit Ave, Hills, MN 56138 or email - a.rozeboom@isd671.net. Submit a letter of application and fill out and submit a signed copy of the District Employment Application found here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7stx8rq>

Hills-Beaver Creek School District
301 N. Summit Avenue
PO Box 547
Hills, Minnesota 56138
Website: www.hbcpsd.org
Email: t.holthaus@isd671.net
Phone: (507) 962-3240

- An Equal Opportunity Employer - May 24, 2023

NOW HIRING COOKS

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Tuff Memorial Home is looking for hard working, caring individuals to assist our residents.

We have daytime and evening openings for Cooks

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Fill out an application online: tuffmemorialhome.com
Pick up an application at: 505 East 4th St, Hills, MN

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Apply online: www.cnhindustrial.com EOE

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A HOME WITH A HEART

Tuff Memorial Home is looking for hard working, individuals to join our Maintenance Department and assist our residents with driving them to appointments.

Mechanical aptitude is a plus. Good driving record required. Willing to obtain a MN Boiler license

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- Develop and implement strategies to increase the sales of proprietary products
- Consult with growers on agricultural issues and prescribe appropriate actions to resolve issues. Resolve issues associated with adverse product results
- Perform initial credit review of customers to understand credit risk. Provide necessary information to Credit Manager in order to choose credit limits
- Collect outstanding accounts receivables from customers
- Perform other duties as assigned

What you'll bring:

- University degree preferred, in lieu of degree, 5+ years agriculture experience and high school diploma or equivalent required
- 2+ years' experience using standard concepts, practices, and procedures within the agriculture industry, as well as the application of agricultural chemicals
- Proficiency in computer programs such as Microsoft Word, Excel, etc.
- Sales experience preferred

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FOR SALE

FOR SALE

Hills-Beaver Creek ISD #671 FOR SALE: 2012 SILVER CHEVROLET IMPALA CAR

The Hills-Beaver Creek ISD #671 Board of Education has designated the following item as excess property and has placed the item for sale.

2012 Chevrolet Impala Details:

- Odometer - 122,833 Miles
- Exterior: Silver
- Interior: Gray Cloth
- Regular Maintenance
- Parked in Heated Garage
- ITEM SOLD AS IS NO WARRANTY.

PROCESS: Sealed quote must be submitted by Noon on Monday, July 10, 2023.

Quotes received at 301 N Summit Ave, Hills, MN 56138 District Office. BUYERS MUST USE SEALED QUOTE FORM available at the District Office or <https://tinyurl.com/27vehu3v>

ACTION: Hills-Beaver Creek Board of Education will act on quotes at their Meeting the evening of July 10, 2023. Hills-Beaver Creek Board of Education Reserves the right to refuse any and/or all quotes submitted.

Questions about the vehicle or to test drive, contact Dalton Bass at 507-962-3240 x2400 OR d.bass@isd671.net.

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Big South Conference announces 2023 All-Conference spring sports picks

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Big South Conference released its 2023 all-conference baseball, softball and tennis teams.

The Luverne baseball team had four all-conference players and two honorable mention players.

Senior Zach DeBoer, juniors Conner Connell and Elliot Domagala and sophomore Carter Sehr were named all-conference honorees.

Juniors Will Serie and Jacob Stroh received honorable mention.

The Luverne softball team had five players named to the Big South All-Conference team.

They are senior Carly Olson, juniors Belle Smidt and Gracie Nath and sophomores Payton Behr and Ella Reisdorfer.

Luverne had one tennis player, senior Ethan Nath, named to the all-conference team.



Senior Ethan Nath
All-Conference Tennis



Senior Carly Olson
All-Conference Softball



Junior Conner Connell
All-Conference Baseball



Sophomore Ella Reisdorfer
All-Conference Softball



Senior Zach DeBoer
All-Conference Baseball



Sophomore Payton Behr
All-Conference Softball



Sophomore Carter Sehr
All-Conference Baseball



Junior Belle Smidt
All-Conference Softball



Junior Elliot Domagala
All-Conference Baseball



Junior Will Serie
Honorable Mention Baseball



Junior Gracie Nath
All-Conference Softball



Junior Jacob Stroh
Honorable Mention Baseball

photos by Greg Hoogeveen

Luverne Jr. Legion baseball loses 14-12 to Marshall June 29

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne Jr. Legion baseball team lost 14-12 to Marshall on the road Thursday, June 29.

In the high-scoring game Marshall struck first, driving in eight runs in the first and six runs in the second inning.

Luverne was able to keep Marshall from scoring in the last four innings.

The Cardinals scored twice in the first inning with Blake Sauer and Elliot Domagala crossing home plate.

In the second inning Luverne added four more runs with Trevor DeBates, Maddox Domagala, Sauer and Elliot Domagala scoring.

In the third inning Landon Ahrendt and

DeBates added two more runs.

That cut the lead to Marshall 14, Luverne 8.

The Cardinals got three more runs in the fifth inning.

Maddox Domagala, Sauer and Elliot Domagala scored to make the game 14 to 11.

Luverne was not able to overcome the deficit, only scoring one more run by Alex Schlosser in the seventh inning.

BOX Score

LUV	2	4	2	0	3	0	1
LHS	8	6	0	0	0	0	0

BATTING

Luverne	AB	R	H	RBI
Sauer	5	3	3	2
Schlosser	5	1	2	1
E. Domagala	5	3	4	3
J. Lais	5	0	3	4
Miller	4	0	3	2
L. Lais	4	0	0	0
Ahrendt	4	1	1	0
DeBates	4	2	2	0
M. Domagala	4	2	3	0

Luverne Sr. Legion beats Marshall 3-2 in low-score game

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne Sr. Legion Post 123 baseball team traveled to Marshall Thursday, June 29, beating the hosts 3-2 in a low-scoring game.

In the top of the first inning, Will Serie singled to left field, scoring pinch runner Trevor DeBates from second base.

With one out in the third, Serie doubled, driving in Jacob Stroh.

In the fifth inning Serie hit a grounder and reached first on an error while Conner Connell scored from third.

Both Serie and Kaden Anderson posted two hits each in the game.

Elliot Domagala, Stroh and Connell each had one hit in the game.

Connell took the mound for Luverne, pitching three innings,

allowing zero runs on three hits, striking out seven batters.

Stroh came in to relieve Connell in the fourth inning. He allowed two runs on three hits and struck out four batters in four innings.

BOX Score

LUV	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
MRSH	0	0	0	0	2	0	0

BATTING

Luverne	AB	R	H	RBI
Sneller	4	0	0	0
Connell	3	1	1	0
DeBates	0	1	0	0
Stroh	3	1	1	0
Serie	3	0	2	2
Schlosser	3	0	0	0
Domagala	3	0	1	0
Ripka	3	0	0	0
Anderson	3	0	2	0
Ahrendt	3	0	0	0

2B: Serie, Connell
Total Bases: Serie 3, Anderson 2, Connell 2, Stroh, Domagala

PITCHING

Luverne	IP	H	R	ER	SO
Connell	3	3	0	0	7
Stroh	4	3	2	2	4

Pitches-Strikes: Connell 54-37, Stroh 76-39
Batters Faced: Connell 13, Stroh 20

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We are hiding things in the Star Herald! Count the items, pictured below, and submit your guess before 10 am on Monday, July 10.

All correct guesses will be entered in a drawing to win a \$25 Sunshine Foods gift certificate!

This week you are looking for **HOT DOGS!**

The hot dogs look like this! (Do not count this hot dog.)

FACEBOOK MESSENGER

EMAIL YOUR GUESS

Rock County **STAR HERALD** **Sunshine Foods**

Submit your guess via e-mail to sales@star-herald.com or message us on Facebook at RCStarHerald - please include your name, phone number and guess. You can also drop your guess off at the Star Herald office. Guesses must be submitted by 10 am on Monday, July 10.

Name _____ Phone Number _____ My Guess _____

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Rock County **STAR HERALD**
Luverne **ANNOUNCER**

MISSING DOG DRAGGING LEASH

Luverne, MN
Female, Golden Retriever, Cream, 6 years, 55 lbs

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