



Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, July 23, 2020

Coronavirus spreading among local teen athletes

By Lori Sorenson

At least five local students have tested positive for coronavirus and more are being tested after suspected exposures.

The first was a player on Luverne's 17U baseball team who tested positive after traveling and playing with his teammates during the July 9 game in Worthington.

More recently two students tested positive after spending time in the new weight room at Luverne High School, a high school runner is positive after participating in a cross country camp and a lifeguard at the city indoor pool is also positive.

The weight room is now closed, and those who were known to have been exposed are self-isolating.

Similarly, pool manager Samantha Honermann said employees who were exposed to the positive lifeguard are quarantining, and no other staff or patrons have been affected.

Luverne High School Principal Ryan Johnson said he's been grateful for the slow rise of cases locally, but that he's not surprised to see students coming down with the virus.

"It's bound to happen," he said Monday. "Sports teams are getting together and kids are getting together socially and getting their routines back to normal. ... It doesn't surprise me or make me anxious."

He said the positive cases didn't occur because of negligent or reckless behavior. "We were all working within the CDC guidelines," Johnson said. "You have a virus making the rounds. We're trying to take necessary precautions."

He said he recognizes some families, especially those with compromised immune systems, are fearful, and he's encouraging people to be sensitive to varying thresholds of fear for the virus.

"It's here," Johnson said. "We're going to have more cases. We all just have different approaches to dealing with it."

School and state officials are still considering the best way to resume learning this fall, and Johnson said he's thinking about the effects of not having students in school.

"The American Association of Pediatricians points out that it's more of a risk to students' health and mental well-being not to have them in school," Johnson said. "There's going to be a lot of variability for how the different grades handle it within the district."

While the three positive cases among local teens have been high profile on social media and among local families, more students have since tested positive, and Rock County's

Teen coronavirus/see page 2A



Mavis Fodness photo/0723 Library Story Stroll

The Rock County Library debuted "Story Stroll" last week with 31 pages of Denise Fleming's book, "In the Tall, Tall Grass," displayed on individual placards on the boulevard around the library on Main Street Luverne. A different book will be displayed monthly in front of the library for walkers to stroll by and read. Story Stroll is one of several no-contact activities the library has created since reopening under coronavirus pandemic conditions.

'Story Stroll' offers one-minute sidewalk library reading

By Mavis Fodness

"Story Stroll" is just one of the activities Rock County librarians have initiated under pandemic conditions to keep patrons engaged in their local library.

Last week children's librarian Bronwyn Wenzel placed 33 storybook placards along the front and east side of the library for anyone strolling by to enjoy reading.

"We are hoping to put out a new story monthly," Wenzel said. "Each story will be displayed for a few days during one week."

Last week's story was "In the Tall, Tall Grass," by Denise Fleming.

Wenzel said the Story Stroll captures two things for the library. "People are outside a lot these days -

and to promote literacy," she said.

The library continues to operate under pandemic precautions with limits of 10 patrons in the building at any given time.

A "Library is Open" link on the library's webpage allows visitors to make appointments. The "No Wait Inside" software helps the library maintain the 10-person limit.

"We especially encourage large groups, like daycares, to make an appointment or call ahead," said library director Calla Jarvie.

With the coronavirus pandemic closing the library this spring, staff prepared for the reopening with a "total re-think to programming," according

Library story stroll/continued on page 2A

Jasper Sunrise Village will close

Announcement last week affects 18 staff and 15 residents

By Mavis Fodness

For 24 years Jasper Sunrise Village provided assisted and independent living options for area senior citizens.

On Sept. 15 the 25-unit facility will close.

Fifteen current residents at the Village and 17-18 full- and part-time workers were notified July 11 that the facility could no longer financially operate.

"For residents who have to leave, the news was hard — this was their home," said Dave Smith, Jasper, president of the Economic Development Authority, that oversees the facility's operations for the city of Jasper. "A lot of tears have been shed."

Smith served on the Jasper EDA when members decided in 1996 to remodel the former elementary school on the east edge of Jasper into an assisted living and independent living facility.

For the past six months, Smith and the other EDA members reached out to agencies for a potential transfer of ownership and other options to keep the facility open.

None of the ideas panned out. Jasper EDA board members voted Monday night, July 10, to close Sunrise Village.

"COVID played a big portion of the closure decision because people didn't want to move around," said Jasper Mayor Mike Baustian.

More residents meant more revenue for the Village, which for several years teetered in the upper teens until recently when numbers dropped to the current 15 residents.

Smith said historically the Village operates best with an average of 20 residents.

With the coronavirus reaching the area in March, new residents looking into the Village opted to stay where they were out of health concerns.

Smith said the Village has stayed free of COVID-19.

"One part-time worker has COVID, but nothing in the facility," he said. "The staff member had not been in when tested positive."

The Jasper EDA will continue to operate the two townhouses in Jasper for eligible senior citizens.

Any decisions on what to do with the Sunrise Village building will occur at a later date.

"We are going to let the dust settle," Smith said.

Hills, Martin Township/see 5A

County rapidly allocates pandemic relief

By Mavis Fodness

In less than two weeks, Rock County distributed \$368,138.80 to 79 local businesses and non-profit organizations that made the grant requests.

Checks were mailed Friday to those who finished paperwork for the grant agreement.

Auditor-treasurer Ashley Kurtz updated commissioners Tuesday on the distribution process.

"I received a lot of positive comments," she said. "Thankful for the quick turnaround."

Commissioners allocated \$500,000 in business grants July 7. Eligible businesses could apply for up to \$5,000 to offset economical losses sustained since March 1 due

to the coronavirus.

Commissioners also earmarked \$175,000 to non-profits who also suffered financial losses.

A county committee met July 15 to review the 85 submitted applications, which were accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Committee members requested additional information from six applications.

"They didn't lose their spot if we had to ask for more information," said County Administrator Kyle Oldre.

Once the information is received, the application will be evaluated for approval.

Not all entities asked for the entire \$5,000 allowed per application.

"One business had it down to the cents of what they lost," Oldre said.

Committee members anticipated that the \$675,000 set aside for businesses and non-profits would be disbursed after the first committee meeting.

The committee met again Wednesday to review applications submitted since July 15.

About \$306,000 is still available to eligible businesses and non-profit organizations.

Deadline to apply is Aug. 15 or until all the allocated funds are disbursed.

The county received \$1.18 million of the federal CARES or Corona-

County CARES Act/see page 3A

Hills, Martin Township discuss fire truck, fire hall

By Mavis Fodness

Martin Township and the city of Hills, which jointly operate the Hills Fire Department, met July 14 about improving the fire hall and upgrading fire equipment.

The two entities had discussed options the previous night at the township meeting.

Hills Fire Chief Jared Rozeboom shared results of a recent truck inspection at the council meeting.

"Basically we have a truck that doesn't have a workable pump," he said.

The inspection of the department's three trucks revealed one

truck's stuffing box leaks at different times due to a broken seal. Repairs range from \$2,500 to \$14,000, depending on the extent of the replacement.

Both Martin Township and Hills city leaders agreed to the pump's repairs as other options are weighed.

Rozeboom also presented two quotes to replace the fire truck approved for repairs. The quotes ranged from \$268,000 to \$298,000.

"One of the things we tried to do with this truck is to increase our (water holding) capacities,"



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Volume 145, Number 30

Luverne, MN 56156 USPS 468-040

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

‘Paws for the Cause’ July 25

Tracy Area Animal Rescue will host the rescheduled “Paws for the Cause” from 5 to 11 p.m. Saturday, July 25, at the Howling Dog Saloon. The event features live music, silent and live auction, “Yappy Hour” specials and more. All activities are outdoors and socially distanced.

Town and Country Garden Club

The Town and Country Garden club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 28, with Howie Luitjens in his garden in Adrian for a lesson on flower arrangement. To reserve a space, call either 507-597-6378 or 507-290-0038.

Children’s Dental Services to resume clinics July 30

Children’s Dental Services will resume clinics Thursday, July 30, for ages 0-26 at Rock County Health and Human Services on Roundwind Road in Luverne. Call 612-746-1530 to schedule an appointment or stop by Rock County Health and Human Services for assistance in scheduling.

Exams, X-rays, cleanings and more will be provided. All forms of insurance accepted. Organized by #Luv1Luverne’s Rock County Oral Health Task Force.

Bloodmobile in Luverne July 27

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will accept donations by appointment only from 1 to 7 p.m. Monday, July 27, at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne.

Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter “LuverneMN” to schedule an appointment.

Hospice online fundraiser in August

Sanford Luverne Hospice is moving its annual Charity Dinner and Live Auction fundraiser to an online auction due to Covid-19 restrictions. The public will be able to bid online using a cellphone or computer on an amazing variety of donated items to support the hospice mission. Watch for upcoming information and bid dates coming in August.

Senior food distribution set Aug. 20

A.C.E. of SW Mn-Rock Co. will offer its Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS) age 60 and older, from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, in the parking lot at 319 E. Lincoln in Luverne.

Call Linda Wenzel at 283-5064 for more information. Registration is required for those not already enrolled.

New Life Celebration food distribution canceled for Aug. 20

Monthly food giveaways at Generations on Aug. 20 are canceled due to low numbers of recipients. Call 507-283-4366 or 402-981-5019 with questions.

Drive-thru Relay For Life Aug. 20

A drive-through Rock County Relay for Life will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, at the Luverne City Park with a drive-up meal, radio broadcast entertainment and a message from Yvette Van Der Brink, Relay for Life Honorary Chairperson.

Poster boards (instead of luminary bags) are available for a freewill donation at Salon 75 or First Farmers & Merchants Bank, or people can make their own posters with tag board.

A virtual 5K can be run or walked anytime Aug. 20-23. Register and get a T-shirt at luvprintexpress.com/relay5k. Survivor names can be sent to luvernerelay@gmail.com to be put on luminary bags.

Blue Mound Fall festival canceled

Blue Mound Lutheran Church Fall Festival that was scheduled for Sept. 20 has been canceled due to coronavirus concerns.

History Center opens with limited hours

The Rock County History Center is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday starting June 2. Some safety precautions — with masks and gloves available — will be in place to protect against the spread of coronavirus. The phone number is 507-283-2122.



Mavis Fodness photos/0723 Library Story Stroll

A “Story Stroll” at the Rock County Library takes under a minute to read for people walking by the book page placards.

Story stroll at Rock County Library/continued from page 1A

to Jarvie.

Prior to the pandemic, library patronage was increasing primarily due to in-person events such as Wenzel’s weekly story times and the summer reading program using guests to fuel interest in checking out books and other materials.

The library’s largest in-person events, Trivia Nights, are on hold for now. Trivia questions are now on the library’s Facebook page.

“We’ve had to become more creative, like Bronwyn’s virtual story times and the take-and-make crafts,” Jarvie said.

“We missed our patrons — that’s why we exist after all. We are happy to be able to open safely, even if that does mean limiting people and foregoing in-person programming.”

Materials can still be requested with each item undergoing a thorough sanitation process before being placed on the shelf or lent out. Inside the library, after each patron, the various counter surfaces are also sanitized.

“We want the library to be safe for our patrons,” she said.

Jarvie said the library’s e-book and e-



The evenly spaced lawn placards along the sidewalk are numbered for easy reference for readers.

audiobook options have seen an increase since the pandemic began.

In June Rock County users checked out 591 e-books or e-audiobook options compared to 512 a year ago.

Plum Creek Library System, of which Rock County Library is a member, recently received a grant to increase the size of the online selections.

Checkout of other library items has also in-



“Good night, tall, tall grass,” is the ending to last’s week Story Stroll book.

creased.

“The telescope has been popular, because it’s something families can do while social distancing,” Jarvie said.

“We also have a metal detector for great social-distancing outdoor fun.”

Jarvie welcomes book requests or any kind of virtual programing or special collection suggestions.

The librarians are also preparing for the library reopening without limits on in-person patronage.

“We hope to restart programs like Trivia Night again,” Jarvie said. “But not until it’s safe to do so.”

Coronavirus spreads among student athletes/continued from page 1A

case numbers continue to rise.

As of 11 a.m. Tuesday, Rock County had recorded 44 positive cases since tracking began in March. That’s up from the 35 tallied as of July 15. (Pipestone is at 122 and Nobles is 1,711).

Rock County Emergency Management Director Kyle Oldre said he’s troubled by the rising numbers and even more so by local response.

“I’ve heard some parents say that if we shut down Community Ed sports, they’ll still keep their kids on traveling teams,” Oldre said.

“I get it that it’s frustrating

for the parents and the kids, but this is just no good. We need to ask ourselves as we go longer in this pandemic, ‘Are you taking the same precautions as you did in March, or are you getting more lax?’ This hasn’t gone away.”

He said there’s also an element among the public that stay-at-home orders accomplished what they needed to in slowing down a potential surge in cases.

“We did that, but we just want to make sure things don’t spike too fast,” Oldre said.

“I’ve been hearing about big gatherings of people and

people later testing positive. You can’t roll the dice and bring big groups together without consequences.”

For summer sports teams, the consequences are getting real.

Coach Mike Wenninger canceled their three 17U games after the positive player exposed the team during the July 9 game. The players — roughly 20 of them — were told to quarantine for 14 days.

Those families and the businesses that employ the quarantined players.

“It’s here,” he said about his

personal reaction to the virus among students.

“I think it gives us a precursor of what school could be like this fall.”

Generally speaking, he said kids are taking it in stride and his message to the team is the same as the message from the CDC.

“Stay six feet apart, limit time in groups to 15 minutes or less, and basically wear a mask when you’re indoors around others,” Wenninger said.

Assuming no one shows symptoms or tests positive, the 17U team members will play their next game July 27.



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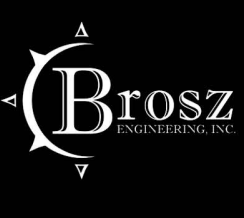
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Luverne City Council approves method for disbursing CARES Act funds to businesses

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne City Council members took action at their July 14 meeting to allocate \$355,983 in state relief money to local small businesses affected by financial hardship due to the pandemic.

They unanimously approved a resolution to disburse the entire amount to 79 local small businesses identified by the Luverne EDA.

These businesses will receive the money in the form of grants that will show up as credit on their utility bills, 25 percent of the calculated amount as follows:

- August 2020 utility bill for July 2020 usage.
- September 2020 utility bill for August 2020 usage.
- October 2020 utility bill for September 2020 usage.
- November 2020 utility bill for October 2020 usage.

A review committee will consider requests or applications from other businesses not originally selected to be eligible to determine if they should qualify for the grant.

The review committee will include City Administrator John Call, Mayor Pat Baustian and Finance Director Barb Berghorst.

The formula for disbursing the CARES Act funds is the same as the city of Luverne used earlier this year to provide relief for local small

businesses.

The CARES Act — the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act — is a \$2.2 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by Congress and signed into law in March in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

In addition to using the money to reimburse for direct COVID-19 expenses, expenditures may be made in the form of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures.

Money was allocated to states based on population, and states in turn dispersed funds to counties and local governments.

In the past several weeks, local governments across the nation have been working to get CARES Act funds in the hands of those who need it most.

See the related story about Rock County's response.

Money received from the state of Minnesota can be used to reimburse necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency that were not accounted for in the current budget and were incurred between March 1 and Dec. 30, 2020.

It may not be used by a unit of government for revenue shortfalls.

Hills to distribute CARES Act dollars to eligible local businesses

By Mavis Fodness

The city of Hills will allocate \$50,327 to eligible businesses within the city limits if owners meet the eligibility requirements.

Council members unanimously supported the recommendation of Mayor Keith Elbers.

"The city is not going to keep anything," he said.

Cities can reimburse themselves for coronavirus pandemic expenditures or distribute the funds within their communities with the CARES Act dollars received earlier this month.

Council members thought the money would be put to better use in the business community in the form of grants.

"It's not a cure-all but it's going to help," Elbers said.

Grant applications are due Aug. 3 and accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

A committee will meet to award the funds after the application deadline.

To be eligible, businesses

must meet four criteria:

- must be a locally owned and operated for-profit business with a physical establishment within the city of Hills.
- must have operated for at least 12 months prior to March 1.
- must be current on property taxes prior to May 15 and, if applicable, any required licenses must be valid and in good standing. Also must be current on all city utilities through the March 2020 billing cycle.
- must demonstrate a COVID-19 related loss since March 1.

Modeled after the Rock County Small Business Relief application, the City of Hills Small Business Relief Fund application is four pages in length and asks business owners to provide a narrative on how COVID-19 has negatively affected revenue or projected revenue since March 1.

Forms can be picked at the Hills City Hall. Phone 507-962-3290 with questions.

Rock County allocates CARES Act funds/ from page 1A

virus Aid, Relief and Economic Assistance dollars including \$44,396 for Rock County communities and townships with populations under 200.

Communities and townships with populations over 200 received their own allocations.

Rock County is one of a few government entities that quickly disbursed CARES Act dollars into their communities using a grant application.

"We may be the only county in the state that has written a check," Oldre said.

Cities and townships have

until Nov. 15 to allocate CARES funds.

All unallocated funds must come back to the county to be spent. Any unspent dollars by Dec. 1 are returned to the state.

The cities of Luverne and Hills have approved plans for allocating pandemic relief money (see related stories).

Other small towns and townships in Rock County have yet to take official action. Some are opting to send their funds back to the county to be distributed for broader local needs.



Members of Luverne's Complete Count Committee decorated Luverne's giant bison on South Highway 75 as a "Census Hero" on July 14 to remind residents to complete their census responses. Pictured near the bison at Those Blasted Things are CCC members (from left) Pat Baustian, Jessica Mead and Calla Jarvie.

There's still time to respond to Census 2020 Door knocking begins nationwide Aug. 11

By Lori Sorenson

The giant bison on South Highway 75 is dressed in a superhero cape and mask as part of local efforts to encourage participation in the 2020 Census.

Members of Luverne's Complete Count Committee decorated the bison at Those Blasted Things on July 14.

The Luverne bison joins several other "Census Heroes" across the state to remind residents that time is running out for them to respond to their census questionnaires.

Other famous statues in Minnesota include Paul Bunyan, Goldie the Gopher and the Peanuts characters in downtown St. Paul.

Starting next month the Census Bureau will be sending census takers to homes in person if those residents have not responded on their own.

There is still time to respond and avoid a knock on the door. Here's how:

- go to 2020Census.gov.
- call 844-330-2020 (seven days a week between 6 a.m. and 1 a.m.).

There is still time to respond and avoid a knock on the door,

•go to 2020Census.gov.

•call 844-330-2020 (seven days a week between 6 a.m. and 1 a.m.).

•fill out and mail back the census form if it was received in the mail.

•fill out and mail back the census form if it was received in the mail.

Responses are confidential and protected by federal law. The Census Bureau does not share responses with any government, or law enforcement, or landlords ... no one.

Starting last week, more than 3,000 U.S. Census Bureau representatives visited communities

with the lowest 2020 Census response rates to encourage and assist people with responding on their own to the 2020 Census.

It's part of the Census Bureau's final push to encourage people to complete the 2020 Census before the Nonresponse Followup (NRFU) operation begins nationwide on Aug. 11.

All households that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census will receive a reminder postcard by July 24, a few weeks before census takers are set to begin visiting most households that haven't yet responded.

The first invitation was mailed in mid-March. Minnesota has over 71 percent responding, which means about one in four households has yet to respond.

A LITTLE PEANUT IS ON THE WAY

Please join us for a Baby Shower honoring Shane and Kelsey Kramer

Saturday Located at 2:00 to August 08 The "Lake" 4:00 pm

Gender unknown • Registered at Target

Instead of a card, bring a baby book & sign it

OPEN HOUSE BRIDAL SHOWER

Katie McGaffee

bride-to-be of Dustin Hanson

Saturday, August 8 10am-12pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hills

the couple is registered at Target, Menards and Amazon

Come & Go Bridal Shower

Stephanie Riggs

bride-to-be of Derek Van Wetering

Saturday, Aug 01 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. AT THE LAKE

815 W Edgehill St, Luverne, MN 56156

the couple is registered at Bed, Bath & Beyond and Menards

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Happy 81st Birthday Jean Baustian Monday, July 20th Card Shower

201 Oak Dr. Poplar Creek #303 Luverne, MN 56156

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Happy 60th Anniversary August 6

Greetings can be sent to: 2808 E. Orchard Pl. #206, Sioux Falls, SD 57103

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American Reformed Church Tool Trailer Ministry and Travis Chapa for allowing us to use their tools and equipment during the week/Pastor Walt Moser and First Baptist Church for hosting the pre-party/Luverne Economic Development Authority for covering the cost of paint for some of the projects/Kyle Oldre and Rock County for the donation of 200+ facial masks/ ACE Hardware and Luverne Building Center for discounts/John Stoffel and the City of Luverne crew for curb assistance/Jackie and Katherine Pizel for sharing REFIT with us/Raven Industries for donating tarps to be used for teams to sit on during lunch breaks/Lila with the Pizza Ranch for pizza donations for the fun day on Friday/Heather Johnson for designing our "Wonder Full" logo and Print Express for exceptional assistance with the t-shirt order/Randy with Sasker Construction, Darrel with VanAartsen Construction, Cleveringa Construction, George with Bonnama Landscaping for sharing your tools and expertise/Grand Prairie Events for storing supplies during the year/Anonymous donor who is covering the cost of siding a home (\$3,000+)/The Laundry Room for water used for car washes/Larry Nath, Tom Martius, Chris Louwagie for doing deck/stair repairs prior to the week so teams can paint/Chad McClure for assisting us with necessary permits/Mike Davis for tree services and providing The Lake for fun day/Brenda Johnson, Rebecca Binford, Tuesday Morning Coffee Group for sweet treats/Isaac DeBoer and the Rock County Fair Board for allowing us to utilize the fairgrounds for official headquarters/Luverne Farm Store for donating the rental of a power auger and Jaycox for donating the use of a post hole auger/Grace Lutheran Church for donating the use of Phonebyte for weekly phone messages/Ketterling Services for handling recycling for the week/Shawn Kinsinger and the Palace Theater for hosting the showing of the wrap up video/Brenda Alons for donating funds for bottled water/All adult volunteers and youth participants for an amazing week!

WONDER FULL! JESUS IS OUR ROCK Rock County's Christian Youth in Action

‘Teacher reporter’ enjoys view — and sports photos — from behind the net

“Hi! I’m Jason, a teacher trying to fill in for the summer.”

That’s how I responded to Kevin



Kyle, the sports editor of the Pipestone County Star, at Red-bird Field Sunday.

He saw me standing safely behind the net with a notebook under my arm and camera raised, attempting to get quality photos during the Pipestone at Luverne amateur baseball game.

Kevin was on the other side of the net where hard-hit balls come flying at you, all but risking his life in search of that perfect photo for the Pipestone paper.

He even had one of those large, fancy cameras that had a monopod to balance perfectly.

I’m sure Kyle assumed he was introducing himself to his new colleague who had replaced John Rittenhouse at the Star Herald.

I was quick to point out what must have been obvious. I’m no professional.

Sports editors at the weekly newspapers in the Big South (old Southwest) Conference are a really small club.

I have no doubt Kevin is looking forward to meeting the new Luverne sports editor.

So I felt compelled to quickly let him know that isn’t me.

I’m no sports reporter.

Many of the photos I took at that game (from safely behind the net) included a black spot from something on the lens.

It’s not unusual for me to get a good photo and then not know for sure who the player is.

More than once this summer I’ve asked a coach, athlete or racecar driver a question

IN OTHER WORDS

By Jason Berghorst, reporter

that any real sports reporter would know the answer to.

I’ve spelled names wrong, messed up box scores and missed a few deadlines.

And I’m definitely not quick (or motivated) enough to stand on the inside of the fence at Redbird Field for a photo.

The hard part is, in general, I’m kind of a perfectionist.

Or at least I like to appear to be on top of my game. And that’s not always possible when writing articles that thousands of people can read.

But I’m still enjoying writing about sports.

I like meeting new people and learning new things.

Coaches have been a huge help to me.

Parents of athletes and racetrack promoters have provided photos and information that I need.

In short, I’ve been reminded that sports coverage matters to people in Rock County and that it’s good to try new things by stepping outside my usual boxes.

The Pipestone sports editor and I had a short conversation Sunday and I got a small taste of the camaraderie that sports reporters share.

I look forward to when the Star Herald hires a new sports editor who can share the sidelines with Kevin while gathering details and photos to share with Rock County sports fans.

Until then, I’m still a teacher just trying to fill in for the summer from safely behind the net.

To mask or not to mask?

Are we so eager to resume normal activities that we are putting ourselves and others’ health at risk?

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

After months of stay-at-home or stay-safe orders, we are eager to be get back to our normal routines and activities.

Last week our summer routines received a reality check. Some of our youth participating in summer games of baseball recently tested positive for the coronavirus.

As a precaution, youth baseball was halted as we take a step back and assess what this new public enemy will do next.

It appears COVID-19 will not just go away no matter if we turn a blind eye to it or not. It is time to seriously put into place measures that will keep everyone safe while we do our normal activities.

Those measures may include wearing a mask.

So far, 28 states have mandated wearing masks in public. Minnesota is not one of them — yet.

Several Minnesota cities have taken it upon themselves to implement mask wearing, and the Twin Cities airport said everyone has to wear a mask in and around the facility.

Many say mandating the wearing of a mask violates their constitutional

rights.

What about the right to safely be out and about our neighborhoods without fear of contracting COVID-19?

We could liken the mask mandates to traffic laws.

Is requiring everyone to wear a seatbelt a violation of our rights, or is wearing a seatbelt just a smart thing to do? After all, we can see that wearing a seat belt helps prevent deaths if the vehicle is involved in an accident.

Unfortunately, like with seatbelt use, some of us will still die. Mask wearing, too, is not going to prevent COVID infections, but maybe we can lessen its impact.

Some of our area businesses have implemented mask wearing by all employees.

Maybe we as customers need to do the same thing.

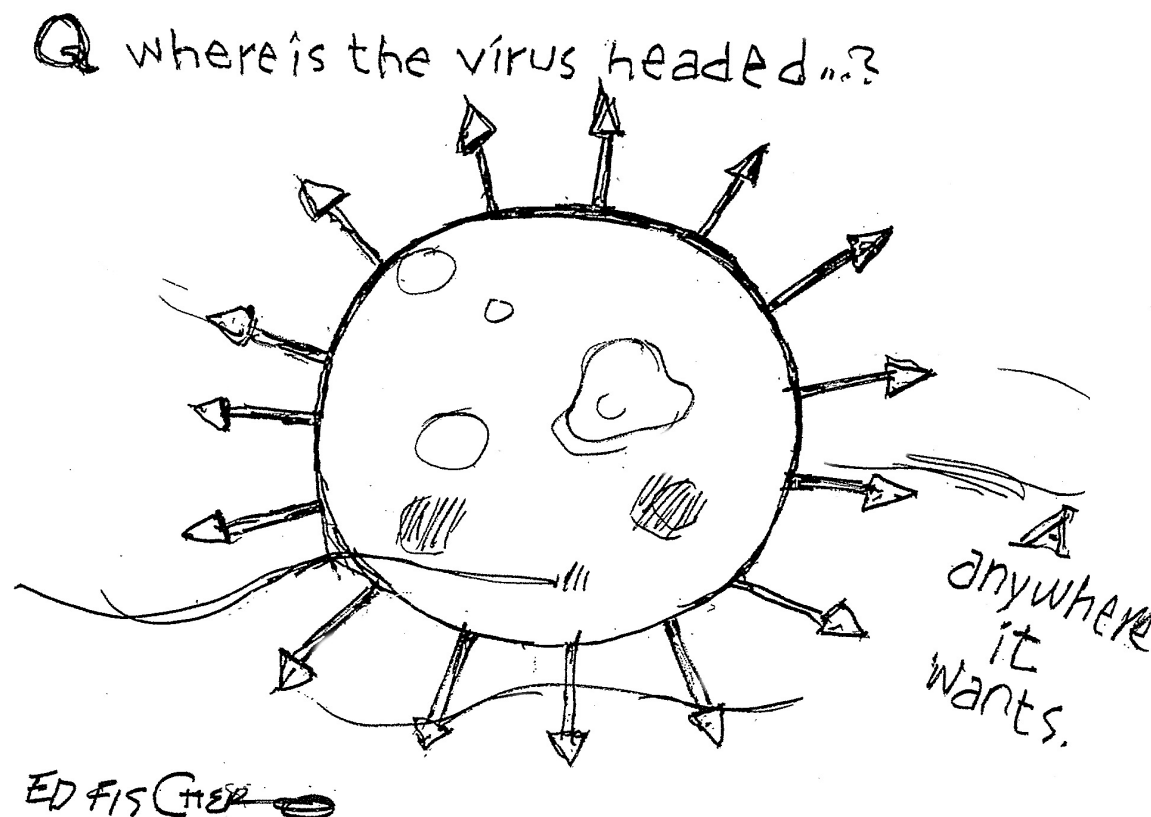
Currently the presence of COVID-19 is growing, and we need to do something about it before the virus sends more residents to the hospital.

In Rock County we have not had a reported death from COVID-19, and let’s keep it that way.

Regardless of what our neighboring states or even our own government is considering, maybe we as individuals should consider wearing a mask.

We can be smart about this and concentrate on donning a mask when we group closer than six feet from each other.

If wearing a mask prevents the spread of COVID and enables our businesses to stay open and our youth to continue to enjoy traditional summer activities, then wearing a mask is the smart and responsible thing to do.



Getman laments passing of Congressman John Lewis

To the Editor:

I greet you with lament from the nation’s capital. Many of you have read in my favorite weekly paper, or heard my messages in church, about our need as a country to treat each other with greater compassionate listening and love during these challenging times.

COVID-19 and the events in Minneapolis serve to redouble our appeals to build bridges across all our fields of disagreement ... personal, political and social.

And now with our losses mounting and the temperature rising, it is good to repeat the appropriate Proverbs: “It is to a man’s/woman’s honor to avoid strife, but every fool is quick to quarrel ... the tongue has power of life and death” (19-20).

It was to my everlasting gratitude to have encountered one who practiced that principle to his dying breath on July 17, Congressman John Lewis of Georgia.

He was a protégé of Martin Luther King and he nearly died from a beating on the Pettis Bridge in Selma while marching with Dr. King for Blacks’ – indeed, all poor peoples’ – voting rights.

Columnist Colbert King penned this in the Washington Post: “He never swerved from his credo

that ‘people of all faiths, and no faiths, and all backgrounds, creeds, and colors’ must band together, ‘to fight for equality and justice in a peaceful, orderly, nonviolent fashion.’

It was a statement he repeated as recently as a few weeks ago following the police killings and unrest in his Atlanta hometown and across the nation. ‘I see you, and I hear you. I know your pain, your rage, your sense of despair and hopelessness.’”

Please know that I hear you in Luverne, and indeed the state. You are in my prayers and intentions during this troubled time. I, as one who counts myself a “child of Rock County,” urge you to practice your faith principles in treatment of one another as you make political social justice decisions that affect us all in the days ahead.

May you use these principles as you make your choices as we are seeking to do here in Washington, D.C.

Please stay safe and healthy, spiritually and physically, in the days ahead.

Tom Getman
Washington, D.C.
(former Luverne resident)
tom.getman@gmail.com

Winter: ‘I encourage all parents to respectfully let your voices be heard on this issue – for the children’

To the Editor:

The Minnesota Department of Education will announce on July 27 whether or not to open Minnesota schools this fall.

I advocate for Luverne and other Minnesota schools to fully reopen on schedule.

The Luverne Public School District is one of the best around. We have wonderful, gifted teachers who love to guide and mold our young people into becoming strong, confident, knowledgeable, caring and thoughtful adults.

Effective teaching is best accomplished through face-to-face interaction between students and teachers in the school environment.

Learning through a screen, even with a gifted teacher on the other side of the screen, just doesn’t cut it, especially for our younger students. It’s like trying to learn how to swim by watching a video – not very effective at all.

Rock County, as of this letter, has (35) COVID-19 cases and zero deaths. Children are at very low risk of catching or spreading the illness.

Let’s move forward with courage and conviction and get back to living our lives for the better. I encourage all parents to respectfully let your voices be heard on this issue – for the children.

Mike Winter
Luverne

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

General manager: Rick Peterson
Advertising: Chantel Connell
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Mavis Fodness, reporter
Esther Frakes, copy editor

Rock County
STAR HERALD
Rock County's newspaper since 1873

(ISSN 0889-888X)
SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

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Tollefson Publishing Roger Tollefson, publisher

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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

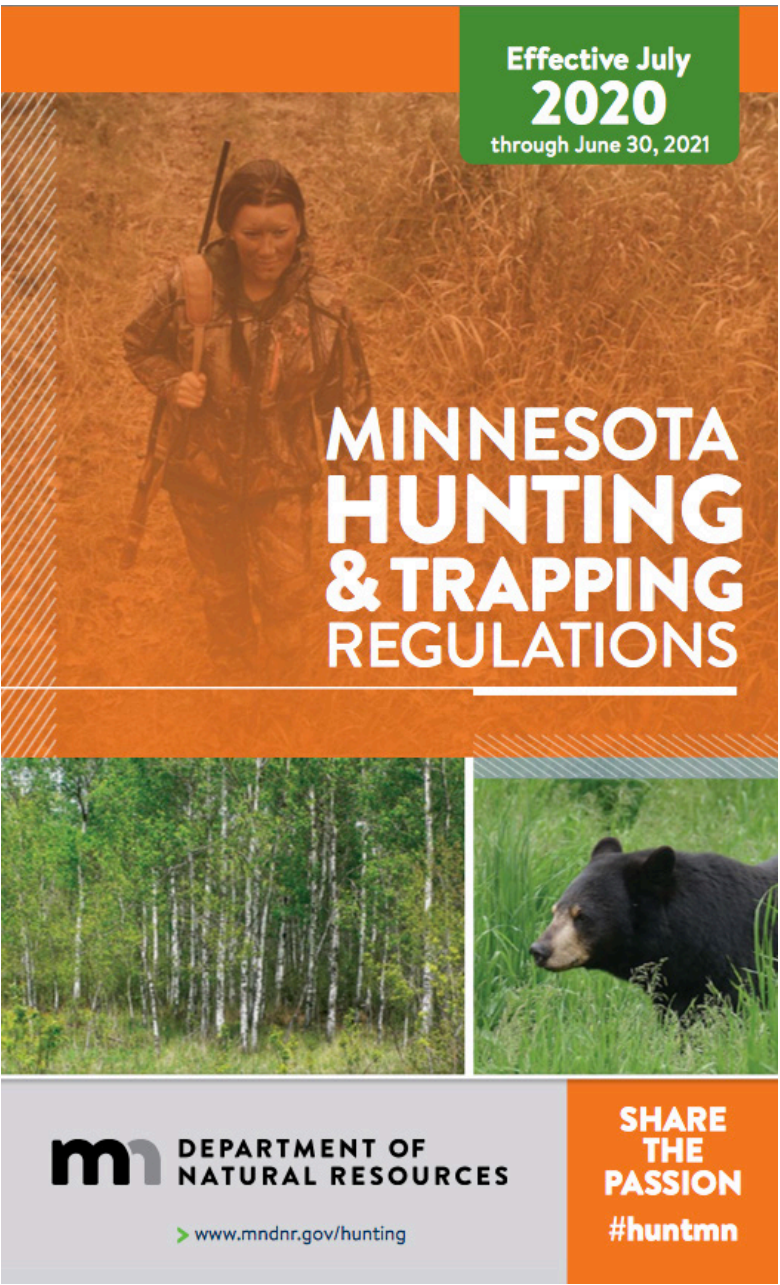
Minnesota hunters will have more opportunities to harvest deer this season

Dispatch report

July 10
•Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 12, Luverne, reported an erratic driver.
•Complainant on Lincoln Street requested a vehicle unlock.
•Complainant turned in an iPhone.
•Complainant at Rez Park in Hills reported a red and blue golf cart on the walking path.
•Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 12, Luverne, reported a vehicle for unsafe driving.
•Complainant on Sanford Street and Steen Street, Steen, reported large noise disturbance and fireworks at location.
•Complainant at fairgrounds reported active fireworks.
July 11
•Complainant reported a loud party at the city park in Magnolia.
•Complainant reported someone dumping cow manure.
•Complainant southbound on Highway 23, mile marker 16, Jasper, reported a red minivan all over the road.
•Complainant on Interstate 90, mile marker 1, Beaver Creek, reported a driving complaint.
•Complainant on 131st Street reported his neighbor is parking on his property.
•Complainant on Edgehill Street reported she lost a set of keys.
•Picked up subject in Council Bluffs with Rock County warrant.
•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a fraud.
•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue requested to speak with deputy concerning a hotel guest.
•Complainant on 161st Street, Luverne, filed a parking complaint.
July 12
•Complainant reported a loud party at the city park in Magnolia.
•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a possible probation violation.
Complainant on S. Lawn Park Avenue reported property damage and vandalism.
•Complainant in Brule County, South Dakota, reported an abandoned vehicle.
•Complainant on Interstate 90, Luverne entrance ramp, reported he found a cell phone.
•Complainant on W. Warren Street reported a person just punched a kid.
•Complainant on E. Fletcher Street requested a deputy.
July 13
•Complainant on S. West Park

Street reported possible illegal burning.
•Complainant reported a hit and run accident.
•Complainant on Highway 75, near the chapel, reported a pedestrian.
•Complainant on E. Barck Avenue reported theft.
•Complainant on 121st Street reported a suspicious male in his garage.
July 14
•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 1, Beaver Creek, reported an erratic driver.
•Complainant on E. Warren Street reported property was found at location.
•Assistance from another department was requested on Sioux Valley Drive.
•Record maintenance on issued warrant.
•Deputy checked open door at location on 1st Street, Hardwick.
•Complainant on N. Cedar Street reported vehicle parked in middle of the road.
•Complainant on Highway 75 reported pickup parked boat trailer in water.
July 15
•Complainant on N. Estey Street reported not getting a check back he sent for a Craigslist purchase.
•Complainant on County Highway 11 and County Road 4 reported road closed.
•Complainant on Main Street requested information.
July 16
•Complainant on 111th Street, Beaver Creek, reported a suspicious vehicle.
•Report of a fire pit burning while nobody is around at location west of W. Main Street.
•Complainant on E. Main Street reported plates on a vehicle seemed suspicious.
•Complainant requested information.
July 17
•Complainant on 71st Street and 20th Avenue, Manley, reported train on railroad blocking road.
•Complainant on N. Estey Street reported a vehicle break-in.
•Assistance from another department was requested on W. Hatting Street.

In addition, officers responded to 2 motor vehicle accidents, 6 escorts, 19 ambulance runs, 1 paper service, 5 animal complaints, 5 burn permits, 1 background check, 1 gas drive-off, 1 alarm, 14 purchase and carry permits, 1 stalled vehicle, 14 traffic stops, 19 abandoned 911 calls, 1 test, 3 welfare checks, and 1 OFP.



Hunters can start planning ahead for the deer season with the release of the 2020 Minnesota Hunting and Trapping regulations handbook, now available on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources deer hunting page at mndnr.gov/hunting/deer.
“This season, hunters in general will see more chances to harvest deer,” said Barbara Keller, DNR big game program leader.
“These opportunities are due to increases in deer populations in much of the state and as part of our response to chronic wasting disease in southern Minnesota.”
Hunting licenses go on sale Saturday, Aug. 1, and are available at any DNR license agent, by telephone at 888-665-4236, or online at mndnr.gov/buyalicense.
The popular youth deer hunting season continues and will happen statewide Oct. 15-18.
During last year’s inaugural statewide youth season, nearly 5,700 young deer hunters harvested a deer, which represented a 77 percent increase from the previous season when it was limited to fewer areas.
“Positive early hunting experiences go a long way toward starting or continuing a rewarding fall tradition,” Keller said.
“We’re excited to be able to continue providing this great opportunity that helps adults introduce youth to all that deer hunting has to offer.”

Barbara Keller, DNR big game program leader

Hills, Martin Township fire truck, fire hall/from page 1

Rozeboom said.
As a rural service department, water is carried to most fire scenes. The new, single-axle truck would be able to carry about 1,900 gallons to the scene.
The new truck’s design factors in a smaller size in order to fit into the current fire hall.
Rozeboom said an equipment panel, for instance, could be moved to a different location, allowing the truck to fit under the overhead doors.
Both council members and supervisors must agree to the truck replacement and share costs 50/50.
The new truck would take a year or more to build. Cost, in at least one of the quotes, is scheduled to increase this fall.
The city of Hills has allocated funds for the city’s half of a truck replacement cost but not the entire amount, according to Mayor Keith Elbers.
For large capital purchases,

“Reality in the ag world is terrible — very much like it was in the ’80s. Every farmer is relying on the bank to survive.”

— Martin County Supervisor Nathan Fick

township supervisors are required by state statute to ask township residents to vote before bonding or levying taxes place.
The township’s annual meeting is currently scheduled for March 2021.
Township officials recognize the importance of the volunteer fire department, but farmers within

the township are currently under financial stress due to low commodity prices.
Supervisor Nathan Fick said he’s not sure a vote right now would end positively.
“Reality in the ag world is terrible — very much like it was in the ’80s,” he said. “Every farmer is relying on the bank to survive.”
In addition to a new fire truck, city and township officials also discussed the size of the fire hall and options to improve its current size to accommodate today’s larger equipment.
Fire Chief Rozeboom said a USDA grant is available for fire departments and could be used for the fire truck purchase; however, the money must be spent before the grant is released.
“The grant is a \$50,000 reimbursement,” he said.
Martin Township supervisors’ next meeting is Aug. 10.

I’m counting my pheasants, looking forward to my piece of the pie

By Scott Rall
Outdoors columnist



As July races by, I was thinking that in only a few weeks I will be back on the road at sunrise for four days on four routes across the county that I live in.
I waited for more than 20 years to have the opportunity to participate in the Minnesota DNR’s August roadside count program.
This is a program that has been in existence since 1955. Wildlife personnel and members of the Minnesota Conservation law enforcement division are the ones usually tasked with this effort.
They drive 172 routes, each consisting of 25 miles. Of the 172 routes, 152 are in the pheasant range. The bean counters really like the same people to do this job year after year, as it results in the most accurate information collected.
The annual roadside count is not actually designed to count the number of pheasants in the state. It shows patterns of pheasant populations compared to the previous year. They also use the numbers to compare pheasant counts to the states’ 10-year averages and also the long-term averages.
The local conservation officer in my area was promoted to a management position, and before they could fill the local CO station,

I volunteered to take that job. This will be my fourth year on the road.
The roadside counts take place in the first two weeks of August. The counters try to wait for mornings with little wind and lots of dew on the grass.
You only drive about 10 miles per hour, so it takes about 2.5 hours to complete.
You drive the exact same route every year. They prefer that you drive/ride alone so no other eyes aid the primary recorder’s findings. When you see a rooster, you record it on the form in the mile it was seen.
If you see a hen, you jump out of the truck and run up and down the ditch to see if you can flush the little ones that she is caring for. You record the numbers and the approximate age of

the chicks.
I was totally unprepared the first year, and after my first chase up and down the ditch, I was totally soaked and then got to ride the rest of the trip with all my clothes stuck to me like spandex. I wear rain bibs on each outfit now. By the way, I don’t look good in spandex.
We don’t just count pheasants. I record cottontail rabbits, jackrabbits, doves, sand hill cranes, Hungarian partridge and deer. We record the number of each, and for deer we also note their sex. There is nothing quite like a drive in the country where there are very few other folks out and about and counting all of God’s creatures.
Hunters will use the results of the roadside counts when planning where to go pheasant hunting when the season opens. Areas with high pheasant densities will

see more hunting pressure than others with lower densities.
The other factor that is disappointing is that hunters may choose to purchase a license or skip the pheasant season altogether if pheasant numbers are lower than normal.
I have a pheasant hunting motto. It goes like this: I harvest the same number of birds when populations are high as I do when populations are low.
The pheasant population is like a pie. The number of pheasants is the size of the pie. When pheasant numbers are lower and there are fewer hunters, I get a bigger slice of the smaller pie.

When pheasant numbers are high and there are many hunters, there are just more birds in my smaller slice of that larger pie.
The Dakotas have seen their pheasant habitat come under attack. There are millions, yes millions, of fewer acres of wildlife habitat in North and South Dakota than there were 15 years ago. As a result, pheasant hunter numbers are down and so are the revenues generated from them.
South Dakota came up with the great idea to discontinue their roadside counts this year so hunters will never really know what the population trends are and will come and hunt in

their state anyway.
I think they are sadly mistaken. Summer is racing by. Spend your days outside or in the tall grass because pheasant hunting and the winter that follows will be here sooner than you think.
I am one of those outdoor guys who never says that the summer flew by and I missed it. I live it every day outdoors and I think you should too.

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

KEEP AN EYE OUT

3 OPEN HOUSES COMING
Wednesday July 29

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Mavis Fodness photos/0723 Hardwick Memorial Pathway

The Hardwick Memorial Pathway, located at the base of the Hardwick Centennial Memorial, gained 24 new bricks Thursday morning, July 16, through the assistance of (from left) Hardwick Community Club member Lorna Bryan, Doug Wessels, Alice Hansen and Bud Johnson. The pathway began in 2003 and now has 98 bricks.

Remember loved ones

More ‘In Memory Of’ bricks added to Hardwick Memorial Pathway

By Mavis Fodness

Twenty-four new bricks were added to the Hardwick Memorial Pathway on Thursday morning, July 16.

Hardwick residents Doug Wessels, Bud Johnson, Alice Hansen and Lorna Bryan spent the morning straightening, organizing and placing new “In Memory Of” stones into the pathway located next to the Veterans Memorial near Hardwick’s Main Street.

Each reminisced about the people behind the names on the bricks including Wessels’ daughter, Tina, who died from cancer in 2010.

“She was really fun,” he said. “She had such a sparkling personality.”

Hansen and Bryan reached out to relatives of former Hardwick area residents to inform them of the Memorial Pathway, and that’s what led to the recent influx of additional bricks.

The pathway’s original 50 bricks were laid in 2003 at the base of the Centennial Memorial flower box built in 1992.

The pathway now has 98 bricks with room for more.

Cost of each brick is \$50, same as the original price in 2003, through the Hardwick

Top right: The Hardwick Memorial Pathway recognizes former rural and city residents who called Hardwick home.

Bottom right: Bud Johnson (left), Doug Wessels and Alice Hansen place bricks Thursday morning, July 16, on the Hardwick Memorial Pathway.

Community Club.

The pathway has become a way for local residents to remember loved ones and their connections to Hardwick.

The family of Marian Lorenzen recently thanked community club members in a short note. Marian’s name joined her late husband, Verdeen, on the pathway. He died in 2003.

“We’re glad she can be memorialized along with him in a town they both loved and called home and had a lifetime of fun in,” wrote daughter Colette DeSchepper of Jasper.

In addition to “In Memory Of” and an individual’s or a couple’s names, in some instances the sandblasted bricks also included birth and death years.



1892: History of Hardwick dates well before creation of the town

The following appeared in The Rose History in 1911.

Rock County Village continued from 7-16-20 edition of the Star Herald.

Hardwick

According to the last census figures, Hardwick ranks third in size among Rock county villages. It is a compactly built, neat appearing, prosperous little municipality located nine miles north of the county seat, at the junction of two lines of the Rock Island railroad. Otherwise described, it is in the southeast corner of Denver township, the platted portion of the village being on sections 26 and 35. Like Hills, it is comparatively new town but has outstripped some of the older places in the county.

As a town, Hardwick’s history dates back only to the year 1892, but the actual history of the place began several years before that time. Prior to the fall of 1884 the site of the present village was unoccupied by human habitation, and the honor of erecting the first building on the site belongs to a young Norwegian emigrant, Knute Taamasgaard by name. At that time Mr. Taamasgaard, who was employed on the farm of Otter Otterson, made “squatter’s”



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann,
president Rock County
Historical Society

settlement on the land in question and constructed a diminutive dug-out and sod shanty, in which he and his wife resided about two years.

On the eleventh day of September, 1884, the tracklayers of the Burlington railroad, building from the south, reached the site of the present town. Rumors at once became rife regarding the establishment of stations on the new road between Luverne and Pipestone. During the month of September it was announced that one station would be located

Hardwick Bits/go to page 7

CELEBRATIONS

Open houses

An open house baby shower for **Shane and Kelsey Kramer** will be from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8, at The Lake in Luverne. Instead of a card, please bring a baby book and sign it.

An open house bridal shower for **Katie MaGaffee**, bride-to-be of **Dustin Hanson**, will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Aug. 8, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills.

Card showers

Bob and Alice Bofenkamp will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary Thursday, Aug. 6. Greetings may be sent to 2808 E. Orchard Place, #206; Sioux Falls, SD 57103.

Jean Baustian celebrated her 81st birthday Monday, July 20. Birthday wishes may be sent to 201 Oak Drive, Poplar Creek - #303; Luverne, MN 56156.

SENIOR MENU

Monday, July 27: Goulash, green beans, peaches, breadstick, pudding.

Tuesday, July 28: Italian chicken, brown rice, vegetable, pears, fruit crisp.

Wednesday, July 29: *National Lasagna Day*— Lasagna, creamy cucumber salad, mandarin oranges, bread, gelatin.

Thursday, July 30: Roast turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli florets, dinner roll, cookie.

Friday, July 31: Chef salad with turkey, ham, cheese, lettuce, tomato, cucumbers and salad dressing, sliced fruit, muffin.

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

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

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

COLLEGE NEWS

Raymon named to Northwestern list

Garret Raymon, Hills, was named to the dean’s list at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, for the Spring 2020 semester. To qualify, students must earn at least a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale with a minimum of 12 graded credits.

Raymon is a junior majoring in biology ecological science and is the son of Mark Raymon and Becky Byrne of Hills.

SMSU Marshall names honor students

Several area students were named to the Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, dean’s list for the Spring 2020 semester.

Earning High Honors with a 4.0 GPA were Cassidy Teunissen, Luverne; Karli Schilling, Ellsworth; and Rachel Spartz, Wilmont.

Named to the Honors list with a 3.5-3.9 GPA were Alexis Ferrell, Luverne, and Taylor Heidebrink, Adrian.

Ver Steeg makes dean’s list at Bemidji

Cade Ver Steeg, Luverne, was named to the dean’s list for the Spring 2020 semester at Bemidji State University in Bemidji. To be recognized, students must earn at least a 3.5 GPA with 12 graded credits.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2010)

•Bison is one of Rock County’s prairie attractions, and for one family the tourist draw is part of their farm operation.

John and Jeanne Bowron are Rock County’s Farm Family of the year. They own Prairie Heights Bison, located north of Luverne on Highway 75. Their website can be found at www.buybison.com.

Farm Family honorees are named by the University of Minnesota and awarded at the annual Farmfest near Redwood Falls.

25 years ago (1995)

•Opportunities to travel overseas are rare for most Rock County residents, but several local high school and college musicians got the chance and recently returned home from a 16-day, seven-country tour of Europe.

Stephanie Kroon, Adrian, Alyia Kuehl, Beaver Creek, and Kevin Kessler and Heather Van Wyhe, both of Steen, joined students from Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota for the Midwest Ambassadors of Music program.

The program is organized through Voyageurs International, a group which has led musical tours through Europe for 25 years. The students visited England, France, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria, Italy and Germany.

50 years ago (1970)

•When the Luverne high school band returned from their Canadian trip shortly after 5 p.m. Tuesday it was the termination of another successful season for the group.

A total of 95 young people left Luverne last Saturday morning accompanied by only two adults, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Haugen, plus the bus drivers. As the band’s director, Haugen has enough to demand his attention, consequently, Mrs. Haugen received a good share of the responsibilities in coordinating the musicians.

This is Lola Haugen’s fifth year in accompanying the Luverne bands. If it’s true that there’s a woman behind every

band, she certainly would be the one in Luverne.

75 years ago (1945)

•Roy Gonnerman, park caretaker, reported this week that he found four boys and two girls of high school age swimming in the nude in the local swimming pool at 1 a.m. Monday.

Hearing a noise at the pool, he walked from his home in the park to the pool, where he surprised the youngsters. For a moment there was a mad scramble, as they climbed the high fence and into a car. One of the boys however, decided as long as he had been caught anyway he might as well take the time to put on his clothes, which he did. One of the girls left her shoes, and these, Gonnerman said, may be had, if she will call at his home for them.

He warned youngsters that swimming after hours is not only strictly prohibited, but dangerous, and the pool is treated from time to time, and swimming in the water when it is thus treated may cause a person to become blind.

100 years ago (1920)

•By a vote of 66 to 52 the voters of consolidated school district No. 5, at Magnolia, declared in favor of permitting dances to be held in the auditorium of the school building, at the annual school meeting held Saturday evening.

At this meeting three school officers were also elected, O.A. Bowen and James Ellsworth for terms of three years, and A.L. Gertz for a term of one year to fill a vacancy. Friends also placed W.C. Frakes, Bert Ferguson and R.C. Allen in nomination for those positions, and when the ballots were counted, the votes were as follows: Three years term: O.A. Bowen - 60, James Ellsworth - 89, W.C. Frakes - 56, Bert Ferguson - 52. One year term: A.L. Gertz - 76, R. C. Allen - 56.

O.A. Bowen acted as moderator of the meeting and John B. Niesan clerk, and prior to the election the officers of the school district submitted their reports for the past year, which were accepted as presented and placed on file.

OBITUARIES

Grant Bosch

Grant Alan Bosch, 49, Hartford, South Dakota, died unexpectedly on Monday, July 6, 2020, in Hartford, South Dakota.

A memorial service was Monday, July 13, at the Steen Reformed Church in Steen. Burial followed at Eastside Cemetery in Steen.

Grant Bosch was born April 19, 1971, in Aberdeen, South Dakota. At six weeks old, he became the son of Roger and Carole (Martens) Bosch. He was raised on a farm near McKenzie, Tennessee, from ages 3 through 13. He enjoyed farm life. He attended school in McKenzie, Colo, Iowa, and then graduated from high school in Savannah, Missouri. He excelled in long-distance running and held school records in the 1600- and 3200-meter races for many years.

Following high school, Grant enlisted in the Marines. In his four-year enlistment, he was stationed stateside and served in Desert Storm. After the military, he worked in Omaha, Nebraska, at Compaq Computer, then moved to Iowa and worked at the Co-Op

in Doon, Iowa.

In 2011 he moved to Minnesota and worked for Orion Foods, Grand Prairie Foods and finally at Tri-State Flooring. Grant moved to Hartford just three days before his death. Grant was married to Isilda Fauentes. They later divorced. He had two stepchildren, Nick and Crystal.

Grant enjoyed riding his bike, watching Husker football with his nephews Noah and Jonah, tinkering with wood and spending time with his cat.

Grant is survived by his parents; a sister, Anita Bosch, of Sharon, Tennessee; brothers Jeff (Janet) Bosch of Valley Center, Kansas, Jeremy (Sarah) Bosch of Shakopee; and many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Pam Bosch, and his grandparents, Bill and Bertha Bosch and Jim and Gertie Martens.

Arrangements were provided by Jurrens Funeral Home, www.jurrensfuneral-home.com.

(0723 F)



Lori Sorenson photos/0723 cruise

Cruisin' the Loop

Classic vehicles, motorcycles, tractors and side-by-sides took over the streets of Luverne Friday night for the second Luverne Cruise Night of the summer. The Loop included Highway 75, Blue Mound Avenue, Main Street and a side trip through the Veterans Home parking lot where residents lined up on the sidewalks to take in the show.

Veterans Home residents line up in the shade of the front canopy to enjoy classic and unique vehicles.

At right, Scott Rall, Worthington, sports American flags on his side-by-side as he greets Veterans Home residents and thanks them for their service.



LaDonna Connell

LaDonna Schneekloth Connell, Phoenix, Arizona, died Friday, June 12, 2020, at her home with family.

A private memorial took place on June 20.

LaDonna Schneekloth was born in Luverne to Donald "Couttes" and Mary "Punkie" (Horgan) Schneekloth. Her father owned and operated the Rainbow Bar and her mother worked at the telephone company. She graduated from Luverne High School in 1966.

She married Dennis Connell in January of 1966. LaDonna was a loving wife, mother,

grandmother and GiGi.

After Dennis' retirement, the couple enjoyed trips in their RV, often to Minnesota to visit family and friends.

LaDonna is survived by her husband, Dennis; a son, Tracy (Kathy) Connell, Woodbury, three daughters, Lisa (Art) Olson, Glendale, Arizona, Kim (Brian) Dillon, Glendale, Arizona, and Jenni (Bob) Powell, Phoenix, Arizona; grandchildren, Jake, Jessica, Emma, Brock, Melissa and Tracy; great-grandchildren Kennedy and Grayson; and 10 bonus grandchildren.

(0723 F)



Fred Albert

Fred Louis Elbert, 86, Hills, died on July 17, 2020, at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

A funeral service was Wednesday, July 22, at Porter Funeral Home of Rock Valley, Iowa. Burial with military rites followed at Valley View Cemetery of Rock Valley.

Frederick Elbert was born on the family farm near Rock Valley, Iowa, to Louis and Gladys (Heisig) Elbert on Dec. 19, 1933. He graduated from Doon High School in 1951 and entered the United States Army in 1954 during the Korean Conflict.

Fred married Dolores Serck on April 10, 1955, and settled on a farm near Hills. The couple raised their six children on the family farm. Farming was Fred's passion. He raised crops and a large number of cattle. Fred con-

tinued actively farming until 2019. He and Dolores celebrated 65 years of marriage in April 2020.

Fred is survived by his wife, Dolores; six children, Cheryl (Dennis) Shelton of Spencer, South Dakota, Gail (Fred) Eulberg of Dell Rapids, South Dakota, Tami (Brian) Sonne of Mt. Vernon, South Dakota, Denise Elbert (Stephen Bell) of Gillette, Wyoming, Joel (Andreanna) Elbert of Gillette, Wyoming, and Tim Elbert of Luverne; 15 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Dorothy Schulenberger and Jean Klemp; and two brothers-in-law, Glenn Serck and August Klemp.

Arrangements were provided by Porter Funeral Home of Rock Valley, porterfuneral-homes.com.

(0723 F)



MEMORIAL SERVICE

Gregg Nath

Gregg Mark Nath, 61, Luverne, died Saturday, March 28, 2020, at the Sanford Luverne Hospice Cottage.

A memorial Mass will take place at 10:30 a.m. Friday, July 24, at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne.

Arrangements are provided by Dingmann Funeral Home in Luverne, dingmannandsons.com.

(0723 DN)

Drive-thru Relay For Life this year

Rock County Relay For Life will be a drive-through event from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 20, at the Luverne City Park.

There will be a drive-up meal for a freewill donation. People are encouraged to park and enjoy the meal in their cars.

"Ain't No Bull Entertainment" will broadcast the event on a radio station (yet to be determined). Yvette Van Der Brink is the Relay for Life Honorary Chairperson this year.

Poster boards, instead of luminary bags, will honor

survivors and remember loved ones in order to make names more visible to people in their cars.

The poster boards are available for a freewill donation at Salon 75 or First Farmers & Merchants Bank.

Participants in a virtual 5K can run or walk anytime Aug. 20-23. Registration for the 5K and T-shirts are available at luprintexpress.com/relay5k.

Survivor names can be sent to luvrockrelay@gmail.com to be put on special luminary bags.



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Blue Mound Liquor
NOW AVAILABLE
BUSCH LIGHT APPLE
Stop in and get yours today!

Gift Cards available in any amount!

319 W Main St, Luverne
507-449-5052

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CITY COUNCIL POSITIONS OPEN

Notice of Filing Affidavit of Candidacy for Council Members and Mayor City of Beaver Creek, MN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the filing for Beaver Creek City Offices shall open on **Tuesday, July 28th, and shall close on Tuesday, August 11th, 2020 at 5pm** in the office of the City Clerk, 311 E First Ave, Beaver Creek, Minnesota. City offices to be voted on at the November 3, 2020, General Election are as follows:

Mayor (2 year term)
2 Council Members (4 year term)

Contact City Clerk at (507) 673-2266 to make an appointment to file an Affidavit of Candidacy.

Jane Blank
City Clerk/Treasurer

Kenneth City Council positions open

Notice of filing

Affidavit of Candidacy for Council Members/Mayor City of Kenneth, Minnesota

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the filing for Council Members will open on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, and shall close on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. The following criteria must be met for the Council/Mayor seats. The candidates

- Must be an eligible voter
- Has no other affidavit on file as candidate for any office at the general election
- Is, or will be on assuming office, 21 years of age or older
- Will have maintained residence in the City of Kenneth for 30 days before the election
- Must pay a \$2.00 filing fee at the time of filing to 171 Park Ave, Kenneth, MN 56147

The offices to be elected for which filings are open are as follows:
Council members — 2 (four-year terms)
Mayor — (two-year term)

Sue Tweet
City Clerk - Treasurer

NOTICE OF FILING DATES FOR ELECTION TO THE SCHOOL BOARD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2184 LUVERNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the period for filing affidavits of candidacy for the office of school board member of Independent School District No. 2184 shall begin on July 28, 2020, and shall close at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 11, 2020.

The general election shall be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. At that election, three (3) members will be elected to the School Board for a term of four (4) years each.

Affidavits of Candidacy are available from the school district clerk, 709 North Kniss, Luverne, MN. The filing fee for this office is \$2. A candidate for this office must be an eligible voter, must be 21 years of age or more on assuming office, must have been a resident of the school district from which the candidate seeks election for thirty (30) days before the general election, and must have no other affidavit on file for any other office at the same primary or next ensuing general election.

The affidavits of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on August 11, 2020.

Dated: June 25, 2020

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
/s/ Tim Jarchow
School District Clerk



For The Cause

July 25, 2020
5:00 — 11:00 pm

Howling Dog Saloon
909 S Kniss Ave
Luverne, MN

** Live music !*
** Silent auction 5:00-9:00 pm*
** Live auction following Silent Auction*
** Yappy Hour Specials!*
** Dog/ Cat Merchandise Sale!*

Bring your family and your friends!
Come out for a great time and help support our rescue animals!

All activities will take place outside.
Social distancing is encouraged.



**Tracy Area
ANIMAL
RESCUE**

501-693-
424-5568947

2019
Adopted 386 animals (191 cats & 204 dogs)
Adopted out 255 animals (87 Cats & 168 Dogs)
Veterinary Care Expenditures over \$115,000

Rock County Commissioners meet June 16

Rock County Board of Commissioners 5:00 P.M.
Herreid Board Meeting Room/Zoom Video Meeting June 16, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Chair Overgaard with all Commissioners present. Also in attendance were County Attorney Jeff Haubrich, County Administrator Kyle Oldre, and Star-Herald Reporter Mavis Fodness.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.
Motion by Williamson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the June 16, 2020, County Board agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Burger, seconded by Reisch, to approve the June 02, 2020, County Board minutes with corrections to the draft, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Burger, to approve the consent agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

1. Appoint Marilyn Bergman to the Rock County Community Library Board
2. Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Joint Powers Agreement, effective 07/01/2020 – 06/30/2022

3. DPS-DVS Lease Agreement; effective 07/01/2020 – 06/30/2022
4. Racom Maintenance Agreement – 01/01/2020 – 12/31/2020 for annual cost \$7,711.76

5. Assessment Contracts for 2021-2023: Beaver Creek Township \$5,880/yr; Kanaranzi Township \$4,248/yr; Luverne Township \$5,760/yr; Martin Township \$6,348/yr; City of Beaver Creek \$3,500/yr.

Eric Hartman, Land Management Office Director, presented (5) conditional use permits for approval; all conditional use permits were subject to a Public Hearing scheduled on June 8, 2020, of which no comments were received. Hartman requested approval of the following conditional use permits with the conditions identified on the permit:

1. Duinick, Inc. for the operation of a temporary hot mix plant located in Section 21 of Battle Plain Township; motion by Burger, seconded by Reisch, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote.

2. Duinick, Inc. for the operation of a temporary hot mix plant located in Section 29 of Battle Plain Township; motion by Williamson, seconded by Reisch, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote.

3. Duinick, Inc. for the operation of a temporary hot mix plant located in portions of Sections 11 and 14 in Denver Township; motion by Thompson, seconded by Reisch, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote.

4. Henning Brothers, LLP for the operation of gravel mining, stockpiling and processing located in Section 35 of Mound Township; motion by Williamson, seconded by Thompson, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote.

5. Henning Brother LLP for the operation of gravel mining, stockpiling and processing located in Section 36 of Clinton Township; motion by Burger, seconded by Overgaard, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote.

Hartman briefly discussed the status of the recycling sheds located throughout the county and how there has been an excessive amount of non-recyclables (trash) in the roll off containers; the County Board directed the Administrator and Hartman to look into the placement and hookup of security cameras with the possibility of implementing fines to individuals who deposit trash in the recycling roll offs.

The County Board was informed that the Planning & Zoning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing for June 29 to review amendments to the Renewable Energy Ordinance.

Mark Sehr, Engineer, presented bid results for (5) bituminous mill/overlay and concrete repair projects in numerous cities within the county, SAP 067-623-003, SAP 067-624-004, SAP 067-625-006, SAP 067-627-003 SAP 067-628-004; the bids are as follows:

Duinick Inc. \$2,049,039.73
Central Specialties Inc. \$2,204,771.40

On a recommendation from the Engineer, motion by Williamson, seconded by Overgaard, to accept the bid from Duinick Inc. for \$2,049,039.73, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Engineer presented bids results for SAP 067-030-015, the 2020 Mastic Crack Filling/Leveling project:

Northwest Asphalt & Maintenance \$229,480.00
Asphalt Surface Technologies Corp \$302,292.00
Allied Blacktop Company \$356,248.00
KAMCO Inc \$368,105.00
Fahrner Asphalt Sealers, LLC \$376,560.00

On a recommendation from the Engineer, motion by Reisch, seconded by Thompson, to accept the low compliant bid from Northwest Asphalt & Maintenance for \$229,480.00, declared carried on voice vote.

Motion by Burger, seconded by Overgaard, to approve Resolution No. 11-20, an maintenance agreement between MnDOT and Rock County for a lighting system to be located at T.H. 75 and CSAH 12, declared carried on a voice vote.

Ashley Kurtz, Auditor/Treasurer, presented the claims and per diems of \$800.00; motion by Reisch, seconded by Burger, to approve, declared carried on a unanimous vote. A complete listing of the claims is available upon request at the Auditor/Treasurer's office.

JUNE 16, 2020 CLAIMS OVER \$2,000
AMERICAN SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS \$2,437.20
BREMIX MATERIALS, INC 2,652.85
BROCK WHITE 26,700.00
BUFFALO RIDGE CONCRETE 6,828.84
CEMCAST PIPE & PRECAST 4,260.00
CHS 5,873.57
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY 6,384.00
FLEET SERVICES DIVISION-ADMIN FMR 7,009.30
KETTERLING SERVICES INC 12,498.58
LUVERNE FARM STORE INC 8,659.49
LYON COUNTY LANDFILL 18,859.04
MORRIS ELECTRONICS 3,755.33

NOBLES COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER 10,440.00
SCHOMACKER'S CLEANING 2,160.65
STAPLES ENTERPRISES INC 2,936.56
THYSSENKRUPP ELEVATOR CORP 2,300.24
TOLLEFSON PUBLISHING 3,752.01
TRANSOURCE TRUCK & EQUIPMENT INC 2,883.21
W & N CONSTRUCTION INC 9,730.00
63 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000 24,423.01
TOTAL \$164,543.88

The County Board was in receipt of the Fund Balance report, after review, motion by Reisch, seconded by Williamson, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Auditor/Treasurer stated that the she paid out \$77,220.00 in appropriations that was approved as part of the 2020 Budget adoption; presented as information. The Auditor/Treasurer also provided an elections update stating that she is receiving guidance from the state regarding the upcoming elections.

Calla Jarvie, Community Library Director, presented a Blandin project update stating that there were 14 projects completed or nearly completed with the broadband grant and the final report would be submitted this summer.

The Administrator presented information regarding the CARES Act Funding stating that Rock County is waiting to see whether the legislation moves forward to provide moneys to local units of government for COVID-19 related expenses.

The County Board discussed a recap of the AMC District VIII meeting; no action was taken.

The County Board was in receipt of the Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water Annual 2019 Audit with no action taken.

The County Board was in receipt of the Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water Annual 2019 Audit with no action taken.

Commissioner Reisch stated that he attended the following meetings: Southwest MN Opportunity Council and Community Corrections.

Commissioner Thompson stated that she attended the following meetings: PIC/Chief Elected Officials Board and stated that the CEO Trade Show is scheduled for June 17 between 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Grand Prairie Event Center.

Commissioner Williamson stated that he attended the following meetings: SWCD, Rural Water, Extension, Southwest Mental Health.

Commissioner Burger stated that he attended the following meetings: Southwest Mental Health and Community Corrections.

Commissioner Overgaard stated that he attended the following meetings: AMC District VIII, Regional Extension, local Extension, Planning & Zoning, Battle Plain Township and Kenneth City Council.

With no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was declared adjourned.

(07-23)

Penning applies for livestock feedlot permit

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
MINNESOTA RULE 7020.2000, SUBP. 4
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
LIVESTOCK FEEDLOT PERMIT

Notice is hereby given per Minnesota Statutes 116.07, subd. 7(a), that Cody Penning will be applying to Rock County and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for a permit to construct a new feedlot of 720 animal units.

The proposed feedlot will be located in the NE1/4 of Section 25 of Vienna Township, T103N, R44W, of Rock County, Minnesota. The proposed construction will consist of one 2400 head total confinement barn housing finishing swine. The barn will have an under-floor reinforced concrete pit to hold manure generated by the swine. The final animal unit capacity will be 720 animal units after the construction. The feedlot will be owned by Cody Penning.

This publication shall constitute as notice to each resident and each owner of real property within 5,000 feet of the perimeter of the proposed feedlot as required by Minnesota State Law.

Published at the request of Cody Penning.

(07-23)

H-BC School Board meets June 22

Hills-Beaver Creek Dist. 671
Minutes
June 22, 2020

The Hills-Beaver Creek School Board met for its semi-monthly meeting at 7:09 p.m. in the H-BC Secondary School Media Center/via Zoom Mtg for Guest attendees – based on MN Statute 13D.021.

Board members present were Bosch, Gehrke, Knobloch, LaRock, Rozeboom and Wysong. Superintendent Holthaus, Principal Schilling, and Business Manager Rozeboom were also in attendance. Board Member Rauk was absent.

Motion by LaRock, second by Wysong, and carried to approve the agenda. Visitors to the meeting were Mavis Fodness (Rock County Star Herald) and Helen Kraayenhof.

Motion by LaRock, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve minutes 6/8/2020.

Motion by Bosch, second by Wysong, and carried to approve bills.

Motion by LaRock, second by Bosch, and carried to approve District Fiscal Year 2021 Miscellaneous Pay Schedule.

Motion by Knobloch, second by Wysong, and carried to approve District Fiscal Year 2021 Fee Schedule.

Motion by Rozeboom, second by Bosch, and carried to approve Resolution for School Board Candidate Filing for 2020 General Election.

Motion by LaRock, second by Rozeboom, and carried to approve Resolution for

District Membership in the Minnesota Rural Education Association for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 School Year.

Motion by Knobloch, second by LaRock, and carried to approve resolution for District Membership in the MN School Boards Association for Fiscal Year 2021.

Motion by LaRock, second by Bosch, and carried to approve Teacher Development and Evaluation Fund Transfer Resolution.

Motion by Wysong, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve 2020-2021 Milk bid with escalator clause with Dean Foods and Bread bid with Pan O Gold through the Avera Pace program.

Motion by Wysong, second by LaRock, and carried to approve District Insurance Renewal for Property, General Liability w/terrorism, Auto, Commercial Crime, Professional Liability, Abuse, Commercial Excess Liability, and Cyber for Fiscal Year 2021.

PERSONNEL:

Motion by Knobloch, second by Bosch, and carried to approve hiring Jill Vaughn at 80% FTE Speech Language Teacher for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Motion by LaRock, second by Wysong, and carried to approve renewing Dalton Bass as Building Grounds Transportation Director for the 2021 Fiscal Year.

Motion by LaRock, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve renewing Amanda Rozeboom as Business Manager for Fiscal Year 2021 and Fiscal Year 2022.

DISTRICT NON-ACTION ITEMS:

• Superintendent Report
• Committee Meetings: Community Ed. Advisory Council 6/17, Personnel/Finance 6/17, Building/Grounds 6/22
• Legislative Update

Agenda Items for the next regularly scheduled meeting

DATES TO REMEMBER:

• Regular Board Meeting, Monday, July 13
• Regular Board Meeting, Monday, July 27

Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Tamara Rauk, Clerk
(07-23)

Houg applies for livestock feedlot permit

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
MINNESOTA RULE 7020.2000, SUBP. 4
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
LIVESTOCK FEEDLOT PERMIT

Notice is hereby given per Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 116.07, subd. 7(a), Ryan Houg, has made application to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency or the County of Rock for a permit to construct or expand a feedlot with a capacity of 500 animal units or more.

The proposed feedlot will be located in the SE 1/4 of Section 36 (fract) Rose Dell Township, Rock County, Minnesota. The proposed facility will consist of one new total confinement building with an underfloor liquid manure storage area capable of holding 2,400 grow to finish swine totaling 720 animal units. The total animal unit capacity at the facility will be 720 animal units.

This publication shall constitute as notice to each resident and each owner of real property within 5,000 feet of the perimeter of the proposed feedlot as required by Minnesota State Law.

(07-23)

Rock County adopts renewable energy ordinance

TITLE AND SUMMARY OF THE ROCK COUNTY
RENEWABLE ENERGY ORDINANCE

The following Ordinance is hereby published by title and summary:

1. **Title of Ordinance:** Section 27 Renewable Energy Ordinance.

2. **Summary of Ordinance:** The Ordinance amends Section 8 of the Renewal Energy Ordinance as follows:

Subdivision 1.1: Project Boundary, NonCommercial <100KW 1.1 times the total height or a lesser distance may be utilized provided that distance has been reviewed and approved by the MnDNR as in the process of environmental review used in the State permitting process

Subdivision 1.7 Wetlands WCA Types III, IV and V Commercial >100KW: delete setback language 3 RD on east-west axis and 5 RD on north-south axis

Subdivision 2.5: Standard for Large Solar Farms-Power & Communication lines – power and communication lines running between banks of solar panels may be placed above ground, provided the lines are placed no higher than the top of the solar modules and power and communication lines to electric substations or interconnections with buildings shall be buried underground. Exceptions may be granted by the Board in the following circumstances:

A. Where shallow bedrock, water courses, or other elements of the natural landscape interfere with the ability to bury lines.
B. When required by the utility company.
C. Unless otherwise determined by the Board

3. Availability of Ordinance: A complete printed copy of this Ordinance is available for inspection by any person during regular business hours in the office of the County Administrator located at 204 East Brown, Luverne, Minnesota 56156. This Ordinance was passed by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Rock on the 7th day of July 2020, and shall become effective seven (7) days after the date of publication.

Gary Overgaard,
Board Chairperson

ATTEST:
Kyle Oldre
County Administrator

(07-23)

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Essential duties will include operating and inspecting all types of fleet equipment and components to determine needed repairs; discuss equipment problems with supervisor; repair, replace or rebuild components, and test for proper operation; and perform routine service. Some welding and fabrication work will be required.

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DEADLINE FOR LEGALS is MONDAY @ 10 a.m.

Star Herald CHURCH

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

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

Public mass will be celebrated with a limit of 50 percent capacity of the church. Masses: 9 a.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Sunday. No mass, communion service or rosary at care centers at this time. 5 p.m. Saturdays and 8:30 a.m. mass will be live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/stccluverne/videos/>. Visit www.stscl.org for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

Beginning Sunday weekly in-person worship services 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. Sunday. Limited seating is available. Register online by 5 p.m. on the church website or by calling the church office. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are still available. Online Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 p.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 507-449-0291 or 605-215-9834
pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor

Sunday, 10:15 a.m. Worship service; worship online as well. Monday, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne). Also visit els.org for online worship opportunities with our sister churches.

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

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

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

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

Sunday, 10 a.m. Worship Service — live streamed. Thursdays 1-3 p.m. — Rock County Food Shelf curbside. Saturday 8 p.m. — AA Meeting. Sunday 9 a.m. — Adult Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. — SD In-house worship service — Services held on radio and live on Facebook. YouTube will also have services posted. 4:30 p.m. — Genesis to Revelation Bible Study with safe distancing. Monday 8 p.m. — AA Meeting and Wednesday, 6 p.m.

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

Worship through Facebook Live at regular 10:15 time on Sunday morning.

Our Facebook page can be found under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne. We are also on the local Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

St. John Lutheran Church
803 N. Cedar St., Luverne
Ph. 283-2316; email: stjohn@iw.net
www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org

Worship services Saturday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. Limit is 75 people. Attendees must call the church office prior to noon Saturday. Services will be available on the Vast channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, cityofluverne.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

interim Pastor Gary Mikkelson

Sunday, 10 a.m. Worship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills, Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. You can find more info on our website bchills.org. Wednesday, 9 a.m. Quilting.

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

Never look back — you're not going that way

Sorry if you were expecting an article from Pastor Maggie Berndt-Dreyer. We trust that she is feeling more at home at Celebration Lutheran in Sartell, Minnesota, by now.

I know a little about the staff that she has joined there. You see, my previous interim was serving at Celebration as that community of faith had previously said good-bye to a pastor who had served at Celebration for 25 years. I now have the opportunity to serve together with the people of Bethlehem as we prepare the ground for Bethlehem to call a new pastor.

This is now my third interim. I don't think that this makes me an expert by any means. And even if I did, the dynamics of life related to the Covid-19 pandemic have changed the playing field of our lives together in churches, schools, businesses and communities.

Sorry if you were expecting wisdom tucked into this column. What can a pastor who has served in various roles for 33 years have learned over those years that will now be relevant in a fast-changing world?

I was reminded recently of a gag gift that I was given at a staff Christmas party where one person from the staff found a white elephant gift for one other staff member. Each staff person was asked to take the initials from the other person's name and come up with an appropriately humorous gift. My initials are GJM. The motto that the gift giver came up for me was "Great Journeying Motto." I then proceeded to unwrap a frame with the timely motto, "Never look back. You are not going that way."

Perhaps that is a gem of wisdom that the prophet Isaiah envisioned for our generation,

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Interim Pastor
Gary Mikkelson,
Bethlehem Lutheran
Church, Hills

What can a pastor who has served in various roles for 33 years have learned over those years that will now be relevant in a fast changing world?

too. Isaiah 65:17-18 reads, "For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight."

If God almighty is saying, "Don't look back. I am not going that way," maybe we shouldn't either. Truly, God almighty has always claimed to be a God of transformation and renewal. That's good news. Ours is the God who is good at providing new paths for walking forward in faith.

A Taize devotional once included this prayer: We turn to it as a conclusion to this article. "We ask Christ to help us look at others around us in our city and see our city ... as God's city. Amen."

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CARDS OF THANKS

Thanks for the greetings, cards, gifts and good wishes for my 80th birthday! An enjoyable celebration!
Darrell Hoeck
(7.18-7.23)

Thank you to everyone for our outpouring of love and support before and after the passing of my mother, our grandmother, and Sister Pauline Martin. Thank you, Pastor Walt, for your visits to The Cottage and your message at the memorial service. Mary Carol, thank you for your visits with Mom, she cherished your friendship. Thank you to Bill for the loving care you gave Mom. The Hospice Cottage staff, thank you for the care given to Mom and the support given to me when the going got tough.
God bless you all,
Chris and Allen Fick
Derek Fick
Greg and Natalie Fick
Mary Holland, Sharon Saunders,
and Phyllis and Gene Dubbe
(7.18-7.23)

I would like to thank the Luverne ambulance crew; the medical staff of Sanford Sioux Falls and Luverne hospitals for the care I received after both surgeries; the prayers, cards, flowers, food, visits, phone calls, etc. from family and friends. It all helped a lot.
Thank you,
Ardie Bowen
(7.23-7.25)

Thank you to all of our friends and family for helping us celebrate our 60th wedding anniversary with the beautiful cards, well wishes and a wonderful evening out with our kids.
Orv and Barb Bork
(7.23-7.25)

RENTALS

For Rent: Two-bedroom ground level apartment with AC available in Luverne. On-site laundry; off-street parking. Close to downtown and senior center. No pets, no smoking. Heat/water included in rent. 507-290-0266. rtc

For Rent: City of Kennth has a large storage unit for rent (old fire department). Available immediately. Call or text Sue Tweet at 507-227-4140 for details. (7.9-7.25)

For Rent in Luverne: Two-bedroom apartment with central air, on-site laundry, includes water, heat and one-stall garage. No smoking and no pets. 507-920-0406. (7.18-8.8)

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EMPLOYMENT

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Oasis Care Home located in Luverne is hiring part-time weekend/overnight shift. Contact Mandy with questions 507-449-6156. (7.9-7.25)

Farm Laborer: Looking for a responsible, energetic farm laborer. Responsibilities include cattle husbandry, equipment maintenance, field work and CDL required. Email: dorendafluit@yahoo.com; phone: 507-290-0683 (Brent). (7.18-7.23)



EMPLOYMENT

Part Time Opportunity Available. Community Transit of United Community Action Partnership, Inc. is seeking a part-time Bus Driver for our Rock County service area. We offer flexible hours, PTO, holiday pay, and training to obtain a CDL with passenger endorsement. Qualified applicants should have a clean driving record and will be required to pass a pre-employment drug screen and background check. Read about us, learn more about our opportunities, and apply online at <https://unitedcapmn.org/employment-opportunities/> United Community Action Partnership is a EOE/ADA/AA Employer. (7.18-8.6)

EMPLOYMENT

Weekend Evening Caretaker

Looking for a reliable caretaker every other Saturday and Sunday evenings from 9:30-11:30pm with approximate pay of \$20-\$25 an hour. This position requires individual to help client to bed, assist with medication administration, aid in hygiene care, dress and very minimal house tasks. Please contact employer at 507-360-8598 or send in resume to b181560@yahoo.com

EMPLOYMENT

Weekend Morning Caretaker

Looking for reliable weekend caretaker every other Saturday and Sunday mornings from 7-10 a.m. with approximate pay of \$20-22 an hour. This position requires individual to help client transfer to chair, assist with medication administration, aid in hygiene care, dress and very minimal house tasks. Please contact employer at 507-360-8598 or send in resume to b181560@yahoo.com

Director of Buildings and Grounds

Independent School District #2184, Luverne, has the position of Director of Buildings and Grounds open immediately. The Director will assist in the management of the District health and safety programs and overall maintenance, budgeting and improvement of equipment and facilities. The Director will schedule and supervise maintenance and grounds staff. Requires training or experience in HVAC, facility management and must hold a boilers license. (Open until filled)

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



EMPLOYMENT NOTICE ROCK/NOBLES COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS WORK SITE SUPERVISOR

The Rock County Administrator's Office is currently accepting applications for Work Site Supervisor for the Rock/Nobles Community Corrections organization until August 07, 2020. This is a full time position that coordinates community service work site opportunities and schedules and supervises clients at assigned work sites.

Job qualifications for this position are a High School diploma or GED, a valid State of Minnesota driver's license with 6-months experience in carpentry, painting and supervision or an equivalent combination of education, training and experience which provides the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities for this position. This is a full time position with full benefits and starting hourly wage range of \$20.12 - \$21.76 DOQ.

To obtain a full job description and an application for this position, please visit county's web site at https://www.co.rock.mn.us/job_opportunities/index.php or contact the Rock County Administrator's office at 507-283-5065. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
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Heartland Mutual Insurance Company in Lismore MN is looking to expand their staff. We are looking for an Inspector/adjuster, Property insurance experience is preferred but not required. Qualified individuals must have PC experience, good customer service and telephone skills and a desire to learn.

Any questions should be directed to Ron at Heartland Mutual Insurance Company (507-472-8216) or email cover letter and resume to ron@hmicmn.com

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Randy Beers/Murray County Wheel-Herald photo
Jeremy Smith (center) of Luverne (pictured with daughter Makenzie) found victory lane when he won the A Modified Feature race at Murray County Speedway in Slayton.

Smith places first Friday

By Jason Berghorst

Luverne's Jeremy Smith took the checkered flag in the A Modifieds class at Murray County Speedway in Slayton Friday.

Rock County drivers also competed at Rapid Speedway in Rock Rapids, Iowa, Friday night.

Rapid Speedway

Eric Gaul and Colton Arends, both of Luverne, led local drivers at Rapid Speedway when they both placed second Friday.

Gaul placed fourth in the Hobby Stocks Heat 2 race before coming in second in the A feature race.

Cory Kelderman of Hills placed ninth in the A feature of Hobby Stocks.

Arends competed in the Stock Cars class. He won his heat race before placing second in the feature race.

Scott Overgaard of Luverne finished right behind Arends in the same race, placing third.

Murray County Speedway

Jeremy Smith won his second A Modified feature race of the year at Slayton Friday night.

Smith led a field of 10 racers in the feature race after finishing first in his heat race.

Rapid Speedway – July 17 Sportsman's A Feature

B. Boeve Beaver Creek 17th

USRA Hobby Stocks A Feature
E. Gaul Luverne 2nd
C. Kelderman Hills 9th
K. Kracht Luverne 13th
T. Kracht Luverne 22nd

USRA Stock Cars A Feature
C. Arends Luverne 2nd
S. Overgaard Luverne 3rd
S. Kalass Luverne 14th

Murray Speedway – July 17 IMCA Modifieds A Feature

J. Smith Luverne 1st

19U takes tournament champion title/

and two hits while giving up no runs.

Bailey Cowell, Riley Anderson, Quinn Buss and Ethan Beyer each scored a run for Luverne. Beyer and Bartels each had two RBIs.

Box score	
Garretson	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Luverne	1 0 0 0 2 1 x 4
	AB R H BI
Beyer	1 1 0 1
Wenninger	3 0 0 0
Crabtree	2 0 0 0
Bartels	3 0 1 1
Van Dam	3 0 0 0
Buss	3 1 1 0
Nekali	2 0 0 0
Baker	0 0 0 0
Anderson	1 1 0 0
Halverson	1 0 0 0
VonTersch	2 0 0 0
Cowell	0 1 0 0

Luverne 2, Tea 1

Luverne earned a rematch with Tea in the championship game of the tournament played Sunday at noon.

The game was scoreless at the end of the regulation seven innings.

In the top of the eighth inning, Tea scored one run to take the lead and force Luverne to score in the bottom of the eighth to keep their title chances alive.

The Cardinals had the top of the order up to bat to open extra innings.

Ethan Beyer popped out to center field before Bailey Cowell hit a single and made it to second base on an error by Tea at first base.

Colby Crabtree was next to bat and moved Cowell to third base with a fielders' choice.

Luverne was down to its last out when Isaiah Bartels came to the plate. He hit a single between the shortstop and third baseman that allowed Cowell to score.

On his first pitch, Cade Wenninger then hit a walk-off hit to the fence that scored Bartels from first base and won the game and tournament championship.

Wenninger pitched seven innings for Luverne. He earned nine strikeouts and gave up no walks, no runs and only two hits.

Crabtree came in to pitch the extra inning and earned



Submitted photo/0723

The Luverne 19U baseball team won the Garretson Summer Shutdown Legion Baseball Tournament over the weekend. Front, from left, are Jacob VonTersch, Quinn Buss, Cade Wenninger, Bailey Cowell, Trevor Halverson and Ethan Beyer. Back, from left, are coach Codie Zeutenhorst, Colby Crabtree, Jaden Knips, Nathan Nekali, Isaiah Bartels, Jacob Van Dam and Riley Anderson. Missing is Hunter Baker.

the win. He struck out three while giving up one walk, one hit and one run.

Box score	
Tea	0 0 0 0 0 1 1 1
Luverne	0 0 0 0 0 0 2 2
	AB R H BI
Beyer	4 0 2 0
Cowell	3 1 0 0
Crabtree	4 0 1 0
Bartels	3 1 1 1
Wenninger	2 0 1 1
Buss	3 0 0 0
Nekali	3 0 0 0
Van Dam	3 0 0 0
Anderson	2 0 0 0
VonTersch	1 0 0 0

Luverne 6, Minneota 5

Luverne won its sixth consecutive game over a span of five days when the Cardinals defeated Minneota 6-5 at Redbird Field Monday night.

Luverne had a 6-4 lead entering the seventh and final inning. Minneota scored one run in the top of the seventh, but it was not enough and the game ended 6-5.

Cade Wenninger led the Cardinals at the plate. He had three hits, including a two-RBI double, and scored twice.

Quinn Buss, Jacob Van Dam, Casey Sehr, and Jacob VonTersch each had one hit for Luverne.

Buss started the game on the mound and pitched 2 2/3



Jason Berghorst photo/0723 19U Bailey Cowell

Bailey Cowell bats for Luverne 19U during 6-2 victory over Tracy Thursday night, July 16 at Redbird Field.

innings. Buss had two strikeouts and gave up three walks, three hits and three runs.

Van Dam pitched next and earned the win. He went 1 1/3 innings, striking out two and offering one walk.

Kaden Anderson replaced Van Dam on the mound. He pitched 2 1/3 innings, giving up one hit and two runs.

Isaiah Bartels got the save for the Cardinals, pitching the final two-thirds of an inning.

He struck out one Minneota batter.

Box score	
Minneota	1 0 2 0 1 0 1 5
Luverne	2 3 0 1 0 0 x 6
	AB R H BI
Wenninger	4 2 3 2
Buss	1 1 1 1
Crabtree	1 1 0 0
Bartels	3 0 0 1
Van Dam	3 0 1 1
Sehr	3 0 1 1
R. Anderson	2 0 0 0
Baker	2 1 0 0
VonTersch	3 1 1 0
Halverson	2 0 0 0
Nekali	1 0 0 0

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

Once again Luverne is proving that while many of our traditional summer events and celebrations have been altered, we have been able to pull together and embrace a new socially responsible way to enjoy them. The virtual Hotdog Night events and this past Friday Night Cruise are perfect examples of Luverne Area Chamber of Commerce along with businesses and residents of the city of Luverne adapting to the temporary new normal, yet still being able to participate in and enjoy these events.

mn.gov/covid19

Governor Walz's extends Minnesota's COVID-19 peacetime emergency to August 12

Things are trending in the right direction, but we must continue to Stay Safe Minnesota.

1. Restaurants

- Indoor dining while maintaining social distancing
- reservations required
- May seat no more than 50 percent occupancy

2. Social gatherings

- Indoor social gatherings can take place with 10 people or less
- Outdoor social gatherings can take place with 25 people or less

3. Gyms, personal fitness, yoga studios, & martial arts

- May open at 25 percent capacity

4. Entertainment venues

- Indoor entertainment venues such as theaters and concert halls, can open at 25 percent capacity.
- Recreational indoor entertainment venues, such as bowling alleys, arcades, and museums may open at 25 percent capacity.
- Outdoor entertainment venues, such as sporting events, concerts, and theaters may open at 25 percent capacity.

5. Personal services

- Personal services, such as salons, tattoo parlors, and barbershops, may increase occupancy rates to 50 percent while requiring reservations.

6. Places of worship

- Places of worship can increase occupancy rates to 50 percent.

*The City of Luverne will work with local Restaurants and Bars to help them with outdoor seating where possible.

Further clarification located at:
<https://mn.gov/governor/news/#!/detail/appld/1/id/434917>

LUVERNE IS TAKING ACTION

EMPLOYER PREPAREDNESS PLAN REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

Businesses and employers providing food and beverages for outside on-site consumption (such as bars, restaurants, bakeries, grocery stores and convenience stores) must develop and implement a COVID-19 Business Preparedness Plan that addresses the following components. Businesses must ensure the Plan is evaluated, monitored, executed, and updated under the supervision of a designated Plan Administrator. Employers must ensure the Plan is posted at all of the business's workplaces in readily accessible locations that will allow for the Plan to be readily reviewed by all workers, as required.

KEY REQUIREMENTS:

- Develop and implement a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan
- Open for outdoor dining or curbside pickup/delivery only
- Ensure at least 6 feet of distance with maximum on- premises capacity to no more than 50 persons
- Limit table service to 4 persons, or 6 if part of one family unit
- Require reservations; do not allow walk-in customers
- Require masks or face shields to be worn be workers
- and strongly recommend masks for all customers
- Establish regular disinfection routine and train workers

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

Join us for a mostly virtual Hot Dog Week Celebration!

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

Love the life!

Sincerely,

Mayor Patrick T. Baustian

Need a fair fix? Read on ...



Lori Sorenson file photo/0801 2013 midway

The sun sets on the Rock County Fair midway on opening night of the Rock County Fair in 2013. This year, there will be no rides or carnival games. Midwest Rides and Concessions will bring its food truck near the 4-H eat stand picnic tables Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 27-29.

Rock County Fair 2020 is canceled, but show goes on with pandemic adaptations

Canceling the fair has ramifications far and wide

By Lori Sorenson

The 2020 version of Rock County's Fair is canceled, per the June 2 meeting of the Rock County Agricultural Society.

Similar to many pandemic-related cancelations, the effects of the fair shut down are felt far and wide.

4-H families who put an entire year's work into projects are now left wondering who will see them or care.

Organizations who serve food and treats at the fair rely on that income to fund club operations throughout the rest of the year.

The Pork Producers, for example, operate the Rib Tickler stand that annually sells nearly 2,000 sandwiches and clears about \$3,000 for the organization.

Similar losses are felt across the fairgrounds with the dairy booth, beef feed and pork feed.

According to Fair Board Vice President Lee Sells, the fair itself is bracing for losses.

"The biggest thing is we'll have the financial constraints of the grounds improvements," Sells said.

This includes the indoor show arena, which now has new concrete pads, and the roof of the bathroom facilities near the fairground office is being replaced.

Plus, the Ag Society pays judging and premium expenses.

"We hope that we're not at a loss when everything closes out," Sells

"I never thought this would happen. We're all going through it together and I'm hopeful in 2021 we'll have a phenomenal fair with bigger and better things."

— Lee Sells,
vice president,
Rock County Fair Board

said. "With community support and some sponsors we should be able to offset our expenses."

The fair's annual operating budget primarily comes from donations and sponsorships, which will be rolled over to 2021.

"We're still having our enduro, but we're limited to 250 people in the stands. Normally we get over 800," Sells said.

"That will be a big hit for us having only 35 percent or less in attendance. We still want to offer something for those racers and for the community to get out of the house and go do something."

Canceling the fair/see page 12



Mavis Fodness photo/0723 fair kinsinger

Adam Kinsinger, president of the Rock County Agriculture Society, was invited by the Star Herald to share a personal column about his reaction to planning a 2020 local fair amid the global pandemic.

Fair Board president recalls childhood fairs, laments less than 'Fair' summer

By Adam Kinsinger, Ag Society president

Oh, what a year. 2020, the year that keeps on giving.

Like most of the other major events scheduled for this summer, the Rock County Fair fell victim to COVID-19 and was forced to be canceled.

As hard as the decision was, I feel it was the best decision. Yes, the Ag Society will survive, and we have been already working on improvements on the fair grounds and planning for the 2021 fair. But I can't help but feel lost, and this summer has been

far too quiet.

Growing up, the Fair was the best time of summer for this city kid.

I remember waiting for my dad to get off work and being excited to spend the evening at the fair with my family. Supper at the 4-H Food stand, walking through all the exhibits, seeing the animals, commercial building — and after what seemed like an eternity, we would finally get to go on the rides!

Kinsinger reflects on fair/continued on page 12

Achievement Days planned for local Rock County 4-H youth

By Mavis Fodness

When the pandemic canceled state and local fairs for 2020, 4-H officials vowed to create meaningful experiences for hundreds of youth who would normally attend the annual events.

For 200 Rock County 4-H'ers, Rock County Achievement Days is the outcome of a recent parent-youth survey. The event will take place during the normal county fair days, Wednesday, July 29, through Saturday, Aug. 1.

Events feature in-person livestock shows, virtual project demonstrations but NO public in-person attendance.

Plans came together in a matter of weeks, according to Kelsey Maeschen, Rock County 4-H Program coordinator.

She said the local Federation Committee that helps govern the program met virtually in mid-June.

"Our task was to identify the option that would provide the best

experience for youth without compromising their health and safety," she said.

"With all of this in mind, we decided to host a modified in-person judging experience for animal science projects and virtual judging experiences for all other projects."

However, the in-person

Achievement Days will proceed only with the help of 4-H volunteers.

"If we don't get enough volunteers then an in-person event will not happen," she said.

Static projects judged virtually, 4-H'ers competing with non-

livestock or static projects will record themselves answering a list of possible questions about their projects. The same option exists for livestock exhibitors who don't want to participate in the in-person shows.

All videos are uploaded via FlipGrid by July 22. Judging takes place Monday, July 27, through Friday, July 31. Each judged project will receive a ribbon and premiums

4-H events for 2020/see page 2

Rock County 4-H events for 2020 continue with pandemic modifications/continued from page 1

as in the past.

No ribbon auction or premier showmanship competition will be conducted.

All club projects such as community pride, banner and scarecrow development were canceled this year.

However, a statewide showcase is being planned in light of the cancellation of the state fair and state horse show.

“Minnesota 4-H is hard at work planning alternative state showcase experiences in the absence of the 2020 State Fair,” Maeschen said.

“After our judging is complete, we will create a state fair lineup and notify youth and their families.”

Spectators not allowed on fairgrounds but can view shows on social media

As the in-person livestock shows take place, no spectators will be allowed to watch other than the 4-H’ers’ parents.

Instead the public can watch the live-streamed shows on the Rock County, MN, 4-H Facebook site.

Maeschen is encouraging everyone to make the experience as positive as possible.

“It’s an opportunity for us to grow and come together (in spirit) to support and encourage our children to thrive right were they’re planted,” she said.

“Let’s be flexible and persistent as we make the best of this summer in Rock County.”

The University of Minnesota Extension Service, which oversees 4-H programs throughout the state, has released strict rules for county programs to follow for in-person experiences.

All 4-H’ers and their parents will undergo health and temperature screenings each time they enter the fairgrounds. Monitors will keep attendance by the 4-H families and volunteers to 250 people or less.

All livestock, except for swine, will not be allowed



Lori Sorenson photo/0723 fair welcome

The “Welcome to the Rock County Fairgrounds” sign appears a bit lonely this year amid pandemic cancellations of many of the 2020 events and activities.

in the barns; instead families will be restricted to their stock trailers until it is time for their class.

4-H’ers will present their animals to the judge individually and leave the arena prior to the next group. Up to 25 people are allowed in the show arena at one time.

“Only parents will be allowed to watch outside the show ring — keeping a six-foot distance between each other — during their own kid’s class. Otherwise everyone is expected to stay at their trailers,” Maeschen said.

Exhibitors can only be at the fairgrounds an hour before their respective livestock shows. The time breaks between the shows allows volunteers to clean and prepare for the next livestock group.

Everyone must wear facemasks while on the grounds.

“For those who are not comfortable showing in-person, there will be a virtual option,” Maeschen said.

Public viewing times for livestock shows planned

Using YouTube and the 4-H program’s Facebook site, Rock County, MN, 4-H, each of the in-person livestock shows will be live-streamed for spectators and saved for viewing at later times.

Here is the current schedule for the in-person livestock shows:

- Wednesday, July 29**
 - 8 a.m. Rabbit
 - 2 p.m. Poultry
 - 5 p.m. Dairy
- Thursday, July 30**
 - 8 a.m. Swine
 - 1 p.m. Sheep
 - 5 p.m. Goat
- Friday, July 31**
 - 8:30 a.m. Beef
- Saturday, Aug. 1**
 - 8 a.m. Horseless Horse
 - 9 a.m. Pleasure Horse
 - Afternoon Game Horse

Program changes to ‘4-H Online’ experiences

Since March, when U of M Extension barred in-person meetings for its 4-H program, a series of

virtual experiences called “4-H Online” was developed.

Locally, 4-H’ers were able to learn more about photography, performing arts, crop scouting and various livestock project topics through online lessons.

The lessons featured 4-H’ers and adult leaders from throughout the state.

After watching the online presentations, 4-H’ers were encouraged to try the demonstrated activities at home.

“It is really great as a state we can come up with and offer things for youth to do to,” Maeschen said.

“The hardest part (about no in-person meetings) has been communicating in a clear way so they know the opportunities, and get as many kids as possible to participate.”

For details about the online or Rock County 4-H Program, call 507-283-1302, or contact Maeschen at kmaesch@umn.edu.



Mavis Fodness photo/Fair Tab 2020 Improvements

2020 improvements include easier access into barn, show arena

The Rock County Ag Society makes capital improvements at the fairgrounds each year. In 2020 improvements included extending the east-west cement walkway. The walkway begins at the 4-H eat stand and now continues to the end of the rabbit-poultry barn. A cement pad takes fairgoers into the rabbit-poultry barn and provides easier access into the attached show arena.

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Classic fair favorite, enduro race, survives 2020 pandemic cuts

By Jason Berghorst

While the coronavirus pandemic has impacted the 2020 Rock County Fair in countless ways, one traditional event will continue, with some modifications.

The enduro race will take place Saturday, Aug. 1, at the Rock County Speedway on the fairgrounds in Luverne.

According to Rock County enduro promoter Justin Kemp, there will be a limit of 250 people in the stands and 250 in the infield pits.

“As a race committee, not having it never really crossed our minds. It was just a matter of how we could do it,” Kemp said.

“We can spread out pretty good at the track,” Kemp added.

The decision to still stage the enduro race in 2020 will keep one of the fair’s longest and most popular events going.

An annual enduro race was introduced to the Rock County Fair in 1988 and was organized by the Beaver Creek Jaycees club.

It was added to an already busy grandstand line-up that year, which included the enduro race on Thursday, mini-sprint and flat track motorcycle races on Friday, the demolition derby Saturday afternoon and tractor pulls on Saturday night.

Burdette Braun, Beaver Creek, was one of the founders of the race 32 years ago and was



John Rittenhouse file photo/0804 enduro 11

Luverne’s Matt Niessink placed third in a 52-car field at the Connell Car Care Enduro Race staged at the Rock County Fairgrounds during the 2016 event.

involved with the event for many years.

“In the beginning the Beaver Creek Jaycees started it up as a fun fundraiser for the Jaycees,” Braun said.

Claire Crawford, LeRoy VanWyhe and Lyle Rollag were also there at the beginning and helped organize the race for many years.

“It was a great way for the Beaver Creek Jaycees to be involved and to offer our manpower to the fair board,” Braun said.

The enduro race has evolved a great deal over the years according to Braun.

“When we started, the only requirement was a roll bar and all the glass out of the car,” he said. “That’s changed a lot now, mostly for insurance reasons. There’s a lot more requirements.”

“Now the cars are basically race cars,” Braun said. “It used to just be which cars could even finish the race.”

The Beaver Creek Jaycees were in charge of the race until about 1996 or 1997 when the Beaver Creek Recreation Association took the lead.

As the enduro race gained in popularity, it was moved to Satur-

day night by the mid-1990s.

“Racing is big in Rock County and the enduro drew the most people,” Braun said.

“Plus we made a mess of the track so we needed to be the last event at the fair,” he joked.

By about 2001, the fair board began to organize the enduro and Braun again took the lead planning the race.

“It’s a fun event to run,” Braun said. “It takes a lot of time and manpower and everybody pitches in to help.”

Braun and the other original organizers from the Beaver Creek

area are no longer involved in operating the race but are still proud of the event’s continued success.

“We all get older and it’s time to pass it on to the younger ones,” Braun said.

In recent years, the fair board has partnered with enduro races at tracks in Slayton and Rock Rapids, Iowa, to create the LSR Enduro series (Luverne, Slayton, Rock Rapids).

The series brings two or three enduro races to the Rock County Speedway each year and the racers

Enduro history/see page 4

‘Fab Four’ of Rock County enduros share war stories from early days

By Lori Sorenson

When four of Rock County’s enduro race founders met for a photo Thursday, it didn’t take them long to start swapping stories.

“Back then, you take the family car, throw a roll bar in it and pull out the windows,” Claire Crawford recalled about fewer safety measures in the early days.

He and former Beaver Creek Jaycees members Burdette Braun, LeRoy VanWyhe and Lyle Rollag helped organize the race in Luverne for many years.

They also talked about technology.

“The first year or two, we had walkie-talkies and they didn’t work,” Braun said. “It was a big deal when we got headsets.”

This year, drivers will

Enduro memories/see 4



Lori Sorenson photo/0723 fair tab enduro guys

The enduro races at the Rock County Fairgrounds in Luverne started 32 years ago under the organization of Beaver Creek Jaycees members (from left) Lyle Rollag, Burdette Braun, Claire Crawford and LeRoy VanWyhe.



Burdette Braun helps clear a car during the 2005 enduro event.

*“We’ve had fires,” Braun said.
“We had one guy jump the south end and land in the creek,” Crawford said.
“We had one guy land in the swamp,” Rollag said.
“We had another guy ramp off and flip over.”
“It was dangerous.”
“And these guys had the mentality once they got behind the wheel, they were Dale Earnhart Jr. wannabes.”*

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Enduro races, classic grandstand favorite, survives list of pandemic cancelations/from page 3

take their cues from lights on the track — green for go and red for stop, but the enduro volunteers for many years communicated to drivers with flags to alert them of wreck on the track.

And organizers communicated with each other to slow the cars or let them go.

“We got in trouble if someone’s radio wasn’t working and everybody else was red and he’s standing there with a green flag,” Rollag said. “And all hell would break loose. ... ahh technology.”

They also talked about the draw of the event.

“Back then everybody wanted to do it,” Braun said. “One time we had over 70 cars; usually it’s 40.”

Rollag said that was too many.

“They were already coming around the track and some hadn’t gotten off the infield yet. ... and they were nose to tail all the way around the track,” he said.

“And Burdette had a reputation for liking the track wet, and they’d just slide around.”

Braun said he did that to keep the speed down so people didn’t get hurt.

Today rules have tightened to protect drivers.

“The safety stuff that they have in their cars now,” Rollag said. “... They have fuel cells and harnesses. ... And the speed has gone up considerably.

“We’ve had fires,” Braun said.

“We had one guy jump the south end and land in the creek,” Crawford said.

“We had one guy land in the swamp,” Rollag said. “We had another guy ramp off and flip over.”

For the volunteers flagging the race, it was no walk in the park either.

“It was dangerous,” Rollag said.

They wore reflective vests and stood a distance back behind tires and protective barriers.

“But then the drivers couldn’t see us, so you had to go out, practically on the track waving your flag in their face,” Rollag said.

“And these guys had the mentality once they got behind the wheel, they were Dale Earnhart Jr. wannabes.”

This year, for the first time, electronic wireless lights on each corner will alert drivers of track conditions and speed.

“So now the flag guy will just hit yellow red or green and all the lights will go,” Rollag said.

But manpower will still be needed on the track, especially considering wrecks and the drive to win.

“A lot of guys get really upset if you put a fire extinguisher on their engines,” Braun said. “It’s corrosive.”



John Rittenhouse file photos/0806 enduro buysee
Brandon Buysse bails out the passenger side window of his Pontiac Grand Prix as race officials extinguish a fire underneath the vehicle during the 2009 Rock County Fair Enduro Race.

“Back then everybody wanted to do it. One time we had over 70 cars; usually it’s 40.”

— Burdette Braun

“They were already coming around the track and some hadn’t gotten off the infield yet. ... and they were nose to tail all the way around the track. ... And Burdette had a reputation for liking the track wet, and they’d just slide around.”

— Lyle Rollag

And many wrecked drivers have a hard time admitting defeat.

“We’d take people, gas dripping on the ground, and we’d flip them back over and tow them off,” Rollag said.

“And they’d beg us to let them back on the track. But that was the rule, if you get pulled off, you do not come back on.”

They said the drive to win is more intense due to the investment of sport.

“When it started, you could probably do it for \$300 or \$400,” Crawford said. “Now you’re probably \$3,000 or \$4,000.”

Despite the effort and expense, the four founders of Rock County’s enduro event say it’s as popular as it’s ever been.

“It’s probably the excitement

and the adrenaline rush,” Van Wyhe said.

“Plus, they get to beat up on each other a little bit. In regular racing you can’t hit each other.”

“It’s probably the excitement and the adrenaline rush. ... Plus, they get to beat up on each other a little bit. In regular racing you can’t hit each other.”

— LeRoy Van Wyhe,
one of the early enduro
race organizers



Track officials keep fire extinguishers handy for engine fires like these on the track in 2011.

Enduro history/
continued from page 3

The Aug. 1 event starts at 7 p.m. at the fairgrounds in Luverne. Pits open at 4. Grandstand opens at 5.

compete for points throughout the summer.

While the enduro cars and technology have changed a lot over the years, some things have not changed over three decades.

“The fair enduro is still the most popular race,” Kemp said.

Braun said there are advantages to both the old and new styles of enduro racing.

“Whatever is being done is working. It’s still going strong and still has good participation.”

The Aug. 1 event starts at 7 p.m. at the fairgrounds in Luverne. Pits open at 4. Grandstand opens at 5.

The event is sponsored by Jaycox, R&S Sales LLC, Connell Car Care, Wyffel Seeds and Fick Seed.



Perry Schneekloth takes the checkered flag in the 2005 enduro event. He’s pictured with Ashley Palaschak (left) and his 10-month-old son, Blake, and his wife, Kara Jo. Schneekloth was also the champion of the Fair Enduro in 2003.



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Swenson family farm reaches century mark distinction

By Mavis Fodness

On the banks of Beaver Creek in Springwater Township, the Swenson family has thrived for 100 years.

The family farm, now owned by fourth-generation residents Vince and Shelly Swenson, is the 94th Rock County farm to be recognized for 100 years of continuous ownership by one family and is the only Rock County farm selected for the honor in 2020.

The Century Farm Program is jointly organized through the Minnesota Farm Bureau and Minnesota State Fair.

Shelly (nee Brown) likened the now 160-acre farmstead near a creek to the Laura Ingalls Wilder pioneer book series she read as a child growing up in Hills.

"It's like 'Little House on the Prairie,'" she said.

As in the children's stories, the Swenson family devoted themselves to farming while celebrating life's successes and failures.

For Vince, the Century Farm located in Section 24 of Springwater Township holds a strong place in his life.

"I've lived in this neighborhood all my life — within three miles of here," he said.

Vince's great-grandfather, Olof Olson, purchased the 320-acre farmstead in 1920 and lived in the main house until fires in 1940 and 1941 caused the original residence to be replaced with the current house.

A year later, in 1943, farm ownership was transferred to Vince's great-aunt Rose Swenson. Rose owned the farm until 1964 when Vince's uncle and Rose's son, Doug Swenson, assumed ownership.

The Century Farm used to have a second residence, where Vince's parents, Charles and Cecilia, lived until his birth in 1964.

The family of 11 moved about two miles northwest of the Century Farm. Because Vince's father and his uncle farmed together, the Century Farm felt like a second home.

"We were at both places as kids," Vince recalled.

In addition to raising crops and livestock, the Swenson family operated custom businesses of corn shelling and hay baling, in which a young Vince lent a hand.

"I was so happy when I turned 16 and got to drive the truck," he said. "I didn't have to scoop corn."

Vince joined the family farm with his dad and uncle after graduating from Luverne High School in 1983.



Shelly Swenson holds a picture of the Swenson family farm in the mid 1950s.

"It's like 'Little House on the Prairie.'"

— Shelly Swenson, Century Farm family member

Olof Olson purchased the 320-acre farmstead in 1920 and lived in the main house until fires in 1940 and 1941 caused the house to be replaced with the current house.

A year later, in 1943, farm ownership was transferred to Vince's great-aunt Rose Swenson. Rose owned the farm until 1964 when Vince's uncle and Rose's son, Doug Swenson, assumed ownership.

The farm used to have a second residence, where Vince's parents, Charles and Cecilia, lived until his birth in 1964.

The family of 11 moved about two miles northwest of the Century Farm.

Mavis Fodness photo/Fair Tab 2020 Century Farm Swenson

Today Vince and Shelly Swenson are owners of the Swenson family farm and have lived there since 1993. Vince's great-grandfather purchased the farm in 1920 and in 2020 is the 94th Century Farm to be recognized in Rock County.

Swenson Century Farm/see page 6

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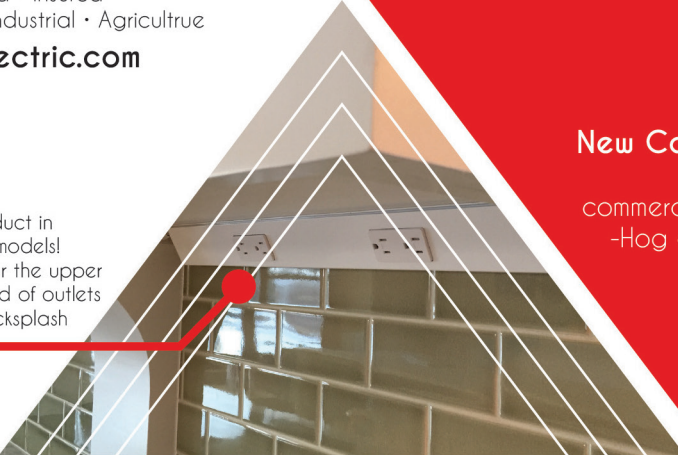
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Mavis Fodness photo/Fair Tab 2020 Century Farm Swenson

The large, stately maple tree in the middle of Vince and Shelly Swenson’s farm yard can be seen in various aerial photographs of the farm throughout its 100-year history, and the couple suspects the tree is about as old as the farm.

Vince and Shelly Swenson farm named Century Farm/continued from page 5

The three worked together until his dad’s death in 1999, followed by his uncle’s passing in 2002.

Vince and Shelly married in 1984 and in 1993 moved to the Century Farm when his bachelor uncle moved into Luverne.

The couple has two children, Casey and Katie, who call the Century Farm home.

Hard career decisions to quit farming came in 2002, after his uncle and mother’s deaths in the same year.

His son, Casey, decided he wanted to go to college instead of continuing in the family tradition, which needed an investment in new equipment and more land in order to make a living.

The couple rents on pasture and cropland to be farmed.

“As long as you utilize a farm, you’re doing a good thing,” Shelly said.

Vince currently works at CHS in the Luverne propane division, after spending years working at Gold’n Plump. Shelly works at Heartland Mutual in Luverne.

The Century Farm continues to be the hub of Swenson family reunions and has become a fun place to visit for the couple’s four grandchildren.

As the couple researched the farm’s ownership for the century farm designation, they studied pictures of how the farmyard transformed over the years.

Gone are the original farmhouse, the large red livestock barn, and smaller sheds that used to dot the farm.

Standing tall in each of the pictures is a maple tree that slowly grew larger each year pictures were taken, its branches becoming more gnarled from mishaps with farm equipment and the constant battering by Mother Nature.

The once small tree in the photographs now dominates the farmyard and provides shade for the nearby seating area and is home to two playground swings.

The tree holds special significance on the Century Farm.

“It’s something from 100 years ago still out here,” Shelly said.



Swenson Family farm, circa 2013: The large red barn, smaller red shed and the grain bins have since been removed as the farm celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2020 under Swenson ownership.

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4-H intern looking forward to Achievement Days experience

By Mavis Fodness

“What has 4-H meant to you?” Lucie Goede paused before answering the question.

The 20-year-old incoming junior at South Dakota State University in Brookings was momentarily speechless as she tried to put into words what the youth development program has meant to her.

“Four-H was really a big part of my life,” she began with her emotional response.

“It’s where I met a lot of friends. They helped me grow and ... made me come out of my comfort zone.”

Goede is the 2020 summer 4-H intern for Rock County and was hired this spring, just before the coronavirus pandemic brought all in-person 4-H activities to a halt.

She began her internship June 1 from her computer in Brookings.

“I went from school online to everything internship online,” she said.

“It’s kind of tough. I wish I could be more involved (physically in Luverne). It is what it is and we have to make the best of it.”

Goede will have her first opportunity to meet with local 4-H’ers and adult volunteers at next week’s Rock County Achievement Days.

She will be quick to tell current 4-H’ers and their families how important the program was in developing essential life skills.

“I want to encourage first generation 4-H’ers to stay with the program because you learn so much,” Goede said.

She entered 4-H as a Cloverbud (as a first- or second-grader in elementary school) with her older sister. Goede stayed with the program through her freshman year at SDSU.

A friend and 4-H leader invited the Goede family to join the Wright County program. The leader assisted the family (her mom and dad were not 4-H alumni) in understanding the various aspects of 4-H programming.

The Howard Lake native found her passion in the sheep program, where she learned discipline in working regularly with the taming of the unpredictable animals.

In later years in 4-H, she developed her own show herd of market sheep.

Her family already raised market sheep on their farm, but showing the animals is where Goede developed a passion for learning and knowing that strong feelings allows one to excel in a focused area.

That passion for sheep led her to focus on developing leadership skills.

Goede began as a youth leader in her 4-H club and moved on to be an ambassador for Wright County 4-H.



Mavis Fodness photo/0723 fair tab intern lucy goede

Lucie Goede, a 20-year-old incoming junior at South Dakota State University, is the 4-H intern heading up the local program. After social distancing, she will have her first opportunity to meet with local 4-H’ers and adult volunteers at next week’s Rock County Achievement Days.

Later she followed her older sister’s footsteps as a state 4-H ambassador with her younger sister following her as a state ambassador.

The connection with youth from throughout Minnesota and a passion of agriculture led her to pursue a degree in

agricultural sciences at SDSU.

Many of her 4-H friends were already attending the South Dakota School.

When Goede applied for a summer 4-H internship in Minnesota, she didn’t forget about the feelings 4-H ignited to excel at learning.

“Growing up, 4-H was a very important part of my life and I want to give back to the organization that gave me so much,” she said.

“I am looking forward to meeting the great youth in this county and learning why they enjoy 4-H so much.”

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Rock County’s fair dates back to the late 1880s, starts with livestock shows and ‘farmer institutes’

In the late 1800s the residents of Rock County discussed holding fairs, livestock shows and farmer institutes. A few small shows were held during that period. The Rock County Livestock Breeders Association in 1902 and 1903 met several times to discuss the possibility of holding a county fair, but lack of financial support didn’t justify any further work at that time.

In May of 1905 the Rock County Livestock Breeders Association made plans to hold a Livestock Show on September 21 and 22. The show was held in some large livestock barns north of the Omaha Railroad Station. Fruits and vegetables were also exhibited as part of this fair. According to early records the fair was quite successful.

The Rock County Horticultural Society held a carnival and fair in 1907, but provision was not made for livestock at that fair. In 1908 the Commercial Club planned a fair to be held September 15 through September 17 at the Athletic Park, which was a small area in the northwest corner of what is today the Rock County Fairgrounds.

Few small sheds were built for livestock and for exhibits. The dates for this



This 1940 photograph of the livestock judging at the Rock County Fair is archived at the History Center in Luverne.

fair were later changed to September 16-18 because of a primary election on September 15. This fair was also

quite successful. Receipts were \$848.09 from the fair and \$734 from the subscribers. The total expenditures

were \$1,164.72.

The Rock County Agricultural Association was formed in 1909 as a stock company with the capital stock to be \$25,000. Twenty-five hundred shares were to be sold at \$10 per share with a limit of 50 shares per person. This stock could only be purchased by residents of Rock County. There were not enough shares sold in 1909 so the fair was postponed until 1910.

Enough stock had been sold by the spring of 1910 so the fair was scheduled for September 30 through October 1, 1910. The exhibition was called a School Fair. It didn’t have any provision for

a livestock show. The event was labeled as an agricultural and industrial contest.

The following year, 1911, the Association purchased two acres directly south of the Athletic Park for \$600 and leased the Athletic Park for a number of years until 1918 when the Athletic Park and some surrounding small tracts of land were purchased for \$3,000.

In 1911, the Association built a building 24 feet by 48 feet along Freeman Street to house the exhibits. This building would become known as the Floral Hall. It was decided to hold a fair somewhat like that which was held in 1910 on October

5 through October 7. The fair was later postponed to October 14 because of heavy rains which made the roads impassible. A tent was erected to hold the overflow of exhibits which did not fit into the new building. The Agricultural and Industrial fair was a huge success.

In 1912 the Association enlarged the Floral Hall by cutting it in two and moving both ends apart to allow for an octagon structure in the center with 24-foot faces to allow additions as needed. Because of the lack of space for exhibits, a 24-foot by 32-foot addition was added on the east side of the Floral Hall in 1914.

A large barn, 40 feet by 130 feet, was built in 1915 to house horses and other livestock. Two more buildings were constructed in 1916, a poultry building, 26 feet by 60 feet, and a building 40 feet by 100 feet for school exhibits, which became known throughout the years as the School Building. Additional land was purchased to the east and a new Sales and Exhibits Building, 74 feet by 180 feet, was built. In 1920 a small grandstand and race track was built on the south end on the property.

A fire swept through the fairgrounds in 1992 destroying the large livestock and horse barn.

The following year, 1923, the Sale Pavilion was remodeled to hold horses and the large livestock barn was rebuilt. A small poultry barn was constructed west of the School Building. Over that period of time several livestock shows and new ideas, such as ton-litter shows in the hog department and a horse and mule team pulling contest by the grandstand were implemented. The fairs were held around the last week of September or the first week in October.

In 1927, the association scheduled the County Fair to be held in August, ahead of the Minnesota State Fair.

The 4-H clubs became large contributors to the County Fair in the early 30’s as they came into existence through the Minnesota Extension Services. During this time partial funding of county fairs was begun through County and State Governments. In 1933, the Livestock Pavilion was leased to an individual for holding weekly livestock sales. A new grandstand was built in 1938 and the old one was torn down. Additionally, a 20 foot by 132 foot addition was added to the Livestock Pavilion.

The Rock County Agricultural Association was reorganized in 1941 with all of its stock dissolved. They assumed the name Rock

Fair history/see page 10

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Bergman family selected as 2020 Rock County Farm Family of the Year

By Mavis Fodness
No one appears more committed to agriculture than Kenneth farmer Brian Bergman.

Bergman, his wife, Tami, and their children, Ross and Will, were selected this spring as the 2020 Rock County Farm Family of the Year.

Each spring the Rock County Extension Committee selects a local family to represent Rock County in the University of Minnesota Extension Farm Family Recognition Program. The program is more than 30 years old.

“The farm families receiving this year’s honor exemplify what makes Minnesota strong,” said Extension Dean Bev Durgan. “They care greatly about the land and animals and delivering quality products to consumers worldwide.”

Local Extension committee member Matt Jessen nominated the Bergman family as Rock County’s ag ambassadors.

“I felt that Brian himself does a lot for the community and his neighbors,” Jessen said. “He definitely has a passion for family and livestock.”

Tami (VerSteeg) understands that passion through her involvement in FFA at Luverne High School.

She met Brian when she was a high school senior and he was finishing his ag degree at Ridgewater College in Willmar.

Tami recalls a conversation with her father, the late Evan VerSteeg.

“I told my dad I am never going to marry a farmer,” she recalled. “Now I can’t imagine not being married to a farmer.”

Tami works part time with Sanford Health in Sioux Falls in cardiovascular services. When she is not completing medical tasks,



Mavis Fodness photo/Fair Tab 2020 Farm Family Bergman

The Bergman Family of Kenneth is the 2020 Rock County Farm Family of the Year and will receive the statewide recognition in a virtual ceremony Aug. 16 as part of Farmfest. Sharing Brian Bergman’s passion for farming are his wife, Tami (far left), and sons, Ross (center) and Will.

Tami helps where she can on the farm.

Being selected as Farm Family of the Year, she admitted, “I feel like I am along for the ride. He is doing what he loves.”

The couple celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary last year.

During their time together Tami said she watched Brian’s passion for farming grow deeper, especially when he was feeling the lowest with his father, Leon’s, death in 2007.

“I so admire Brian,” she said. “He had to work through the loss of his uncle and dad — he imagined

working long term with them. At the end of the day I am pretty proud he kept things going.”

Brian quickly credits his three employees and his brother, Brad, and mother,

Marilyn, in helping keep the family farm going.

“I couldn’t do it without them,” Brian said.

Joining the crew in recent years are sons Ross, an incoming sophomore at

Luverne High School, and Will, a soon-to-be sixth-grader at Luverne Middle School.

Both boys love farm life,

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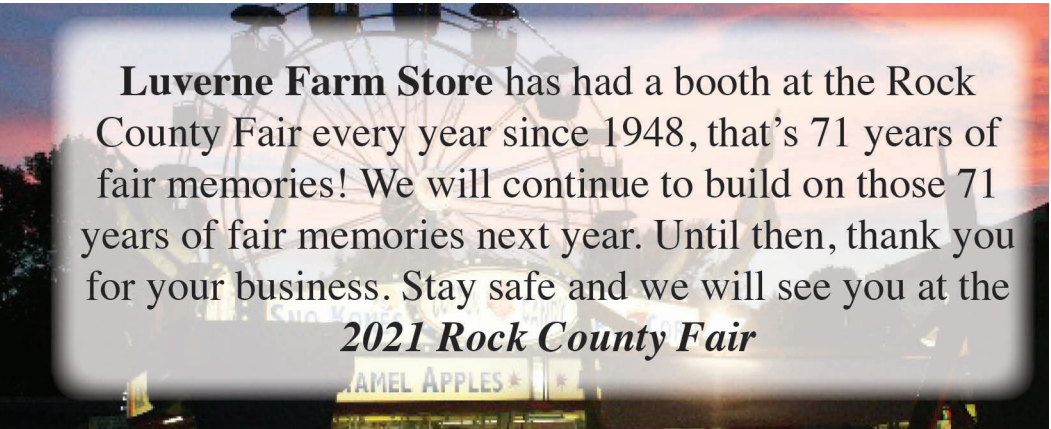
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“I told my dad I am never going to marry a farmer. Now I can’t imagine not being married to a farmer.”

— Tami (VerSteeg) Bergman

but their passion is not farming, like their father’s was when he was young.

The Bergmans operate a 200 cow-calf operation and grow their own crops for feed.

The boys are involved in many of the day-to-day tasks involving the moving of bales, hauling of manure, fieldwork and other chores because they like what living on a farm with its open spaces affords them.

“You get a lot more freedom,” Will said.

Each August at Farmfest, each county’s Farm Family of the Year is honored in a public ceremony.

However, this year the Aug. 6 recognition will be conducted virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The event begins at 1 p.m. and can be watched at www.IDEAgGroup.com/farmfest.

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Leutholds named 2019 Outstanding Conservationists of the Year

By Lori Sorenson

The Rock Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and Staff awarded the Dan Leuthold Family Farm as the 2019 Rock County Outstanding Conservationist.

They're third generation Rock County farmers operating a grain and livestock farm of corn and soybeans, cereal rye for cover crop seed, along with 900 head of finishing cattle and 80 cow calf pairs.

Dan said he doesn't feel his efforts should be singled out for recognition, because many of his colleagues in farming are using conservation practices.

"I'm just trying to be a good steward of the land," he said. "I appreciate the recognition, but I feel like all of us are conservation farming in one way or another."

Dan's first year farming was in 1993 when he and his wife, Amy, were married.

Their son, Mitch, is full-time on the farm, and younger son Jared is also actively involved in the operation.

Over the years, the Leutholds have installed grassed waterways, a farmstead windbreak, feedlot runoff controls, use of cover crops in their row cropping systems, no-till, nutrient management, rotational grazing, integrated pest management and other practices.

Dan said he hasn't seen success with every new measure he's tried, but he's had enough successes to keep trying, especially when it comes to cover crops.

"I'm seeing benefits," he said.

Dan graduated from Ells-



Dan and Amy Leuthold were named by the Rock Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors and staff as the Family Farm as the 2019 Rock County Outstanding Conservationist.

The Leutholds raise corn and soybeans and also cereal rye for cover crop seed, and also gave 900 head of finishing cattle and 80 cow calf pairs.

Above, Dan and Mitch Leuthold harvest cereal rye at the Leuthold family farm in southeastern Rock County.

"Thank you to the Rock County Conservation Supervisors for their efforts in educating farmers and for honoring us with this award."

— Dan Leuthold, Rock County farmer

worth High School and went on to the University of Minnesota-Waseca for two years to pursue an agricultural degree.

Dan shared that one of his landlords is a retired geology college professor who moved back to his own family's farm in retirement.

Through this relationship he has with this particular landlord, Dan has been willing to try new practices, including the seeding and grazing of warm season grasses in pastures along with more intensely managed rotational grazing in his pastures and on nearby fields seeded to cover crops.

Dan has served as board member for the Rock/Nobles Cattlemen's Association and is currently a director on the Sioux Valley Cooperative Energy Board.

Dan credits his father, his uncles, and his grandparents for teaching him a great deal about not only farming, but life in general.

Dan said he lives by what his grandfather told him, "Buy a farm when you are young. Take care of it and it will take care of you when you get old."

Dan and Amy were recognized at the Rock County Fair as the 2011 Rock County Farm Family of the year for their contributions to the ag industry and to their communities.

"It's an honor to be recognized for the work that we love to do," Dan said.

"Thank you to the Rock County Conservation Supervisors for their efforts in educating farmers and for honoring us with this award."

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Rock County Fair dates back to late 1880s with livestock shows, farm institutes/continued from page 8

County Agricultural Society with no stock issued. Members were assessed a \$1 fee for each year which could be waived. In 1989, a new set of by-laws was adopted to replace the by-laws from 1941.

The only fairs held in 1944 and 1945 were 4-H fairs because of the war. A wind-storm swept through the fairgrounds in 1945 destroying the grandstand. A new grandstand was built in 1946. The Rock County Board of Health ordered the 1946 fair cancelled because of the polio epidemic in the county.

A new cement block sheep and poultry building, 32 feet by 60 feet, was added in 1956 between the livestock pavilion and the grandstand. A year later, public restrooms made out of cement block, were constructed along Freeman Street. Because of lack of space in the livestock pavilion a new pole barn, 48 feet by 60 feet, was put up north of the livestock pavilion in 1958 to hold dairy animals and a wash rack was put in north of the pole barn.

Auto races were held in the grandstand on weekends in the summer during this time period. The grandstand, which was becoming old and weathered, was torn down and a new one constructed in 1960.

The 4-H, whose enrollment was increasing as had the number of exhibits entered at the fair were a determining factor in the improvements that were made in the 60's. The 4-H Clubs, financed by a \$5,000 gift to the 4-H and another \$5,000 raised by the 4-H itself, constructed metal combination show arena and foodstand in 1963. A Rock County 4-H



This aerial photograph of the Rock County fairgrounds taken in 1961 is archived at the Rock County History Center, Luverne.

Corporation was established to oversee this building. A metal building, 40 feet by 60 feet, was built in 1966 to house 4-H exhibits due to lack of space in the Floral Hall and in the School Building. The grandstand was enlarged to increase the seating by 500 people in 1967.

On a Sunday, one week after the 1967 fair was over, the large livestock pavilion was destroyed by fire. In 1968 a large pole barn, 80 feet by 150 feet, to house beef and dairy and a smaller barn, 40 feet by 70 feet, for hogs were built to replace the old livestock pavilion. A concrete floor was added in sections as funds became available in the cattle barn over the next three years,

and a cement block sales pavilion was built north of the large cattle barn in 1969 with financial cooperation through the Rock County Developmental Corporation.

The 70's brought additional changes to the fairgrounds. Due to the growth of the 4-H Horse project within the county, a horse barn, 30 feet by 102 feet, was constructed south of the show arena in 1974. In 1975, a new metal Commercial Building, 40 feet by 100 feet, was built north of the 4-H Exhibit Building. A 40 feet by 100 feet addition was added to the Commercial Building in 1976. This building was leased to the Blue Mound Vocational Center for 11 months of the year when the fair was not in progress. Blacktop was laid in front of the Commercial Building and around the 4-H Exhibit Building in a horseshoe shape also that year.

Two improvements were made in the livestock area in 1981. An outside horse show ring was built south of the Horse Barn and a wash rack was installed east of the Hog Barn. A joint building project was undertaken in 1983. A metal combination 4-H Foodstand and exhibit building, 115 feet by 60 feet, was constructed on the site of the old Floral Hall along Freeman Street. This building was built with \$20,000 raised by the Rock County 4-H clubs, \$20,000 from the County and the remaining \$27,000 from the Rock County Agricultural Society. The old School Building was torn down and the east wing of the Floral Hall torn off. The Floral Hall was moved to where the School Building stood. This was done because the Floral Hall was the first building on the fairgrounds and the general public felt the building had historic value and was

worth saving. Money was raised through private donations of \$5,000, with the rest coming from the Rock County Agricultural Society to complete this project.

In 1991 the Floral Hall's perimeter was straightened and given a new roof. At the present time the Fair Board is in the process of repairing the siding, doors and windows of the Floral Hall. The Rock County Pork and Dairy Associations put up two small buildings on the fairgrounds to promote their respective products also in the 80's.

In 1992 all the blacktop was given a new layer and a path was made from the 4-H Eatstand to the show arena. A concrete sidewalk between the Floral Hall and Eatstand was also put in at this time to make all the buildings more accessible. The back part of the grandstand which was added in

1967 was removed because it was weathered and a white steel siding was installed on the back of the grandstand during 1993 and 1994. Another joint building project was undertaken in 1997 to construct a new 4-H Office/Pop Stop and handicap accessible restrooms building. The old cement block poultry barn which was built in 1956 was demolished and in its place a 28 foot by 40 foot building was erected. The cost was \$35,000 with the 4-H clubs raising \$9,500, \$12,000 from the county and the balance being raised by the Rock County Agricultural Society. There were several improvements to the race track area such as tiling, widening of the track, fences, lighting and guard rails during this period of time also.

The Rock County Fairgrounds has served as host to a multitude of diversified types of entertainment during the fair itself or at other times over the years.

Local talent shows, auto shows and races, circuses, rodeos, various district and state livestock shows, a variety of entertainers, horse shows, tractor pulls, fireworks displays and weekly livestock sales all have been scheduled on the grounds at one time or another.

The infield of the race track served as the Luverne High School football field for several years until the present day football field was constructed. This area additionally was used as a 4-H softball diamond for many years.

The Rock County Agricultural Society still operates the County Fair and oversees all of the other uses for the fairgrounds.

It operates on a limited budget and requires a lot of donated time and talent of many people to make the County Fair successful year after year.

The Rock Couty Ag Society invites you to

FOOD TRUCK DAYS

on the fairgrounds

cheese curds • fries
gyros • chicken nuggets
fried pickles • mini donuts
funnel cakes • cotton candy
lemonade • sno cones
deep fried candy bars

cheese curds • fries
gyros • chicken nuggets
fried pickles • mini donuts
funnel cakes • cotton candy
lemonade • sno cones
deep fried candy bars

Monday July 27
Tuesday July 28
Wednesday July 29

11am-7pm

We want everyone to be safe. We appreciate
all your support and will see you next
year at the 2021 fair.

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Rock County Fair 2020 canceled/continued from page 1

Beyond the dollar signs

Fair losses are felt beyond the financial hit.

Generally speaking, a small town fair is a summer highlight ... a chance to socially reconnect with families of diverse interests brought together by an end-of-summer exclamation point.

For these reasons and others, the decisions to cancel the 2020 fair in Luverne didn't come lightly.

Board president Adam Kinsinger said discussions focused on whether or not they could conduct the annual event and still meet each of the state's current coronavirus pandemic guidelines.

In the end, they decided that they could not, in good faith, conduct the annual event — which brings thousands of people to the fairgrounds — while keeping everyone involved safe.

"This decision did not come lightly," they wrote.

"Following the guidelines from the state and watching how they are progressing during this time, it is uncertain what the restrictions will allow come the end of July. The safety of the people in our community is priority No. 1."

State guidelines recommend only events of 250 people or fewer.

The annual four-day event traditionally showcases 4-H general and livestock projects along with nightly grandstand events.

Additional daytime attractions and other public events have added numbers to the fairgrounds crowds.

4-H showcases, enduros, fair food and more ...

To maintain some semblance of a local fair, Sells said the board is offering some traditional events.

For example, the 4-H program will still showcase 4-H youth, either virtually or in person. (See the related story.)

"We're just trying to do something to recoup a little revenue and bring something to the community," Sells said.

To somewhat preserve the flavor of the fair, Midwest Rides and Concessions will bring its food truck to Luverne next week.



Midwest Rides and Concessions will bring its food truck to Luverne next week. They'll set up on the fairgrounds near the 4-H eat stand picnic tables Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 27-29. Among the traditional delicacies will be cotton candy, snow cones, funnel cakes, mini donuts, gyros, cheese curds and deep fried pickles and candy bars. "With what we're going through, we're doing the best we can to provide the community with some of the fair, even though we can't provide the full fair experience," said Lee Sells, Fair Board vice president.

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"True fair food will be down there," Sells said, pointing out that it will be a socially-distanced set-up where people take their food to go or to a nearby table away from others.

"That way everybody still gets their fair food that they want."

While it sounds trivial, he said the aroma of sugar and hot grease might bring back a little bit of normalcy to an otherwise challenging pandemic era.

"With what we're going through, we're doing the best we can to provide the community with some of the fair, even though we can't provide the full fair experience," Sells said.

"I never thought this would happen. We're all going through it together and I'm hopeful in 2021 we'll have a phenomenal fair with bigger and better things."

Fair board president reflections/ continued from page 1

I remember waiting for my dad to get off work and being excited to spend the evening at the fair with my family.

Supper at the 4-H Food stand, walking through all the exhibits, seeing the animals, commercial building — and after what seemed like an eternity, we would finally get to go on the rides!

— Adam Kinsinger, Fair Board president

It was great! Growing up, I was lucky enough to have friends in 4-H. It was always fun to ride my bike down to hang out with them and their animals. Mowing lawns and sweeping the shop floor at W&W welding, I earned enough cash for ride tickets.

Now come my teenage years. Meeting up with my buddies was always a good time.

We had the run of the place! Riding on the biggest ride the carnival had to offer would surely impress the girls. Hey, it sounded good at the time!

The fair was a huge part of my childhood. I know everyone has a few stories of when they were growing up at the fair.

Well, this year the story will change a bit. There are different sides to our fair. This year we will be missing all the vendors and businesses that set up a booth at the fair for advertising and selling what they had to offer.

Also the open class that allows locals to show off their projects and take pride in what they entered. All the kids in 4-H. My heart aches for them.

Luckily, the 4-H'ers will have a chance to show off the projects and animals they work so hard on, but it won't be the same.

With the COVID-19

protocols, only the judge will get to see them while they show. Not open to the public. But it doesn't seem to slow down these kids!

I've been a fair board officer for nine years, and I get to the grounds pretty early in the morning during the fair. It always amazes me to see the kids working hard caring for their animals before anyone really shows up for the day. Their passion is second to none.

I'm thankful 4-H and the Extension have come up with a way for the 4-H'ers to still show off their hard work.

Whether it would be the rides, the exhibits, a Rib Ticker, the grandstand events, the pedal pull, or a dish of the best ice cream in southwest Minnesota, everyone will have something they are missing this year.

As for me, this year is my first year as president of the Fair Board. I know — great year to be handed over the keys, right? I am focusing on next year's fair.

We have awesome sponsors who help make our fair what it is every year.

With their help, our goal is to make it the best fair yet in our many years of the Rock County Fair. We deserve it, because our community has endured a lot this year.

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

Be Safe & ROCK SOLID!

We'll see you at the 2021 Rock County Fair!

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