



Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, September 24, 2020

Friday night lights are back!

MSHSL votes to bring football and volleyball back to fall activities

By Brennen Rupp

There was a splash of good news for high school athletes on the fall prep sports scene in Minnesota this week.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the Minnesota State High School League Board of Directors approved a motion to return football and volleyball to fall activities this season.

With all the states surrounding Minnesota playing prep sports, the MSHSL board responded to pressure to bring football and volleyball back this fall.

The first day of practice for volleyball will be on Sept. 28, with 10 days of practice. The first competition will be on Oct. 8. It will be an 11-week season with 14 dual competitions.

The Hills-Beaver Creek volleyball team has a large group of seniors (10) returning.

"Once I found out that they officially moved it back to the fall, I was thrilled," said Dylan Gehrke, H-BC's head coach.

"At practice when I told the girls, I could just see the excitement in their faces."

He said the team will appreciate the opportunity to compete this season.

"Their hard work is finally going to be able to pay off," Gehrke said.

"We have had so many girls put in countless hours in the gym this summer. They are ready to go out there and show what HBC volleyball is all about."

"I was surprised at the MSHSL board changing their original plans for a spring season," said Luverne head volleyball coach



Luverne High School football players practice near the field on Thursday, Sept. 17. They join athletes across the state who will now participate in a fall sports season, according to a state high school league decision.

Sarah DeBeer.

"I support and respect the decision and want to make the best season possible for our team, especially our seniors. As a team we are happy to get started with our season and hope that we don't have any interruptions in the next 11 weeks."

For football the first day of practice will be on Sept. 28. The first games will be played on Oct.

9 or Oct. 10.

Luverne head football coach and athletic director Todd Oye said players are pleased with the decision.

"They're excited they get to play and that they're going to have a chance to participate and have a schedule," he said.

"It's especially good for spring sports, because they'll have a more regular calendar season

without going into June and July."

Hills-Beaver Creek returns nine seniors from a team that went 9-2 last season and fell one game short of reaching the state tournament.

"Our guys are excited to get the fall season rolling," said H-BC head coach Rex Metzger. "We have a great senior group of guys that

Fall sports decision/see page 2

Schools seek local support in slowing virus spread

In-person and hybrid plans remain in place, however Luverne moves to 'probationary status'

By Mavis Fodness

After two weeks of instruction, Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek public schools will continue with their current safe learning models, even as coronavirus positive case numbers continue to rise in the county.

The Minnesota Department of Health released the 14-day case rate per 10,000 residents on Sept. 17.

The rate is at 18.06, up from the previous 14-day case rate of 17.

Each school's incident command team also met Sept. 17 to review the numbers. Local health officials provided more specifics about the case rates.

Luverne Public Schools released a statement to parents and the community Friday.

"The most common transmission is occurring outside the school environment through family groups and large gatherings in our community," stated Luverne Public Schools Superintendent Craig Oftedahl.

"At this point there is no indication

School COVID plan/see page 3

'Moving On'

Luverne is only participant in 2020 Tri-State Band Fest

By Mavis Fodness

Much of the Luverne High School Marching Band performance schedule is canceled, including this weekend's Tri-State Band Festival.

However, festival organizers have developed a special educational clinic for the 52 local students who will take the field at 3:30 p.m. Saturday.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, only 250 spectators will be seated — and spaced apart — in the bleachers for the event. Only spectators with tickets may attend the event.

Instead of marching down Luverne Main Street Saturday morning, band members will work in small groups during a daylong clinic with three guest clinicians — Lane Powell, Steve Lyons and Andy Schmidt.

The clinicians will focus on field competition execution before formally judging the band's 3:30 p.m. performance.

The modified event brings the Tri-State Band Festival back to its roots.

It began 70 years ago as a learning experience in marching and maneuvering for area high school bands. The festival grew into an annual community event on the last Saturday of each September.

This year festival committee members reached out for \$7,000 in community donations to conduct the clinic for the Luverne band. The fundraising goal was met.

"We wanted the kids to know they haven't been forgotten," said festival chairman Rachel Renken.

Band participants will receive meals throughout the day and specially designed facemasks and

Tri-State Band Fest/see page 14

Luverne to host 'no barrier' testing site Oct. 13-15

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne is among dozens of communities across the state that will host "no barrier" testing sites through the Minnesota Department of Health.

The first sites are in Grand Rapids, Pine City and Waseca this week. Luverne's round of testing is set for Oct. 13-15 at a location to be announced.

Nasal swab testing will be free, available to any Minnesota residents who feel they need to be tested, whether they have symptoms or not, and it will not require insurance.

The move is in response to spikes of CO-

VID-19 cases due to community spread driven by people who don't know they have the virus and are putting others at risk, according to MDH Commissioner Jan Malcolm.

"We are deeply concerned about the spike of cases in communities all over the state where people don't know how they contracted the virus. ... Testing lets us know who needs to isolate and who else may be at risk."

Health officials are using testing data to identify communities that are experiencing workplace clusters, are close to bordering states, or haven't yet had larger-scale testing offered,

according to Kris Ehresmann, infectious disease director at MDH.

"With this targeted push, we're able to identify clusters of cases — whether they're from weddings, funerals, backyard BBQs, Labor Day activities, going back to school, or being in the workplace, intervening now will prevent further spread and outbreaks," Ehresmann said.

Health officials believe widespread access to testing followed by isolating those who are positive, and quarantining close contacts is a

No-barrier testing sites/continued on page 5



Mavis Fodness photo/0924 Hey 75 Repairs

South Highway 75 gets new driving lanes

Minnesota Department of Transportation workers spent several days last week repairing the tire impressions on both the north- and southbound lanes of South Highway 75 from Main Street to Koehn Avenue. The impressions were causing "dishing" or potentially unsafe driving conditions when it rains. Workers applied a thin layer of asphalt over the impressions on the existing asphalt and the surface cracks that have developed since the new asphalt was overlaid in 2015. Workers may return later to fill in the space between the strips to prevent water from pooling.

City to help fix downtown business fronts

By Lori Sorenson

Two downtown Luverne buildings will be improved with help from the city's Historic Facade Improvement Program.

At their Sept. 14 meeting, members of the Luverne Economic Development Authority approved funds for John Bowron's building on East Lincoln Street and for Luverne Counseling LLC on West Main Street.

306 E. Lincoln Street

Bowron, doing business as Prairie Heights Bison, submitted an application for a facade improvement project at 306 E. Lincoln Street.

The scope of work includes restoring and tuck pointing the brickwork on the front of the building; replacing the door and transom window as in original design; restoring one window bay similar to original design; and replacing signage with projecting sign and exterior lighting.

Bowron's project is estimated to cost \$43,338 and he is applying for a grant in the amount of \$15,168. He

Facade improvements/see page 2



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County	Total Cases	New cases in last 7 days	Percent Change
Rock	159	22	+17.7%
Pipestone	215	13	+6.4%
Nobles	1,938	30	+1.6%
Minnehaha (SD)	6,293	333	+4.6%
Lyon (IA)	265	66	+33.1%

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

Date Range	8/2-8/15	8/9-8/22	8/16-8/29	8/23-9/5
Rate	14.87	13.81	17.00	18.06

According to Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan guidelines:

- Schools in counties with fewer than 9 new cases per 10,000 residents in a two-week period could have *in-person classes for all students*.
- Schools in counties with more than 50 new cases per 10,000 residents in two weeks *would have to be fully online for all students*.
- Schools in counties with more than 9 and fewer than 50 new cases in two weeks *could have hybrid learning models for students*, age appropriate.

Based on this data, plans for area schools are:

LUVERNE - Elementary: In-person | **Middle/High School:** HYBRID

HBC - Elementary: In-person | **Secondary:** In-person/HYBRID

Current data as of September 22, 2020. Sources: MDH & The New York Times

Sponsored by: Rock County Emergency Management

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Grief Support Group will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, starting Sept. 24, at Sanford Luverne for five weeks. Preregister at Sanford Hospice, 507-283-1805.

Library book sale starts Wednesday

Friends of the Rock County Library will conduct their annual book sale beginning at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, in the library basement.

Masks are required and social distancing is encouraged. Only 10 shoppers will be allowed into the book sale at one time.

Sale date and times are:

- Wednesday, Sept. 23, 4 to 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 25, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Sept. 26 (\$5/bag book sale) 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The \$5/bag sale continues from Monday, Sept. 28, through Friday, Oct. 9. Books are free from Oct. 12-17.

Bloodmobile in Luverne Sept. 28

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Luverne from 1 to 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28, at Grand Prairie Events on South Estey Street.

Make an appointment to donate by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Bring identification and masks to appointments.

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to the coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms. Those with antibodies may be able to donate plasma to help patients who need help fighting the virus.

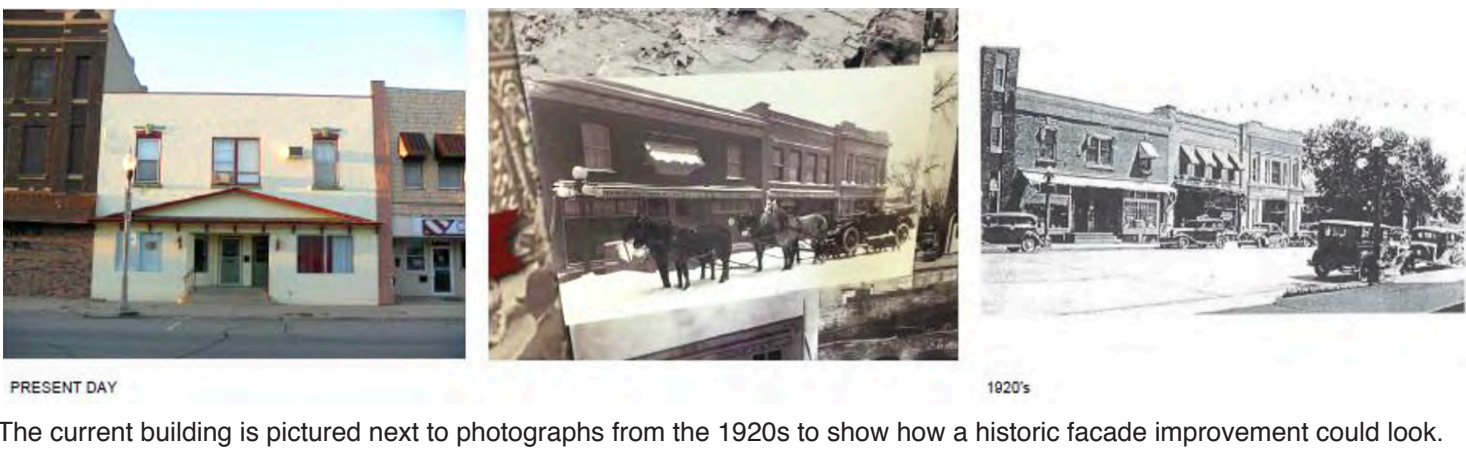
Food Forest seeks tools and talent

Prairie Ally is seeking old and unique pieces of farm equipment or garden tools to incorporate into sculptures for an artistic agricultural appreciation project at the Food Forest on North Blue Mound Avenue in Luverne

The group also seeks artists and welders to collaborate on a 'Corn' themed sculpture. Call 605-951-0227 or send a photo and description of pieces to info@projectfoodforest.org by Oct. 1. Details are at projectfoodforest.org.

Coffee Break and StoryHour Sept. 29

Coffee Break Bible Study and StoryHour meets at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays, starting Sept. 29, at Luverne Christian Reformed Church, 605 North Estey Street. StoryHour involves playtime and Bible stories for children ages 3 through kindergarten. Nursery is available for littlest ones. There is no charge and no Bible knowledge is necessary. All faiths and all ages are welcome. Study Psalms starts Oct. 6, (check to see if you got a book last year). Invite a friend for fellowship and refreshments. Call Kristi Stroeh at 507-227-5102 or Kristi.stroeh@hotmail.com.



Facade improvement funds for downtown businesses/

has chosen to forgo the loan portion of the program.

LEDA earlier this year approved a \$5,000 commercial demolition grant for Bowron, who purchased the property from Big Top Tent Rental. He said the east 80 feet of the building is substandard and needs to be demolished.

Bowron also owns the adjacent building on the west side and is improving that structure to use as a vehicle rental storage business.



Luverne Counseling LLC submitted an application for a facade improvement project at 118 W. Main Street. The scope of work includes removing the shingled roof front facade; repairing brick and joints; painting; installing three exterior lights and a list of other things.



John Bowron is improving his property on East Lincoln Street.

ing buildings as closely as possible to their historic appearance from 1878-1948. The city covers architec-

tural costs for a professional design proposal to ensure projects align with the goal of a historic Main Street.

Funding provided through the program can be used for materials, construction, awnings, signage and lighting.

One-third of qualifying projects is paid by a grant, one-third by a low-interest loan, and one-third is owner equity.

The LEDA also approved a \$5,000 Rural Business Assistance Loan to help with its facade improvements.

The loan (secured by personal guarantee) was approved at 0 percent interest for five years, with monthly payments starting in December 2020.

Fall sports decision/

can't wait to start playing again."

The football season will be a six-game regular season followed by a two-week postseason. The format for postseason play has yet to be determined.

The crowds for the football games will be limited to 250 spectators.

It has yet to be determined if spectators will be allowed in for volleyball. Indoor swimming currently does not allow spectators.

It's likely that since volleyball is played inside, spectators won't be allowed at those events either.

In terms of state play-offs, the MSHSL hasn't announced plans for state tournaments in any of the fall sports.

USDA to provide additional direct assistance to farmers and ranchers impacted by the coronavirus

President Donald Trump and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue today announced up to an additional \$14 billion for agriculture producers who continue to face market disruptions and associated costs because of COVID-19. Signup for the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP2) will begin Sept. 21 and run through Dec. 11, 2020.

"America's agriculture communities are resilient, but still face many challenges, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. President Trump is once again demonstrating his commitment to ensure America's farmers and ranchers remain in business to produce the food, fuel and fiber America needs to thrive," said Secretary Perdue. "We listened to feedback received from farmers, ranchers and agricultural organizations about the impact of the pandemic on our nation's farms and ranches, and we developed a program to better meet the needs of those impacted."

barley, corn, sorghum, soybeans, sunflowers, upland cotton and all classes of wheat. Payments will be based on 2020 planted acres of the crop, excluding prevented planting and experimental acres. Payments for price trigger crops will be the greater of: 1) the eligible acres multiplied by a payment rate of \$15 per acre; or 2) the eligible acres multiplied by a nationwide crop marketing percentage, multiplied by a crop-specific payment rate, and then by the producer's weighted 2020 Actual Production History (APH) approved yield. If the APH is not available, 85 percent of the 2019 Agriculture Risk Coverage-County Option (ARC-CO) benchmark yield for that crop will be used.

Additional commodities are eligible in CFAP2 that weren't eligible in the first iteration of the program. If your agricultural operation has been impacted by the pandemic since April 2020, we encourage you to apply for CFAP 2. A complete list of eligible commodities, payment rates and calculations can be found on farmers.gov/cfap.

Price trigger commodities

Price trigger commodities are major commodities that meet a minimum 5-percent price decline over a specified period of time. Eligible price trigger crops include

Eligibility

There is a payment limitation of \$250,000 per person or entity for all commodities combined. Call local FSA office for more details and to learn how to apply.

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School COVID response/
continued from page 1A

tion of transmission among students and staff in the school building.”

However, staff and students’ attendance has been affected by the coronavirus.

As of Friday, Luverne Public Schools had five positive cases among staff and students and H-BC had zero.

Luverne reports about 20 students who many been exposed to the virus and are self-quarantined at home.

H-BC has about 5 students absent due to COVID-19.

“We definitely need our community to avoid large gatherings, wear masks and social distance,” Oftedahl said.

“Please help our students remain in school.”

The elementary school will continue the in-person hybrid learning model, and the middle-high school will continue with alternating days with half of the student body in person and half at home distance learning.

However, as Oftedahl indicated, the district is on “probationary status.”

“Without assistance from the community, the school district will likely have to pivot to another learning model, including the possibility of distance learning (for all students), in a rather short period of time,” Oftedahl said.

“School staff will continue to make contingency plans for all scenarios.”

H-BC elementary and secondary students are currently conducting in-person hybrid learning in both buildings.

H-BC Secondary Principal Andrew Kellenberger told board members Sept. 14 that families have been following the recommended self-monitoring guidelines.

In the school buildings, staff and students are masked and following social distancing guidelines since the new school year started Sept. 8.

“A lot of teachers are attempting to utilize the outdoors, which I think is

a great idea,” Kellenberger said. “These five days have been a real success.”

Kellenberger said many of the students’ autonomy has been restricted. New rules due to the coronavirus include standing on the red dot, one-way hallways and wearing a mask.

Luverne Superintendent Oftedahl commended staff and students for following the state’s executive order of masking and social distancing. He especially thanked parents.

“Thank you for your part in having a positive impact on their behavior,” he said.

Dr. Diane Kennedy is a member of the Luverne Schools Incident Command Team and recommended that more community members follow the state’s executive order so that students and staff can remain in school.

“Our only defense is to follow the social distancing guidelines and embrace masking without exception,” Kennedy stated.

“Believe in the science behind the recommendations and support our kids.”

Kennedy also cautioned community members who’ve had a high-risk exposure or have symptoms to seek medical testing and/or treatment.

Positive case rates are only one indicator as to whether schools need to conduct classes in a different way.

“We look at more than just the positive numbers to determine the learning model,” she said.

Local public health official Jason Kloss serves on the incident command teams for both Luverne and H-BC schools. He said isolation and self-quarantine are important tools to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

“Please stay home if you experience minor COVID systems,” Kloss recommended.

“If you test positive, ensure your family members and other close contacts serve the full 14-day quarantine period.”



Mavis Fodness photo/0924 School Build South Wing Second Floor

School remodel project is 90 percent complete

Social science and foreign language classrooms and the ninth-grade science lab were ready for use late last week at Luverne Middle-High School. The classrooms on the second floor of the south wing were delayed a month, with the affected teachers and students meeting in the school gymnasium and other areas until the classrooms were ready. The south wing’s first floor, which will contain the business, physical education and special education classrooms, will be ready next week.



Above, learning pods are now located at the end of each hallway at the remodeled Luverne Middle-High School.



Pictured at right, one of the remodeled social studies classrooms is ready for use.

“The majority of the remodeling — 90 percent of it — is complete,” said construction site supervisor Dave Mulert with ISC Builds. As the remodeling work is finished, workers will turn their attention to the new commons and performing arts center that are under construction. The construction project is scheduled to be fully complete in August 2021.

In the photo at top, lockers will be installed after hours or during a school break in the second floor of the south wing at Luverne Middle-High School. Teachers were busy Sept. 15 moving desks and materials into the new classrooms.

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on September 30th

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Produce magically appears, but I now know where pickled beets come from

My kitchen smelled amazing Saturday. The stovetop was a happy place of simmering aromatic good stuff from the garden.



ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

Not from my garden. I don't have a garden.

But you wouldn't know it judging by the abundance of garden produce that accumulates regularly on my countertops and in my fridge.

Cucumbers and green beans in the spring. Potatoes and tomatoes midway through summer. And squash in the fall.

Good, wholesome stuff, all of it.

And every single colorful piece delivered thoughtfully by my 85-year-old mother-in-law.

Who insists each year she's going to scale back on her garden, but then forgets in the spring and puts all the seeds in the ground.

She should consider retiring. She's earned it. Gardens are a lot of work, or so I recall from my childhood helping my own mom.

But if Mary Ellen were to retire, that would mean an end to my countertop produce that magically appears when the little blue Ford wheels into the driveway.

And, I'd need to consider a garden of my own.

Until then, I'm happy to accept the fruits of her labor. And the fruits that get preserved in the little neat jars with carefully labeled lids.

Like the pint-size ones with bright red pickled beets — that are exactly as I remember my grandma's tasting some 30 years ago.

Turns out, Mary Ellen and I are the only ones in the immediate family who enjoy beets, so I often end up with "extra ones" in my pantry.

She and I have often discussed the beet canning process and that if I liked them so much I should learn how to do them.

After all, she isn't going live forever.

None of us are, but it's harder to believe with some people, like the little 85-year-old firecracker that runs circles around me.

Determined to pass on the beloved pickled-beet preserving method, she showed up Saturday with a large pot of already dug, cleaned and cooked beets.

And we launched right into peeling, slicing, and pickling.

And, because there was still room on the stove, we boiled an apples and red cabbage recipe she'd been wanting to try — with a head of red cabbage from her garden, of course.

And while we listened for the distinctive "nok" of each lid popping into the seal, we made a hot dish (with some of last year's frozen sweet corn) for the guys in the field.

At the end of the day, when the oversized pots and countertops were cleaned up, we took stock of our afternoon's work.

Which included seven little pints of beets that Mary Ellen generously proclaimed I had canned myself.

After she left, I studied the recipe she wrote down for the next time. And it occurred to me, I now know how to can beets, but do I know how to grow them?

That would have to be a lesson for another day. Hopefully next spring. In the garden she keeps threatening to retire from.

Congratulations, Premium Minnesota Pork.

Welcome to Luverne

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

We hope our readers will check out the Premium Minnesota Pork special edition inserted in this week's Star Herald.

The facility, with more than 250 jobs and economic investment in the community, is easily one of the best things to happen to Luverne in recent years.

It's the sort of thing that would normally be celebrated with ribbon-cuttings, community tours and, presumably, a pork barbecue open house of some kind.

But these are not "open house" times we're living in, and Premium Minnesota Pork has continued its quiet ramp up to full production. ... A few hogs at a time, a few employees at a time, until the people and the equipment were in full gear.

Which happened in the past few weeks. They're happy. Their employees are happy. Their pork customers are happy.

But the Star Herald didn't want

the occasion to go uncelebrated.

We've been pleased to be part of public meetings and regular construction update tours. And we've learned about the modern technology and equipment that's custom built for their operation.

And we learned a little about what goes into a good cut of pork.

"Clean, clean, clean!" as one worker put it. And "Safety first." And "Quality over quantity."

But best equipment and best practices still rely on the people on the job.

As we know, all successful

businesses have their people to thank.

And so, we'd like you to meet the people who make the plant ... and ultimately the pork. The special section this week is a celebration of the plant coming on line and of the people that made it happen.

We thank our advertisers for supporting the print version of the party, and we thank the company for letting us be part of their journey.

Congratulations, Premium Minnesota Pork. Welcome to Luverne.



Noticing changing colors — in corn, soybean fields

The combines are rolling, pumpkins are showing up on front porches, and hopefully the lights will once again light up Cardinal Field.

All this points to one thing — Tuesday is the first day of autumn, my favorite season.

Even the name autumn sounds better than the other seasons.

Spring and summer are probably tied for second place in the favorite name game, and of course winter is dead last.

Autumn has a calming effect on me. It's the time of year when things start to slow down and we have a little more time to enjoy the things around us, especially the outdoors.

This spring and summer Mary and I have traveled darn near every county road in Rock County on our Ranger.

I know this is going to sound a little corny (pun intended) but as we drove throughout the county the last four months or so, we both really noticed the different array of colors



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson,
Tollefson Publishing general manager

our rural setting has to offer from spring to autumn.

Early on, black was the predominant color in the countryside, but not for long. Soon shades of green covered the black landscape. Not just green, but different shades of green. I never really had noticed how the same field of corn can have different shades of green depending on which way the planter was going when the seeds were planted.

Nothing compares to the shades of color autumn brings to the table. We're all aware of the spectacular

changing of colors on the trees, but the changing of colors in the corn and bean fields is pretty darn cool.

This past week the colors in the bean fields were my favorite. Different shades of brown with a little yellow sprinkled in, with a green grass waterway snaking its way through the fields, and you have a color palette that even Benjamin Moore would be proud of.

The only bad thing about autumn is that it's followed by winter, and that means those colorful fields will soon be white.

Ask A Trooper: Bus safety

Question: With schools opening back up, can you talk about the laws for failing to stop for a school bus and what law enforcement is doing to help keep students safe?

Answer: State law requires all vehicles to stop for school buses when the bus driver activates the flashing lights and has the crossing arm fully extended. Red flashing lights on buses indicate students are either entering or exiting the bus.

Motorists must stop at least 20 feet from a school bus that is displaying red flashing lights and/or its stop arm is extended when approaching from the rear and from the opposite direction on undivided roads.

Always reduce speeds in and around school zones and watch and stop for school crossing patrols and pedestrians in both marked and unmarked crosswalks at all street corners.

Students can also do their part in helping the bus driver focus on the road and help keep themselves safe outside and inside the school bus.

When waiting for the bus, be patient, stand back from the road, and no running or rowdy behavior.

Before crossing the street, take five "giant steps" out from the front of the bus, or until the driver's face can be seen and wait for the driver to signal that it is safe to cross. Look left-right-left to be sure all traffic is stopped and continue to watch traffic while crossing.

When getting off the bus, look to be sure no cars are passing on the shoulder, and always make eye contact with motorists before proceeding.

You can avoid a ticket - and a crash - if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic-related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson - Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester, MN 55901-5848. (Or at Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

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

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

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

Sept. 11
•Complainant reported theft.
•Driving complaint was reported eastbound on Interstate 90, Highway 75 off-ramp, Luverne.
•Complainant on 81st Street, Beaver Creek, reported a homeless individual walking.
Sept. 12
•Suspicious activity was reported on W. Bishop Street.
•Complainant on Wall Street W., Jasper, reported a fight.
•Deputy assisted state patrol with traffic arrest in the eastbound lane, westbound on Interstate 90.
Sept. 13
•Complainant on 51st Street, Kanaranzi, reported a suspicious vehicle.
•Complainant on E. Luverne Street requested to speak to a deputy.
•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 15, Luverne, reported a driving complaining.
•Trooper requested deputy assistance for pursuit on 61st Street, east of 70th, Hills.
•Theft was reported from location on Main Street, Keneth.
•An abandoned vehicle was reported at location on Spring and Howe.
•Complainant on Main Street, Hardwick, reported large fireworks in the area.
Sept. 14
•Assistance from another department was requested in Moody County.
•Assistance from another department was requested at location.
•Property damage was reported at location on 71st Street.
•Complainant on 20th Avenue, Valley Springs, reported a transient at location.
•Complainant requested assistance to locate individual.

Sept. 15
•Complainant on E. Christensen Drive requested to speak to a deputy about a client.
•Complainant on Highway 23, Jasper, reported tires on fire in ditch.
•Complainant on E. Lincoln Street reported fire training.
•Complainant on 241st Street, Jasper, reported suspicious activity.
Sept. 16
•Complainant on E. Warren Street reported a stolen vehicle.
•Assistance from another department was provided.
•A driving complaint was reported on Hampshire Circle.
•Complainant on E. Veterans Drive reported property damage.
Sept. 17
•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue requested a deputy.
•Complainant on S. Fourth Street, Beaver Creek, reported a bus arm violation.
•An abandoned vehicle was reported at the Rotary Park, Luverne.
•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 12, Luverne, reported semitrailer on fire.
Sept. 18
•Complainant on W. Main Street reported a DVD left from location.

In addition, officers responded to 4 motor vehicle accidents, 2 deer accidents, 1 transport, 7 escorts, 25 ambulance runs, 1 paper service, 1 animal complaint, 5 fingerprint requests, 5 burn permits, 2 vehicle impounds, 2 background checks, 1 gas drive-off, 2 alarms, 8 purchase and carry permits, 12 traffic stops, 12 abandoned 911 calls, 1 test, 2 welfare checks, 1 report of cattle out, 2 OFPs, 1 follow-up.



Mavis Fodness photo/0924 Sterling Windows

Windows shattered at Sterling's

Todd Shank with Heartland Glass Co of Sioux Falls replaces the glass Monday in the Sterling's Café and Grill entry after two windows were shattered sometime over the weekend, apparently by BBs or pellets. The damage was discovered at 8:10 p.m. Sunday. Glass in the east door and one large picture window each had a piercing hole that shattered the entire pane. Rock County investigator Jeff Wieneke indicated a BB or pellet gun was used to break the glass. No suspects are in custody at this time. Anyone with information about the incident is urged to contact Wieneke at 507-283-5000. A \$200 reward is being offered for information leading to changes being filed.

A vandalism report was also filed Monday night from the Blue Mound Liquor Store on West Main Street Luverne. Windows were also damaged. Officials have not determined if the damages at Sterling's and the liquor store are related.

Residents report campaign signs vandalized, stolen

By Lori Sorenson

Christine Mann is a DFL supporter and had displayed campaign signs on her yard on West Lincoln for Joe Biden, Dan Feehan and Shawna Marshall. She went out to straighten them Monday night, and Tuesday morning they were gone. "I was so upset that someone would do that," Mann said. She contacted law enforcement to report the incident, but her husband, Chad McClure, later found them in the gutter a few blocks away. Karen and Cary Radis-

ewitz also had their political signs vandalized and their American flag stolen from their yard on Main Street. "To quote Michelle Obama, 'When they go low, we go higher,'" Karen Radisewitz said. "It seems disproportionate to me, with all the huge Trump signs around that seem undisturbed." She said she'll put her Biden poster back up, but feels bad about the stolen flag. She, too, contacted law enforcement. According to the Rock County Attorney Jeff Haubrich,

the penalty for stealing or vandalizing campaign signs depends on the value of the material. "The short answer is, the signs are property and the value of them determines the level of theft offense," he said. He said stealing or vandalizing an average-size sign would be a misdemeanor offense punishable by up to a \$1,000 fine and 90 days in jail. There are also possible civil damages for expenses to the candidate/resident. "There could conceivably be other crimes as well. Dam-

age to property or trespass come to mind," Haubrich said. "But again, those would likely be misdemeanors with the same possible punishments and it would depend on what actually happened." Mann said it's disappointing that someone in the community would seek to suppress a political view. "We all have our own political beliefs, and this is private property," Mann said. "There are all kinds of political signs all over, and it's our right to display signs supporting a candidate."

Hardwick resident negotiates with city on \$1,000 junk fine

By Mavis Fodness

Hardwick resident Travis Schoolmeester will have a portion of a \$1,000 fine reduced if he continues efforts to clean up his property at 203 East Main Street. Hardwick City Council members unanimously agreed at their Sept. 9 meeting to waive additional fines and forgive all but \$600 of the fine issued in late July. They acknowledged that Schoolmeester made a significant effort to comply with the city's public nuisance ordinance since this spring. City attorney David Owen outlined the council's decision in a Sept. 14 letter to Schoolmeester. "In a show of good faith and in light of your continued efforts to improve the situation present upon your property ... the council has moved to reduce your fine to \$600 if, over a three-year period, you maintain your property and keep it in the condition required by the ordinance," Owens' letter stated.

According to the city's or-



Mavis Fodness photo/0924 Schoolmeester Property August 2020

Within weeks of receiving a \$1,000 fine in violation of the city of Hardwick nuisance ordinance, homeowner Travis Schoolmeester discarded much of the "junk" surrounding the property.

dinance, no resident can keep discarded, worn out, and/or inoperable materials on their properties that no longer serve the purpose for which they were originally manufactured including such items as cans, pots, tires, pools and other containers that may hold standing or stagnant water.

To be in compliance, residents are required to discard all debris, unused equipment, junk and other miscellaneous items. No articles of equipment, inoperable equipment, junk, branches, brush or any other waste or debris may remain on the property.

Schoolmeester appeared at the council's Aug. 12 meeting, two months after the council served him with a failure to comply citation in violation of the city's nuisance ordinance. Schoolmeester had until July 15 to comply

Hardwick ordinance/see 14

'No barrier' testing/ from 1A

proven strategy for controlling spread. This in turn will help keep businesses and schools open as much as possible going into the fall. According to Rock County Emergency Management Director Kyle Oldre, the free, no-barrier test site might convince some who might not otherwise bother to get tested to do so. "We have to figure out how to get over that hurdle," he said about a resistance to being tested. "Nobody wants to be the one who puts our local numbers over the edge." He said he's heard of some people who knew they'd been exposed and were even showing symptoms, but didn't get tested because they didn't want to affect students' opportunity for in-classroom learning. Oldre also urged residents to not be complacent about the dangers of COVID-19, despite the

fact that many only have mild symptoms or none at all. "The thing is, we simply don't know what this virus is capable of or when it's going to attach to the lungs or heart," he said. "And we don't know what it can do long term. Will it be like shingles after chicken pox? We don't know." The free test sites are designed to cast a wider net of identifying asymptomatic individuals to help control community spread. Any Minnesota resident can travel to any of the test sites scheduled in the coming weeks. Tests will be processed either by Mayo Clinic Laboratories or the University of Minnesota.



SUNDAY BRUNCH

SUNDAY September 27th
11AM - 2PM

\$20
For Adults
\$10
Kids 10 and under

CONTACT CHRIS FOR MORE INFO:
1-855-386-1275

507 Golf Course Ln, Beaver Creek, MN

Spring Brooke

- Smoked Brisket
- Egg Bake
- Bacon
- Hash Browns
- Waffles
- French Toast
- Fresh Fruit
- Cinnamon Rolls
- \$5 Bloody Marys
- \$5 Mimosas

SURPLUS PICKUP FOR SALE BY SEALED BID

The City of Hardwick is selling by sealed bid a 2001 2500 Chevy Regular Cab Pickup with 138269 miles.

Features include: 8' bed with sprayed bed liner, Heavy Duty rear axle 2500 and it has a Northern Truck Equipment 7' 6" Plow.

The pickup can be seen in Hardwick by the City Maintenance Shed and test driven by appointment by calling Caleb at 507-920-7110.

Sealed bids can be dropped in the Hardwick City Hall box or by mailing them to PO Box 31, Hardwick, MN 56134. Bid deadline is 5:00 PM Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

Blue Mound Figure Skaters

Learn to Skate!

OFFERING CLASSES FOR
Hockey Skating Fundamentals

Learn to Skate

Figure Skating

Classes are 30 minutes long for 10 weeks
OCTOBER 19 - December 21
at the Blue Mound Ice Arena

Tots, Hockey and Freestyle 1&2
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REGISTER ONLINE!
www.bluemoundfigureskating.com

For more info you can call 712-540-9021 or 507-227-1999

Tri-State Band

A Different Kind of Tri-State

Clinic



2020 LUVERNE MARCHING BAND

Members of the 2020 Luverne Marching Band include: Color Guard: (front to back) Morgan Hadler, Anna Boltjes, Hannah Baker, Sadie Kessler, Kristin Rud, (not pictured: Brenn Siebenahler and Rayann Remme); Drum Majors: (front row, left to right) Josie Golla, Griffen Jarchow; Band members: (second row, left to right) Jaydn Hart, Genna Rolfs, Solveig Tofteland, Julia Hoogland, Zoey Berghorst, Brynn Boyenga, Xavier Carbonneau; (third row, left to right) Grace Ingebretsen, Egypt Forrest, Anya Jarchow, Phoebe DeBates, Hope Thorson, Lauren Ver Steeg, Ava Loosbrock, Uriel Hernandez; (fourth row, left to right) Jocelyn Hart, Simon Boyenga, Emma Lusty, Ethan Rahm, Logan Ommen, Pierce Cunningham, Sophie Holmberg; (fifth row, left to right) Ainslie Robinson, Justin Dohlmann, William Johnson, Coulter Thone, Hunter Gaffaney, Eduardo Godines; (sixth row, left to right) Peter Baustian, Nathan Kinsinger, Ethan Nath, Hunter Cope, Xavier Carbonneau, Isaac Eidem, Travis Schempp; (back row, left to right) Cassi Chesley, Katia Jarchow, Katherine Pizel, Burke Johnson, Eric Somnis, John Miller, Brendan Eidem, Riley Sneller and Luke Bosch (Not pictured: Tori Hemme and Jordyn Cleaveland)

SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 3:30 pm

TRI-STATE BAND CLINIC

The Tri-State Band Clinic brings three marching band clinicians to Luverne to provide a full day of intensive training to the Luverne High School Marching Band.

The clinicians (members of the Tri-State Judging Association) are Lane Powell, Andy Schmidt and Steve Lyons. The morning session will feature special section based training while the afternoon session focuses on the band as a whole.

At 3:30 pm, the band will perform their show in front of 250 invited guests while being judged by the clinicians. The TSBF Committee is honored to be able to provide this special experience for our band.



Drum Majors

Griffin Jarchow and Josie Golla



Directors

Gavin Folkestad, James Jarvie and Morgan Van Holland

2020 Band Clinic Sponsors

Alphamedia USA
Backdraft Manufacturing
Big Top Tent
Bill's Water Conditioning
Buffalo Ridge Insurance Inc.
C & B Operations
Cattnach Insurance Inc.
CHS Eastern Harvest
City of Luverne - EDA
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Connell Car Care
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Print Express
Quality Printing
RE/MAX Land & Home
Real Estate Retrievers LLC
Rock County Chiropractic
Rock County Eye Clinic
Rock Veterinary Clinic PA
Salon 75 & Spa
Sanford Luverne Medical Center



Trumpets

Front row, left to right: Ainslie Robinson, William Johnson, Eduardo Godines; back row, left to right: Justin Dohlmann, Hunter Gaffaney, Coulter Thone and Jocelyn Hart



Baritones & Mellophones

Front row, left to right: Sophie Holmberg, Travis Schempp, Hunter Cope; back row, left to right: Pierce Cunningham, Isaac Eidem and Parker Carbonneau



Flutes

Front row, left to right: Zoey Berghorst, Brynn Boyenga, Julia Hoogland; back row, left to right: Genna Rolfs, Solveig Tofteland and Jaydn Hart (Not pictured: Tori Hemme)



Low Brass

Front row, left to right: Nathan Kinsinger, Ethan Nath, Peter Baustian; back row, left to right: Eric Somnis, Burke Johnson and John Miller



Clarinets

Front row, left to right: Egypt Forrest, Phoebe DeBates, Lauren Ver Steeg, Uriel Hernandez; back row, left to right: Ava Loosbrock, Hope Thorson, Anja Jarchow, Xavier Carbonneau and Grace Ingebretsen



Saxophones

Left to right: Emma Lusty, Logan Ommen, Simon Boyenga and Ethan Rahm



Color Guard

Front row, left to right: Morgan Hadler, Anna Boltjes; back row, left to right: Kristin Rud, Hannah Baker and Sadie Kessler (Not pictured: Brenn Siebenahler and Rayann Remme)



Percussion

Front row, left to right: Brendan Eidem, Luke Bosch, Riley Sneller; back row, left to right: Cassi Chesley, Katia Jarchow and Katherine Pizel (Not pictured: Jordyn Cleaveland)

Photos by Mavis Fodness

Security Savings Bank
Sewing Basket
Sincerely Yours
Stroeh's Auto Center
Sunshine Foods
Sunshine Gas
Those Blasted Things
Wayne and Ann Robinson
W & N Construction

Tri-State Committee Members

Keith Graber
Seana Graber
Dale Nelson
Maryln
Van Grootheest
Scott Loosbrock

Eugene Marshall
Janet Marshall
James Jarvie
Karen Roberts
Susan Skattum
Caitlin Hartman

Kathryn Hart
Kristi Groth
Tyler LeBrun
Janet Slieter
Jason Berghorst
Cheryl Hartman

Eric Hartman
Rachel Renken
STAFF
Jane Wildung
Lanphere
Angela Sneller

Filling a community need

LUCAS machines now part of first responder arsenal throughout county

By Mavis Fodness

In a medical emergency where life-saving chest compressions are needed, local first responders now have help from an automated device.

The Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assist System (LUCAS) straps around the chest of a cardiac arrest patient to deliver compressions.

First responders with the volunteer fire departments in Luverne, Hills, Magnolia, Beaver Creek and Hardwick each received LUCAS chest compression machines through federal pandemic relief funds allocated to Rock County.

Hardwick firefighters were the last department to receive training by Rock County Ambulance Director Harlan Vander Kieft on Sept. 14.

“LUCAS is a very important piece of equipment to have in a rural world where it takes 10 to 15 minutes or longer to get to a hospital,” he said.

At the machine’s center is a plunger with a suction cup end attachment. The plunger presses into the chest at an even 101 compressions a minute at a depth of 1.5 to 2 inches



Mavis Fodness photo/0924 LUCAS Machines

until it is turned off.

The machine sustains life-saving circulation until the patient’s heart resumes beating, and the patient can be transported while the machine continues to operate.

“Even a well-fit person would have a tough time doing compressions for a long time,” Vander Kieft said. “As we tire,

we are not as consistent as to the rate and depth.”

Five LUCAS machines were purchased and Vander Kieft, a certified instructor, completed the initial training for the Rock County-based departments.

In addition to consistent compressions for the patient, the LUCAS ma-



chine keeps the first responders and firefighters safe from leaning directly over the patient’s airway and possible exposure to the coronavirus. Cost of the five machines was \$69,076 and paid for through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars received in Rock County.

CELEBRATIONS

Card showers

Mary Donth will celebrate her 80th birthday on Saturday, Sept. 26. Greetings may be sent to her at 424 E. Luverne St.; Magnolia, MN 56158.

Marlys Henry will celebrate her 80th birthday on Tuesday, Sept. 29. Greetings may be sent to her at 308 S. 5th Avenue; Rock Rapids, IA 51246.

Doreen Rollag will celebrate her 95th birthday on Wednesday, Sept. 30. Greetings may be sent to her at 1046 State Hwy. 23; Beaver Creek, MN 56116.

Open houses

Robert Saker will celebrate his 80th birthday as well as the 30th anniversary of **Saker Repair** with an open house from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27, at Germantown Presbyterian Church, 27400 462nd Ave.; Chancellor, SD. A program is planned for 3 p.m.

SENIOR MENU

Monday, Sept. 28: Vegetable soup, turkey sandwich, choice fruit, cookie, bread.

Tuesday, Sept. 29: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, California blend, dinner roll, fruited gelatin. Half-Price Day sponsored by Rock County Eye Clinic.

Wednesday, Sept. 30: Fish, scalloped potatoes, green beans, corn muffin, brownie.

Thursday, Oct. 1: Glazed turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes with gravy, broccoli florets, stuffing,

chocolate chip cookie.

Friday, Oct. 2: Baked pork chop, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, mandarin oranges, bread.

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.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2010)

•This year the Rock County Sheriff’s Department has had 43 reports of narcotic-related problems and 65 total charges, according to Sheriff Evan Verbrugge.

With drug traffic being an increased problem, Verbrugge said he wants to “be proactive, not reactive.”

At Tuesday’s Rock County Board meeting, Verbrugge and Deputy Kyle Kreun presented information on a possible drug dog. Joining them was Mike Ruskin, special agent for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

“When I first came to South Dakota, I could not believe the drug traffic in the tri-state area,” Ruskin said. “There is a significant number of dollars spent (here) that is not tax deductible.”

He said that from this financial standpoint and in terms of community safety, a drug dog is necessary.

With increased county drug incidents, Kreun researched for a canine that would be affordable and sociable. He found a 1 1/2-year old black lab trained by a narcotics investigator in Des Moines, Iowa.

“It’s not a German shepherd, so it would not have an aggressive appearance. It is a work dog, but we are in a community that also needs to enjoy it,” Kreun said.

25 years ago (1995)

•While many Rock County residents were involved in different activities over Labor Day weekend in early September, not many tales stemming from the three-day diversion can top Darrell Huiskes’ holiday adventure.

Huiskes, a self-proclaimed avid hunter, was one of a few lucky sportsmen from the state who was awarded a bear hunting license for the 1995 season. Taking advantage of the opportunity, the Luverne public works director set out for the north woods of Ely and bagged a 300-pound black bear on Saturday, Sept. 2.

“It was a beautiful bear,” Huiskes said from his home Monday night. “Black bears don’t get all that huge here in Minnesota, and a 300-pounder is really decent in size.”

50 years ago (1970)

•Luverne football players will be filmed in action on “candid camera” soon.

Purchase of a video camera, for use in making video tapes out of doors, was authorized Monday night by the Luverne school board. Showing of the tapes will be over closed circuit TV.

The item was not on the meeting agenda, but it was passed quickly, after the board had heard a proposal from Don Spease and Ed Sedlacek, representing the Cardinal Club, calling for more adequate filming of football games.

75 years ago (1945)

•Another war time measure will disappear from the picture Sunday, when Rock county residents will turn back their clocks one hour, and will once more be living according to standard time.

Legislation returning the nation back to “sun time” or “God’s time” as standard time has often been called, was signed Monday by the President. The official hour is at 2 a.m. September 30, but most clocks likely will be turned back an hour at bedtime.

War time has been in effect since January 20, 1942.

100 years ago (1920)

•The Urquhart-Fleming Motor Co is now getting squared away in its substantial new home on South Freeman avenue, which has been in course of construction since last March.

This building is a gratifying addition to the business structures of Luverne when viewed from any standpoint, for no expense or effort has been spared in making it a most substantial and modern garage building.

Of brick and concrete construction and imposing design, the building is 50x120 feet in ground dimensions, and two stories high, exclusive of a full basement.

1884: Village of Beaver Creek becomes incorporated

The following appeared in The Rose History in 1911.

Rock County Village continued from 9-17-20 edition of the *Star Herald*.

Beaver Creek

It was while these conditions prevailed that Beaver Creek became an incorporated village. In the summer of 1884 the residents petitioned Judge Severance of the district court for an order declaring the village incorporated. The court heard the petition August 27 and on September 19 issued the necessary order. Colonel Harrison White, J. M. Park and Abram Osmun were named a committee to call the first election, which was set for October 2. Forty-two votes were cast at the first election. Following is a list of Beaver Creek residents who have been elected to office from the date of incorporation to the present time:⁸

1884—President, Harrison White; trustees, Abram Osmun, C. C. Cox, Andrew Obele; recorder, John Park; treasurer, James D. Campbell; justices, Oliver A. Hume, George B. Roderick; constable, John Carney.

1885—President, Harrison White; trustees, A. C. Goltz, C. C. Cox, Andrew Obele; recorder, George B. Roderick; treasurer, J. O. Britson; justices, Oliver A. Hume, J. B. Obele;⁹ constable, John Carney.¹⁰

1886—President, Harrison White; trustees, A. C. Goltz, Andrew Obele, John Carney; recorder, George B. Roderick; treasurer, J. O. Britson.

1887—President, F. D. Ressegieu; trustees, J. H. Gibson, Fred Ward, A. W. Hadwick; recorder, C. H. Humphrey; treasurer, J. O. Britson; justice, Sam Henderson.

1888—President, F. D. Ressegieu; trustees, J. H. Gibson, Fred Ward, J. A. Shaver;



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president
Rock County Historical Society

recorder, J. B. Obele; treasurer, J. O. Britson; justice, W. H. Leavens;¹¹ constable, C. C. Cox.¹²

1889—President, Harrison White; trustees, Fred Ward, J. W. Leslie, Thomas Weston; recorder, J. B. Obele; treasurer, I. H. Burt; justice, A. J. Daley; constable, B. F. Gibson.

1890—President, Fred Ward; trustees, J. W. Leslie, Thomas Weston, G. C. Tunstall; recorder, Olaf Skyberg; treasurer, J. P. Richardson; justices, J. H. Adams, Leon Carr; constables, C. C. Cox, R. Reetz.

1891—President, Harrison White; trustees, Theodore Winchell, Thomas Weston, G. C. Tunstall; recorder, J. B. Obele; treasurer, J. P. Richardson; justice, James Marshall; constable, G. C. Mather.

1892—President, Fred Ward; trustees, E. H. Moreland, Jacob Hettinger, Andrew Obele; recorder, J. B. Obele; treasurer, J. P. Richardson; justices, J. H. Adams, James Marshall; constables, C. C. Cox, A. B. Price.

1893—President, Harrison White; trustees, E. H. Moreland, Jacob Hettinger, E. F. Baker; recorder, H. J. Smelser; treasurer, J. P. Richardson; justice, L. H. Owen; constable, A. E. Jordahl.

1894—President, Harrison White; trustees, E. H. Moreland, Jacob Hettinger, G. H. Worley; recorder, L. B. Sage; treasurer, I. H. Burt; justices, J. H. Adams, A. B. Vines; constable Theodore Winchell.

1895—President, Abram

Osmun; trustees, W. T. Berry, Ira Crawford, Theodore Winchell; recorder, J. H. Adams; treasurer, O. B. Bratager; justice, L. B. Sage; constables, A. E. Jordahl, E. C. Conant.

1896—President, Abram Osmun; trustees, Ira Crawford, Theodore Winchell, G. C. Pluedeman; recorder, A. B. Vines; treasurer, O. B. Bratager; justices, J. H. Adams, Seth Crawford; constables, A. E. Jordahl, John Carney.

1897—President, Abram Osmun; trustees, Theodore Winchell, G. C. Pluedeman; E. J. Dunbar; recorder, A. B. Vines; treasurer, O. B. Bratager; justice, E. C. Brooks; constable, F. E. Welker.

1898—President, E. J. Dunbar; trustees, Theodore Winchell, J. S. Crawford, John Carney; recorder, W. J. Kinne;¹³ treasurer, O. B. Bratager;¹⁴ justice J. B. Obele; constable, F. E. Henton.

1899—President, E. J. Dunbar; trustees, Theodore Winchell, J. S. Crawford, John Carney; recorder, J. B. Obele; treasurer, F. E. Welker; justices, E. C. Brooks, J. S. Crawford;¹⁵ constable, F. E. Henton.

1900—President, E. J. Dunbar; trustees, Theodore Winchell, J. S. Crawford, H. R. Ohs; recorder, J. B. Obele; treasurer, F. E. Welker.

1901—President, E. J. Dunbar; trustees, Theodore Winchell, J. S. Crawford, John Carney; recorder, J. B. Obele; treasurer, F. E. Welker; justice, E. C. Brooks.

1902—President, E. J. Dunbar; trustees, John Carney, Samuel Loe, W. A. Speed;

recorder, J. B. Obele; treasurer, G. F. Chisholm; justice, Ira Crawford; constable, Knudt Loe.

1903—President, H. J. Ferguson; trustees, Samuel Loe, W. A. Speed, F. E. Welker; recorder, J. B. Obele; treasurer, M. O. Page; justice, E. C. Brooks; constable, W. A. Weaver.

1904—President, H. J. Ferguson; trustees, Samuel Loe, F. E. Welker, A. J. Tange-man; recorder, L. Misener;¹⁶ treasurer, M. O. Page; justice L. Misener; constable, T. N. Adams.

1905—President, F. E. Welker; trustees, A. J. Tange-man, S. L. Todd, F. E. Henton; recorder, F. M. Jones; treasurer, M. O. Page; justices, E. C. Brooks, G. B. Whitney; constable, O. H. Hazel.

1906—President, F. E. Welker; trustees, A. J. Tange-man, S. L. Todd, F. E. Henton; recorder, W. E. Leeman; treasurer, M. O. Page; justices, G. B. Whitney, E. C. Brooks; constable, T. N. Adams.

1907—President, F. E. Welker; trustees, H. R. Ohs, J. C. Claussen, T. A. Gout; recorder, J. R. Doan; treasurer, M. O. Page; justice, E. C. Brooks; constable, G. B. Whitney.

1908—President, F. E. Welker; trustees, J. C. Claussen, F. E. Henton, L. M. Merkel; recorder, B. R. Page; treasurer, M. O. Page; justice, E. C. Brooks; constable, G. B. Whitney.

1909—President, F. E. Welker; trustees, J. C. Claussen, F. E. Henton, L. M. Merkel; recorder, H. S. Cragg; treasurer, M. O. Page; justice, E. C. Brooks, constable, James Vopat.

1910—President, F. E. Welker; trustees, L. M. Merkel, James Vopat, A. G. Gilbert; recorder, H. S. Cragg; treasurer, M. O. Page; justice, E. C. Brooks; constable, G. B.

Bits/continued on page 7

SCHOOL NEWS

Three Luverne High School students elected to state FCCLA positions

Three Luverne High School students were recently elected to state offices with the Minnesota Family, Career and Community Leaders of America organization.

Rylee Anderson was selected as state treasurer, Ella Lanoue, state vice president of resource development, and

Hannah Baker, area president.

Members of the state leadership teams will direct state FCCLA programming for the 2020-21 school year.

OBITUARIES

Dale Huber

Dale Otto Huber, 85, Harker Heights, Texas, died Friday, Sept. 11, 2020.

A memorial service was Friday, Sept. 18, 2020, at the Heritage Funeral Home in Harker Heights.

Dale Huber was born on Nov. 16, 1934, to Otto and Helen Gross Huber in McLaughlin, South Dakota. He was raised and received his education in Bowdle, South Dakota, graduating from high school in 1952. In the fall of 1953 he started his college carrier at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota, where he received a degree in history. He lettered four years on the basketball team at Northern State.

Dale married Jeanne Sampson on March 1, 1957, at Falmes Lutheran Church, rural Langford, South Dakota. Dale spent two years in the Army at Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Lee,

Virginia, and in Korea

After returning home he began his 47 years in education, junior high and senior high and coaching. This career took them to many states including South Dakota, Iowa, Texas and Minnesota. He spent the last years at Hills-Beaver Creek High School from 1986 until he retired in 1999. He received several awards including Teacher of the Year and Coach of the Year. He was a role model for many students.

In 2003 Dale and Jeanne moved to Sioux Falls, and Dale worked at Sunshine Foods for 16 months. He was a fan of the Chicago Bears and the Minnesota Twins. He was a member of the American Legion and the National Education Association.

He was a member of



Mary Maroon

Mary (Heckt) Maroon, 73, Overland Park, Kansas, died Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2020, in Overland Park.

Mary Heckt was born in Springwater Township, Rock County, on March 23, 1947, to Lester and Ann (DeBates) Heckt. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Church in Jasper. She

attended grade school in Hardwick and graduated from Luverne High School in 1965.

Mary spent her adult years living in Kansas City, Missouri. She met and married David Maroon in 1968. To this union three children were born, Teresa, Michael, and Mark.



Doris Morland

Doris Viola Morland, 98, Clarkfield, died Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020, at Clarkfield Care Center in Clarkfield.

Visitation will be Friday, Sept. 25, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Luverne. Due to COVID-19, wearing of masks is required in the funeral home and social distancing will be observed. A private funeral service will be Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Clarkfield Lutheran Church with interment to follow in the church cemetery.

Memorials are preferred to the Clarkfield Lutheran Church or Clarkfield Cemetery Fund.

Doris Cornelius was born to John and Mary (Amundson) Cornelius on Sept. 15, 1922, in Lisbon Township. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran faith at Bergen Lutheran Church and attended District 77 for eight years, graduating from the Clarkfield High School in 1940.

On June 18, 1943, Do-

ris was united in marriage to Arden Morland by Army Chaplain Harry Montgomery. In August of 1943, Doris returned to her employment at the Montevideo Hospital while her husband was overseas. Arden returned home in December 1945 from Southwest Pacific Theater of

War. Doris and Arden began farming in 1946 and farmed for the next 43 years. In 1989 Arden and Doris moved to Clarkfield. In May 2009, Doris moved to Valhalla Apartments.

Doris volunteered with the Bloodmobile and was an active member in her church where she served as treasurer. In 1974 Doris and Arden traveled to Norway to visit her in-laws' and grandparents' homes. Doris enjoyed farming, gardening, hardanger, rosemaking, crocheting, genealogy, tole painting and arts and crafts. She was part of the homemakers, gardening and



the Grace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he served as an usher for many years and was an active member in the men's Bible study group. He loved watching South Dakota college sports after retirement. Above all he loved his family.

Dale is survived by two sons, Danny (Nadine) Huber of Harker Heights and Jeffrey (Lupe) Huber of Temple and a daughter Jan, (Paul Utterback); a granddaughter, Erika (Carlos) Navas and their children Cain and Cameron; grandsons, Thomas Utterback, Tristan Utterback, Jordan (Melissa) Utterback and Josh Utterback; and numerous nieces and friends.

Dale was preceded in death by his parents and his brother, Robert Huber.

Arrangements were provided by Heritage Funeral Home of Harker Heights, Texas.

(0924 F)

Mary is survived by her children; a granddaughter, McKenna; and her sisters, Dianne (Steve) Carlson and Virginia (Doug) Wessels.

She was preceded in death by her husband, David, her parents, brothers Donald and David, and a special niece, Kristina Wessels Martinez.

Arrangements were provided by Johnson County Chapel in Overland Park, Kansas.

(0924 F)

bunko clubs. She enjoyed quilting, crocheting afghans and painting dish towels. For the last eleven years, Doris cherished all her friendships she made at Valhalla. Her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were her pride and joy.

She is survived by her three children, Kathy (Larry) Rolfs of Luverne, Dennis Morland of Clarkfield, and Duane (Jane) Morland of Clarkfield; five grandchildren, Bill Rolfs (Missy Doppenberg Schut), Tom (Jen) Rolfs, Rebecca (Dave) Cebuhar, Nathan (Amelia) Morland and Stefanie (Joseph) Fragodt; 11 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law Margaret Morland; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Arden; her parents; and siblings Chester, Ward, Alvin, James, Virgil, Armenta and Janice.

Arrangements are provided by the J.H. Lynner Funeral Home in Clarkfield, www.jh-lynnner.com.

(0924 F)

Phyllis 'Pat' Bentson

Phyllis Patricia "Pat" Bentson, 91, Luverne, died peacefully on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020, at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills.

A funeral service was Monday, Sept. 21, at the Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne. Burial was at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Phyllis Hale was born to George and Martha (Martin) Hale on Sept. 23, 1928, in Elysian, where she was raised and attended school. Following her education, she moved to Windom.

On Nov. 10, 1953, Pat married Vernon Bentson in Mankato. The couple made their home in Windom for the next 17 years where they raised their four children. In 1970 they moved to Luverne. In

1979 Pat and Vernon divorced.

In Luverne Pat was employed at Mary Jane Brown Home as a kitchen aide. She then worked at Luverne Community Hospital as a CNA in the nursery until 1985 when she moved to Robbinsdale. While in Robbinsdale, Pat worked in a nursing home and later babysat in her home. In 1985 Pat retired and moved back to Luverne and resided at the Blue Mound Tower apartments for the next 27 years. In 2010 Pat became a resident of the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills.

Pat is survived by her four children, Charles (Roxy) Bentson of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Kenneth Bentson of Sioux Falls, Sandra (Tom)



Bush of Hills, and Debra Pillar (special friend, Phillip Flaten) of Mission, Texas; 8 grandchildren, Jeff (special friend, Kayla) Bentson, Jennifer (Tommy) Hurtgen, Emily Bentson, Taylor Bentson, Jacob Bentson, Angela (T.J.) Newgard, Stacy (Brittian) Bush, and Miranda (Keith) Lutz; six great-grandchildren; three step-great-grandchildren; brothers Walter "Bud" of San Diego, California, and Bob of Hastings; and many nieces, nephews and their families.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters Snooks, Betty, Georgeann and Nola; brothers George and Richard; and son-in-law, Wayne Pillar.

Arrangements were provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, www.hartquistfuneral.com.

(0924 F)



Vinnie's Dang Fine Dine named 2020 Love the Burger Battle winner

LeRoy Austin (left) accepted the official Love the Burger Battle trophy Friday night for his "Forkin' Good Burger" from Rock-Nobles Beef Ambassador Whitney Elbers. The announcement was by televised video by Rock-Nobles Cattleman's Association President Jay Bakken.

Eight Rock County restaurants took part in the 2020 event with diners consuming a total of 1,210 burgers from Aug. 17 through Sept. 19. Diners rated each burger by filling out a voting postcard.

"The official results show that the contest was very, very close — within 10/100ths of a point," Elbers said. "Scores were averaged in each of the five categories and totaled to determine the winner."

Lori Sorenson photo/0924 Burger Battle

Bits/from p. 6A

Whitney.

1911—President, H. S. Cragg; trustees, James Vopat, Henry Nowka, Frank Loose; recorder, E. J. Dunbar; treasurer, M. O. Page; justice, F. E. Welker; constable, N. L. Merkel.

⁸The license question has a number of times been submitted to the voters. So early as the spring of 1878, when the town had just been started, the matter of license or no license was submitted to the voters of the township, no-license winning by a vote of 79 to 34. During most of its incorporated history Beaver Creek has granted license. Following is the result of the vote on the question at the times it was submitted (perhaps not complete): 1887, for license by 15 majority; 1888, for, 39, against, 27; 1891, for, 21, against, 17; 1893, license carried; 1899, for, 18, against, 21; 1900, license by 6 majority; 1907, for, 14, against, 35.

⁹A. J. Daley and J. O. Tyler were elected justices at a special election November 17, 1885.

¹⁰Resigned February 4, 1886, and was succeeded by J. B. Obele.

¹¹At a special election in July, 1888, H. Kiffe and A. W. Hadwick were elcted.

¹²B. F. Gibson elected at a special election in July, 1888.

¹³Resigned in September, 1898, and was succeeded by J. B. Obele.

¹⁴Resigned in September, 1898, and was succeeded by F. E. Welker.

¹⁵Did not qualify.

¹⁶Resigned in June.

The story of the village of Beaver Creek will continue in the Oct. 1 edition of the Star Herald.

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

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to mannmade@iuv.net.

LAND FOR SALE

LEGAL: Approximately 80 acres located in the N1/2 of SW1/4 of 16-104-43, Nobles County, MN, unimproved, highly productive farmland.

TERMS: Sealed bids will be accepted until 5:00 p.m., October 9, 2020, at 130 East Main, Luverne, MN. All bidders who have submitted a bid prior to said deadline will have the opportunity to submit additional bids until property is sold. Highest bidder will be required to sign a Purchase Agreement with ten percent (10%) non-refundable earnest money down payment on the date of the sale and the balance at closing with possession going to Buyer for 2021.

Sale is subject to approval by the Heirs of Willis Kleinwolterink. For further details and an information packet contact Douglas Eisma, Eisma & Eisma, Attorneys at Law, (507) 283-4828.

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Looking to move to an acreage? Just 20 miles from Luverne, 19 miles from Pipestone & 45 miles from Sioux Falls. The perfect private space. Beautiful acreage with lots of potential to customize and make your own. 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath. Attached Double Stall Garage. Large front porch area. Sellers are entertaining offers! Give us a call to set up a showing!

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Very nice well kept home on 7.62 acres. Possible 4th bedroom could be added in basement.

From left, Renee Guy, realtor 605-359-7515
Sherri Thompson, realtor 507-227-6830
Gene Cragoe, broker/owner 507-920-3815
Emilie Boelman, administrative assistant

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Gene Cragoe, broker lic. in MN & SD
info@cragoe.com
507-283-2647 or 800-689-2647

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

(To register, contact Cindy Arends at Community Education: Phone - 507-283-4724; Fax - 507-283-2413; email - C.Arends@isd2184.net. Website: http://www.isd2184.net/Community_Ed/index.html)

Community Education has teamed up with **Luverne Pizza Ranch** for a fundraiser to benefit Community Education. On **third Tuesdays** (started Sept. 15) from 3 p.m. to

closing, 10 percent of all take-out or delivery orders will benefit Community Ed programs such as Discovery Time, summer rec, ECFE and more.

Defensive Driving beginning class is Nov. 5 and 12 (4 hours each evening.) **Refresher classes** will be offered Oct. 22 or Dec. 3. The program allows adults 55 years of age or older to save on insurance premiums.



Leif Ingebretson (left) and Levi Gonnerman (right) compete in Luverne's home meet on Friday, Sept. 18.

Brennen Rupp photo/0924 CC

Luverne boys' and girls' teams finish second in home meet

By Brennen Rupp

Luverne cross country runners competed in their second home meet of the season on Friday, Sept. 18. In the team's fourth meet of the season, both the girls' and boys' teams placed second.

Camden Janiszkeski made it four straight Top Five finishes to kick off the season. Janiszkeski placed third with a time of 18:13.

Griffen Jarchow also finished in the Top Five, with a fifth-place finish. Jarchow crossed the finish line with a time of 18:33.40.

For the first time this season, Tenley Nelson was not the first to cross the finish line. Nelson finished second with a time of 19:59.20.

Jenna DeBates finished third for the Cardinals. DeBates crossed the finish line with a time of 20:20.

Brooklynn Ver Steeg finished seventh with a time of 20:56.70. Regan Feit gave the Cardinals four Top 10 finishes. Feit finished 10th with a time of 21:26.30.

Elizabeth Wagner finished right behind Feit with a time of 21:31.10 to take home 11th place.



Brooklynn Ver Steeg competes in Luverne's home meet on Friday, Sept. 18. Ver Steeg finished seventh with a time of 20:56.70 for the Cardinals.

Brennen Rupp photo/0924 cross country

Varsity Boys

(3). Camden Janiszkeski 18:13
(5). Griffen Jarchow 18:33.40
(13). Owen Janiszkeski 19:18.90

(15). Brady Bork 19:42.30
(16). Pierce Cunningham 20:04.00

(17). Camden Hoven 20:07.60
(18). Carsen Tofteland 20:11.20

Varsity Girls

(2). Tenley Nelson 19:59.20
(3). Jenna DeBates 20:20
(7). Brooklynn Ver Steeg

20:56.70
(10) Regan Feit 21:17.70
(11) Elizabeth Wagner 21:31.10
(13) Grace Ingebretson 21:36.30
(16) Kayla Bloemendaal 22:57.20

Carry a cell phone in case of hunting emergency

The temperatures are sure showing that the fall season is soon to be upon us. It is without a doubt my very favorite season of the year. For thousands of other hunters and outdoor enthusiasts I am sure they feel the same.

I hunt almost every day of the season for some quarry. Most of those days are just the last 90 minutes before the sun sets each day.

When I leave the house or office, I always try to tell my significant other the general area that I will be tromping around in. This is so if I don't make it back home for some reason, they at least know what county to start the search in.

Cell phones are a fact of life these days for almost everyone, but I can say that a ringing cell phone that gets answered for whatever reason by a member of my hunting party is one of my biggest pet peeves. The sounds of nature broken up by a constantly ringing phone can make what would be a quality outing into a frustration session.

I put my phone on vibrate when I am hunting. I carry it and only answer it if it is one of my kids, my girlfriend or my mom. All others just need to leave a message.

I would never leave the



THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall, Outdoors columnist

phone in the truck though.

If you have some sort of emergency with a human or dog accident, you need the ability to call for help. They have their place.

I had one such incident. I was hunting with a group that shot a rooster that was hit but that was far from dead. It sailed about a quarter of a mile into a different area of habitat and I marked where it fell. We did not go back for it at that minute. We finished the push to the end of the spot and when we were finished, we returned to where the bird landed. It had both of its legs broken so I knew it could not run away from the landing zone.

As I was walking through a willow thicket, I found myself flat on the ground. I knew something bad had happened - I just didn't know yet what it was.

As I tried to get back to my feet, I found that I could not do so. It became completely

clear in a matter of 10 seconds or so that as I had fallen, a tree branch lying on the ground had entered my upper arm on the underside, passed completely through my arm, and was sticking about 10 inches past the new hole in my shirt on the top side of my arm.

A stick the size of a broomstick had impaled me. As I held the branch tightly, I got to my knees and was able to break off the branch so it was about 4 feet long. There was almost no blood. I was able to walk back to the truck and make my way to the emergency room with the help of one other member of the hunting party.

This is why I always carry my phone when enjoying an outdoor adventure, but it is a safety factor and is used for nothing else. Seeing a 3/4-inch branch sticking through your arm is an eye opener. This solidifies the reason to always tell someone where

you are going and about when you will be home.

A few days later I visited the spot where I had fallen and saw that there was a collapsed barbed wire fence and the top wire was about 4 inches higher than ground level. I had tripped on that wire.

It could have been a lot worse. What if it had lodged in my eye? How about in the base of my neck or through my chest?

The moral of this story is to always take your phone with you but not to let that safety device interrupt the tranquility of a late afternoon walk in the grass with your trusty dog.

Outdoor adventures soothe your soul and at least for a short time disconnect you from the electronic world we live in.

Hunting seasons are soon to be upon us. Be careful, be safe, tell others your plans and then go enjoy a walk in the tall grass. Do me a favor though. Please watch out for collapsed barbed wire fences.

Scott Rall, Worthington, is a habitat conservationist, avid hunting and fishing enthusiast. He can be reached at scottarall@gmail.com, or on Twitter @habitat_champion.

Girls' tennis team continues strong play with sweep of Redwood Valley

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals continued their strong start to the season by defeating Redwood Valley twice in the past week.

On Thursday, Sept. 17, the Cardinals defeated Redwood Valley 7-0.

"The girls played great," Luverne head coach Jon Beers said. "We won all our matches to pick up the sweep."

The No. 1 doubles team of Lauren Ver Steeg and Liz Kelm picked up a hard-earned victory in their match. The duo won the first set 6-1.

They then lost a hard-fought second set 7-5. In the third set, the two came out on the winning end by taking the set 10-4.

It was the same story for the No. 3 doubles team of Kristin Rud and Hope Thorson.

The duo won the first set 7-6. They then lost a nail-biting second set 7-5. They bounced back to win the third and final set 10-2.

"I was very happy that both teams were able to win the tie-breakers," Beers said.

"They had both lost their second sets and with the team match already decided, it would have been easy for them to give up. They were able to win the tie-breaker to help us get the sweep for the day."

Roz Oye won her singles match in straight sets. Oye won the first set 6-0 and took the second set 6-1.

Ainslie Robinson won her match in straight sets as well. Robinson took the first set 6-1 and won the second set 6-0.

It was a different venue, but same results for the Cardinals on Monday, Sept. 21, in Redwood Falls.

The Cardinals once again defeated Redwood Valley 7-0. This time around, the Cardinals didn't lose a single set in the dual. With the win Luverne improved to 7-1 on the season.

"The girls once again played great," Beers said. "It was nice to have all the players back. I think that was the best match we've played this year."

He was referring to Solveig

Tofteland who returned to help the No. 1 doubles team win their match 6-3, 6-1.

Jacey Smith returned to the No. 2 doubles team with Olivia Wieneke. The duo won their match in straight sets 6-1, 6-1.

Elise Jarchow continued the strong start to her season by winning her match in straight sets. Jarchow defeated her opponent 6-3, 6-0.

Mia Wenzel picked up the win in her singles match. Wenzel won both sets 6-3.

The Cardinals will be back in action on Thursday, Sept. 24, against St. James in Luverne.

St. James handed the Cardinals their only loss of the season earlier this month 5-2.

"We have St. James this Thursday," Beers said. "I'm really looking forward to having a full healthy team."

LHS - 7, Redwood Valley - 0 Singles

No. 1: Roz Oye (LHS) def. Payden Beran (RV) 6-0, 6-1

No. 2: Elise Jarchow (LHS) def. Isabel Hillstead (RV) 6-4, 6-2

No. 3: Ainslie Robinson (LHS) def. Kate Foy (RV) 6- , 6-0

No. 4: Mia Wenzel (LHS) def. Talia McCorquodale (RV) 6-3, 6-1

Doubles

No. 1: Liz Kelm - Lauren Ver Steeg (LHS) def. Pari Bailey - Lexy Nelson (RV) 6-1, 5-7, 10-4

No. 2: Olivia Wieneke - Brynn Thier, (LHS) def. Avery Wilson - Annelise Hammer (RV) 6-1, 6-2;

No. 3: Kristin Rud - Hope Thorson (LHS) def. Brooke Zollner - Mila Jenniges (RV) 7-6; 3-6; 10-2

LHS - 7, Redwood Valley - 0 Singles

No. 1: Roz Oye (LHS) def. Payden Beran (RV) 6-1, 6-0

No. 2: Elise Jarchow (LHS) def. Isabel Hillstead (RV) 6-3, 6-0

No. 3: Ainslie Robinson (LHS) def. Kate Foy (RV) 6-2, 6-1

No. 4: Mia Wenzel (LHS) def. Talia McCorquodale (RV) 6-3, 6-3

Doubles

No. 1: Solveig Tofteland - Lauren Ver Steeg (LHS) def. Pari Bailey - Lexy Nelson (RV) 6-3, 6-1

No. 2: Olivia Wieneke - Jacey Smith (LHS) def. Avery Wilson - Annelise Hammer (RV) 6-1, 6-1

No. 3: Brynn Thier - Liz Kelm (LHS) def. Brooke Zollner - Mila Jenniges (RV) 6-2, 6-4.



Brennen Rupp photo/0924 tennis

Ainslie Robinson returns a serve during her match against Redwood Valley on Sept. 17 in Luverne. The team plays again today.

TENNIS

LUVERNE GIRLS' TENNIS

Aug. 24	Worthington (H)	6-1 (W)
Aug. 27	at Pipestone	6-1 (W)
Aug. 31	Pipestone (H)	7-0 (W)
Sept. 3	at Worthington	6-1 (W)
Sept. 10	at Marshall	5-2 (W)
Sept. 12	at St. James	2-5 (L)
Sept. 14	Marshall (H)	4-3 (W)
Sept. 17	Redwood (H)	7-0 (W)
Sept. 21	at Redwood	7-0 (W)
Sept. 24	St. James (H)	4:30pm
Sept. 28	Big South Conf	TBD

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Star Herald

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.luvnrcrc.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

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

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

Thursday, Sept. 24: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Saturday, Sept. 26: 5:30 p.m. In-person worship service in Sanctuary. Sunday, Sept. 27: 9 a.m. Worship Service with baptism. Limited seating is available. 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible study via Zoom. Tuesday, Sept. 29: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. 9 a.m. Grace Notes assembly. Wednesday, Sept. 30: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are still available. Online Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 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 Altena, Pastor

Sundays, 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. Friday, Sept. 25: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. Tuesday, Sept. 29: 12 p.m. Staff meeting. 7 p.m. Consistory Meeting. Wednesday, Sept. 30: 5:30 p.m. Midweek meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Clubs; youth groups.

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

Saturday, Sept. 26: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Sunday Sept. 27: 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, Sept. 28: 7 p.m. Worship Planning Meeting. 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Tuesday, Sept. 29: 9:30 a.m. Folding Team. Wednesday, Sept. 30: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Thursday, Oct. 1: 1-3 p.m. — Rock County Food Shelf curbside.

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

Worship services in-person and through Facebook Live Sunday 9:30 a.m.

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. 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.
igtwb@WOW.net
Bill Bates, Pastor

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sundays, 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 blchills.org. Sunday, Sept. 27: 10 a.m. Worship and Livestream Service at Bethlehem. Sunday School during worship. 6-7:30 p.m. 8-9th grade Confirmation. Wednesday, Sept. 30: 9 a.m. Quilting. 6-7:30 p.m. 10th Grade first meeting with youth, parents and mentors.

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

Be gentle to one another in this fog

Kristen Kuempel once wrote a devotional where she began like this: "So here I sit, feeling a great deal of responsibility to you, dear reader, to provide some sort of clarity around the concept of loving yourself. The mug sitting beside me has held hot coffee that turned into cold coffee, and hot tea that turned into iced tea. Still, I have no pearls of wisdom."

That is where I am today as I begin this article. I am pondering what sort of clarity I might present for you about "something."

How do we speak of clarity when so much around us is unclear and foggy at best?

To get to my interim congregation in Hills, I drive by Holland. I did so recently on a morning that was foggy. It wasn't so foggy that I couldn't see the highway. It was thick enough that I could not see even one of the large wind turbine towers that I knew were stationed on the horizon.

At night the red lights atop those towers would have stood out. But in the morning fog, I noted no shadows, shapes or colors. It was confusing for me. The horizon was no longer a tool for helping me know where I was on my commute.

Perhaps something similar is happening in the region. Area public schools have opened but far differently than previous Augusts and Septembers. I am still trying to wrap my mind around Iowa, South Dakota and Minnesota schools doing so with different criteria. Some area youth can compete in athletic endeavors while other youth don't presently have those opportunities.

The fog may lift with time, but we are not there today. Medical personnel in area hospitals, clinics and care centers

BUILT ON A ROCK

**By Pastor Gary Mikkelsen,
Interim pastor at
Bethlehem Lutheran
Church, Hills**

*Together,
we pray
for
strength*

are doing their best to provide health care for people young and old. Small business owners are stretched in ways they never anticipated being challenged.

More could be said, but my point is that the fog is thick and it's tiring out lots of folks as they adapt their daily routines. Perhaps turning to a gem of scripture will provide the clarity I long for.

"Therefore, lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed." Hebrews 12:12-13

I am not going to predict when expected healing will be experienced nor when the fog associated with Covid will lift.

But I will ask the folk of the region reading this devotional to be gentle with one another this autumn. Lots of people are weary on many levels. Together, we acknowledge this. Together, we pray for strength to do hard things in community and with the help of God. This God knows where the horizon is even when we aren't so sure.

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Rock County Commissioners meet Aug. 18

Rock County Board of Commissioners
Herreid Board Meeting Room/Zoom Video Meeting
Aug. 18, 2020
9:00 A.M.

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, County Deputy Administrator Susan Skattum, and Star-Herald Reporter Mavis Fodness.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all who were in attendance.
Motion by Williamson, seconded by Reisch, to approve the August 18, 2020, County Board agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Burger, seconded by Thompson, to approve the August 04, 2020, County Board minutes, declared carried on a voice vote.

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

1. Aladtec Online Employee Scheduling and Workforce Management System Subscription Annual Renewal - \$2,426

2. 3-year Assessment Contract – Denver Township; \$3,036/yr.

Ashley Kurtz, Auditor/Treasurer, presented the claims for payment; motion by Thompson, seconded by Reisch, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote. A complete listing of the claims is available upon request at the Auditor/Treasurer's office.

CLAIMS OVER \$2,000	
A & B BUSINESS INC	\$2,486.90
ARP CONSTRUCTION LLC	5,000.00
BLUE MOUND HAIR SALON	5,000.00
BUFFALO RIDGE CONCRETE	4,970.50
CHS	9,826.07
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	9,571.00
GARY'S PAINTING SERVICE LLC	5,000.00
GRAHAM TIRE-WORTHINGTON	19,720.56
HARTZ WELDING AND REPAIR LLC	5,000.00
LIVERNE/CITY OF	25,596.16
LYON COUNTY LANDFILL	18,733.36
MAMA BEAR'S CUB HOUSE	3,086.38
MIDWEST DRY CAST LLC	5,000.00
MORRIS ELECTRONICS	3,534.80
NOBLES COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER	5,800.00
RAILPROS FIELD SERVICES INC	24,746.00
REVERTS FARMS	5,000.00
STAPLES ENTERPRISES INC	2,820.14
STROEH'S TRUCKING	4,850.00
SW DESIGN BUILD INC	5,000.00
TITAN MACHINERY-SIOUX FALLS	2,798.75
WESTPHAL TRANSPORT	4,850.00
WEX BANK	2,110.74
71 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	36,838.79
TOTAL	\$217,340.15

The County Board was in receipt of the Fund Balance report; motion by Burger, seconded by Thompson, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Auditor/Treasurer presented an update regarding the primary election stating that the voter turnout for Rock County was 20.89% (low). The Auditor/Treasurer also stated that despite what the national news is reporting about the postal service, the local postal service has been excellent. Kurtz also reassured the County Board that the State of Minnesota has excellent voting compliance in place for the upcoming general election.

The County Board was in receipt of correspondence from MCIT announcing the 2020 Dividend of \$63,207; \$50,000 was budgeted.

The Administrator and Auditor/Treasurer presented an update regarding the CARES Act funds; the application deadline of August 15th has expired and the total amount distributed (approved & pending) for both non profit and small business is \$862,213.95, leaving a remaining balance of \$12,786.05 which will be designated as county contingency. The Administrator stated that EMS equipment – Lucas devices and Versa Flows have been ordered.

The County Board was in receipt of an invitation from the Elis & Eastern Railroad for an Open House event scheduled for August 20 at 2:00P.M. in Magnolia, MN. Purpose of the event is to provide an update of the federal grant award and how those funds will be used to update the infrastructure of the Buffalo Ridge Regional Rail line.

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

Commissioner Thompson stated that she attended the following meetings: Canvassing Board

Commissioner Williamson stated that he attended the following meetings: Rock County Opportunities, Rural Water, Canvassing Board and delivered PPE supplies to Jasper Ambulance.

Commissioner Burger stated that he attended the following meetings: Budget Committee

Commissioner Overgaard stated that he attended the following meetings: Mound Township, Denver Township, Hardwick City Council, Transit Advisory and Hardwick Fire Department fundraiser.

With no further business to come before the County Board, motion by Reisch, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting, declared carried on a voice vote. (09-24)

Walker probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ROCK
FIFTH JUDICIAL COURT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No.: 67-PR-20-207

Estate of
Eldon Stanley Walker a.k.a.
Eldon S. Walker a.k.a.
Eldon Walker, Decedent
NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO
CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on 10/05/2020, at 8:30 A.M., a hearing will be held in this Court at 204 E. Brown St., Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, April 22, 2014, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Connie Boler, whose address is 1021 - 160th Ave., Luverne, MN 56156 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

Dated: 9-3-20

BY THE COURT
/s/ Terry Vajgrt
Judge of District Court
/s/ Denise Brandel
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Jennifer L. J. Gilk
Gilk Legacy Law PLLC
513 E. Bridge St.
PO Box 126
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
Attorney License No: 238363
Telephone: (507) 627-4525
FAX: (507) 627-4528
Email: office@gilklegacylaw.com

(09-17, 09-24)

Lafrenz probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ROCK
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No. 67-PR-20-212
In Re: Estate of Dwight Duane Lafrenz
aka Dwight D. Lafrenz
Decedent
NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on October 5, at 8:30 a.m., a hearing will be held via zoom in this Court at 204 E. Brown Street, Luverne, MN 56156, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated 3/17/2020 and codicil(s) to the Will dated and separate writing(s) under Minn. Stat. 524.2-513 ("Will"), and for the appointment of Elsie Wallace, whose address is 703 E. Dodge, Luverne, Minnesota 56156 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

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

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524-3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

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

Dated: 9/11/ 2020

BY THE COURT
/s/ Terry S. Vajgrt
District Court Judge
/s/ Denise Brandel
Court Administrator

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

(09-17, 09-24)

Quiet title action

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ROCK
IN DISTRICT COURT
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Case Type: Quiet Title Action
Court File: 67-CV-20-211

Paul G. Heronimus, an individual, and
Lyndon Drenth and Nancy Drenth as Trustees of
the Lyndon & Nancy Drenth Charitable Remainder Unitrust,
Plaintiffs
vs.
Stephanie A. Gullings, Stephen D. Gullings, Clyde F. Goin, Kathleen M. Goin,
Susan M. McKillop, Donald K. McKillop, Jr., Kathleen M. Davis, Donald J. Davis,
Richard Van Der Brink and Greta Van Der Brink, and
All persons unknown claiming any
right, title, estate, interest or lien in the real estate
described in the complaint herein, Defendants

SUMMONS
THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDENTS

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Plaintiffs' attorney an Answer to Complaint, which is filed in the office of the Court Administrator of the above-named county, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgement by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. This action involves, affects, or brings in question real property, situated in the County of Rock, State of Minnesota, described as follows:

THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (NE 1/4) OF SECTION NINE (9), TOWNSHIP ONE HUNDRED ONE (101) NORTH, RANGE FORTY-FIVE (45) WEST OF THE 5TH P.M., ROCK COUNTY, MINNESOTA; SUBJECT PROPERTY IS IDENTIFIED WITHIN PARCEL NUMBERS 03-0039-000, 03-0039-100, 03-0038-000, 03-0042-400, AND 03-0042-200 IN THE OFFICE OF THE ROCK COUNTY, MINNESOTA TREASURER.

The object of this action is to remove, terminate and quiet any interest of the defendants to this action and to the real estate described above.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT NO PERSONAL CLAIM is made against any of the Defendants. If any Defendant unreasonably defends the action, then Plaintiffs are requesting an order of the Court directing that said Defendant shall pay full costs to the Plaintiff.

Civil cases are subject to Alternative Dispute Resolution processes as provided in Rule 114 of the General Rules of Practice for District Courts. Alternative Dispute Resolution includes mediation, arbitration, and other processes set forth in the rules. You may contract the Court Administrator for information about these processes and about resources available in your area.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that sanctions may be awarded pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 549.211.

Dated this 8th day of September, 2020.

/s/ Paul A. Vis, Attorney for Petitioners
Eisma and Eisma
130 E. Main
Luverne, MN 56156
(507) 283-4828
ID #297550

(09-24, 10-01, 10-08)

H-BC School Board meets Aug. 24

Hills-Beaver Creek Dist. 671
Minutes
August 24, 2020

The Hills-Beaver Creek School Board met for its semi-monthly meeting at 7:56 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, Rauk, Rozeboom and Wysong. Superintendent Holthaus, Principal Kellenberger and Business Manager Rozeboom were also in attendance.

Motion by Bosch, second by Wysong, and carried to approve the agenda. Visitor to the meeting was Mavis Fodness (Rock County Star Herald).

Motion by LaRock, second by Rozeboom, and carried to approve minutes 8/10/2020.

Motion by Knobloch, second by Bosch, and carried to approve bills. Motion by LaRock, second by Bosch, and carried to approve Resolution for return to school plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion by LaRock, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve Second Reading of the following Policies:

-615 Testing Accommodations, Modifications and Exemptions for IEPs, Section 504 Plans, and LEP Students

-808 COVID-19 Face Covering Policy

Motion by Wysong, second by Bosch, and carried to approve the 522 Title IX Policy effective August 14, 2020.

Motion by Rozeboom, second by LaRock, and carried to approve Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and calling the School District General Election.

Motion by Bosch, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve Quote for purchase of High Point Network district phone system quote of \$41,107.

Motion by LaRock, second by Bosch, and carried to approve Fuel Oil and Liquid Propane Quotes for the 20-21 School Year.

Motion by Knobloch, second by Wysong, and carried to approve payment of MN State High School League Dues for the 20-21 school year.

Motion by Wysong, second by LaRock, and carried to approve setting Bus #14 as excess district property and direct the Superintendent to liquidate said asset.

Motion by Bosch, second by LaRock, and carried to approve Resolution to Purchase IC 2020 77 passenger school bus not to exceed \$94,000.

PERSONNEL:
Motion by Wysong, second by Bosch, and carried to approve assigning Lois Leenderts as the District COVID Coordinator and add time necessary to complete COVID/Health related tasks.

Motion by LaRock, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve adding Math Counts/Math League Advisor to Nora Wysong Contract for the 20-21 School Year.

Motion by Bosch, second by Wysong, and carried to approve entering into contract negotiations with Todd Holthaus, District Superintendent.

DISTRICT NON-ACTION ITEMS:
•Superintendent Report

•Committee Meetings: Personnel 8/6, Policy 8/17 and Transportation 8/24

Agenda Items for the next regularly scheduled meeting:
DATES TO REMEMBER:

•New Staff Orientation, Friday, August 28

•Staff Inservice, August 31 - September 2

•Elementary Back to School Student Parent/Teacher Conferences 9/2 and 9/8

•Secondary School Open House 9/2

•Regular Board Meeting, Monday, September 14

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Tamara Rauk, Clerk
(09-24)

Kephart descent of property

DISTRICT COURT
Fifth Judicial District
Probate Court Division

Court File No. 67-PR-20-217

ORDER FOR HEARING
PETITION FOR DESCENT
OF PROPERTY

The Petition of Christopher J. Kephart, dated the 23rd day of August, 2020, having been filed in this Court representing that the above named decedent has been dead for more than three years leaving certain property therein described, and requesting that the descent of said property be determined and assigned by the Court to the persons entitled thereto.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, That said Petition be heard on Monday, the 26th day of October, 2020, at 8:30 o'clock a.m. by the above named Court at Luverne, State of Minnesota.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That the petitioner give notice of said hearing in the manner prescribed by M.S.A. 524.1-401 to all persons entitled to notice pursuant to M.S.A. 524.3-403 and to all persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to M.S.A. 524.3-204.

Dated: September 15, 2020

/s/ Terry S. Vajgrt,
District Court Judge

/s/ Denise Brandel,
Court Administrator

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

(09-24, 10-01)



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Notice of hearing on proposed assessment

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council will meet at 5:00 p.m. on October 13, 2020, in the Council Chambers of the City Offices Building, 305 E. Luverne Street, Luverne, Minnesota, to consider, and possibly adopt, the proposed assessment for unpaid utility and miscellaneous charges. Adoption by the City Council of the proposed assessment may occur at this meeting.

Such assessment is proposed to be payable in one (1) installment payable on or before the first Monday in January, 2022, and will bear interest at the rate of four (4) percent per annum from the date of the adoption of the assessment resolution. To the installment shall be added interest on the entire assessment from the date of the assessment resolution until December 31, 2021.

You may at any time prior to certification of the assessment to the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer, pay the entire assessment on such property, with interest accrued to the date of payment, to the City of Luverne. No interest shall be charged if the entire assessment is paid within 30 days from the adoption of this assessment. You may at any time thereafter pay to the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer the entire amount of the assessment remaining unpaid, with interest accrued to December 31 of the year in which such payment is made. Such payment must be made before November 15 or interest will be charged through December 31 of the succeeding year. If you decide not to prepay the assessment before the date given above, the rate of interest that will apply is four (4) percent per year.

The proposed assessment roll is on file for public inspection at the City Clerk's office. The total amount of the proposed assessment is \$5,258.59. Written or oral objections will be considered at the meeting. No appeal may be taken as to the amount of an assessment unless a written objection signed by the affected property owner is filed with the City Clerk prior to the assessment hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing. The City Council may upon such notice consider any objection to the amount of a proposed individual assessment at an adjourned meeting upon such further notice to the affected property owners as it deems advisable.

If an assessment is contested or there is an adjourned hearing, the following procedure will be followed.

1. The City will present its case first by calling witnesses who may testify by narrative or by examination, and by the introduction of exhibits. After each witness has testified, the contesting party will be allowed to ask questions. This procedure will be repeated with each witness until neither side has further questions.
2. After the City has presented all its evidence, the objector may call witnesses or present such testimony as the objector desires. The same procedure for questioning of the City's witnesses will be followed with the objector's witnesses.
3. The objector may be represented by counsel.
4. Minnesota rules of evidence will not be strictly applied; however, they may be considered and argued to the City Council as to the weight of items of evidence or testimony presented to the City Council.
5. The entire proceedings will be taped-recorded.
6. At the close of presentation of evidence, the objector may make a final presentation to the City Council based on the evidence and the law. No new evidence may be presented at this point.
7. The City Council may adopt the proposed assessment at this meeting.

An owner may appeal an assessment to District Court pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 429.081 by serving notice of the appeal upon the Mayor or City Clerk of the City of Luverne within thirty (30) days after the adoption of the assessment and filing such notice with the District Court within ten (10) days after service upon the Mayor or City Clerk.

Jessica Mead
City Clerk

References:
City Code 33.52 and 50.23
MS 429.101
MS 443.015
MS 444.075
AG Op 59-A-36 (January 26, 1961)
AG Op 387-G-7 (April 28, 1965)
AG Op 450-F-1 (September 8, 1969)

(09-24)

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Mobile home for rent - 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Washer, dryer, stove, fridge included. Water & sewer included. Call 605-366-7695. (9.5-9.24)

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For Rent: Single garage in Steen. 507-220-7686. (9.10-9.26)

For Rent: Nice smaller home; all remodeled, garage, stove, fridge, washer and dryer. No pets and no smoking. References required. Call 605-413-8862. (9.10-9.26)

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Free to good homes: cats - small, medium and large, all colors. Call 283-9794. (tc)

CARDS OF THANKS

There will never be an adequate way for us to express the depth of our gratitude for the kindness and generosity shown to our family in the recent weeks since Curt's diagnosis. To everyone who worked at, attended, or donated to the benefit, we thank you. To everyone who has reached out to us with cards, calls, and texts of encouraging words and support, we thank you. To everyone who has brought us a meal or special treats and gifts, we thank you. To everyone who has prayed for Curt and our family, we thank you. To our church family, our school family, our work family, our community family of friends near and far, we thank you. Your kindness has touched our hearts and lifted our spirits more than you will ever know.

Our sincerest thanks,
Curt, Caroline,
Dylan, Eric, and Luke
Thorson
(9.19-9.24)

The family of Mary Buus would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls, and condolences we received for the loss of our mother and grandmother. Your kindness was greatly appreciated!

Bill & Judy Miller
Rayola Bryan
Bruce & Vikki Johnson
and family
Dan & Cathy Bryan
and family
Dave & Brooke Bryan
and family
Samantha Westberg
(9.19-9.24)

We would like to extend our gratitude for the cards and memorials sent to us. The loss of our sister, Mary (Heckt) Maroon, was difficult, but shared by many. Thank you for your support.

Dianne (Heckt) Carlson
Virgina (Heckt) Wessels
and Families
(9.24-9.26)

MISCELLANEOUS

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

EMPLOYMENT

Adrian School District is seeking a Payroll/HR Specialist beginning with the 2020-21 school year. The school district provides a competitive salary, and an opportunity to work in a great community. Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Additional coursework in accounting and payroll is beneficial. Please send a cover letter, resume, transcripts and three letters of recommendation to: Superintendent Schilling, Adrian Public School, PO Box 40, Adrian, MN 56110 or email to District Secretary r.bullerman@isd511.net (9.3-9.19)
Come work at Parkview Manor! Parkview Manor is currently hiring for the following positions: •FT Overnight Charge Nurse- 11 p.m.-7 a.m. •FT Evening shift C.N.A.- 3-11 p.m.-must work every other weekend •PT Day shift C.N.A.- must work every other weekend •Every other weekend- Day shift C.N.A. •PRN C.N.A.'s - various shifts •PT Cook- must work every other weekend •PRN dietary aide Please contact Suzanne at 507-967-2482 to set up an interview for the nursing department positions. Please contact Crystal at 507-967-2482 to set up an interview for the dietary department positions. (9.5-9.24)

Nobles County Community Health Services Educator
Purpose: Plan and implement the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) deliverables and promote an understanding of policy, systems, and environmental change that will improve the public's health and quality of life. Promote healthy lifestyles, close the gap of health inequity, and prevent disease with a variety of target groups. This includes community assessing, organizing, planning, and educating the community to make recommended changes, and evaluation of specific community-driven change that affects health behaviors. QUALIFICATIONS: Visit www.co.nobles.mn.us for complete job description/benefit sheet. Bachelor's Degree in Nursing or Community Health Education. Bilingual applicants are encouraged to apply. APPLY TO: Merit applications are required, apply online at <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/mnmeritsystem/default.cfm>. Merit Application Deadline: October 2, 2020, 12:00 p.m. EEO/AA Employer. (9.19-9.24)

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Habilitative Services, Inc.
is hiring a FT RN or LPN in Luverne. Good benefits. Apply online at jobs.thementornetwork.com or text 97211.

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Sieve Electric, based out of Luverne, is seeking an **Electrician**. Our primary projects include Commercial, Residential and Agricultural wiring. We also service and repair electric motors. We work mostly local within 30 miles of Luverne. No overnight travel required. We offer very competitive pay, paid time off and a Simple Retirement plan. Rate of pay is negotiable for the right candidate. Call for more details.

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The Rock County Administrator is now accepting applications for the position of a Part Time Intermittent Dispatcher at the Rock County Sheriff's Office. Minimum qualifications are High School diploma or equivalent with one year of work related experience. Applicants must possess excellent communication skills and have the ability to read a map and multi-task duties in a fast paced environment.

Starting hourly wage will be \$19.35 - \$20.92 per hour, DOQ. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

For a job description and application, go to https://www.co.rock.mn.us/job_opportunities/index.php or contact the Rock County Administrator's Office at the Rock County Courthouse in Luverne, Minnesota at 507-283-5065 or by email at susan.skattum@co.rock.mn.us. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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The Minnesota Veterans Home is seeking applicants for nursing assistant positions. Positions available on the evening and night shifts. Hourly wage \$15.25 - \$24.19 depending on experience.

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Application forms available at
www.isd2184.net or by calling
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Hardwick nuisance ordinance/

from page 5A

with the ordinance or face a \$1,000 fine. The fine was issued July 17 with additional fines of \$100 for each day the violation continued to exist. Council members deemed that Schoolmeester made significant cleanup progress by July 25.

Schoolmeester appealed the fine in a letter dated Aug. 17 to the city of Hardwick. "I, Travis Schoolmeester, am writing this letter to appeal the \$1,000 fine you are considering imposing for the 'junk' on my properties," the letter read.

"I accept the non-com-

pliance and took action upon receiving the first notice. After the council inspected the first time and found it still non-compliant, I then continued the cleanup. As you stated, it is now satisfactory."

Council members annually inspect residents' properties in the spring.

The city adopted a new ordinance in 2017 to improve the look of the small community of 200 residents.

"The goal is compliance to clean up the town," said city clerk Tammy Johnson at the council's Sept. 9 meeting.

The Hardwick council is also working with an additional resident, Lisa Trudeau, 121 South Buckingham Street, who is also non-compliant with the city's nuisance ordinance.

Council members will make a final inspection of the Trudeau property before imposing the \$1,000 fine.

Under the ordinance, in addition to fines, city officials can arrange for removal of the nuisance materials.

Cleanup costs are billed to the property owner. If unpaid, the costs are assessed to the property taxes.



Mavis Fodness photos/0924 Tri-State Preview 2020

Luverne High School marching band members practice their 2020 field routine last week on the high school football field. Hunter Cope (center) practices the program, "Moving On."

Tri-State Band Festival/

continued from page 1A

T-shirts.

"We want the clinic to be fun and educational and work toward what performing is by working with experts in the field," said Luverne High School band director James Jarvie.

Jarvie, along with assistant Morgan Van Holland and colorguard adviser Gavin Folkestad, wrote a shortened field show for this marching band season.

The show, called "Moving On," is about 6 minutes long and includes three movements or songs.

"Moving On" is a concept for our current circumstances in 2020," Jarvie said.

The show opens with band and colorguard members taking the field carrying poles as the percussion leads the "haka" or war chant.

Jarvie said the chant and



Listening to director James Jarvie are (from left) Genna Rolfs, Julia Hoogland, Lauren Ver Steeg and Hope Thorson.

movements completed by the band symbolize the anger that is in today's world.

In the second movement band members have picked up their instruments to perform "The Circle of Life," which represents life moving on and events shall pass.

The band ends with the

song "Baba Yetu."

"This piece is about how civilization must move on, no matter what, and to maintain an uplifting spirit and positivity in a negative world," Jarvie said.

Saturday's event is the first of four events the band is scheduled to participate in this fall.

Saturday night after the Tri-State Festival clinic, band members will travel to Brandon for their regular appearance in the Big Sioux Review for an 8:30 p.m. field performance.

The other performances will be Sioux Falls Festival of Bands on Oct. 3 and the Orange City Dutchmen Field Championships Oct. 10.

"In all the competitions — except for Pipestone — we are the only Minnesota band," Jarvie said.

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LUVERNE AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

GRANT APPLICATIONS DUE SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Who can apply?

Not-for-profit organizations (either singly or as a consortium), government agencies, academic and research institutions located within Rock County are among the organizations eligible to request support from the Luverne Area Community Foundation.

The Luverne Area Community Foundation invites applications that will enhance the quality of life in the following areas:

- Arts & Humanities •Community & Civic Affairs
- Social & Economic Growth •Nutrition •Environment
- Recreation •Education
- Support Programs - children to senior citizen
- Community Health & Wellness including physical & mental health

How to apply?

Online only application - visit our website, click on grants tab, apply now.

or contact Emily Crabtree at
507- 220-2424 or emily@luvacf.org

LUVERNE AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
P.O. Box 623 | 102 E. Main | Luverne, MN | 507-220-2424
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A note from Mayor Patrick T. Baustian

We're All in This Together

As we enter another week of the new normal I would like to applaud those that have embraced the COVID-19 protocols and encourage those that have chosen not to, to reconsider their decision. It has no doubt been a struggle to navigate through the COVID-19 storm and the end of the pandemic is still uncertain. I encourage you to mask up, social distance yourself from others while enjoying what Luverne has to offer in outdoor activities, churches, local shops, restaurants and bars - but doing so in a manner that you feel comfortable and safe as well as those around you.

TRANSPORTATION GUIDELINES

Excerpts from the Sept. 10 edition of the Star Herald:

Transportation director Brad Goembel wanted Tuesday's first day of school to be as close to business as usual as possible for Luverne students.

Goembel said schools are required to fill buses only to half capacity to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. All riders wear masks and they sit at least six feet away from non-family members.

Goembel has asked drivers to stay positive

After each of the three routes, the buses and suburbans used to transport students are cleaned, with all touchable surfaces wiped down.

Elementary students attend classes in the building every day, but middle-high school students attend school every other day, half the student body at a time, at least through Sept. 18.

Middle-high school students attend classes from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., which means an additional bus route.

Elementary school dismisses at 3 p.m. for a regular after-school route.

"We are trying to keep it 'business as is,'" Goembel said.

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

Luverne MINNESOTA
Love the life!

Sincerely,

Mayor Patrick T. Baustian



A production of the Rock County Star Herald and featured advertisers in cooperation with PMP leaders

From poultry to pork

Family-owned meat processor transforms 40-year-old meat packing plant into high-tech, efficient operation

In a world of pork giants like Smithfield and JBS, Luverne's new processing plant is a small fish in a big sea, but it's making a giant impact on the Rock County community and local economy.

Premium Minnesota Pork is operating at its capacity of 2,200 hogs per day in Luverne, compared with 20,000 per day in Sioux Falls and Worthington, and the family-owned PMP makes no secret about stealing workers from the bigger plants.

"We're a smaller operation, we run a slower line, and the employees here aren't just numbers," said company president Dan Paquin. The PMP jobs start around \$13 to \$15 per hour with opportunities for immediate advancement.

Conversations with PMP work-



The 40,000-pound dehair equipment was shipped to Luverne from Denmark and lifted into place by a crane. "This whole area was built for one purpose - to remove the hair off the hog," said company president Dan Paquin (pictured) while leading a tour of the plant in February.

ers have a recurring theme: They like knowing their bosses and feeling that their opinions matter, and they like the atmosphere of quality over quantity.

Paquin and plant manager Scott Johnson came to Luverne from Hospers, Iowa, where sister company Premium Iowa Pork processes antibiotic free pork for a small but growing niche market.

"Early on, we identified Luverne as an ideal location for our growth," Johnson said.

"Advantages include the centralized location to our agricultural base, easy access to major transportation routes, and a large population base within 50 miles to draw on for employees."

The Luverne plant, for now, processes commodity hogs grown by producers both near and far, but it may contribute to the antibiotic free market in the future.

Both PMP and PIP are owned by Lynch Livestock, which started the Hospers plant in 2005. In 2009 it was heavily damaged in a fire, and Paquin and Johnson helped rebuild it.

"The core of the building remained in place, and everything around it was new," Johnson said.

That experience, plus a combined 60 years in the meat processing industry, prepared them for the task that lay ahead in Luverne.

From poultry to pork – the transformation of a processing plant

Premium Iowa Pork purchased the processing facility on the west edge of Luverne from Pilgrim's Pride, formerly Gold'n Plump, in 2017.

"It's not often you find a building in that location — in the city

Plant transformation/see page 3



Premium Minnesota Pork employees process rib racks on the cut floor, doing their jobs on the line that takes in nearly 2,200 hogs per day and cranks out up to 440,000 pounds of meat product daily.

‘Pigs come in one end and pork goes out the other’

Premium Minnesota Pork tour follows product journey through plant

During a tour midway through the construction process, Premium Minnesota Pork President Dan Paquin talked about the various steps involved once a hog enters the facility for processing.

"Pigs come in on one end and pork comes out on the other," he quipped during a Feb. 13 tour will local public officials.

The first step is the receiving area on the south side of the building where hogs are unloaded directly into an enclosed livestock barn.

Paquin said for every truckload of hogs that come in a truckload of product goes out. "Currently we're at about nine. So that's 18 in and out per day. So that's 350,00 to 400,000 pounds of finished meat per day."

He said the company finishes hogs all over the state of Iowa, plus some in Minnesota and South Dakota. "They're outdoor barns, and that's part of the sales pitch for some customers," Paquin said. "Not finishing buildings."

The company has roughly 450,000 on feed through different contracts in different barns in the trip-state area, plus some organic farms in Wisconsin. It takes about four months from wean to finish.

From pigs to pork/see page 5



PMP workers grade and process hams, some of which are sold whole, but most of which are boned and further processed.

PMP president Dan Paquin: ‘This plant is built to outlast any of us’

Dan Paquin is president and CEO of Premium Minnesota Pork in Luverne and has overseen the construction process of retrofitting and expanding the plant.

He has over 30 years of experience in the meat processing industry, with his most recent experience at Premium Iowa Pork in Hospers, Iowa.

In a Q&A email conversation last week, Paquin offered an inside look at what it's like to be part of a project like Premium Minnesota Pork coming online in Luverne.

•What is it like to build something so historic in terms of lasting effect in a community and in terms of safety for workers and food products?

We knew we wanted to build something the community would be proud of for a long time. Our business is not easily accepted in many places and with the warm

Dan Paquin/continued on page 8



Dan Paquin is president and CEO of Premium Minnesota Pork in Luverne. He's pictured in February in the plant cafeteria area prior to the \$30 million renovation and expansion of the Gold'n Plump poultry processing facility. "The project and startup have gone very well but there will be challenges," he said. "For example, nobody plans for a pandemic. I hope we continue to be seen as a positive partner with the city of Luverne and its people as we both continue to grow together."

Plant manager Scott Anderson: ‘It will be here for decades’

Scott Johnson is plant manager at Premium Minnesota Pork in Luverne and has overseen the construction process of retrofitting and expanding the plant.

"It's kind of like completely renovating an old Victorian home," he said. "We took the insides out of it and rebuilt. It has the same foundation, same outside precast walls, same precast on the roof, but everything else is new."

Johnson's education is in chemistry and physics, and he has roughly 30 years of experience in the meat processing industry.

He started at John Morrell in Sioux Falls in 1987 working with the company's refrigeration and boiler processes, and his last 12 years have been with Premium Iowa Pork in Hospers, Iowa.

Scott Johnson/see page 10



Premium Minnesota Pork plant manager Scott Johnson has overseen the process of retrofitting the Gold'n Plump plant in Luverne to its current pork processing facility. He said the plant was designed with expansion in mind.

City leaders welcome Premium Minnesota Pork to Luverne community

To the owners, workers and employees of Premium Minnesota Pork:

It is my honor to officially welcome you to the Luverne community! Luverne is a place where today's modern opportunities meet with yesterday's valued traditions.

It's a place of possibilities, where people value service toward one another and are involved and committed to the community's history of progress and success.

It's no surprise that you found a home for your business in Luverne, where we



all value farming, agriculture, and feeding our nation. Helping businesses in Luverne grow and flourish is a major focus of the City Council and Economic Development Authority.

We are dedicated to growing the city's economic base and improving the quality of life for our citizens and business community.

The construction of Luverne Loop bike trail, planned expansion of the Pool and Fitness Center, renovation and addition to Luverne Public Schools, and the development of new housing opportunities are wonderful examples of additional investments being



Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian (right) has toured the Premium Minnesota Pork plant several times during the construction process. He's pictured in February with PMP President Dan Paquin (left) and plant manager Scott Johnson.

made in our community to continue to attract and retain families, employees, and businesses for years to come. There is no question why people "Love the Life!" in Luverne. With something for everyone, Luverne is a community where people can raise a family, start their own business, become involved with a variety of activities or simply come to visit the beauty of the surrounding attractions for a day or weekend. We look forward to your business involvement in our community going forward and wish your business many years of prosperity. Welcome home!

Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian

Welcome PMP to Luverne!



DO YOU HAVE A FARM OPERATION EXIT STRATEGY THAT IS TAX EFFICIENT?

A Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) will help you liquidate assets while providing tax efficient strategies as you plan your exit.

If you own assets with a large taxable gain, you want to reduce the tax burden as you transition out of operation AND you want to create another income source into your retirement you need to learn more about a CRT.

The Luverne Area Community Foundation can help you achieve your goals collaboratively with your financial advisor to ease your transition, save on taxes, build another retirement source and do something good through charity.

LACF will be hosting a live online Zoom event **Monday, November 9 at 7pm** on how a Charitable Remainder Trust works, specifically focused on farm operation exit strategies.

Contact Emily Crabtree, Executive Director at Emily@luvacf.org or 507-220-2424 to be sure you receive the information needed to register for this online information session.



LUVERNE AREA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

There will be a valuable information that you don't want to miss.

Luverne Economic Development Director: PMP investment benefits us well into future

We welcome Premium Minnesota Pork to Luverne as the largest employer in our community! The city of Luverne is proud to have been a partner in this project from the start. What began as a casual meeting in 2018 has resulted in a significant commitment to and investment in the future of Luverne. We're excited to see their dream become a reality as the plant is up and running. It's been very rewarding to work with this family-owned business that values hard work, integrity, transparency - and, of course, good food! Economic development



is measured mostly by tax base and jobs, and Premium Minnesota Pork has had a positive impact on our local economy in many ways. In addition to the 270-plus jobs and over \$30 million in renovations at their processing facility, Premium Minnesota Pork has also been a responsible corporate citizen by heavily investing in on-site pre-treatment of their wastewater. Furthermore, Premium Minnesota Pork showed their commitment to our community by partnering with the city and paying for half of the \$14 million wastewater treatment plant expansion project. This investment not

only benefits their business, but also positions the community for future growth for many years to come. Luverne has and always will take an active role in bringing economic growth to our city. It's evident that Premium Minnesota Pork is committed to sustainability, responsibility, and taking care of their animals, families, and community. We look forward to many years of partnering together to keep doing just that. Welcome to Luverne - you'll Love the Life!

Holly Sammons
Luverne Economic Development Director

Joe Schomacker
State Representative



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Welcome to Luverne

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Marshall	507-532-3966
Pipestone	507-825-3239
Sioux Falls	605-543-6000
Slayton	507-836-6102
Tyler	507-247-5575

Premium Minnesota Pork transforms poultry facility for pork processing/continued from page 1

limits but on the outer edge of the city,” Paquin said when the plans were first announced.

“The building is in great shape. It’s a 40-year-old facility, but Pilgrim’s Pride took good care of it.”

Late in 2018 the company closed on the property and by early in 2019 broke ground. At task was a \$30 million project to retrofit and expand the 78,000-square-foot facility to the current 128,000 square feet, counting the enclosed monoslope hog barn.

Johnson became the project manager.

“It’s kind of like completely renovating an old Victorian home,” he said Friday.

“We took the insides out of it and rebuilt it. It has the same foundation, same outside precast walls, same precast on the roof, but everything else is new.”

PMP contributes 6.7 million to Luverne’s \$14 million wastewater improvements

Along the way, the company negotiated a wastewater treatment agreement with the city of Luverne on a plan to improve water treatment capacity.

The city, which was already working on a plan to refurbish its 1950s equipment, agreed to a \$14 million wastewater treatment plant construction project, and Premium Minnesota Pork agreed to pay for nearly half, \$6.7 million.

Both parties were pleased with the outcome. Luverne got help with an expensive project, and Premium Minnesota Pork got the water treatment capacity it needed.

With Luverne’s plant improvements, PMP will be guaranteed a 200,000-gallon-per-day treatment capacity, which should more than accommodate its new production goal of 4,500 hogs per day.



Above, a tour group takes stock of construction activity in the basement activity where rendering and other waste is handled. At left is the start of the CO2 chamber, which is 30 feet deep.

As part of the agreement on the 17.5 acres, PIP acquired an option to buy an additional 28.75 acres (at \$5,000 per acre) from the Luverne Economic Development Authority.

By summer of 2020, the plant was already expanding, breaking ground on a 10,000-square-foot \$7 million cooler addition that would allow the plant to double its capacity.

With an estimated completion next spring, the new cooler will allow for 4,500 head per day, in response to market demand, and hundreds more employees.

“We built this plant with growth in mind,” Paquin said.

So far, he said hiring has kept pace with the plant’s needs. The company offers a bus service for \$20 per week per passenger to bring employees from cities like Worthington and Sioux Falls to Luverne.

“You can’t drive for that,” Paquin said.

He said the area’s low unemployment rate makes it challenging to fill positions.

“With the Luverne plant, we’re hoping to gain access to people further north,” Paquin said.

Good vibes

Along the way, Johnson and Paquin have led tours of the construction process for local groups and political leaders, and they’ve addressed students and civic organizations about the company’s goals and objectives.

“The one thing that made Luverne especially attractive was the receptiveness of the community to our business,” Johnson said. “The support from all levels of the community – residents, local government, the business community, and others – is what has made this a really great place to settle.”

Lynch Livestock CEO Jason Golly told Luverne officials at the February 2019 ribbon-cutting that he was pleased to do business in Luverne.

“It’s a great community and we’re looking forward to a long future together. ... Working with city officials and the mayor has been great; everyone’s been very cooperative. ...

“It’s a community that wants to grow, and we’re a growing company, so it’s a nice fit.”

From pigs to pork/see page 4

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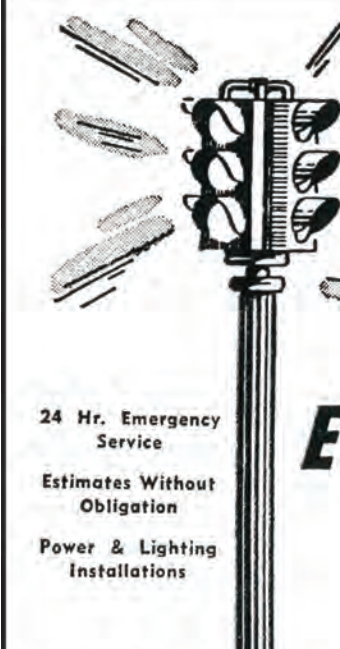
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WELCOME TO LUVERNE

Read this newspaper, then recycle it

Premium Minnesota Pork transforms poultry facility for pork processing/continued from page 3

“It’s a great community and we’re looking forward to a long future together. ... Working with city officials and the mayor has been great; everyone’s been very cooperative. ... It’s a community that wants to grow, and we’re a growing company, so it’s a nice fit.”

— Lynch Livestock CEO Jason Golly during the February 2019 ribbon-cutting



By 2018 Premium Iowa Pork broke ground on a \$30 million project to retrofit and expand the 78,000-square-foot facility to the current 128,000 square feet, counting the enclosed monoslope hog barn. Pictured above, workers begin the start of the barn that keeps all the hogs indoors after delivery. There are no longer outdoor livestock pens that once served the plant when it was IBP. Below left, company officials take Luverne city leaders on a tour of the construction that included the maintenance and control room. Most all processes in the facility, including the cooling units (lower right) are fully automated and can be controlled remotely.



His wife, Erin, is the daughter of Lynch Livestock owner Gary Lynch, who provides information about the company’s history on the PIP website.

“My family has been active in pork production for over 100 years. We didn’t use additives and antibiotics then, and we don’t use them now,” Lynch writes on the company website.

“Everything we do here — from our focus on each animal’s health to the strict standards we meet and exceed — helps remind people how pork is supposed to taste and where it comes from. We take great pride in that.”

Background

When IBP (Iowa Beef Processors) left Luverne in January 1998, it employed 370 people, and its closing signaled a low point in morale for Luverne economic development.

But Gold’n Plump offered new hope later that same year.

The company immediately spent \$2 million remodeling the former IBP plant and started operating with 120 employees.

The plant never slaughtered chickens; it only processed the meat after it arrived in Luverne from its other plants.

At one point, Gold’n Plump in Luverne employed more than 250 people with an annual payroll exceeding \$6 million.

But in 2003 local employment dipped below 100 when the company relocated its deboning process from Luverne to Cold Spring, taking 140 employees with it.

Gold’n Plump was purchased by Pilgrim’s Pride in 2017 and the plant closed later that year, displacing 200 employees.

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‘Pigs come in one and come out pork on the other’/continued from page 1

“More of our pigs are owned by the farmer - the family,” Paquin said. “They’re privately held farms. They’re our pigs, and they raise them.”

And they get audited for quality and company standards.

“We have a team of people all over the Midwest that take care of our pigs,” Paquin said.

The barns

Once delivered to the PMP receiving area, they come through the barns where they’re cleaned, USDA inspected and allowed to settle into various holding areas before proceeding through the lanes.

This is important, Paquin said, because animals that aren’t relaxed don’t make for good product.

The next step is to enter the baskets that drop them down on a ferris-wheel type conveyor into a 30-foot-deep CO2 trough where they’re put to sleep.

The CO2 equipment, incidentally came in through the roof.

From there, they’re hung for bleeding. The average animal drains roughly 10 pounds of blood that gets dried down to about 1 ½ pounds of blood meal.

Some of the blood gets sold whole and plasma is separated.

The hair

Then, attention turns to hair and the process of getting rid of it, which requires extensive (and expensive) machinery and several steps.

“This whole area was built for one purpose - to remove the hair off the hog,” Paquin said during the February tour.

Essentially, removing hair involves time and temperature up to 138 degrees for a few minutes to open hair follicles. Then, metal paddles spin the carcass and circulating water settles



At left, workers trim loins on the line on the cut floor at Premium Minnesota Pork in mid-August.

Below, workers use specialized equipment to pull ribs to send down the line.

out the hair and the next one comes through.

Paquin said 87 percent of the hair comes off in the dehair machine. “It’s more scientific than it sounds,” he said. “We can’t burn the skin, because we sell the skin, too.”

The dehair machines weigh 40,000 pounds a piece and were lifted in with a crane.

“This whole building was built for one purpose: to remove hair; It’s important to get it all off.”

Much of the equipment was custom-built for Premium Minnesota Pork. We had 43 containers and three flatbeds come in from Denmark, all built specifically for here.

The temperature

Temperature becomes crucially important on the cold side of the plant.

The 7,000 square foot cooler has 10 cooling units divided into two bays, two different rooms, 10 100-foot rails in one and eight 100-foot rails in the other.

Engineer Scott Johnson talked about automation of the cooling process during a tour in February.

“Each unit has its own refrigeration system, because all day long we’ve got warm hogs coming in,” he said.

“While we’re loading this cooler, we’re going to have



From pigs to pork/see page 9



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Meet the team: PMP success hinges on quality product and employees

Corey Smith

Corey Smith is the “cold side superintendent” who works with six supervisors to make sure the end product leaving the plant is top quality.

“We’re the last step in the process,” he said. “We make sure that we get the hogs we have for the day done, so quality of product going out the door is correct.”

He oversees the hanging cooler, the cut floor, the hang line, the load line and packaging and receiving.

He worked for Dan Paquin in John Morrell in Sioux City.

“We’ve known each other for 25-plus years,” Smith said. “I have been through a plant startup before and thought it would be a good challenge to take on. Personally it was a good move.”

Paquin talked about Smith’s work compared with Bill Tuttle’s work on the harvest floor, “the hot side.”

“What Bill does, Corey sees; what Corey does, the customer sees,” Paquin said.

“Ultimately what Corey does is what the true paying customer sees, so he needs to show up and make sure it meets the expectations of the customer.”

He said this part of the plant requires a lot of manpower.

“Corey produces what the customer sees. So when it leaves Corey’s control, it’s going to the customer,”



Corey Smith (left) is the “cold side superintendent” who works with six supervisors to make sure the end product leaving the plant is top quality. Bill Tuttle is superintendent of the kill floor, the “hot side” warmer environment compared with the 40-degree processing areas.



Paquin said. “So he has to make sure it’s right. ... Produced right, trimmed right, packaged right, because that customer’s going to pay us for that product. If not, it comes back to Corey’s area. He has the bigger crew.”

Smith has an apartment in Luverne, but has his home in Sioux City where his youngest is just leaving for college. “We’ll see what happens,” he said. “Eventually I’d like to buy a

house in Luverne.”
He said he enjoys working for PMP, because of its smaller size and slower pace.
“You feel the freedom to talk to the people above you. ... My opinion matters here, and in some places it doesn’t,” Smith said.
“We run slower than the bigger packers. The work quantity is less and the workers have a little more time to focus on quality, which helps everybody.”

Bill Tuttle:
Bill Tuttle is superintendent of the kill floor, the “hot side” as it’s called, due to the warmer environment compared with the 40-degree processing areas.
Tuttle spent nearly 30 years at John Morrell in Sioux Falls, now Smithfield, and recently took a day job in Sioux City. But he came to Luverne when cold side superintendent Corey Smith recruited him to PMP.

He oversees the barn managers who care for the animals as they’re herded through the drive lanes, into the butina area where they enter the CO2 baskets.

“The USDA inspects all the hogs there,” Tuttle said. “We can’t accept any that haven’t been inspected. Make sure they’re healthy. If they’re having trouble, they’ll get segregated until we can make sure they’re OK.”

After 34 years working for larger meat processors, Tuttle said his new job has been a good change of pace.

“This is actually a lot more enjoyable, because the pace that we’re at, we actually have a better chance to work with the people and set things up,” he said. “The bigger plants are running 1,106 (head per hour) we’re running 300 head per hour. You have time to work with people and make adjustments. It’s not so hectic. ... Safety is a big deal.”

The most important aspect of his work? “Clean. Keep them clean,” Tuttle said. “Everyone will tell you that keeping the food wholesome and clean is the most important thing.”

He said this can be difficult on the kill floor ...

“It’s why you take your time to training people and make sure they know what they’re doing before you let them go full blast,” Tuttle said.

“We preach ‘Clean, clean, clean,’ and ‘Be careful.’ Slow

down, be careful and don’t hurt yourself.”

The other important message for his employees?

“Make sure you get to know everyone you’re working with,” Tuttle said. “Because if you get to know the people you’re working with, even if they’re not the same nationality, you’ll find out some very cool things about their way of life, their way of thinking. And everyone has the same goal in life: to provide better for themselves and their families. And be happy.”

He said socially engaged employees tend to be more productive.

“If you don’t care about who you’re working with, you’re not going to care about the work you do,” Tuttle said.

“You’re working with these people as many hours per day as you’re with your family. And they will very likely be your second family. If you can’t communicate with them right away, let them know you’re interested in them and care about them.”

He said he’s gained dozens of friendships through his years in the meatpacking industry.

“I’ve been to a lot of graduations, I’ve been to a lot of weddings, and I try to make it a point to get to know my people.”

Tuttle and his wife live in Sioux Falls where their grown children and grandchildren also live nearby.

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Carolina Contreras, Luverne, works in human resources at PMP. She handles interviews and orientations for new employees, and her fluency in both English and Spanish is an asset.

“I have an awesome job,” she said. It’s a wonderful work environment. I come home and I’m not stressed. ... You spend more time with your workers than with your family, so you have to like your co-workers.”

She grew up on a farm in central Mexico near Huejucar. “Raising animals for meat is not new to me,” she said.

She worked for 16 years in the Austin Public Schools, and in community education in Worthington and in Luverne.

“I was always willing and wanting to help others to speak the language,” Contreras said. “I wanted a job where I made use of my abilities to help others. I wanted to use the talents and abilities God gave me.”

CEO Dan Paquin spoke highly of Contreras and her work with new employees.

“She’s got a tough job. She is the first face they see and she does a great job,” he said. “She brings them in in a fashion where we can train them. You can’t bring in 50 people at one time and train properly. If you’re bringing them in 6 to 10 at a time, you can kind of get them acclimated.”

Contreras said she wouldn’t have considered working for a large meat packing plant, but PMP seemed like a good fit. “This has been a great opportunity for me,” she said. “It’s a small company, family owned.”

While Spanish is a primary language among PMP workers, Contreras said she wishes she spoke additional languages. “There are quite a few bilingual people,” she said.

Quality assurance is team effort

Becki Schulze is the quality assurance technical services manager. She started June 30.

She oversees quality and food safety, humane handling of animals and processes to comply with USDA and global foods safety initiatives.

Specifically that involves microbiological testing of products and workspaces to make sure the areas are sanitary and that the product is wholesome and safe.

“We take pride in our work. I come here every day and ask, ‘What can I do to make things better? What can I do to make the quality better? What can we do to make things easier for us? We are figuring things out that might help things go better for the business.’”

Schulze is originally from Adrian (her maiden name is Zienstra) and she has more than 25 years of experience working in the food industry, specifically in quality assurance.

Most recently she worked in Sioux Falls as the director of quality assurance and compliance at Sonstegard Foods Inc., which has seven plants



and is headquartered in Sioux Falls. “It was a great opportunity for my career,” Schulze said. “It’s a family-oriented business and has its employees as a priority.”

Nikki Sengvongxay (pictured at left) is a quality assurance technician working with Schulz at PMP. She said she saw the job as an opportunity to advance in her career.

She calibrates the machines, micro tests the product, and makes sure all equipment is clean and sanitized to meet rigorous testing standards.

She describes the work as demanding, and said she hopes it leads to more responsibility in the company.

“It’s challenging, fun and always a learning process,” she said. “I feel like my work here is appreciated, and everyone has been open-minded. That has been a huge plus.”

Schulz said employees like Sengvongxay make her work rewarding.

“I tell my team, ‘My success depends on your success,’” she said. “It’s about mentoring others. People who do well will grow and so will you.”

Working on the line is better at PMP where employees are more than a number

Mehret Badi grew up in East Africa near Ethiopia where there are nine languages. She, like Contreras, enjoys bridging the gap between English and non-English speakers.

Her job at PMP is to work with the heads on the line, using a Wizard knife to remove the tongue, ears and cheek meat.

She started in meatpacking work when she was 19, first at Smithfield in Sioux Falls and more recently at JBS in Worthington. Now, she said she’s glad to be commuting closer to home and working at a smaller company.

She lives in Sioux Falls and takes the company bus to work in Luverne.

“I like the people. We work together. It’s fun,” Badi said. “The line is slower. I know my supervisor.”

Salomon Prado is a line lead in charge of 30 people at PMP where he was hired after interviewing during a job



Mehret Badi (left) and Salomon Prado have both worked in larger meat packing plants and say they appreciate the smaller, family-owned business where they know each other and feel valued.

fair at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne.

He watches for problems and stops the line if something needs attention, like a blade replacement or equipment repair.

He also makes sure everything is clean and that people are wearing their personal protective equipment.

“Some say, ‘I don’t like it,’ but



everyone on the floor wears them,” he said. “Every day.”

He drives from Worthington where he has lived since 2009.

“I like my job,” Prado said. “I like to help on the line.”

He said he’s worked at other jobs where the pay wasn’t as good. Now he’s hoping to save enough money to buy a house in Luverne for his wife and four children.



Cody Gehrke

Luverne grad s ‘No. 1 employee’

By Mavis Fodness

Cody Gehrke, a 2003 graduate of Luverne High School, was the first person hired for the local Premium Minnesota Pork plant.

He watched the building change from a chicken processing plant to a state-of-the-art pork production facility.

“It’s been an interesting experience,” he said. “Scott Johnson and Dan Paquin saw the potential of what the building could be.”

Gehrke’s experience in home and commercial construction and a mechanical background with the Minnesota National Guard made him a “jack of all trades” for the past year.

“I was the on-site guy (during the remodeling and construction process). If they had questions, I would direct them where they needed to go,” he said.

Gehrke unloaded the frequent material deliveries that included the multiple shipments containing the kill chamber.

He would inventory the materials, remove snow from around the plant located west of Luverne, and watch while the equipment was assembled inside.

He also completed a project list that included the removal of the large boilers and associated piping throughout the building.

Gehrke watched the building transform over the 15 months he has been on the jobsite.

A Luverne volunteer fire-fighter, Gehrke was familiar with the Gold’n Plump building. He remembers the building was a crowded and departmentalized facility from the training tour.

However, Gehrke notes that as

Gehrke No.1 employee/see p. 9



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Premium Minnesota Pork President and CEO Dan Paquin Q&A/continued from page 1

welcome we received coming to Luverne we did not want to disappoint the city leaders or the residents. We also have to build a safe, efficient and successful operation that would sustain itself over the long term.

•What’s the most challenging aspect(s) of launching and carrying out a project of this magnitude?

A project like this is very complicated, with many suppliers and contractors, time lines and surprises. Most can be

managed and surprises anticipated, but never did we imagine we would have to deal with a global pandemic as we were trying to complete construction and plan for startup. We not only had to continue the push to completion in Luverne but as an essential industry, it put more pressure on us to keep the Hospers operation running to provide needed protein to the country during the lockdown. We were too far into the construction project, and

an extended delay was not a consideration.

•What keeps you up at night?

I have a very mature and experienced management group that is capable of responding to issues they can handle and knowing when to reach out for help. I have been blessed with managers and employees that know this is hard work and things happen but also realize that there has to be a life away

from the operations. There is a balance, and I trust my employees to make the right decisions.

•What’s the most rewarding aspect of your role with this project?

The most rewarding part for me is when I can stand in the middle of the production floors with operations running all around and know we are providing an opportunity and a livelihood for an individual or family. We provide good paying, stable jobs with a future.

•What were the key driving factors that affected decisions during construction?

The safety of our employees is always a factor. Employees need to be comfortable in their work stations to perform the jobs successfully. Efficiency – the operation has to be competitive. This is a difficult industry and we must operate as efficiently as possible. The operation must flow correctly. To be efficient, product must move smoothly through the plant from hog receiving to final shipping of product. The final part is cleanliness, the ability to clean and sanitize the whole facility in a timely manner allows us to produce the most wholesome product possible.

•What were some of the unique challenges in building the Luverne plant?

The rules and regulations of the state of Minnesota had us thinking outside the box. We used technology not used anywhere else in the

U.S. to help us deal with differences in regulations from our Hospers, Iowa, operation.

•What aspects of the Luverne location have presented the best opportunities for PMP?

The most rewarding for me in Luverne has been the reception we have received. Everyone from the elected officials to the people in the streets or restaurants have treated us well. It is refreshing to be well received and appreciated for the investment made in the community and the opportunity to provide good paying jobs to all those interested.

•What’s the most important message you’d like to share with the community?

The project and startup have gone very well but there will be challenges. For example, nobody plans for a pandemic. I hope we continue to be seen as a positive partner with the city of Luverne and its people as we both continue to grow together.

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‘Pigs come in one and come out pork on the other’/continued from page 5

hot steamy hogs coming by this end. So this end will have to be cooling a lot more than the ones down here at the other end.”

There are currently 2,200 hog carcasses being cooled daily. When the new cooler is complete, that capacity will double.

There are five large cooling units hanging over the top. They’re powerful enough to air condition about 300 large houses.

The air blows across the top, comes down the wall and circulates back around through the carcasses. It returns on the back side of the unit and repeats the process.

“So you have a lot of air movement in here to help chill the carcasses. There’s space between them. That’s what chills them down.”

All controls are remote and automatic, programmed and monitored by trained staff.

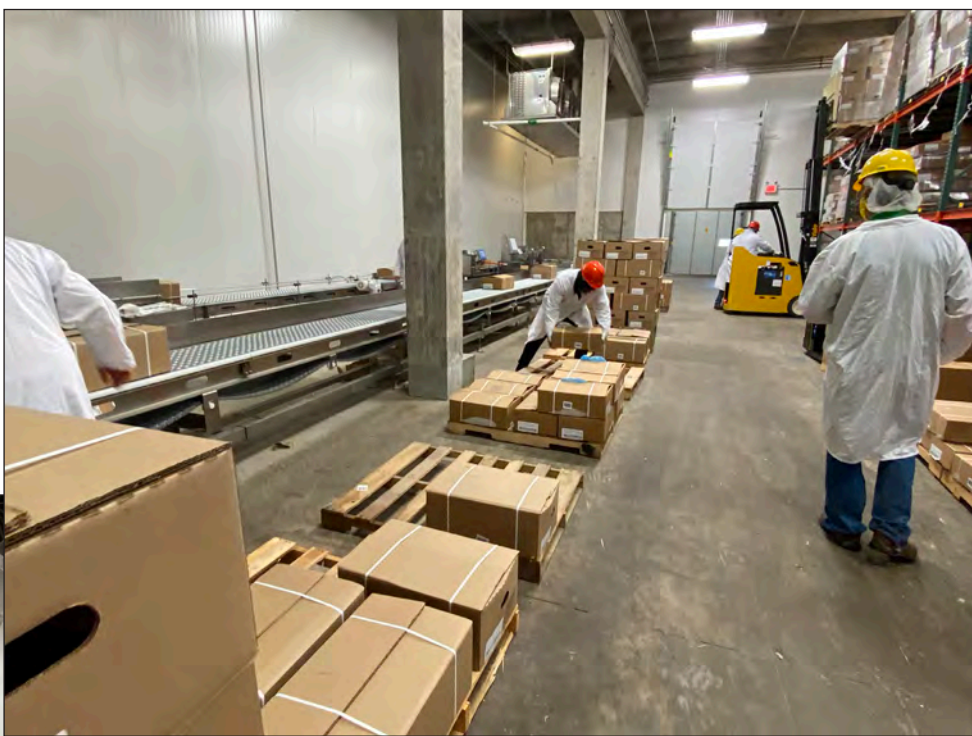
The cut floor

Once they go into the chiller, they’re hanging carcasses, half hogs, that chill over night. “What we harvest today we cut tomorrow,” Pa-

From pigs to pork/see p. 11



From the cut floor, product is labeled, palletized and either loaded on refrigerated semitrailers or sent to the packaging area for bagging, cryovacs and box packing before shipping out.



Gehrke No. 1 employee/ continued from page 7

a PMP facility the ceilings have been raised and the floor plan opened up to provide more moveable space around the equipment.

Gehrke has moved into the first-shift maintenance position. His “jack-of-all-trades” beginning now brings firsthand knowledge of where utilities and drainage lines have been located without reference to the blueprints.

“It helps out more than I thought,” he said. “I have inside info since I saw it put in.”

Several community members have talked with Gehrke about family members working at the original building when it was Iowa Beef Processors and the pride they felt of working at the Luverne business.

He sees PMP developing a similar reputation.

“They’ve been a good company to work for,” he said.

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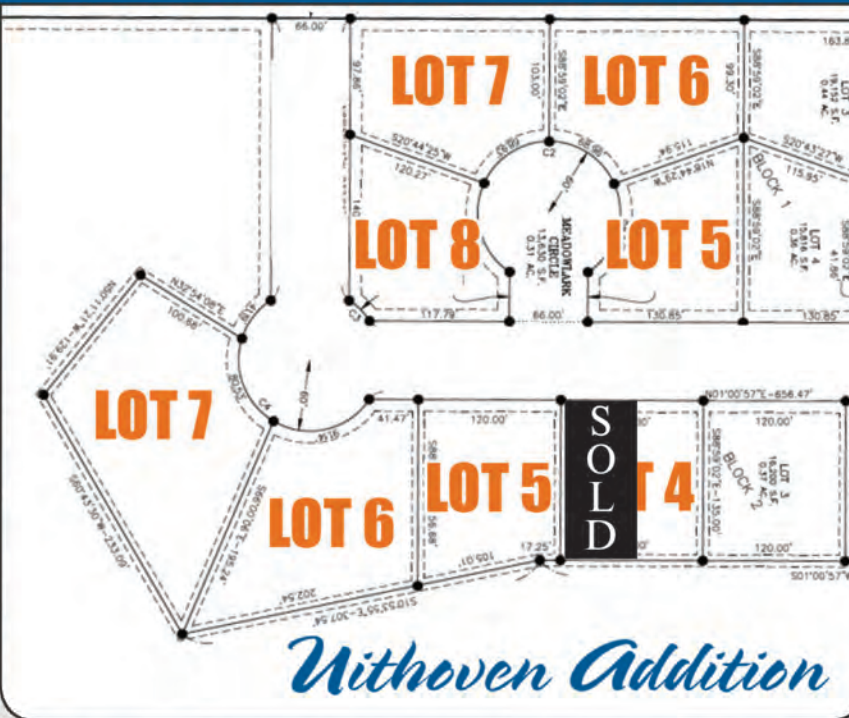
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Premium Minnesota Pork Plant Manager Scott Johnson Q&A/continued from page 1

In a Q&A email conversation last week, Johnson offered an inside look at what it's like to be part of a project like Premium Minnesota Pork coming online in Luverne.

•What is it like to build something so historic in terms of lasting effect in a community and in terms of safety for workers and food products?

There is a lot of history attached to facilities like this. Besides just the physical building, there are people's lives, careers, friendships and

"I am rewarded every morning as I approach the plant on the highway ... seeing the rebuilt facility, the parking lot full of employee vehicles, and knowing that this business is what provides the livelihood for each of these employees and their families. This plant has been rebuilt in a manner that will allow it to be an operational facility for the next 50 years or more. I find satisfaction knowing that it will be here for decades."

memories all connected to the plant's existence. I first saw this plant back in 1962 or 1963 from

the backseat of my grandmother's shiny black 1954 Buick Special driving by on old Highway 16.

Over the years I heard many stories about the plant from friends and co-workers who once worked here.

I have watched the plant expand and mature over the last 50-plus years. What a great thing it is now, for me to become a part of that history!

•What's the most challenging aspect(s) of launching and carrying out a project of this magnitude?

Total focus. Once a project like this starts, it requires endless attention. One of the key requirements is selecting the right contractors, vendors and manufacturers to work with. If any one of these groups fail to perform, it can affect the success of the entire project.

One challenge we hadn't planned for, but quickly adapted to, was the pandemic. Fortunately, the project

was well underway when the disruptions from the pandemic started.

Most of the equipment was already being shipped, or had already arrived on site before the lockdowns occurred.

Like everyone else, we had to work carefully to keep our employees and our contractor's employees safe by implementing safe work practices and limiting access to the facility.

•What keeps you up at night?

The "small stuff." The major items for the project are obviously being watched, managed and monitored. My concern is always about the small but critical item that gets overlooked. The plant successfully started production on July 29, with all the small stuff resolved.

•What's the most rewarding aspect of being part of a project like this?

I am rewarded every morning as I approach the plant on the highway ... seeing the rebuilt facility, the parking lot full of employee vehicles, and knowing that this business is what provides the livelihood for each of these employees and their families.

This plant has been rebuilt in a manner that will allow it to be an operational facility for the next 50 years or more. I find satisfaction knowing that it will be here for decades.

•What were the key driving factors that affected decisions during construction?

PIP's business in Hospers has been successful. Extending the operation into the Luverne facility is a natural progression of that success. Success doesn't happen automatically, so decisions made while designing, building and operating in Luverne had to be made with care.

Sticking to an aggressive timeline, making sure the process flow in the plant is correct, and designing for future expansion are all parts of the decision process. Some of that expansion is already occurring.

The construction of a carcass cooler addition is in progress right now. This will allow for an additional 2300 head to be harvested daily. This expansion will be complete in the first quarter of 2021.

•What were some of the unique challenges in building the Luverne plant?

Building a new plant on a green field site affords lots of freedom in design. Building within an existing facility requires adapting to the constraints of the existing space. The initial design was hand-sketched dozens of times until the layout provided the work space needed, with proper product flow.

In general, the weather was cooperative (but not perfect) with the construction process.

•What aspects of the Luverne location have presented the best opportunities for PMP?

Early on, we identified Luverne as an ideal location for our growth. Advantages include the centralized location to our agricultural base, easy access to major transportation routes, and a large population base within 50 miles to draw on for employees.

The one thing that made Luverne especially attractive was the receptiveness of the community to our business. The support from all levels of the community - residents, local government, the business community, and others - is what has made this a really great place to settle.

•What's the most important message you'd like to share with the community?

We are very grateful to Luverne for their support. Our commitment is to be a good neighbor and a good addition to your business community. We are confident that we bring a strong economic advantage to Luverne and that we can continue to grow together.

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‘Pigs come in one and come out pork on the other’/continued from page 9

quin said. “Delivered today, cut and processed tomorrow, and 80 percent of it on a truck that day headed to somewhere.”

He said cooling temperatures are important for many reasons, especially for how the product responds to process.

“The cut floor really appreciates when they come out the same temperature,” he said. “Too soft or too hard really makes a difference.”

Hogs that come in at 102 degrees need to cool to 36 or 38 by the time they reach the cut floor.

“So we’ve got to remove almost 70 degrees of heat in about 15 hours,” Paquin said. “You use the balance of the time to keep them regulated so that people on the cut floor can do their jobs.”

“... You can’t let them continue to get cold, because they’ll turn into a popsicle and you can’t cut them. The chill curve will come down pretty hard, but once it’s starts coming down you want to start raising the temperature in the room so that that hog equilibrates at 32 to 36 degrees.”

Area for grading and processing hams is labor intensive. “You have shoulders, bellies, hams, ribs ... and all of that equipment and all those people do exactly that, break it into pieces,” Paquin said.

Pork product shipping

From the cut floor, product is labeled, palletized and either loaded on refrigerated semi trailers or sent to the packaging area for bagging, cryovacs and box packing before shipping out.

No product is wasted.

Rendering goes to rendering trucks, blood goes to



The boxing and packaging area of the plant requires several crews and supervisors. “For every truck that comes in, a loaded truck leaves,” company president Dan Paquin said. “It’s a first in, first out theory. We could have 100 combos on a rack, color-coded for days of the week.”

blood trucks.

“For every truck that comes in, a loaded truck leaves,” Paquin said.

“It’s a first in, first out theory. Could have 100 combos on a rack, color-coded for days of the week.

“The combos are in the big bins; they weigh 2,000 pounds. It goes everywhere. Some go right to retail.”

“We do label it, generally

From pigs to pork/see p. 13

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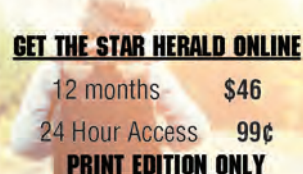
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Thermal imaging cameras check the temperature of people as they enter. "When they come in the door, the camera tracks them and takes their temperature," PMP president Dan Paquin said. "That's one of the preventative measures we take here. We can monitor their temperatures when they come in."

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Employees Rod Fransman (left) and LeRoy Padilla check equipment in Premium Minnesota Pork's state-of-the-art waste water treatment facility in mid-August at the PMP plant campus.

‘Pigs come in one and come out pork on the other’/from page 11

their labels, not our labels. Some will go to further processing where they make hams or bacon or sausage. Some will go to a case ready operation - we'll cut it up."

You can find whole ribs in the store, tenderloins in the store, but like pork chops, a lot of guys won't cut meat in the back room at the retail level. So they'll have what's called a case-ready operation.

All the pork will come in there cut up and put in white trays or a lid stock and that goes out to the store, so instead of having a meat cutter in a retail area all you have to have is a shelf stocker.

So it goes to any combination of that. There is export business, too. It goes everywhere. And it goes to China (15 percent). ... stomach, tongues, intestine. Heparin is extracted from the lining of the small intestine.

Wastewater

Three white 150,000-gallon tanks on the south side of the building facing the highway are for water generation.

The first one, the equalization tank, accepts all the water that comes up from the basement for the first round of DAF (dissolved air flotation) treatment. The light stuff comes to the top.

"There's a bunch of microscopic bubbles in there," Paquin said. "If you were to try to swim in there you would drown, because there's not enough buoyancy in the water because of all the little bubbles. You'd go straight to the bottom."

So, the heavy material goes to the bottom. Light material comes to the top and gets removed out of there, and then it goes to a newly vetted bioreactor, basically the bugs.

The bugs eat whatever's

From pigs to pork/see p. 14



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From pigs to pork/continued from page 13

left in the water, and then the dead bugs and the water go to the second DAF and they're removed.

Both the DAFs feed two presses - take the water out of the solid material and the water's recycled back to the system and the dirt goes to roll-off containers.

None of the material needs to be landfilled; most is composted. It's organic material.

The water comes out of there and goes to the city.

PMP partnered with Luverne to increase the city's capacity to accept wastewater from the plant.

City officials have remarked that they're pleased with quality of the water coming from PMP.

The effluent load is there, but it's relatively clean water.

It's made so that when we do 4,400 head per day, it's made to accommodate expansion.

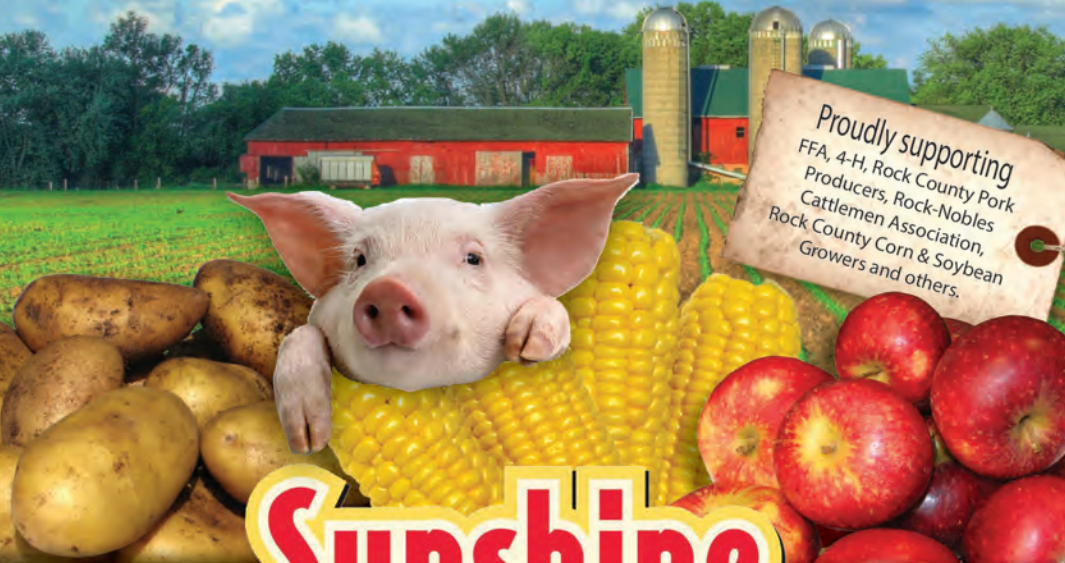
The building takes advantage of the latest in technology and efficiencies.

The lights, for example, are all LED on motion detectors.

"It's built that it can run for-ever. But you'll upgrade. Packing houses are continually upgrading as things come along," Paquin said.

"The way we built it, there are theories. You could build it for 10 years or you could build it for 50 years. Ours is built for the latter."

Congratulations and Welcome to Luverne!

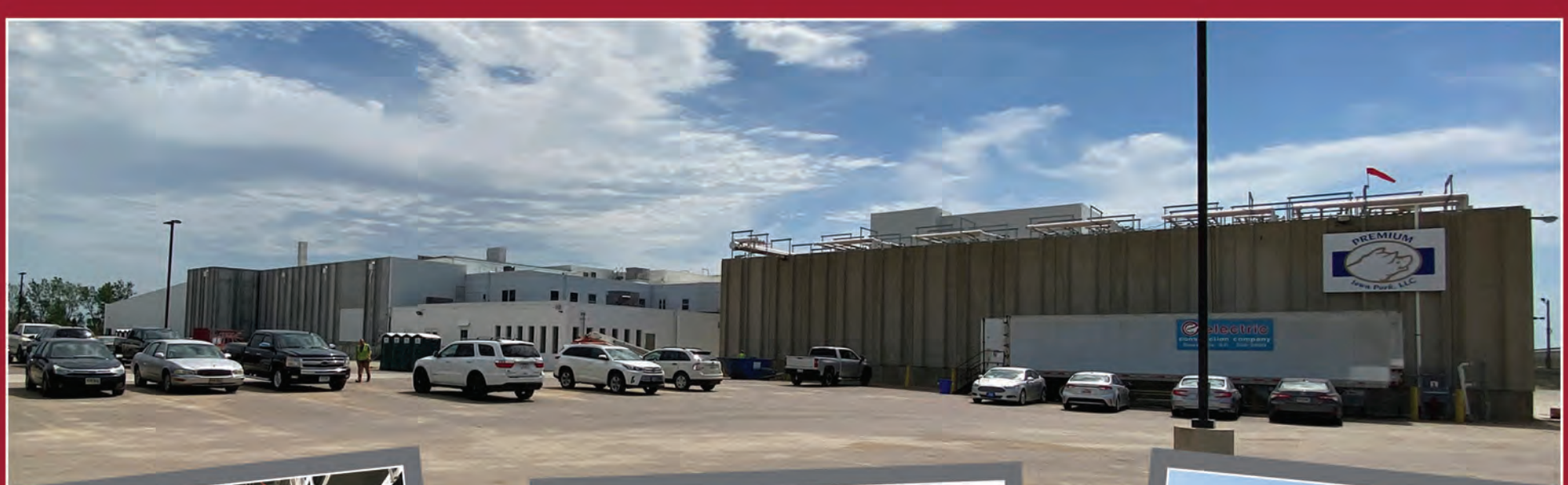


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