

# Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, October 12, 2023

## Rock County designated disaster area for drought

### USDA designation opens door for drought mitigation funding for county and local farmers

By Lori Sorenson

Rock County is among nine Minnesota counties designated as primary drought disaster areas according to an announcement last week by the USDA.

Moisture deficits dipped to "extreme drought" on the U.S. Drought Monitor, triggering the disaster designation and putting the wheels in motion for state and federal emergency aid.

Farmers may be reimbursed for livestock losses and for expenses associated with caring for them in hot, dry months, and emergency loans can be used for drought recovery projects.

This includes replacing equipment or livestock, reorganizing a farming operation, or refinancing debt, according to Eva Kramer, director of Rock County's Farm Service Agency.

"For our producers, this means they are eligible to apply for the Livestock Forage Program and Emergency Assistance for Livestock Program for grazing losses in Rock County and for activities they conduct including hauling water, feed or livestock above normal," Kramer said.

She can be reached at 507-283-2369. Producers have until May of 2024 to apply for funding.

Meanwhile, Rock County Emergency Management Director Kyle Oldre is considering the broader impact of the disaster designation.

"Of course, in this county it's obvious, it's agriculture — livestock and crops," he said.

"If stock ponds and creeks aren't replenishing, where are the livestock getting water? ... In Pipestone County, farmers have been hauling water to livestock. That's how stressed the supply is. Normally they'd have water supplies on their farm, and now they're having to bring it to them."

Drought disaster/see page 10A

## Alumni Hall of Fame inducted, Alumni Garden dedicated

By Mavis Fodness

Cold and blustery conditions prompted the dedication of the Luverne Alumni Garden and induction of the inaugural Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame class to be moved indoors Friday afternoon.

Sixteen inductees were honored in the school's performing arts center. They included the 1964 basketball team, Quentin Aanenson, Jim Brandenburg, Jerilyn Britz, Warren G. Herreid Sr., Betty Mann and Monti Ossenfort.

Mike DeBates, current school board member and Hall of Fame Committee representative, opened the ceremony.

"The committee had many deserving nominees and had a hard time coming up with these candidates," he said. "But I think we came up with an



Mavis Fodness photo/1012 HOF 2023

Jeannine Rivet (left) reveals the names of the inaugural Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame class with her husband, Warren Herreid.

excellent class for the inaugural Hall of Fame class." Other Hall of Fame Com-

mittee members were Jason Berghorst, Jeanne Bowron, Emily Crabtree, Elmer Menage,

Gary Papik, Jane Lanphere and Superintendent Craig Oftedahl.

Oftedahl, also the committee's chairman, formally accepted the gift of the school's Alumni Garden.

Under the school entrance canopy is the Hall of Fame wall, where the first seven inductees' names are engraved. Oftedahl then dedicated the garden to the people of Luverne.

Warren Herreid II and his wife, Jeannine Rivet, donated the \$2.1 million garden and digital sign along Highway 75 to the district. Both items were projects suggested by the Luverne Education Legacy Foundation.

"Warren and Jeannine had a vision of what this space could look like, and if you haven't

Alumni events/see page 3A



Mavis Fodness photo/Mavis Fodness photo/1012 LHS Homecoming 2023

## Homecoming queen and king crowned at LHS

Under the theme of "Luverne's Got Game," homecoming royalty were crowned Tuesday night, Oct. 3, in the LHS performing arts center.

The Luverne High School 2023 homecoming royalty court includes Audrey LeBrun (front, left) and Graham DeBoer, (second row) Elle Halverson, Belle Smidt, Anika Boll, queen Jenna DeBates, king Zach Terrio, Kai Buss, Tyler Arends, Henry Hartquist, (third row) Igor Curilla, Abby Boltjes, Sarah Stegenga, Kira John, Patrick Kroski, Conner Connell, Joachim Nilsen, Skylar Vander Steen, (back) Morgan Ahrendt, Marcos Diaz, Augusta Papik, James DeBates, Ella Schmuck, Will Bergman, Olivia Ver Steeg and Kayla Bloemendaal.

At right, royal page Audrey LeBrun holds tightly on to the pillow cradling the queen crown. LeBrun is the daughter of Tyler and Anna LeBrun and is a first-grader. At far right, Graham DeBoer, the son of Darin and Rebecca DeBoer, drums the top of the king's crown at the Oct. 3 LHS homecoming coronation. He is a first-grader in Luverne.



## Beaver Creek recycling shed to expand along with improvements to Hills location

By Mavis Fodness

Township residents will soon have an expanded recycling shed after commissioners approved the purchase of two additional containers.

The recycling location in Beaver Creek will have an additional bay added to house a second 6-yard container, while the 9-foot-by-12-foot shed in Hills will receive needed repairs.

Commissioners approved \$4,400 for the two rear-load containers plus up to \$5,000 for the construction and repairs necessary to protect materials from the elements.

Eric Hartman, Land Man-

agement Office director, made the request at the commissioners' Oct. 3 meeting.

He said the county switched to current single-stream recycling ten years ago.

While city residents (except Kenneth) have curb-side pickup, township residents transport recyclable materials to one of six recycling sheds located in Hills, Beaver Creek, Hardwick, Steen, Kenneth, Kanaranzi and Magnolia.

Recyclables can also be dropped off at Ketterling Services in Luverne.

Up until 2020, the recycling containers have adequately

handled the recycling volume from township residents.

"When we went through and came out of the pandemic, the number of materials has gone up," Hartman said.

"There is a whole host of reasons but what we are seeing is a lot more boxes. Those boxes are not being broken down and they take up a lot of room."

The recycling shed in Beaver Creek is often overflowing with materials.

A second container will possibly solve the overflowing issue along with continued educa-

Recycling sheds/see page 8A

## Blue Mound Trail may get grant funds for repaving

By Mavis Fodness

A grant to repave the 4.2-mile Blue Mound Trail is possible, if local support and a monetary match are secured.

Commissioners approved a resolution supporting the grant application at their Oct. 3 meeting.

The Blue Mound trail connects with the Luverne Loop along Blue Mound Avenue by the county highway department. The trail runs north to the Blue Mounds State Park's former swimming area.

The county and the park must provide a local match of \$130,000 for the grant application.

The project, estimated at

\$390,000, would replace a portion of the trail's bituminous surface.

Commissioners also approved the \$25,000 local match for the county's 1.2 miles of trail. The park's match is \$105,000 for the three miles located in the state park.

According to county engineer Mark Sehr, the project to resurface the trail has been approved to the application stage for a state Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant.

Sehr said final application hinges on securing a commit-

Blue Mound Trail/see page 8A





## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Meetings

**Parkinson's Support Group** will meet at 2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16, at Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne.

**Blue Mound Cemetery Association** will meet at the home of Randy and Kathy Remme at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17.

### 'Paint the Prairie Purple'

To help raise awareness and show support for the Dementia Awareness Walk on Oct. 14, organizers encourage "Paint the Prairie Purple" during the week of Oct. 8-13. Pictures of decorated home and business exteriors can be sent to [ace.rock@co.rock.mn.us](mailto:ace.rock@co.rock.mn.us)

The event is sponsored by SW MN Dementia Awareness Network (SWDAN).

### Free screening of 'HIDE' Oct. 13

An independent filmmaker will be in Luverne Oct. 13 for the showing of "HIDE" as part of a National Domestic Violence Awareness Month roadshow.

The ultrareal psychological thriller is about the nuances of gaslighting and intimate partner abuse. Filmmaker Been Samuels and the lead actress will discuss the film after the showing with personnel from the Southwest Crisis Center. The film begins at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13, at the Palace Theatre.

### Dementia Walk Oct. 14

The Dementia Awareness Walk is Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Luverne City Park. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with the walk at 10 a.m.

One hundred percent of the funds raised will remain local and be used to increase awareness and to promote dementia education.

In case of inclement weather, the walk will take place at the Generations Event Center in Luverne.

For more information or to register contact Linda Wenzel at A.C.E. of SW MN, 507-283-5064.

### Caregivers classes start Oct. 17

A.C.E. of SW Minnesota will provide Powerful Tools for Caregivers classes beginning Tuesday, Oct. 17, from 9:30-11 a.m. Classes will be held consecutively each Tuesday until Nov. 21. There is no cost to attend, however donations are accepted. Pre-registration is required.

For more information or to register, contact Linda Wenzel at A.C.E. of SW MN, 507-283-5064.

### Mobile dental clinic Oct. 19

The mobile dental clinic will be in Luverne on Thurs., Oct. 19 at the Health and Human Services Community Room, 2 Roundwind Road (Please note the clinics are now resuming at SWHHS location).

This clinic provides dental care for ADULTS and children ages 0-100+. Call 612-746-1530 to schedule an appointment. All forms of insurance accepted. Organized by #Luv1LuvAll's Rock County Oral Health Task Force.

### Shoebox collection starts Oct. 19

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collection week is Nov. 13-20. Preprinted boxes and brochures may be picked up beginning Thursday, Oct. 19, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the American Reformed Church in Luverne (south entrance). If you prefer, you can use plastic boxes which are reusable by the recipient.

Call Edna Buys at 507-227-7169 or Charla Sandbulte at 507-227-1722, or go online to [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org) for more information.

### Community Ed

Call 507-283-4724 to register.

Children 0-5 years along with parents are invited to use the **Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom** for Outdoor Play Time on Oct. 18. There is a morning or evening session. No fee, registration required.

Register by Oct. 18: Students (grades K-6) can decorate **Halloween-themed cookies** like a professional at B's Bakehouse on Oct. 28. Fee is \$35.

Individuals 13 years old through adult can join **Board Game Boot Camp** starting on Oct. 21 to learn the many different kinds of games available at your local game store. Fee is \$65 and includes a snack and drink at each session.

Students (grades 1-5) will follow along with the instructor step by step to create a painting at **Paint & Snack** class on Oct. 23. Fee is \$35.

**Babysitting Basics** for students grades 5-8 will be held on Oct. 23 and 26. Fee is \$20.

**Defensive Driving** schedule for Luverne classes follows: Refresher 4-Hour Classes -Nov. 13 or Dec. 11; Beginner 8-Hour Class Feb. 5 and 12 (4 hours each evening).

## Nov. 13 to set lot prices, covenants on city's new Lopau Addition lots

By Lori Sorenson

Twenty-four residential lots in the new Lopau Addition are about to go on sale in of Luverne, and local leaders are considering lot prices and protective covenants for that neighborhood.

A Nov. 13 public hearing will establish those details, and members of Luverne Economic Development Authority reviewed proposed information at their Monday morning meeting.

EDA Director Holly Sammons said the schematic shows 24 lots in the housing subdivision. Five lots on

the north end are set up for multi-family housing (twin homes) while the other lots are set up for single-family housing.

Sammons shared a map of contours and grading that will determine which homes have options for basements, which will also drive lot prices.

For example, a lot with a walk-out basement option will be priced higher than a lot that doesn't have lower-level options.

Lots will be priced by size, location and basement option.

The five twin home

lots on the north side of the neighborhood are 127 feet by 135 feet and priced at \$58,000.

The 127-by-112-foot single-family lots in the center of the neighborhood are mostly priced at \$53,000. Smaller lots with no basement options are \$45,000.

The four larger cul de sac single-family lots are priced at \$65,000.

Sammons said these prices are only proposals and will be set at the Nov. 13 public hearing.

She said protective

**Lopau lots/see page 5A**



Lori Sorenson photo/1012 bullpen signage

### Opening soon near I-90: The Bullpen

New signs went up Monday at the future location of The Bullpen, a sports bar and restaurant opening soon in the former Bluestem Restaurant location south of I-90 along Highway 75 in Luverne. Bullpen owners Ryan Bullerman and Dave Halverson bought the property from Staples Enterprises, which also owns the BP gas station and convenience store across the interstate to the north. The Bullpen name is a nod to the first part of the Bullerman name and also to the Scott family interest in professional bucking bulls. Skyler Hoiland and his family operated the Bluestem in that location from 2012 to 2020. Prior to that, the property housed the iconic Magnolia Steakhouse under the Dispanet family ownership from 1988 to 2009.

## Community day care center fundraising on track; city to issue tax abatement bonds

By Lori Sorenson

Community fundraising is underway for the Kids Rock! day care center in Luverne, and city leaders have been taking key steps toward a 2024 opening.

The city purchased the former Total Card Inc. building on Roundwind Avenue in Luverne and is renovating the 1970s structure to house the community day care facility.

Members of Luverne Economic Development

Authority reviewed child care center updates at their regular monthly meeting Monday morning, Oct. 9.

EDA director Holly Sammons said the building's roof repair was pulled out of the main construction schedule to get it done ahead of the major renovation.

"That allows us to get that roof sealed up nice and tight so that when the interior work starts everything is protected," Sammons

said, adding that some water damage had occurred in recent months during rain events.

The bid for that work will be awarded at the end of October. Roof construction will start in November and wrap up in January.

Sammons said the project is through the design and development phase and working through plans and specifications.

"We're digging deep through every line item and

## District levy to decrease 3.1 percent as Luverne enrollment increases

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne School Board members set the district's preliminary levy at \$4.2 million for taxes payable in 2024.

That's a decrease of \$136,277, or 3.1 percent less than the current levy.

Board members set the levy amount as determined by the state Department of Education Thursday night, Sept. 28.

The preliminary levy, once set, can be lowered before the end of the year, but it can't be increased.

"We don't have to stick with this amount," said business manager Tyler Reisch. "We can lower it."

While the next year's levy is lower, the school district's enrollment is increasing, resulting in an additional \$256,932 for the 2023-24 school year.

The district's enrollment increased 36 students, bringing the current enrollment to 1,167 students in Early Childhood through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, as of Sept. 12.

Superintendent Craig Oftedahl said the district enrollment numbers continue to recover from the coronavirus pandemic, which prompted a loss of 53 students from October 2019 (1,202) to October 2020 (1,149).

The district was down one student in October 2021.

"Good news is that we've turned a corner," Oftedahl said. "As least we are headed in the right direction."

He said student enrollment increases are fairly even between the elementary, middle and high schools.

Enrollment at the elementary increased 11 students to 516. The middle school increased 13 students to 263 and the high school 12 students to 388.

we are narrowing in on a guaranteed maximum price and getting final plans and specs listed out," Sammons said. "Hopefully we'll have that wrapped up by the end of the year."

She said the details are daunting.

"We're going through every cable and port for IT, going through the kitchen, refining the playground layout, going through final

**Day care/see page 5A**

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# Alumni events include dedication of garden, induction ceremony/continued from page 1A

seen it, what a vision it is," Oftedal said.

Rivet and Herreid were presented a crystal vase with the engraved words, "In recognition of Warren Herreid II and Jeannine Rivet for the donation of the Alumni Garden and digital sign. Oct. 6, 2023"

Oftedal, as master of ceremonies for the event, announced each Hall of Fame inductee and introduced the nominee and/or the person's representative.

The 1964 state champion basketball team consisted of players Bill Toms, Greg Thone, Del Jessen, John Beyer, Tom Kozney, Richard Iverson, Brian Wells, Roger McKay, Curt Laudon, Scott Creeger, Milo Herrmann, Chuck Lippi and manager Larry Stoterau.

A two-minute video of the team's victory at Williams Arena in 1964 and subsequent homecoming in the Luverne High School gym was shown.

Attending Friday's event in person were players Greg Thone, John Beyer, Richard Iverson and Curt Laudon. Julie Herrmann represented her late brother while Jane McKay and Janet Jessen represented their late husbands, and Kathy Hamann and Christy Reisch represented their uncle, Bill Toms.

Hamann read a statement from Toms, who couldn't attend the ceremony.

"I feel unbelievably fortunate to have been a member of the '64 team and so proud of our coaches, my teammates, our cheerleaders and the student bodies that cheered us on, also the band," Hamann read.

"And a special acknowledgement to all the Luverne fans who supported us through both winning and losing, the celebrations we encour-



A two-minute clip showing the 1964 state boys' basketball championship game final minutes along with the team's homecoming to a packed LHS gymnasium was played during Friday's Hall of Fame induction ceremony.



Above: T-shirts were specially made for Hall of Fame Inductee Curt Laudon's grandchildren to attend the induction ceremony at Luverne High School on Friday afternoon. From left are Cooper Carlson, Madi Carmichael, Finley Carlson, Ellie Carmichael, Emerson Schenk, Eastyn Schenk and Sully Carlson. The shirts read: We love you Grandpa #HaloFFame.

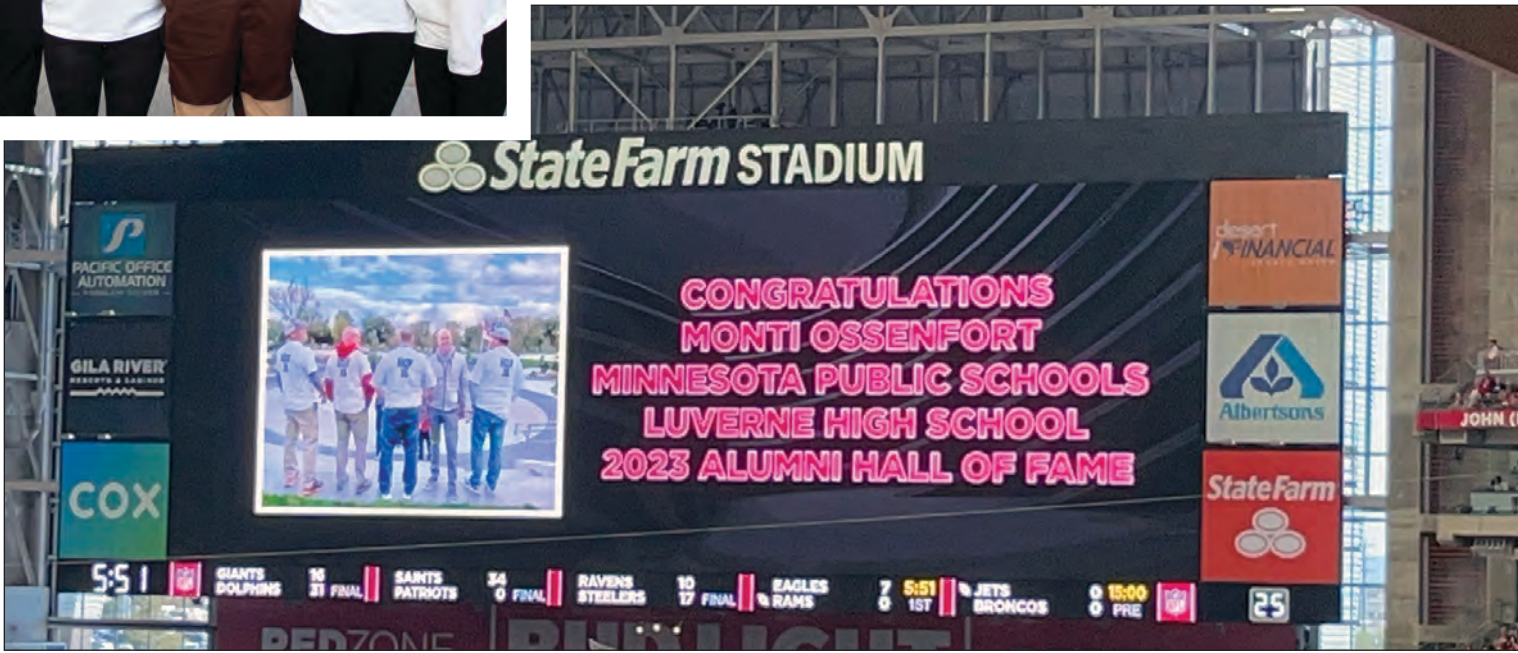
Above: Hall of Fame inductee Jerilyn Britz talks about her time walking the halls of Luverne High School and how she began playing golf around the time she graduated in 1961. Behind her are (from left) Greg Thone, John Beyer, Richard Iverson, Curt Laudon, Julie Herrmann, Kathy Hamann, Christy Reisch, Jane McKay, Janet Jessen (hidden), Jerry Aanenson, Dave Smith, Jeannine Rivet, Warren Herreid II, Betty Mann and Monti Ossenfort. At right: Mike DeBates (left) gives Monti Ossenfort his Hall of Fame medal. Ossenfort, an LHS Class of '96 graduate, is the youngest inductee.



Each Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame inductee received a medal inscribed with the induction year, the recipient's name, and year of graduation on the back, with "Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame - Cardinals" on the front.



At right: Mike DeBates (left) gives Monti Ossenfort his Hall of Fame medal. Ossenfort, an LHS Class of '96 graduate, is the youngest inductee.



tered on our way home that gave us a new realization of what this championship really meant to our community. I forever will be grateful and proud to be a Luverne Cardinal."

Six individuals were inducted into the Hall of Fame. These included the late **Quentin Aanenson** (represented by son, Jerry Aanenson), **Jim Brandenburg** (who is currently working in Europe and represented by former Luverne Area Chamber director Dave Smith), **Jerilyn Britz**, the late **Warren G. Herreid Sr.** (represented by his son, Warren Herreid II and daughter-in-law Jeannine Rivet), **Betty Mann** and **Monti Ossenfort**.

Britz, who graduated from LHS in 1961 and later became a professional golfer, credits Luverne schools for her success.

"The education I received at Luverne High School was pretty amazing," she said.

"It became very apparent I had something special, because when I got to (the University of) Mankato and started to mingle with some of the other students from other schools, I knew instinctively my education from Luverne was far superior to other schools in the state. I am very thankful I came from the Luverne educational system."

Other inductees shared similar sentiments.

Ossenfort also credits teachers and coaches (Dave Svingen, Joel Swanson and Bob Churchill) for what he brings to his career as an NFL general manager.

"When a team knows their role and knows what they have to do to fit together, to come together as a group, it is amazing what that team can accomplish when they work and fight for each other," he said.

"I am incredibly proud to be from this town. I am incredibly proud to have gone through this school."

At Sunday's football game in Glendale, Arizona, Ossenfort, who is the general manager for the Arizona Cardinals, was congratulated on the stadium's giant screens for his induction into the Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame. A picture was shown of Ossenfort posing with classmates wearing T-shirts with "HOF 16" embossed on the back.

No. 16 was Ossenfort's football jersey number at LHS.

At left: LHS was in the national spotlight Sunday when new Hall of Fame inductee Monti Ossenfort was recognized at the NFL stadium in Glendale, Arizona, where Ossenfort is the Arizona Cardinals general manager. Pictured with Ossenfort are classmates (from left) Mike Miller, Jason Oye, Brent Bosch and Tom Cauwels.

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## You say 'potato' ... I say 'potahto'

After Mom's passing last November, we were left with the massive garden she'd always tended. Dad had even added four new raised beds to the garden in the summer of 2022.



### THE NORTHVIEW

By Brenda Winter, columnist

*It was our intention to fill one bed with spuds. Turned out we filled two.*

So there we were last spring with lots of garden and no gardener.

Dad and I adopted the family motto when facing a challenge – “How hard can it be?” – and decided to fill the raised beds. We'd plant one bag of potatoes.

One “50-pound” bag of potatoes. (How were we supposed to know?)

It was our intention to fill one bed with spuds. Turned out we filled two. (Did I mention the beds are four feet wide and more than 50 feet long?)

Fast forward to a few weeks ago when we dug, oh, maybe 400 pounds of potatoes. We sorted them by size and shape and boxed them up. With three people – me, Dad, and my husband – eating potatoes, we figured we'll each need to eat a pound of potatoes every day for five months ... assuming the potatoes will keep that long.

We began reading recipes and learned there's fried potatoes and baked potatoes and twice-baked potatoes and hash-browned potatoes and julienne potatoes and scalloped potatoes and french fries and American fries and oven fries.

There's potato soup and potato pancakes and potato chips and potato salad and potato fritters and potato bread and mashed potatoes and smashed potatoes and cheesy potatoes.

We began our eating assignment with enthusiasm and made delicious hash browns for breakfast every day ... for about four days.

Then we had potato salad in the fridge every day ... for about seven days.

Then we made mashed potatoes every day ... for three days.

We discovered a slicer in Mom's cupboard and enjoyed french fries ... for a week.

Imagine our joy at discovering the 17 boxes of potatoes in the basement had already been whittled down to 16!

We began bringing bags of potatoes to friends at church. Other friends and family (those with unlocked cars and who do not lock their doors) were blessed with bags of potatoes.

Soon the 17 boxes had become 14 and hope was on the horizon – we could use each and every pound of potatoes!

It's been a week now.

We've been enjoying the zucchini, the melons, the tomatoes and the onions.

And the potatoes?

Oh ... they'll keep.

## October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

### GUEST EDITORIAL

By Sara Wahl, Southwest Crisis Center executive director

Domestic violence affects millions of individuals, families and children – of every race, religion, culture and status every year. It's not just punches and black eyes – it's yelling, humiliation, stalking, manipulation, coercion, threats and isolation. It's stealing a paycheck, keeping tabs online, non-stop texting, constant use of the silent treatment, or calling someone stupid so often they believe it.

October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the Southwest Crisis Center, the local nonprofit service provider for individuals and families impacted by domestic violence, will be hanging purple ribbons as a symbol of support to anyone experiencing violence that there is someone who cares and someone who can help.

In the last year alone, the SWCC served more than 720 individuals and families.

In rural Minnesota, services for crime victims are scarce, and it's important that as a community, we continue to support those in need.

As a nonprofit organization, the Southwest Crisis Center relies on funding not only from state and federal sources, but also from foundations, businesses, individu-

als and other local groups.

Crime victim service providers across the state of Minnesota are facing federal funding cuts at a time when state funding is still inadequate. The Southwest Crisis Center recently received a 20-percent reduction in 2023 funding for services in our community. The communities in Southwest Minnesota stand to lose access to lifesaving and life-sustaining support to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assault, and other victim services, which include a 24-hour crisis line, assistance with filing protective orders, transportation, forensic interviews, safety planning, emergency hotel stays, financial assistance, support groups, personal and legal advocacy, and crisis intervention.

Without access to these critical services, the real-time impact will not only be felt by individuals and families, but also in communities across our region.

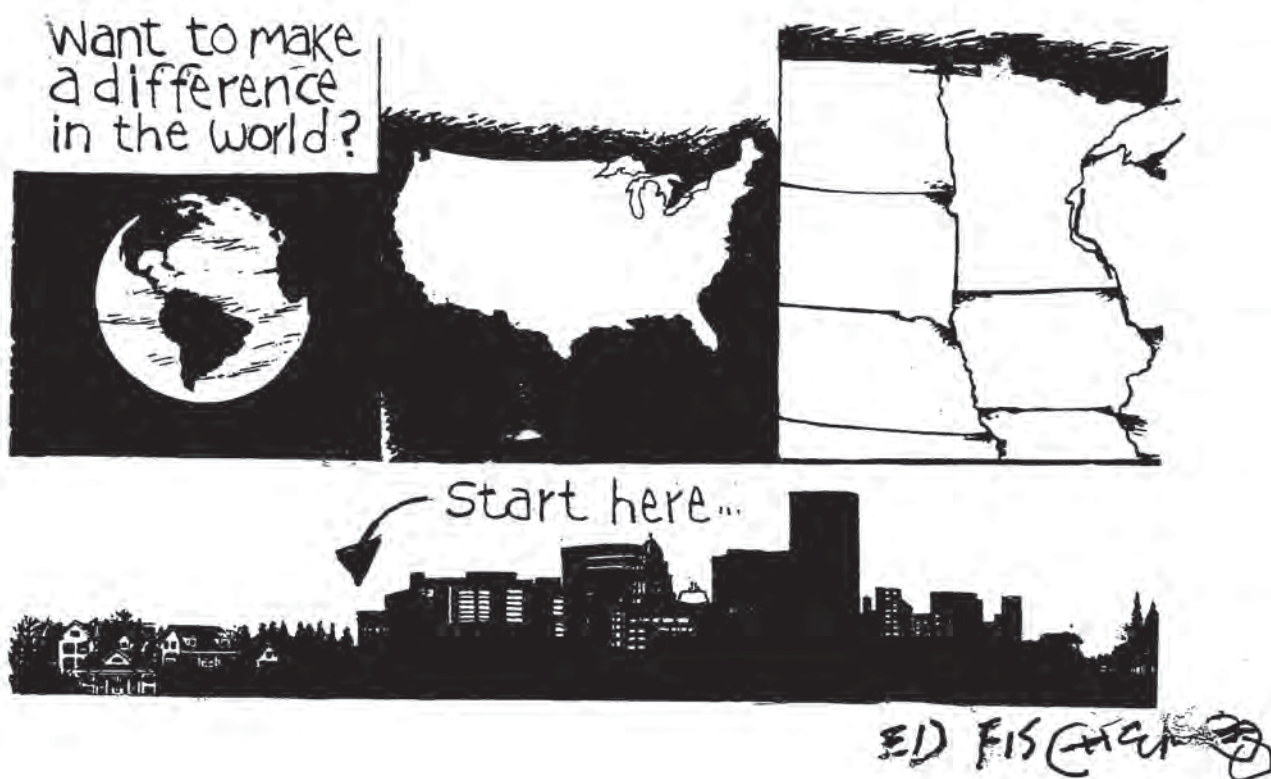
Victim service providers across the country have worked diligently

to secure state, local, and/or private funding to protect against potential decreases, but many programs simply cannot absorb cuts of this magnitude and the ripple effect they will have on communities.

During this month the Southwest Crisis Center invites individuals, businesses, churches, community organizations, schools, and city/county services in Cottonwood, Jackson, Nobles, Murray, Pipestone and Rock counties to partner with us in advocating for increased funding to provide needed services to help individuals and children impacted by domestic violence.

We are available to share more information about our program and need for services through speaking engagements, trainings, and other educational programming by contacting us.

To make a donation, visit our website at [www.mnswcc.org](http://www.mnswcc.org). For additional information about the month, make sure to follow us on social media.



## Contact lenses are not protective eye wear; use vehicle's horn when necessary

**Question:** I read one of your articles about motorcyclists needing to wear eye protection. Do contacts qualify as eye protection?

**Answer:** Contact lenses do not qualify as protective eyewear. Motorcyclists are required to wear protective eyewear, such as glasses, goggles or a face shield, even if the motorcycle is equipped with a windscreen.

Drivers, look twice for motorcycles, especially when changing lanes and driving through intersections. Motorcycles are harder to see in traffic, and their distance and speed are difficult to judge due to their smaller size.

Remember:

- Drive at safe speeds.
- Give riders room.
- Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging



### ASK A TROOPER

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,  
Minnesota State Patrol

with traffic.

- Put away any distractions.

Riders, wear full protective gear, including a helmet. It can make the difference between life and death. Two-thirds of riders killed in 2022 were not wearing a helmet. Make sure your gear is “high-viz” to help you stand out in traffic.

Other things that can save your life:

- Ride as though other drivers don't see you. Don't ever assume

another driver knows you're there.

- Never ride impaired or distracted.
- Use turn signals at every lane change or turn.
- Ride at safe speeds and maintain a safe following distance.

**Question:** Is it illegal to honk your car horn in Minnesota? My friends and family members drive by our house, giving their horn a little honk and waving. Is this illegal? What if you're behind someone

at a stoplight who hasn't noticed the light turned green – is it illegal to tap your horn to alert them? And what about those car alarms that start honking if they sense an intruder? Please explain. Thank you.

**Answer:** Minnesota state law says, “Every motor vehicle when operated upon a highway must be equipped with a horn in good working order and capable of emitting sound audible under normal conditions from a distance of not less than 200 feet. However, the horn or other warning device must not emit an unreasonably loud or harsh sound or a whistle. The driver of a motor vehicle shall, when reasonably necessary to insure safe operation, give audible warning with the horn, but shall not otherwise use the horn when upon a highway.”

As stated, a motor vehicle's

horn is to be used to “insure safe operation.” I believe it is worded as this to help prevent and reduce the unnecessary honking to help avoid annoyance and harassment. By using the horn for potential safety issues, it can help keep people alert and safe. As you mentioned being behind someone at a stoplight and they don't notice the light turning green. Does sounding the horn help with safety? Another thing to be aware of is a number of “road rage” incidents start from honking the horn.

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 reach him at, [Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us](mailto:Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us))

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# ON THE RECORD

## Dispatch report Sept. 29

•Complainant on Highway 75 and 81<sup>st</sup> Street requested roadside assistance.

•Complainant east-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 5, Beaver Creek, reported a transient.

•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported truancy.

•Complainant west-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 12, Luverne, reported a road and drive law issue.

•Warrant was issued on 61<sup>st</sup> Street, Beaver Creek.

•Complainant on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street E., Jasper, requested assistance from another department.

•Complainant on State Highway 270 and U.S. Highway 75, Steen, requested roadside assistance.

•Complainant on State Highway 23, Beaver Creek, reported suspicious activity.

## Sept. 30

•Complainant on Interstate 90, exit 1, Beaver Creek, reported suspicious activity.

•A warrant was issued on S. Cedar Street.

•Complainant reported found property.

•Complainant west-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 20, Luverne, requested assistance from another department.

•Complainant west-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 6, Beaver Creek, requested assistance from another department.

•Complainant on W. Main Street reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant on S. Church Street, Hills, reported a disorderly.

## Oct. 1

•Complainant on W. Main Street reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant on Freeman Avenue reported a road and drive law issue.

•Complainant east-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 12, Luverne,

reported a road and drive law.

•Complainant on 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Jasper, reported a fire.

•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported a disorderly.

## Oct. 2

•Complainant on Interstate 90, exit 1, Beaver Creek, reported lost property.

•Complainant on County Road 4 and County Road 17, Beaver Creek, reported theft.

•Complainant reported an outage.

•Complainant on Highway 75 and 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Steen, reported a transient.

## Oct. 3

•Complainant on U.S. Highway 75 and 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Steen, requested assistance from another department.

•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported harassing communications.

•Complainant on W. Virginia Street reported disturbing the peace.

•Complainant reported a civil issue.

•Complainant east-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 3, Beaver Creek, reported debris.

## Oct. 4

•Complainant on Broadway Street, Magnolia, requested assistance from another department.

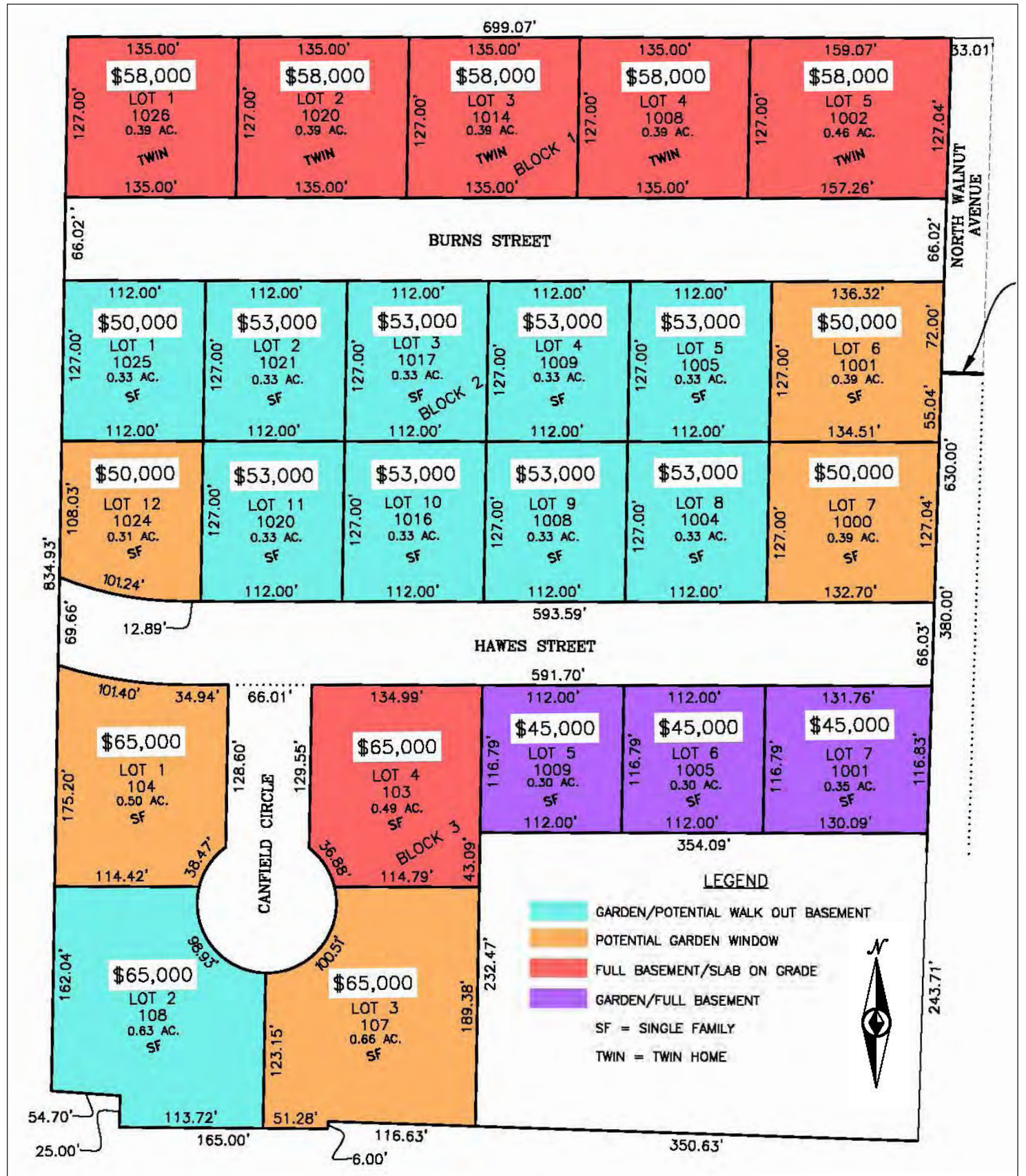
•Complainant reported a weather alert.

## Oct. 5

•Complainant east-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 16, Luverne reported a transient.

•Complainant on 80<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Jasper, reported a fire.

In addition, officers responded to 8 motor vehicle accidents, 1 transport, 1 escort, 15 ambulance runs, 4 parking violations, 3 paper services, 1 animal complaint, 3 fingerprint requests, 1 burn permit, 2 alarms, 2 purchase and carry permits, 4 stalled vehicles, 12 traffic stops, 6 abandoned 911 calls, 1 test, and 2 welfare checks.



This graphic shows PROPOSED prices for lots in the Lopau Addition. They will be set at the Nov. 13 public hearing.

## Lopau Addition — city to set lot prices, covenants/from page 2A

covenants are the same as those in the Uithoven Addition, except that the Lopau Addition covenants allow for smaller homes.

“One trend that we’re seeing is that homeowners may not want a 1,500-square-foot house; they may want a 1,200-square-foot house,” Sammons said.

“People are downsizing and making their homes more minimal. Costs certainly are increasing, and to keep them affordable, they have to have a reasonable square footage.”

Protective covenants set rules for accessory structures in yards, sizes of potential porches and garages, roof height and pitch and other property features.

Sammons said once lot prices and protective covenants are in place, the Lopau lots can be listed for sale.

Mayor Pat Baustian offered some perspective on the Lopau lot prices.

He said they’re cheaper than expected and that similar lots in Sioux Falls sell for well over \$100,000.

“They’re beautiful lots,” Baustian said. “That’s going to be very nice.”

EDA board member Sherri Thompson asked Sammons how street names were determined.

“We asked our engineers what the street names would be and they said, ‘What would you like them to be?’ We typically try to have street names with meaning and connection to Luverne,” Sammons said.

She said Burns Street is named for documentary film producer Ken Burns who featured Luverne as one of four communities affected by World War II in his world-acclaimed documentary film series, “The War.”

Hawes Street is named for Luverne’s founder Philo Hawes, and Canfield Circle is named for Edwin Canfield, an early leader in Rock County’s preservation of local history.

The Lopau Addition is named for Lynn Lopau and her late husband, Merlyn Lopau, who sold their land to the city for residential development.

The Nov. 13 public hearing is at 8 a.m. Monday in Luverne City Hall Council Chambers.

## Day care — fundraising on track/continued from page 2A

details on parking lot, sidewalks and landscaping, as well as some other interior modifications for finishings and smaller items there.

In addition to construction planning, Sammons said fundraising efforts continue on the back side.

“Fundraising has gone really well with face-to-face communication with major donors,” she said.

“And we recently

sent out direct mailers to every address in Rock County and neighboring communities.”

Sammons said a Star Tribune story about Luverne’s day care efforts also helped to generate additional fundraising interest, and social media has helped to further push the message.

Knutson Construction is the construction manager at risk for the child care center project, and ISG is the architect.

Donation checks can be written payable to LACF (with “Kids Rock!” written in the memo line.) They can be sent to PO Box 623, Luverne, MN, 56156.

A website has been established, www.kid-srockchildcare.org, and a Facebook page has been created (Kids Rock Child Care Center) in order to keep interested parties up-to-date on the project.

By visiting those sites, the donations can also be made online.

### Property tax abatement

In related day care center business, the Luverne City Council Tuesday addressed property tax abatements for the project.

The city proposes to issue General Obligation Tax Abatement Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$4,200,000 and use the proceeds for the construction of the project.

The abatement will apply to the city’s share of the property taxes generated from the property.

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from 5-7pm

Serving Homemade Soups:  
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Chicken Noodle and Chili

Free will offering to  
benefit local charities

Support provided by Thrivent Financial Action Team

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**DO YOU HAVE A US FLAG TO RETIRE?**

If your US flag is ready to retire and you'd like to properly dispose of it, please place it in the

**Flag RETIREMENT BOX**

located on the lower level of the Rock County Courthouse across from the Veterans Service Office.





Mavis Fodness photos/1012 Royalty at MJB

Members of the 2023 Luverne High School homecoming royalty court spent Friday afternoon at the Good Samaritan Society - Mary Jane Brown home in Luverne playing bingo with residents. **Above:** In a spirited game, (from left) Kathryn Bruxvoort, Patricia Reverts, Henry Hartquist, Anika Boll and Sonja Goembel watch their bingo cards closely to win a possible award that included Luverne Cardinal T-shirts, Halloween candy and other prizes.

## Homecoming royalty bring Cardinal spirit to Mary Jane Brown home

**At right:** Jennie Anderson (left) and LHS senior Belle Smidt share a laugh.

**Below, left:** Jenna DeBates (right), homecoming queen, points to N-35 that completes a bingo and earns a prize for Diane Gustafson.

**Below, right:** Homecoming king Zach Terrio (right) places a chip on the bingo card of Janice Schei.



## CELEBRATIONS

### Baby shower

A baby shower for **Madison Spath** will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, at Take 16 Brewing Co. in Luverne.

### Card shower

**Louella Voigt** will celebrate her 70th birthday on Monday, Oct. 16. Greetings may be sent to 912 N. Cedar Street, Luverne, MN 56156.

## MENU AT GENERATIONS

**Monday, Oct. 16:** Salisbury steak with gravy, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, dinner roll, fresh orange.

**Tuesday, Oct. 17:** Baked chicken, baked potato with sour cream, mixed vegetables, bread, dessert.

**Wednesday, Oct. 18:** Beef chili with beans, corn, biscuit, applesauce.

**Thursday, Oct. 19:** Smothered pork loin, scalloped potatoes, carrots, bread, dessert.

**Friday, Oct. 20:** Tuna noodle casserole, peas, peaches, bread.

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

Call Pam Franken at 283-9846, extension 11 to reserve one day prior, to arrange to pick up a dinner or for home-delivered meals.

Gift certificates are available at the meal site or online at [www.lssmn.org/nutrition](http://www.lssmn.org/nutrition).

## 1944: Rollert finds price of land in Minnesota lower

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

The following appeared in The Rock County Herald on February 3, 1944.

(August Rollert's story continues of how he arrived in Rock County.)

In the fall of 1895, he was married in La Salle county, Ill., to Bertha Greener, and that fall also, he made his first trip west with a Mr. Kitchenmaster, who had a farm in Lyon county near the Iowa line south of Steen. As rents were getting increasingly higher in Illinois, and the rents were low here, he decided to rent the place. The next spring, he took his accumulated savings, bought horses and machinery, and together with his wife, arrived in Rock Rapids March 1, 1896.

He enjoyed a prosperous year the first year here, and the following spring, bought a farm across the line in Rock county for \$32 an acre. This was the Rollert home for 17 years. Mr. Rollert improved it by adding a number of new buildings, and when he traded it for a half section northwest of Steen, it was



## BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, Rock County Historian

valued at \$150 per acre.

As long as Mr. Rollert farmed in Rock county, he says he can truthfully say that he never experienced a complete crop failure. One of the worst years was in 1911, but even that year, he had feed for his livestock.

After 1900, he reports, every transaction a person would make was virtually a good one, and he always stood a good chance of making a profit. After 1920, however, times changed, and have never been the same since, he declares.

It was in 1920 that he and his family retired and moved to Steen and they lived there until 1935 when they moved

**Bits, continued on 7A**

## REMEMBER WHEN

### 10 years ago (2013)

•Harvest season is often associated with a time of plenty, and one local charity is asking farmers to share their bounty.

The One-Acre Challenge, as it's called, asks corn and soybean producers to donate one acre of production to the Luverne Area Community Foundation.

According to the group's executive director, Emily Crabtree, this is a new venture.

"It's an attempt to reach the agricultural community in Rock County to promote charitable philanthropic local giving to better our communities through grant gifting," Crabtree said.

The foundation is a local non-profit organization that allows tax-exempt charitable dollars to be given locally and stay in Rock County.

### 25 years ago (1998)

•At their Thursday, Oct. 8, meeting, Luverne School Board members approved a move-in schedule for the next several weeks. According to a calendar presented by Elementary Principal Melody Tenhoff, a semi-trailer will haul weekly loads of school materials as needed starting last week Friday.

She said she's pleased with how the moving schedule has come together so far. "We've had extra time to do some packing, and it's beginning to look more and more ready for teachers

and students every day," she said about the new building.

During the second week in November, contractors will finish their work and clean up the building, and the following week, Nov. 16-20, teachers and staff will be able to move and work in the new building every day after 3 p.m.

### 50 years ago (1973)

•Floyd Paulsen, a senior at Hills-Beaver Creek, has been in 4-H since he was nine years old and has been working in photography since he was eleven years old.

"The first year I got lucky and one of my photographs went to the State Fair with the Rock County exhibit," Floyd said. "After that my interest really increased."

Floyd has accumulated three blue ribbons and three red ribbons in photography at the state level.

He now works for the Star-Herald on a part-time basis as a photographer and reporter and spends much of his spare time taking photographs.

### 75 years ago (1948)

•Ramona Boisen, Luverne high school senior, was crowned queen of the 1948 homecoming Thursday night. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Boisen.

Miss Boisen was one of six candidates for the honor, and was elected by the senior high student body. Reigning with her

as "king" was Bryce Mork, son of Mr. and Mrs. G.H. Mork, of Kenneth, who was selected by his team mates on the football squad. Announcement of the chosen queen was made at coronation ceremonies by Keith Luethje, student body president.

Attendants to the queen were the other candidates for the honor: Lorna Ward, Winifred Haggard, Vyonna Lou Anderson, Alice Hoiland, and Marcia Millard, all selected by the senior high student body, and Joan Beatty, selected by the junior high student body. Pages were Audrey Smeins and Marcia Herreid.

### 100 years ago (1923)

•Keen interest has been manifested by the people of the city who viewed the Turner Art exhibit, which had been secured by Luverne high school and was on display yesterday at the Commercial Club rooms. Another opportunity to see this collection of masterpieces will be offered to the public today. ...

This exhibit, which consists of two hundred of the Horace K. Turner collection of genuine photographs of the world's greatest pictures, has been secured by Luverne high school through arrangements made with H. B. Williamson Co. A representative of the company is here during the two days of the exhibit, explaining and giving the story of many of the pictures, and taking up orders from those who wish to procure any of the pictures. The high school also receives a commission on the sale of pictures to individuals.



## OBITUARIES

### David Gehrke

David Emil Gehrke, age 86, of Beaver Creek, Minnesota, quietly joined his wife, Lucille, in the arms of their Savior Jesus Christ on Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, while residing at the Mary Jane Brown Nursing Home in Luverne, Minnesota.



A visitation was Thursday, Oct. 5, from 4-7 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne. A funeral service was Friday, Oct. 6, at 10:30 a.m. at the church, with burial following at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne. To view David's life history or sign an online registry, please visit [www.hartquistfuneral.com](http://www.hartquistfuneral.com).

David Emil Gehrke was born on Oct. 15, 1936, to Walter and Ella (Kelm) Gehrke in Luverne, Minnesota. He was raised on a small farm north of Beaver Creek, Minnesota, a farm he would call home for most of his life. He attended Beaver Creek public school

through the eighth grade and then helped his parents work the farm. When he was old enough, David joined the National Guard, but continued to care for the land.

David was united in marriage to Lucille Kitchenmaster on Sept. 19, 1971, at St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne. Lucille helped David take care of the farm, and the couple led a very quiet, very happy life until Lucille's untimely death in 1990. David continued doing what he loved best, farming, until his retirement in May 2018.

After he had a fall, David moved off the farm and into Poplar Creek living facility in Luverne and then to the Good Samaritan Society - Mary Jane Brown Home in Sept. 2022.

David was a quiet man who enjoyed his simple, quiet

life. He loved farming and fishing, especially when he was able to do that with his wife, Lucille.

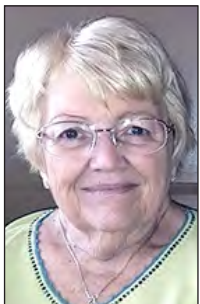
David was a lifelong member of the St. John Lutheran Church. He is also remembered for his jokes and laughter, and enjoyed sharing his love for International Tractors with all his John Deere loving friends.

David is lovingly remembered by his sisters, Carol Jueneman of New Hope, Minnesota, and Lois Harberts of Rushmore, Minnesota; brother-in-law Robert (Mary) Kitchenmaster of Mankato, Minnesota; god-daughter Lori Rehnblom of Brainerd, Minnesota; aunt, Phyllis Kelm of Garretson, South Dakota; as well as many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins, family, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lucille, and his parents, Walter and Ella Gehrke.

### Twilla Navara

Twilla Navara, age 80, of Surprise, Arizona, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023.



A celebration of life gathering will be held at Angela's Restaurant at Grand in Surprise on Thursday, Oct. 12, from 2-4 p.m. Casual attire is encouraged. A Minnesota gathering will be held at a later date.

Twilla Hamann Navara was born Sept. 4, 1943, to Ernest and Bertha (Buss) Hamann in Luverne, Minnesota. She graduated from Luverne High School in 1961.

She was united in marriage to Robert (Bob) Navara in Luverne. The couple moved often for Bob's job, spending time in South Dakota, North Dakota, and the Minneapolis area before retiring to Surprise, Arizona. When moving to a new community, Twilla was adept at helping the whole family adjust to the move and making everything go smoothly. She often said that moving was not easy, but that

we always had each other.

Twilla worked at Herreid Jewelry in Luverne. She also was a bookkeeper for several small businesses. She was a stay-at-home mom to her children, Tami, and Chris.

Twilla was an accomplished seamstress and an excellent cook. She enjoyed playing bridge and Mah Jong and loved to read a good book. She volunteered in her church and her children's schools.

She was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis as a young mother. She spent several years working for the Speaker's Bureau of the Arthritis Foundation of Minnesota and served as a member of their board. She was awarded the President's Award in 1990 for her contributions.

Family was everything to her and she loved to cook and bake everyone's favorites. Her grandchildren received her famous frosted sugar cookies

for every holiday, carefully packed in bubble wrap so not a one arrived broken. Despite having dealt with a painful disease her entire adult life, she never complained and always maintained a positive attitude.

Twilla is survived by her husband of 61 years, Robert, of Surprise, Arizona; her daughter, Tamara (Gregg) Riley, of Redwood Falls, Minnesota; son Christopher (Angela) Navara of San Antonio, Texas; grandchildren Brian Riley of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Megan Riley of Minnetonka, Minnesota, Adam Navara, of Washington, D.C., and Rachel Navara, of Houston, Texas; her sister Rebecca Husen, of Alexandria, Minnesota, and many other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Memorial donations can be made to the Arthritis Foundation ([arthritisfoundation.org](http://arthritisfoundation.org)) or your local food shelf. Blessed be her memory.

### Joanne Goehle

Joanne Faye Goehle, 89, passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023, at Tuff Memorial Home of Hills, Minnesota.



Funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 14, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills, Minnesota. Burial will follow at the Trinity Cemetery near Steen, Minnesota.

Visitation will be Friday, Oct. 13, from 5-7 p.m., with the family present, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills, Minnesota.

Memorials may be directed to the Goehle family for later designation.

Jurrens Funeral Home of Hills, Minnesota, is in charge of services.

Joanne was born to Edward and Sarah Jons on May 27, 1934, in Bonesteel, South Dakota. She was the oldest of six children. She attended Bonesteel High School where she enjoyed cheer team, glee club, theater and art. After graduating high school in 1952, she continued her education at South Dakota Teacher's College in Springfield, South Dakota. She then got her first teaching position in Pickstown, South Dakota, which lasted for one year until the completion of the Fort Randall Dam caused the workers and townspeople to move on. While in between jobs, serving as a waitress at the Teepee Café, she

was offered a fifth-grade teaching position in Luverne, Minnesota.

During this time she met the love of her life and future husband, Hugo Goehle. They were united in marriage on June 15, 1958, until Hugo's passing in 1997.

They moved to Hills where they both continued to teach in the Hills and Hills-Beaver Creek school district. She also took some time away from teaching to raise her four children, Michele, Leanne, Brenda and Tom. It was during this time that Joanne owned and operated Goehle Fabrics out of the basement of their home, sewing everything from draperies to men's suits. In addition to that, she loved arts, crafts, music and entertaining guests for lunch after athletic events. She also headed up bean walking crews for a number of summers.

Joanne was very active in her community and church, and nothing exemplified her servant's heart more than laundering the athletic teams' uniforms for 50 years.

As time went on, she was a paraprofessional, as well as serving as the treasurer for the city of Hills and Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Whether it be delivering meals, organizing the Hospice Tree of Lights, helping secure a new addition to the

H-BC elementary school, or making Christmas goodies for members of the community, it was evident to see the love of Christ come through her as she served others. She also loved the outdoors, going for walks and gardening.

All of this, however, did not keep her from her passion of following many sports teams, as well as the joy she found in pursuing her children and grandchildren in their various activities.

Joanne is survived by her four children, Michele (Rick) Nester of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Leanne (Steve) Carmany of Clara City, Minnesota, Brenda (Mark) Hadler of Edgerton, Minnesota, and Thomas of Lincoln, Nebraska; nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren; Michele's children are Nicole and Patrick. Leanne's children are Alyssa (Tyler) Leisinger and Ridge, Andrew (Brit) Carmany and Hugo, Elliot (Bailey) Carmany, Allison (Josh) Tuttle. Brenda's children are Zach (Tracy) Hadler and Oaklee, Otto, Olive, and Odelle, Katie (Andy) Muller and Ava and Hayes, Colby Hadler; siblings, Coren Hausmann, Kathryn Young, Ed Jons (Cheryl), Marilyn Kathol (Leon); as well as many nieces and nephews.

She was welcomed into her heavenly home not only by her Savior Jesus Christ, but by her husband Hugo, and a host of family and friends. The celebration has begun!

## Bits/continued from 6A

back to the farm, where they resided four more years before moving to Sioux Falls in 1939. This was their home until Mrs. Rollert's death in 1941. After that, Mr. Rollert made his home with his children until coming to Luverne one and one-half years ago. He has made his home here ever since.

He is the father of eight children, five of whom are living. They include Rev. Herman Rollert, a pastor in the Evangelical church at Le Sueur, Minn.; Mrs. Harry Klosterbuer, Ashcreek; and William, Louis and Otto Rollert, all of Sioux Falls. He has two grandchildren.

One of his sons, his eldest, died during World War I of flu while in the service of his country.

Mr. Rollert has been a citizen of the United States since 1892, and he cast his first presidential ballot for Benjamin Harrison, the year Cleveland was elected.

"I was between two

fires when election time came," he recalls. "The minister who helped me to secure my citizenship was interested in me because he wanted me to vote for Cleveland. The people with whom I stayed, however, convinced me that Harrison was the man to elect. It came out all right though, because I voted for Harrison, but Cleveland was elected, and neither the minister or the other people had any complaints to make."

Of a family of five children, Mr. Rollert is the only one remaining. He had three sisters and one brother.

He is a member of the Evangelical church at Steen.

*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 [mnmade@iw.net](mailto:mnmade@iw.net).*

## LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

For more information about library happenings, call 507-449-5040 or email [rockcountystaff@gmail.com](mailto:rockcountystaff@gmail.com).

**Author visit:** Minnesota Allen Eskens will be 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13. Eskens wrote "The Life We Bury," "The Guise of Another," "The Heavens May Fall," among other books.

**Story Time with Bronwyn** is 10:30 a.m. Fridays through Nov. 17.

**Scandinavian Songs with Ross Sutter** is 3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 26. The show will feature a wide variety of musical selections and a bit of history of Scandinavian music halls.

Fourth-graders can receive a free one-year **National Parks pass**. The pass is good from Sept. 1-Aug. 31 of the fourth-grade year. Visit the website <http://everykidoutdoors.gov/index.htm>

## DEATH NOTICES

### Marlys Haecherl

Marlys T. Haecherl, age 88, of Luverne, Minnesota, died on Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023, at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Graveside committal will be Wednesday, Oct. 11, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Michael Catholic Cemetery in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

To view Marlys' life history or sign an online registry, please visit [www.hartquistfuneral.com](http://www.hartquistfuneral.com).

### Raymond Schulte

Raymond L. Schulte, age 72, of Luverne, Minnesota, formerly of Hartford, South Dakota, died peacefully on Friday, Oct. 6, 2023, at Ava's House in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Visitation will be Saturday, Oct. 14, from 12-3 p.m. at Hartquist Funeral Home in



Luverne. Burial with military honors will follow at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Attendees are asked to come in casual attire. To sign an online registry, please visit [www.hartquistfuneral.com](http://www.hartquistfuneral.com).

### Dean Schnaible

Dean Melvin Schnaible, age 88, of Adrian, died Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, at the Parkview Manor Nursing Home in Ellsworth, Minnesota.

A time of fellowship will be from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 2, at the Dingmann Funeral Home in Adrian. A private family committal service will take place at a later date.



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## Luverne Class of 1958 gathers for reunion

The Hardwick High School Class of 1958 gathered for a 65<sup>th</sup> reunion Saturday, Sept. 30, at Big Top Tents in Luverne. Pictured are (front, from left) Dennis Jorgensen, Lavonne (Padilla) Reiner, Marlys (Top) Baxter, Mary (Smit) Donth, Ardyth (Hansen) Bowen, Lora Lee (Schmidt) Ruthenbeck, Orrin Anderson, Wes Pierson, (back) Merlyn Groth, Judy (Schmuck) Hagen, Wanda (LaFrenz) Kafka, Donna (Kallsen) Connell, Rosalind (Beelmann) Kerns, Pat (DeBates) Ahrendt, Delores (Madison) Walters, Judy (Goemmel) Larson and Roy Moeller.

## LHS Class of 1988 gathers for reunion



Luverne High School Class of 1988 gathered for a 35<sup>th</sup> class reunion Friday, Sept. 29, in the Take 16 event room.

Pictured are, front from left, Chad McClure, Scott Mensen, Greg Hoogeveen, Kim (Hoff) VanderLugt, Wendy (Willson) Jayaraman, Brian Hamann, (back) Mandel Zwaan, Amy (Dispanet) VerSteeg, Gina (Jarchow) Newman, David Beimers, Jody Reisch, Sharla (Van Meeteren) Reisch, Scott Bowman, Brian Hoime, Eric Berg, Tanya Wenzel, Missy (Wynia) Verbrugge and Julie (Pick) Becker.

## Two invasive insects found for first time in state of Minnesota

Two invasive insects new to Minnesota were reported to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Report a Pest service in August. Both insects were reported by two separate vigilant homeowners and were later confirmed as invasive insects: The elm seed bug (*Arocatus melanocephalus*) and Asiatic garden beetle (*Maladera formosae*).

### Elm seed bug

The elm seed bug is an invasive insect that has piercing sucking mouth parts and primarily feeds on elm seeds but can also feed on linden and oak. The elm seed bug is mostly considered a nuisance pest like the box elder bug, as they can enter homes in large numbers. Box elder bugs are active in late summer and fall, but the elm seed bug is active in mid-June.

Native to Europe, elm seed bug was first confirmed in the United States in 2012. It is established in several western states, such as Oregon, Washington and Utah.

Adult elm seed bugs are about one-third inch long; they're a dark rusty-red and black color. The underside of the insect is red. On the back behind the head, there is an upside-down black triangle set inside two rusty-red triangles. Next to the edges of the wings where the abdomen is exposed are alternating white and rusty red-black patches.

Best management practices include sealing cracks

and crevices on the exterior of buildings so the insects cannot enter, and vacuuming up insects that make it inside. To limit entry into structures, there are certain insecticides that can be applied as a barrier treatment.

### Asiatic garden beetle

The Asiatic garden beetle is an invasive insect that feeds on over 100 hosts, including fruit, vegetables, perennials and annuals. Grubs prefer roots of ornamentals and garden plants. Preferred hosts include butterfly bush, rose, dahlia, aster and chrysanthemum. Adults feed on the leaves and flowers of their host plants. Heavy infestations can lead to complete defoliation except for the leaf midribs.

Native to Japan and China, this beetle was first found in the United States in New Jersey in 1922. It is established in New England and a few Midwestern states, including Illinois and Indiana.

Asiatic garden beetles are about three-eighths inch long, are chestnut brown, and may have a slight iridescent sheen. The abdomen protrudes slightly from the wing covers. Adults emerge at night and fly actively when temperatures are above 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Residents can report suspected sightings of both insects to the MDA's Report a Pest line or call 1-888-545-6684. Please include clear photos when submitting a report online.

## Recycling sheds — county to improve rural pickup locations/from page 1A

tion on who can use the containers and what can be recycled.

"Every shed has a sign with the dos and don'ts on recycling," Hartman said.

However, non-county residents have dropped materials (some have been inappropriate) at the Beaver Creek site along with city residents bringing larger items (mostly intact boxes) to recycle at the shed, causing the containers to

overflow.

"If we add another box, doubling what we can handle, it should at least remedy that," Hartman said.

Township residents near Hills will continue to use the current 9-by-12-foot enclosed recycling shed.

Significant repairs will be made to the shed.

The shed construction and repairs are expected to take place this fall, weather permitting.



This photo of the Beaver Creek rural recycling shed shows it in a chronic state of overflowing, due to overuse and failure to break down cardboard boxes.

## Blue Mound Trail/ from page 1A

ment from park officials, which as of Monday hasn't been secured. The Blue Mound Trail was constructed 20 years ago.

Sehr said the trail has undergone regular surface maintenance, but large gaps have developed and some areas are crumbling. Resurfacing is the best option.

However, Sehr won't submit the application for the competitive grant without partnering with the state park.

"If the state park won't commit, then we will just do our part ourselves," Sehr said after the meeting.

The TAP application's due date is Oct. 31. A TAP grant was last used to complete the Luverne Loop.



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**REAL ESTATE TAXES DUE**

The second half real estate tax installment for all non-agricultural property is due **October 16, 2023**. To avoid penalty, payment can be dropped off at the Auditor-Treasurer's Office in the Courthouse, placed in the drop box outside of the Courthouse entry, or mailed to the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer **postmarked on or before October 16th**. Please keep in mind the post office deadlines when mailing in payments and remit the appropriate stubs to assure proper credit. Payments postmarked after October 16th will be returned for the tax and penalty due at that time.

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### St. Catherine Catholic Church 203 E. Brown St., Luverne

St. Catherine Ph. 283-8502; [www.stscl.org](http://www.stscl.org)  
Monsignor Gerald Kosse, Pastor

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass. Masses: 9 a.m. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Friday at the nursing homes – check the bulletin. All Sunday masses will be live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/stscluverne/videos/>. Visit [www.stscl.org](http://www.stscl.org) for more information.

### Luverne Christian Reformed Church 605 N. Estey St., Luverne

Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982  
[www.luverneccr.com](http://www.luverneccr.com) — [office@luverneccr.com](mailto:office@luverneccr.com)  
Joe Steenholdt, Pastor

Sunday Worship services: 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday School follows the morning service (Sept.-April). Livestream and past services can be found on our YouTube channel. Our services are also on local cable TV at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @luverneccr. In all circumstances, may we joyfully declare: "Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 124:8.

### First Baptist Church

103 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne  
Ph. 283-4091; email: [fbcluv@iw.net](mailto:fbcluv@iw.net) — [www.fbcluverne.org](http://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](http://www.graceluverne.org) — [graceluverne@iw.net](mailto:graceluverne@iw.net)  
Thursday, Oct. 12: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. 3:30-4:30 p.m. Reading Buddies. Friday, Oct. 13: Parish Care sponsoring half-price meals at Generations. Sunday, Oct. 15: 9 a.m. Worship service with Holy Communion and 4-year old's Milestone. 10 a.m. Sunday school and 10<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation class. 10 a.m. Fellowship Brunch. 1:15 p.m. MS Youth Corn Maze and Cherry Berry. 4 p.m. Sub-making. Monday, Oct. 16: 12 p.m. Registration deadline for Amazing Grays. Tuesday, Oct. 17: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. 11 a.m. Amazing Grays. 1 p.m. Greif-Share session. 3:30 p.m. Reading Buddies. Wednesday, Oct. 18: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. MEA break – No Faithheavers or Confirmation class. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are available. Online worship: Sundays 9 a.m. at [www.graceluverne.org](http://www.graceluverne.org), click Worship tab; or Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

### Bethany Lutheran Church 720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-4571 or 605-215-9834  
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor

Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School and Bible class. 10:15 a.m. Worship service; worship online as well (at [els.org](http://els.org)). Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne) for other classes and events.

### American Reformed Church 304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-8600; email: [office@arcluverne.org](mailto:office@arcluverne.org)  
Friday, Oct. 13: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. Sunday, Oct. 15: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. 10:50 a.m. Sunday school. CommServices 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. Tuesday, Oct. 17: 9:45 a.m. Bible study fellowship. 12 p.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Oct. 18: **No Midweek Activities.**

### Rock River Community Church 1075 110<sup>th</sup> Ave., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-9070; email: [info@rockrivercommunity.church](mailto:info@rockrivercommunity.church)  
Bob Junak, Pastor

Come as you are—Sundays @ 10 a.m.: Main Service. Kids church age 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade—Nursery. Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m. Midweek Service—Kids age 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade.

### United Methodist Church 109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne

Ph. 283-4529

Wednesday, Oct. 11: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Open Prayer chapel. 10 a.m. Shut-In visits. 6:15 p.m. FUEL and Confirmation. 6:30 p.m. Organized Prayer. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Thursday, Oct. 12: 8 p.m. NA meeting. Saturday, Oct. 14: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Sunday, Oct. 15: 9:30 a.m. FUEL/Adult Sunday School. 9:45 a.m. Coffee. 10:30 a.m. Worship service. Live streamed on Facebook and radio. 2 p.m. ALIVE Harvest/Maze event. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible study. Monday, Oct. 16: 6:30 p.m. Genesis to Revelation Bible study. Messenger deadline. Tuesday, Oct. 17: 10 a.m. Shut-In visits. 6:30 p.m. PPR meeting. Wednesday, Oct. 18: 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Open Prayer chapel. NO CLASSES – MEA. 6:30 p.m. Organized prayer. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Thursday, Oct. 19: 8 p.m. NA meeting.

### First Presbyterian Church 302 Central Lane, Luverne

Ph. 283-4787; email: [fpcemilie@gmail.com](mailto:fpcemilie@gmail.com)

Wednesday, October 11: 4 p.m. Music Staff. 5:30 p.m. Bell Choir. 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir. 7:15 p.m. Session. Thursday, October 12: 9 a.m. PW Coordinating Team meeting. Sunday, Oct. 15: 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School. 10:15 a.m. In-person Worship Service and Youth Sunday school (View on Facebook under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne, City of Luverne's LUV TV or on the local Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays), 11:15 a.m. Fellowship Coffee Hour. Wednesday, Oct. 18: 9 a.m. Morning circle. 1:30 p.m. Afternoon circle. NO BELL CHOIR, NO CHANCEL CHOIR. 7:15 p.m. Deacons meeting.

### St. John Lutheran Church 803 N. Cedar St., Luverne

Ph. 283-2316; email: [stjohn@iw.net](mailto:stjohn@iw.net)  
[www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org](http://www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org)

Saturdays: 5:30 p.m. Worship Service. Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Service. 10 a.m. Fellowship Time. 10:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study. Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Bible Study. 6:30 p.m. Catechesis Class. 6:30 p.m. Kids for Christ. 7:30 p.m. Youth Group. Services will be available on the Vast Channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, [cityofluverne.org](http://cityofluverne.org). Holy Communion is offered on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weekends and Liturgical Feasts.

### Living Rock Church 500 E. Main St., Luverne

Ph. 449-0057; [www.livingrockswmn.org](http://www.livingrockswmn.org)  
Josh Hayden, Pastor

### New Life Celebration Church 101 W. Maple, Luverne

Ph. (605) 368-1924; email: [newlifecelbration@gmail.com](mailto:newlifecelbration@gmail.com)

### Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church 305 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick

Ph. (507) 669-2855; [zionoffice@alliancecom.net](mailto:zionoffice@alliancecom.net)  
Jesse Baker, Pastor

Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Bible study. Worship service on Luverne cable at 3:30 p.m. every Thursday and Friday.

### First Lutheran Church 300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.

Ph. (605) 757-6662 – [firstpalisade@alliancecom.net](mailto:firstpalisade@alliancecom.net)  
Mark Eliason, Pastor

Sunday, Oct. 15: 9 a.m. Worship service at First Lutheran Church. 10 a.m. Sunday school. All are welcome. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @FirstLutheranValley Springs; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish. Tuesday, Oct. 17: 7 p.m. First Lutheran Council meeting.

### Palisade Lutheran Church 211 121<sup>st</sup> St., Garretson, S.D.

Ph. (507) 597-6257 – [palisadechurch@alliancecom.net](mailto:palisadechurch@alliancecom.net)  
[www.palisadelutheran.org](http://www.palisadelutheran.org)

Sunday, Oct. 15: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship service at Palisade Lutheran Church with message from Rod Hammerstrom. Freewill offering will be received for his ministry. 11:30 a.m. Luncheon will be served after worship. All are welcome. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @PalisadeLC; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish. Wednesday, Oct. 11-Nov. 8: 9 a.m. Palisade quilting group will meet. All are welcome. Bring a friend. No experience necessary.

### First Presbyterian Church 201 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek

Ph. 507-935-5025  
email: [lori.firstpres@gmail.com](mailto:lori.firstpres@gmail.com)

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

### Magnolia United Methodist Church 501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia

Ph. 605-215-3429  
email: [magnoliannumc@gmail.com](mailto:magnoliannumc@gmail.com)  
Nancy Manning, Pastor

Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Service in-person with livestream available on the church's Facebook site.

### Steen Reformed Church 112 W. Church Ave., Steen

Ph. 855-2336  
Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor

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

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church 112 N. Main St., Hills

Ph. 962-3270 / [bethlehemofhills@gmail.com](mailto:bethlehemofhills@gmail.com)  
Nita Parker, Pastor

Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 9 a.m. Sunday school. 10 a.m. Worship Service. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website [bchills.org](http://bchills.org).

### Hills United Reformed Church 410 S. Central Ave., Hills

Office Ph. 962-3254  
[hillsurc@alliancecom.net](mailto:hillsurc@alliancecom.net)  
Praveen Muthasamy, Pastor

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 5 p.m. Evening worship service.

## The Church is a hospital! How so?

The Church is a hospital! How so?

It is a saying that many people know and even proclaim: the Church is a hospital! It is a place for broken, hurt and lost people to come. It is not a museum for those who want to stay safe and complacent. And I want you to know that I fully agree with both of those statements as a pastor.

The church should be a place for people to feel safe to come in as they are and not feel like they have to put a mask on and pretend to be someone else. But the thing about a church being a hospital is that we need to step back and think, "What is a hospital?"

In a hospital there are people who are hurt, sick and broken. But there are also doctors, medicine, and things to help the people leave feeling better, healed, restored, or in some kind of direction for change. A hospital has the people and the resources to help people who are sick or hurting.

So what does that mean for the church? The church is not just for the sick to come and stay sick. It should be a place for transformation, healing, restoration and salvation, just like Jesus did. Let's pull off the masks and facades that we put up to impress other people and be real, be broken, be hurt, and be honest.

But you should know that if you are going into a healthy church, they will let you be there but never stay there. Why?

Because the church (should) have doctors, nurses, medication, and things to help those who are broken. Should this be on the pastor? Not all of it, but there should be people who are willing to walk with others who have hurt and see them set free. I know this is not rocket science, but the danger of not having both the sick and the doctor in the church is it can lead into two unhealthy forms of church.

One form of an unhealthy church is that if there are just sick, hurt and frustrated people, it will turn into a wound-licking service rather than a place for people to be healed and restored. It will turn into a place where anything is acceptable, sin is no longer sin so people can do whatever they want. This is dangerous because, while it might feel like

## BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Josh Hayden, Living Rock Church, Luverne

freedom, it is far from it. Christ came to take away the sins of the world, not let us sit in them. He came to set captives free, not let them stay in their captivity.

A healthy church should see people being saved, healed, delivered, and transformed by the Spirit of God.

Another form of an unhealthy church is if there are no "sick" people and just doctors, meaning everyone is perfect and has all their theology in order. What can happen is a lot of talk and no action. Theology is discussed, Bible studies are happening, ideas are applauded, and everything is clean-cut.

But the theology that is talked about has no faith attached to it because there is no action with it. They may talk about a God who can save but no one is witnessing. They are doctors that are unwilling to practice the very thing that they have been trained to do.

If you find yourself in one of these churches, the thing to do is ask yourself, are you contributing? Are you being a doctor who just discusses things and never engages with the hurt and the broken. Or are you sick and injured with no plan to find healing and freedom? Either way, the best thing to do is confess and ask for Jesus to help you be who he created you to be.

I know that the church that I pastor is not here yet, but it is something we are pursuing. To have a safe place for the lost, hurting, sick and injured. But also people with the Spirit of God working through them to set people free, find healing, deliverance, and see Jesus as Lord of their life. Lord, let it be!

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Luverne High School students pose for a photo Friday afternoon in the outdoor classroom area of the new Alumni Garden on the school campus, prior to the Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame ceremony. The 375 ninth-through 12<sup>th</sup>-grade students celebrated Friday as homecoming week's Red and White Day. The drone photo was taken by senior Tyler Arends, standing in the back row.

**Drought disaster designation could qualify Rock County for funding/continued from page 1A**

**More water towers and deeper wells**

Oldre said the disaster designation may open the door to funding that Rock County has long needed to bolster its water supplies.

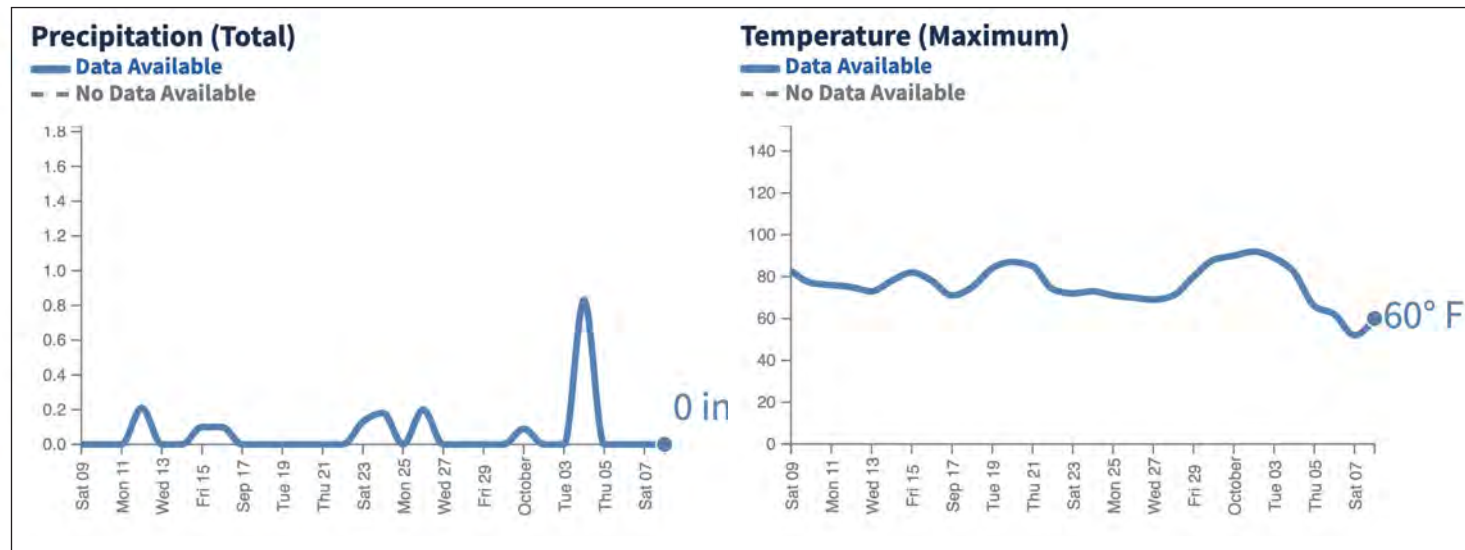
"Drought is in our hazard mitigation plan," he said. "We know that drought is one of the big hazards we face, along with floods, tornados and other disasters."

But drought, he said, is one of the most difficult hazards to mitigate.

"We have building codes for high winds. With flood mitigation, you build dams and you've mitigated flooding," he said. "But drought is a prolonged disaster. It can be years in the making, so it's a different approach to mitigation."

Two options that local officials have been exploring are above-ground storage facilities, like water towers, and additional deep wells to support the existing system.

Both would assist with



Information from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shows rainfall (left) and temperature data for Rock County in the days leading up to the USDA's designation of Rock County as part of a primary drought disaster area.

aquifer recharging — to help Rock County Rural Water keep up with demand during hot, dry peak usage periods.

"If we have enough water storage, we don't have to run our treatment plant at max capacity, because we'll have a buffer to meet demand," said Rock County Rural Water Director Ryan Holtz.

"We'd have enough storage in the air for a whole day." (See the cover story in the Fall Ag Mag inserted in this week's paper)

Both measures have been in Rock County Rural Water's long-range plan, but the disaster designation could fast-track the projects that would otherwise take years to budget for.

A 500,000-gallon

water tower project may cost as much as \$3 million after land acquisition and equipment. And drilling a 300-foot-deep well is estimated to cost nearly \$750,000.

Oldre said the Minnesota Department of Health for the past two years has noted a need for additional water storage in Rock County.

"Public health has singled us out, saying we don't have enough storage," Oldre said. "We're in a drought situation now, and we're not able to quickly recharge the limited storage we have."

He said this will be noted in Rock County's application for public funding.

"Now is our time, recognizing that public health

has told us, and the drought monitor has moved us up to D3, so we're in critical water shortage."

FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, also recently announced drought programs available for drought mitigation.

"We need to address it right now. We need to fix it," Oldre said. "We have it in our own hazard mitigation plan. It's time for us to try to address it."

The primary counties eligible for disaster relief are Carver, Hennepin, McLeod, Meecker, Nicollet, Pipestone, Rock, Sibley and Wright.

Contiguous counties also eligible are Anoka, Blue Earth, Brown, Dakota, Kandiyohi, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, Ramsey, Renville, Scott, Sherburne and Stearns.

Contiguous counties in nearby states also include Lyon County in Iowa and Brookings, Minnehaha and Moody in South Dakota.

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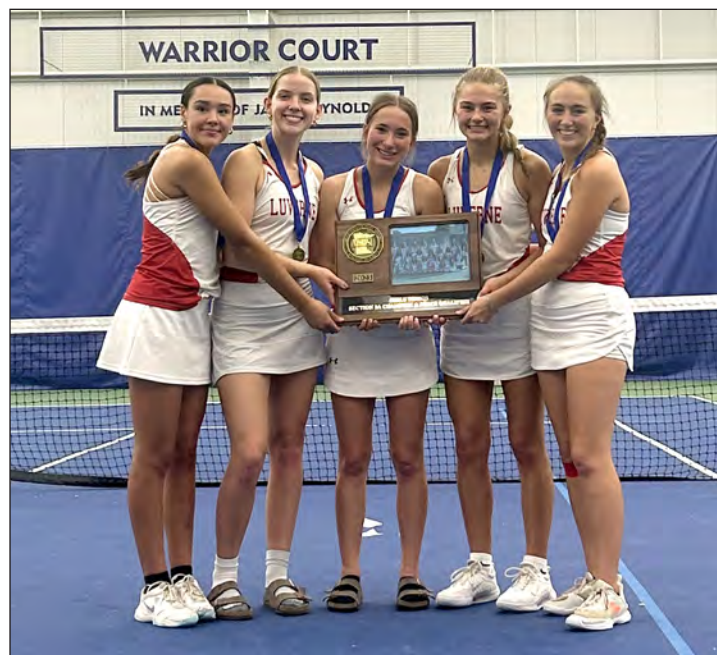
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Greg Hooegeven photo/1012 lhs

Seniors Roselynn Hartshorn (left), Cassi Chesley, Morgan Hadler, Sarah Stegenga and Rayann Remme hold their Section 3A team trophy after beating MacCray and Montevideo Monday, Oct. 9, in Sioux Falls in section playoff games.

## Luverne tennis team crowned Section 3A Team Champions Cardinals head to state competition Oct. 24

By Greg Hooegeven

The Luverne girls' tennis team is crowned Section 3A Team Champion.

Luverne won their quarterfinal match against Yellow Medicine East 6-1 at home Thursday, Oct. 5.

The Cardinals took the semifinal match against MacCray 4-2 Monday, Oct. 9, in Sioux Falls and beat Montevideo 4-0 later in the day.

The team will play in state competition at the Reed-Sweatt Tennis Center in Minneapolis Tuesday, Oct. 24.

### Section 3A team quarterfinals: Luverne 6, Yellow Medicine East 1.

The Luverne girls' tennis team hosted Yellow Medicine East in the Section 3A team quarterfinals match Thursday, Oct. 5, beating the Sting 6-1.

With junior Caitlin Kindt out for the remainder of the season with an injury, head coach Jon Beers had to realign his match lineup against Yellow Medicine East.

Junior Augusta Papik played in the No. 1 singles spot, winning her match in two sets 6-1, 6-1.

Senior Sarah Stegenga took her No. 2 singles match, 6-1, 6-1.

Senior Morgan Hadler fell in the No. 3 singles match in two sets 6-2, 6-2.

Sophomore Addy Mann played in the No. 4 singles match, winning 6-0, 6-0.

In doubles action, seniors Roselynn Hartshorn and Cassi Chesley paired up in the No. 1 spot, winning the match in two sets 6-0, 6-1.

LHS tennis/see page 2B



Greg Hooegeven photo/1012 lhs xc3

Freshman Marcus Papik (left), junior Leif Ingebretsen and junior Sage Viessman reach the halfway point in the boys' varsity 5,000-meter race Thursday, Oct. 5, in Luverne. Viessman finished in 11th place, Papik in 12th place and Ingebretsen finished in 16th place.

## LHS cross country boys place second, girls take third

By Greg Hooegeven

The Luverne Cardinals hosted a cross-country meet Thursday, Oct. 5, that included six other teams.

The teams that participated in the high school events were Adrian-Ellsworth, Canby-Minneota, Pipestone Area, Russell-Tyler-Ruthton, Sioux Falls Roosevelt and Tracy-Milroy-Balaton.

The Luverne girls' 5,000-meter team placed third and the Luverne boys' 5,000-meter team placed second.

"The kids did a great job of getting out and competing hard and doing their best," said head coach Pete Janiszski.

"It was a windy day, but that didn't keep them from achieving some personal and season best times."

Janiszski said at this stage in the season, his runners should "... compete hard, stay hungry the whole race and challenge limits."

"The results and times will take care of them-

LHS cross country/see page 2B

## Luverne football team falls 3-0 to Pipestone in 'Battle Axe' game

By Greg Hooegeven

Luverne fell 3-0 to Pipestone Friday, Oct. 6, in the 67th Annual Battle Axe football game on Cardinal Field.

Both teams had trouble moving the ball on the ground or through the air.

Luverne had 91 total yards in the game while Pipestone managed 74 yards of total offense.

The Cardinals hurt themselves losing one fumble and throwing three interceptions in the game.

Luverne junior Carter Sehr was able to recover one Arrow fumble, but the Cardinals could not capitalize on the opportunity.

Senior Elliot Domagala was able to break off a 30-plus-yard scamper deep into the Arrows side of the field, only to be called back on a holding call against LHS.

Seniors Will Serie and Conner Connell, along with junior Keaton Ahrendt, on defense were able to hurry the Arrows quarterback by hitting him just as he released the ball.

In the fourth quarter Pipestone was finally able to get some offensive plays put together, along with a couple of costly Cardinal penalties, to get into field goal range.

The Arrows made the field goal and took a 3-0 lead with



Greg Hooegeven photo/1012 lhs fb1

Senior Elliot Domagala stiff-arms an Arrow defensive player for a few extra yards. LHS lost 3-0 Friday, Oct. 6, at home to Pipestone in the "Battle for the Axe" contest.



Greg Hooegeven photo/1012 lhs fb3

Junior Carter Sehr falls on a Pipestone fumble Friday, Oct. 6, at home. The Arrows beat Luverne 3-0 for the Battle Axe.

around five minutes left on the clock.

Luverne's offense sputtered on its next possession, and eventually Pipestone ran

out the clock with the win.

The Cardinals are now 4-2 for the season and will travel to take on Jackson County Central Thursday, Oct. 12.

### Box Scores

Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
LHS	0	0	0	0	0
PHS	0	0	0	3	3

### Team Totals

	LHS	JHS
Total plays	47	49
Total yards	91	74
Passing yards	34	58
Rushing yards	57	16
First downs	9	7
Fumbles	1	1
Interceptions	3	0
Penalty yards	5	54

### Luverne Individual Stats

Passing	Cp/Att	Yds	TD
Sehr	6/12	34	0

Rushing	Yds	TD
Rock	33	0
Sehr	15	0
Domagala	9	0

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	TD
Rock	1	5	0
Rest of team	5	29	0

Tackles	Assists	Sacks
Rock	4	1
Rest of team	12	11

## Patriots football team takes back 'The Red Rock,' beating Edgerton 26-14

By Greg Hooegeven

The Patriots beat the Flying Dutchmen 26-14 in Edgerton Friday, Oct. 6.

"We knew going in, it was going to be a tough, physical game, and it was all of that," head coach Rex Metzger said.

"Our guys played hard all 48 minutes, and I was very happy with the physicality of our team."

The first quarter of the game both teams hung tough and would not allow the other team to score.

In the second quarter H-BC picked up the pace and was able to score early in the quarter on a 15-yard pass from sophomore quarterback Jamin Metzger to junior Sawyer Bosch.

The Patriots missed on the two-point conversion and took the lead over Edgerton 6-0.

The Dutchmen went three-and-out, punting back to the Patriots.

H-BC was able to put together another scoring drive, finishing the drive with a 20-yard reception by sophomore Micah Bush for the touchdown.

Bosch converted a three-yard run to bring the Patriots' lead to 14-0.

The first half ended with the Patriots on top 14-0.

In the third quarter H-BC received the kickoff and marched down the



Samantha McGaffee photo/1012 hbc fb4

Junior Sawyer Bosch slips past two Edgerton defensive players Friday, Oct. 6, in Edgerton. Bosch posted 66 yards rushing and 38 yards receiving and one touchdown catch.

field to score once again on a 2-yard scamper by junior Beau Bakken into the end zone.

The Patriots missed on the 2-point conversion but extended their lead to 20-0.

Edgerton finally got on the board on the next possession when the Flying Dutchmen ran in a 16-yard touchdown against the Patriots defense.

Edgerton missed the conversion and was now down 20-6 at the end of the

third quarter.

In the fourth quarter Bush scored his second touchdown of the game on a 19-yard run into the end zone.

The Patriots missed on the conversion play and extended their lead to 26-8.

Late in the fourth quarter Edgerton added one more score on a 1-yard run for the touchdown.

The Flying Dutchmen missed on their conver-

sion attempt to trail by a score of 26-14.

The Patriots took the kickoff and were able to kill the remainder of the game by converting their first down and eating time off the clock.

Edgerton was eventually able to get the ball back but was not able to get much going.

The Dutchmen

HBC football/see page 3B



# Cardinal volleyball falls to Jackson

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne volleyball team fell to Jackson County Central in three games Thursday, Oct. 5, on the road.

JCC topped Luverne 25-13 in the first set, 25-12 in the second and 25-18 in the final set.

The 8-12 Huskies came into the match winning their last two matches against Pipestone 3-0 and St. James 3-0 after a nine-game losing streak.

Luverne, now 9-12, recently lost to Edgerton 3-0 this past Monday, Oct. 2, and won three in a row before that, beating Pipestone 3-1, Worthington 3-2 and St. James Area 3-0.

"We did some things good but never pushed hard enough to take control of the match," head coach Sarah DeBeer said.

Both teams were evenly matched, but the Cardinals were not able to gain enough momentum to overtake Jackson.

Serving leaders were senior Morgan Ahrendt serving 11 of 11 with one ace and junior Ella Reisdorfer going 10 of 11 at the line.

Senior Tori Serie had four kills for Luverne, and Ahrendt added another five.

Juniors Amira Cowell had six set assists, and Hannah Sneller provided seven set assists.

Junior Kylie Vander Lught had seven digs, and Reisdorfer had eight digs in the match.

Luverne was scheduled to travel to Windom Tuesday, Oct. 10, to take on the Eagles.

The Cardinals will then face H-BC Tuesday, Oct. 17, in Hills.

# Statewide youth deer season returns Oct. 19-22

Minnesota's youth deer season will take place statewide Thursday, Oct. 19, through Sunday, Oct. 22.

The season coincides with statewide teacher workshops, so many Minnesota students will be out of school during the youth season.

To participate, youth must be 10-17 years old and have a regular deer license.

Youth ages 10 to 13 must be accompanied by an adult parent, guardian or mentor 18 or older; accompanying adults do not need to be licensed.

Youth may not tag antlerless deer or legal bucks taken by another individual. Crossbows are allowed for use by youth during this season.

All hunters and men-

tors, regardless of whether they are participating in youth deer season, must follow blaze orange/pink clothing requirements.

Fabric or synthetic ground blinds on public land must have a blaze orange safety covering on top of the blind that is visible from all directions, or a patch made of blaze orange that is at least 144 square inches (12x12 inches) on each side of the blind.

Adults may not hunt unless they are in an area open during the early antlerless season and have the corresponding license.

Complete youth season details are available on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource youth deer season webpage (mndnr.gov/hunting/deer/youth.html).

# LHS tennis/from page 1B

In No.2 doubles juniors Emma Nath and Corynn Oye took the match in two sets 6-0, 6-0.

In No.3 doubles, senior Rayann Remme and junior Katia Jarchow prevailed 6-0, 6-3.

"I was pleased with the team performance in the quarterfinals," coach Beers said.

"All the girls played hard in the windy conditions."

## Section 3A team semifinals: Luverne 4, MacCray 2

The Luverne girls' tennis team defeated MacCray in the MSHSL Section 3A team semifinals at the Huether Family Match Pointe tennis complex in Sioux Falls Monday, Oct. 9,

"We had to change our lineup due to the injury to Caitlin Kindt," Beers said.

"The girls could have been down about Caitlin not playing, but everybody stepped up and did their part to win both matches."

He explained why there are no scores reported for some matches.

"The matches are over when one team has four wins. That is why there are no scores reported for some matches," Beers said.

In doubles play, Luverne won three matches.

Chesley and Hartshorn won the No. 1 doubles match in two sets 7-6, 6-4.

Nath and Oye took the No. 2 doubles match 6-2, 7-6.

Remme and Jarchow won the No.3 doubles match 6-0, 6-3.

In the singles matches, Stegenga lost in No. 2 singles 6-2, 6-3.

Hadler won the No. 3 singles match 6-2, 6-4.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/1012 lhs tennis3 Senior Cassi Chesley reaches to return the ball over the net Thursday, Oct. 5, in Luverne. Chesley and fellow senior Roselynn Hartshorn won their doubles match in two sets 6-0, 6-1.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/1012 lhs tennis1 Sophomore Addyson Mann runs down a shot from her Yellow Medicine East opponent Thursday, Oct. 5, at home in Section 3A quarterfinals play. Mann won her match in two sets and Luverne won 6-1 over the Sting.

Mann lost the No. 4 singles match 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Papik played in the No. 1 singles match that was stopped because Luverne had already reached the four-match win limit.

## Section 3A team finals: Luverne 4, Montevideo 0

Luverne played the finals match against Montevideo at Huether Family Match Pointe tennis complex on Monday after the MacCray match.

In the finals Luverne beat Montevideo 4-0.

Chesley and Hartshorn won the No. 1 doubles match 7-6, 6-1.

Nath and Oye won the No. 2 doubles match 6-3, 6-1.

Remme and Jarchow won the No. 3 doubles match 7-6, 7-5.

Hadler won her No. 3 singles match 6-4, 6-1.

The No. 1, No. 2 and No. 4 singles matches were halted as Luverne reached the four-win limit.

"The girls played great in both matches," Beers said.

"It was our team goal to get back to the state tournament at the beginning of the season, and the girls made it happen."

The Luverne tennis team qualified for state competition with the wins over MacCray and Montevideo.

"I thought that everyone played some of their best tennis of the season in those two matches," Beers said.

"I say it all the time, but I could not be prouder of the girls. Not only for how they play tennis, but for how they act off the court as well. They are excited to get back to the state tournament and will represent Luverne the best they can."

# LHS cross country/from page 1B

selfes," he said.

Luverne will head to Adrian Tuesday, Oct. 10, for its final season meet.

The Cardinals will participate in the Big South Cross Country Conference Meet in Marshall Tuesday, Oct. 17.

The Luverne girls' varsity 5,000-meter team placed third behind Canby-Minneota in first and Pipestone, who placed second in the meet.

Adrian-Ellsworth placed fourth, Tracy-Milroy-Balaton was fifth and Russell-Tyler-Ruthon finished in sixth place.

The girls' 5,000-meter had 41 total runners in the varsity event.

Luverne senior Jenna DeBates, recently crowned LHS homecoming queen, won the event with a time of 18:30.40.

Freshman Khloe Visker placed eighth at 21:53.73.

Freshman Reinha John placed 22nd at 23:30.22.

Freshman Olivia Lund placed 27th at 24:50.53.

Senior Kayla Bloemendaal finished 29th with a time of 25:03.58.

Freshman Mariah Knorr placed 30th at 25:21.99 and senior Brynn Boyenga placed 34th with a time of 26:46.29.

The Luverne boys' varsity 5,000-meter team placed second behind Sioux Falls Roosevelt Thursday.

Canby-Minneota finished third, Russell-Tyler-Ruthon was fourth and Tracy-Milroy-Balaton finished in fifth place.

The boys' 5,000-meter had 48 total runners in the varsity event.

Junior Owen Janiszkeski did not run in the Luverne event.

"Owen has some tightness in one of his knees, which we are hoping is minor," coach Janiszkeski said.

"We just don't want to take any chances at this point of the season."

Senior Ryan Fick finished in third place at a time



Greg Hoogeveen photo/1012 lhs xc6 Cross country members in the LHS homecoming royalty include senior homecoming queen Jenna DeBates (front, kneeling), junior Dylan Ommen (left), freshman Marcus Papik, junior Kaleb Hemme, junior Leif Ingebretsen, homecoming king senior Zach Terrio, junior Sage Viessman and senior Ryan Fick. Luverne runners did well despite the windy conditions.

of 16:51.94 for the Cardinals.

Junior Dylan Ommen placed ninth at 17:49.40.

Junior Sage Viessman placed 11th at 17:55.18.

Freshman Marcus Papik placed 12th at 18:00.94.

Junior Leif Ingebretsen placed 16th with a time of 18:12.91.

Senior Zach Terrio, recently crowned LHS homecoming king, placed 21st at 18:44.03 and junior Kaleb Hemme finished in 22nd place with a time of 18:48.86.

The Luverne girls' and boys' junior varsity 5,000-meter teams ran in a mixed event at the meet.

Sophomore Ella Schmuck placed first for the girls with a time of 22:02.33.

"Ella has been battling a knee issue that started just before our first meet," Janiszkeski said.

"It was great to see her get to finish a race, and her time was awesome considering it was her first full 5K for the season."

Junior Eli McLendon placed 11th in the boys' event at 20:49.21.

Junior Jaelyn Arp placed 14th for the girls in 27:07.64.

Junior Andrea Luitjens finished 18th for the girls at 29:57.04.

Freshman Anna Reisdorfer placed 21st for the girls at 33:09.67, and sophomore Zander Fountain placed 28th for the boys with a time of 26:13.56.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/1012 lhs xc2 Freshman Khloe Visker finished in eighth place in the girls' varsity 5,000-meter race in Luverne Thursday, Oct. 5.

# SENIOR ATHLETES of the Week

## Ryan Fick

Sport: Cross Country

Parents: Maggie and Tim Fick

What I like most about Cross Country:

I enjoy hanging out with the team and making wonderful memories with them.

Other extracurricular activities/hobbies: Track and Field

Favorite Class: College Speech



## Tucker Dammann

Sport: Football

Parents: Travis and Amy Dammann

What I like most about Football:

How competitive we are against other schools like Pipestone.

Other extracurricular activities/hobbies: Hockey

Favorite Class: Woods

## Morgan Hadler

Sport: Tennis

Parents: Dawn Hadler

What I like most about Tennis:

The thing I love about tennis is going out to hit with my friends and all of the new and old memories that I have made.

Other extracurricular activities/hobbies: Peer helping, choir and color guard.

Favorite Class: Choir



## Belle Smidt

Sport: Volleyball

Parents: Jordan and Stacey Smidt

What I like most about Volleyball:

Having a relationship with the team and the competitiveness of the game.

Other extracurricular activities/hobbies: Softball, choir and peer tutoring.

Favorite Class: Math

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## HBC football/from page 1B

quarterback threw two incomplete passes, and Bosch sealed the game for the Patriots with an interception.

The Patriots won the game 26-14 and are now 6-0 on the season.

H-BC was supposed to travel to Westbrook Walnut Grove on Friday, Oct. 13, but the game was canceled.

The Patriots will play their final season game at home against New Ulm Cathedral Wednesday, Oct. 18.

Box Scores					
Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
H-BC	0	14	6	6	26
Edgerton	0	0	8	6	14

Team Totals	HBC	EHS
First downs	17	12
Penalties/yards	3-16	4-45
Rushing Yards	137	170
Reception yards	170	12
Time of Possession	41:14	29:22



Samantha McGaffee photo/1012 hbc fb5  
Junior James VandenBosch returns a punt against the Flying Dutchmen Friday, Oct. 6, in Edgerton. The Patriots won 26-14.

H-BC Individual Stats			
Passing Cp/Att	Yds	TD	
Metzger 11/17	170	1	

Rushing		
	Yds.	TD
Bosch	66	0
Bakken	48	0
Roelfs	14	0
Metzger	10	0

Receiving			
	Rec.	Yds.	TD
VandenBosch	2	46	0
Bush	2	39	2
Bosch	3	38	1
Tatge	2	32	0
Bakken	1	12	0
Allen	1	3	0

Tackles		
	Sacks	Int.
Wegener 2	1	1
Kruger 1	0	0
Bakken 4	0	0
Bush 5	0	0
Tatge 6	1	0
Roelfs 2	0	0
Gehrke 3	0	0
VandenB 4	0	0
Gacke 1	0	0
Bosch 3	0	1
Rheault 1	0	0
Moser 4	0	0

### Battle for the Red Rock

The Battle for the Red Rock started when principals from both districts discussed the need for a football rivalry trophy between the two schools.

Ideas were tossed around between the two administrators. Eventually the idea came from the Red Rock Conference both schools competed in.

A red rock was found between the two towns, and the trophy was born.

The trophy is inscribed on the front, THE RED ROCK, with a 35 above an M.

The 35 M represents the 35 miles between the two towns.

The inaugural rivalry football game was played on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022.

H-BC won that first-ever "Red Rock Rivalry," beating Edgerton Public 38-28.



submitted photo/1012 redrock

The Red Rock trophy is claimed by the winner of the yearly H-BC-Edgerton football game.

# H-BC volleyball team falls to Heron Lake-Okabena-Fulda 3-0

By Greg Hooegeven

The Hills-Beaver Creek volleyball team lost 3-0 to Heron Lake-Okabena-Fulda at home Tuesday, Oct. 3, and traveled to Marshall Friday, Oct. 6, and Saturday, Oct. 7, to participate in the Jimmy John's Classic.

H-BC was scheduled to travel to Adrian to take on the Dragons Tuesday, Oct. 10, and will host Southwest Christian Monday, Oct. 16.

### HLOF 3, HBC 0

The Patriots fell behind the Coyotes in the first set and were not able to make up ground, losing 25-8.

The second set was much like the first, with H-BC not able to sustain volleys to fall 25-9.

"Serve received killed us in the first two sets," head coach Meghan Zylstra said.

"We didn't communicate and let balls drop between us."

In the third set, the Patriots were able to group together and play more as a team.

"In the third set we got some momentum which



Greg Hooegeven photo/1012 hbc vb5  
Junior Bailey Spykerboer and senior Lanae Elbers jump to block a shot from Heron Lake Tuesday, Oct. 3, at home. Heron Lake won the match in three sets.

gave us some confidence," Zylstra said.

"We played much more aggressive in the final set."

The Lady Pates played a tighter game but still lost 25-23 in the third set.

"We've been talking a lot about confidence

and not getting upset and frustrated when we're down and things aren't going our way," Zylstra said.

"We need to stay aggressive no matter what and not let up."

Senior Lanae Elbers posted eight kills, one block,

was 4/4 serving, and had three digs.

Freshman Brynn Bakken had four kills, three blocks, was 5/7 serving, and made nine digs.

Freshman Olivia Deelstra made three kills and was 4/6 serving with one ace.

Sophomore Ella Sammons made three kills and one block against the Coyotes.

Senior Grace Anderson had eight digs and was 5/6 serving.

Sophomore Claire Knobloch posted eight digs.

Senior Brynn Rauk had two kills, was 10/11 serving with two aces and had nine set assists.

Sophomore Abbie Harris had one kill, was 5/6 serving and had six set assists.

Senior Larissa Steinhoff did not play against HLOF.

Steinhoff tore her ACL and was scheduled for surgery Monday, Oct. 9.

Larissa told Zylstra she was "... very bummed about the injury," and won't be



Greg Hooegeven photo/1012 hbc  
Sophomore Claire Knobloch bumps the ball to an H-BC setter against Heron Lake Tuesday, Oct. 3, at home.

able to finish the volleyball season."

### Jimmy John's Classic

The Hills-Beaver Creek volleyball team traveled to Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall to participate in the Jimmy John's Classic Friday, Oct. 6, and Saturday, Oct. 7.

Coach Zylstra was unable to keep stats since both managers were un-

able to attend the event.

H-BC won one match and lost four others.

Zylstra said, "Olivia Deelstra wasn't able to play this weekend because her foot has been bothering her so she was resting it before our next game, so the girls had to adjust to not having her in there."

"Overall, I thought they did a good job playing together and having to overcome some adversity."

# Who made you who you are today?

Hunting wild stuff, be that antlered animals or fowl of any sort, is usually a result of an introduction made by one special person who took the time to expose a youth to the outdoor lifestyle.

The number of people who hunt today only make up about 11 percent of the United States population and that number is falling.

I have been hunting since I was 14, almost 50 years now, and I can say there was not that one special person in my young life. My dad was busy raising a family and working extended hours for almost his entire adult life and never had the time to introduce me to hunting.

I would ride my bike to a State Waterfowl Refuge about 6 miles from my house and sit along the refuge line waiting for a not-so-smart goose to fly over. It goes without saying my earliest memories of hunting were not very successful. I went nonetheless. I would walk around the very few public areas we had to try to shoot a rooster pheasant with very little success.

I did not own a hunting dog and even if I was lucky enough to shoot a pheasant, I only found about half of them.

When I was 24, I attended my first Pheasant Forever chapter meeting to see if they could use one more foot soldier. There I met a guy by the name of Les Johnson.

Les was 16 years older than I was, and out of the goodness of his heart he felt sorry for me and offered to take me with him on a walk in the tall grass with his dog Missy.

We met at his house and off we went to a small public hunting area just north of Wilmont, Minnesota. This



## THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall  
Outdoors columnist

was back in the days when there were very few pheasants on the landscape and even fewer places for a rank and file 24-year-old to hunt.

Nobles County Pheasants Forever just two years later bought the very first piece of land that was then opened to the public as a Wildlife Management Area.

It was the first land acquisition in the United States by this fledgling habitat organization that started in St. Paul, Minnesota, just four years earlier. The Nobles County Minnesota chapter has completed a total of 45 of these parcels over its now 40-year history.

We walked around for a while with little to see and even less to shoot at. As we headed back to the truck, which was about 300 yards from where I was standing, the dog stuck her nose into a patch of tall reed canary grass.

You could not see the dog's head or shoulders but her butt and tail were clearly visible. Les, as any good mentor would, told me to get ready and told Missy to "get 'em."

A second later, a giant rooster the size of a hula hoop busted skyward from the grass. I was ready - but not as ready as I thought I was - and pointed the gun in the general direction.

After three booms, the rooster was still making his way skyward on the way to the next county. After my gun was empty and the rooster had

reached the farthest reaches of gun range, Les nonchalantly shouldered his gun, and with one shot the bird crumpled and gravity did the rest. Missy did her job and in the shortest of moments was proudly delivering the bird to Les' hand.

I never killed the bird and only proved how inept I was. Yet it was still one of the greatest moments of my life.

I had seen just what an evening in the tall grass was supposed to look like. It changed my life. Not just a little but as profoundly as any event in my prior 24 years.

Since that encounter I have spent the past four decades making sure I was a good shot, and over those same years I have personally owned about a dozen well-trained retrievers. For the past 35 years I have kept at least 3-4 dogs in my home and spent thousands of hours training them and helping other "wannabe" hunters train their own dogs as well.

I am one year short of 40 years as a Pheasants Forever volunteer and morphed into what Doctor Seuss' books would refer to as a character called Lorax.

The Lorax has a saying that "unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing will get better ... it just won't." The Lorax always defended the forests. He would say the trees have no voice. Wild creatures including pheasants have no voice of their own except for

the humans who defend their habitats and all of the other creatures they share it with.

That exposure on this one non-descript evening from a guy who took a novice under his wing and gave the time and frustration that must have accompanied it has made me into the passionate wildlife conservationist and habitat guy I am today.

It still works in conservation today as hard as I ever have for the better part of the last 40 years. Just like my shooting, our habitat successes have improved with time and practice.

I had no mentor as a youth, but I sure had one that night when I was 24 years old. Today, as we are both 40 years older ... I am 62 and Les is 78 ..., he can no longer pound through the tall grass like we once did 4-5 days a week, but we still make special time to chase a rooster together every now and then.

Shooting a bird is far less important than it once was, but I can guarantee you one thing - in the wise words of Les Johnson, we always make sure we have a quality outing. A bird or not, an evening with my old friend of more than four decades, sitting on the tailgate of his almost always new Dodge, is always a quality evening.

As I look back across my entire adult life, of all the people who have ever inspired me, nobody has had a greater influence in my outdoor passions and habitat successes than Les Johnson, and for that I will always be in his debt.

Scott Rall, Worthington, is a habitat conservationist, avid hunting and fishing enthusiast and is president of Nobles County Pheasants Forever. He can be reached at [scottall@gmail.com](mailto:scottall@gmail.com).

PALACE THEATRE

UPCOMING EVENTS

---

**Hide** PG-13  
Friday, October 13  
Domestic Violence Awareness  
Month National Roadshow  
Presented by: Southwest Crisis Center  
Tickets: \$10

**The Creator** PG-13  
Saturday, October 14  
Sunday, October 15  
Tickets: \$5 for kids age 3 - 12th grade, \$7 for adults

**Firemen's Movie: Elemental** PG  
Wednesday, October 18 7:00 pm  
Thursday, October 19 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm  
Friday, October 20 4:00 pm & 7:00 pm  
Admission is a donation to the Luverne Fire Department.

---

**Mason Dixon Line Presents: Born on the Bayou**  
The Music of John Fogerty and Creedence Clearwater Revival  
Saturday October 28 7:30 pm  
Tickets on sale now!  
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**Green Earth Players Presents: Knickers**  
November 10-12  
November 16-19

**Mason Dixon Line Presents: A Kickin' Country Christmas**  
Saturday, December 9  
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---

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# National Fire Prevention Week

October 8 - 14, 2023

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## Luverne Fire & Rescue



The 2023 Luverne Fire Department members include (front, from left) Joe Juhl, Anthony Graphenteen, Craig Shelton, Derek Elbers, Brett Hood, Mike Ketterling, Scott Ketterling, Nick Mead, Al Pilaczynski, Tyson Facile, Eric Lammert, Dustin Walters, Chad Buss, (back) Fire Chief David Van Batavia, Eric Woodley, Jesse Woodley, Aaron Altman, Areick Dennis, Tyler LeBrun, Jon Kurtz, Travis Franken, Seth Miller, Mark Kurtz, Jordan Kopp and Andrew Hamann. Not pictured are Jordan Siebenahler, James Rahm, Dalton Jacobsma, Austin Kurtz, Cody Gehrke, David Riphagen and Nate Brands.

Lori Sorenson photo/1012 Luverne Fire Department

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# October is Fire Prevention Month

Pay attention to fire prevention.™



## Hills Fire & Rescue



Submitted photo  
Members of the Hills Area Volunteer Fire Department are (front from left) Josh Haak, Jeff Bass, Assistant Chief Lance Larson, Fire Chief Jared Rozeboom, Assistant Chief Derek Bundesen, Paul Page, Mark DeBoer, (back) Dalton Bass, Dan Fick, Robert Baker, Wade Jellema, Kale Wiertzema, Ty Bundesen, Brock Harnack and Justin VanMaanen. Not pictured are Mark Top, Collin Leuthold, Jeff Nelson, Logan Susie and Sawyer Bosch.

## Magnolia Fire & Rescue



Lori Sorenson photo/file photo  
Magnolia Fire and Rescue members include (from left) Robert Somnis, Stacie Dohlmann, Scott Dohlmann, Angie Sandbulte (in back), Derek Sandbulte, Lucas Dohlmann (in back), Jason Dohlmann, Chaplain Michael Blank and Dennis Madison. Not pictured are Zachary Dohlmann, Jeremy Roelfs, Josh Ossefoort, Ben Peters and Patty McCain.

## Beaver Creek Fire & Rescue



Lori Sorenson photo/file photo  
Members of the Beaver Creek Fire Department include (front, from left) Travis Broesder, Josh Teune, Aaron Blank, Jacob Conger, Josh Haak, Randy Krull, (back) Chief Jason Rauk, David Olson, Chad Rauk, Jacob Hartz, Travis Helgeson and Andrew Blank. Not pictured are Daryl Fuerstenburg, Shannon Tatge, Ryan Rauk, Austin Rauk and Kendra Rauk.

## Hardwick Fire & Rescue



Mavis Fodness photo/file photo  
Members of the Hardwick Fire Department include (from left) Johnny Acevedo, Julie Fodness, Joan Kindt, Harli Mulder, Jen Luitjens, Chief Lowell Schelhaas, Megan Van Tomme, Joshua Hataway, Jason Thorson, Assistant Chief Don Luitjens, Nic Johnson and Tom Haas. Not pictured are Emilee Haraldson, Miles Brown, Craig Mulder and Ethan Thorson.

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# Star Herald PUBLIC NOTICES

Page 6B October 12, 2023

## Larson hearing

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

In Re: Estate of Janice Marie Larson, a/k/a Janice M. Larson a/k/a Janice Larson, Deceased  
Court File No. 67-PR-23-228

### ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR IN SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

#### TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of October, 2023, at 8:30 O'clock a.m., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Rock County Courthouse, Luverne, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship and for the appointment of Christi Kay Wilson, whose address is 313 E. Crawford Street, Luverne, Minnesota 56156, as administrator of the estate of the above named decedent in supervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, said administrator will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the administrator shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: September 25, 2023

/s/ Terry S. Vajrt  
District Court Judge

Jennifer L. Eisma-Reinke  
Attorney for Petitioner  
Eisma and Eisma  
130 East Main  
Luverne, MN 56156  
507-283-4828  
I.D. #389457

/s/ Natalie Reisch  
Court Administrator

(COURT SEAL)

(10-05, 10-12)

## Kleine probate

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

Estate of: Lois A. Kleine Decedent  
Court File No. 67-PR-23-223

### 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 23, 2023, at 8:30 A.M., a hearing will be held in this Court at 204 East Brown St., Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated December 19, 2019, and codicil(s) to the Will dated, and separate writing(s) under Minnesota Statutes section 524.2-513 ("Will"), and for the appointment of Kevin Kraetsch, whose address is 552 190th Ave., Magnolia, MN 56158, for Loren Forsberg whose address is 318 30th Street, Dunnell, MN 56127, as Personal Representatives 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 Representatives 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.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be

given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 501B.41, subdivision 5.

Dated: Sept. 22, 2023

BY THE COURT

Attorney for: Personal Representatives  
Name: Benjamin Vander Kooi, Jr.  
Firm: Vander Kooi Law Offices, P.A.  
Street: 127 E. Main, PO Box 746  
City, State, ZIP: Luverne, MN 56156  
Attorney License No: 112124  
Telephone: 507-283-9546  
FAX: 507-283-9629  
Email: lawkooi@gmail.com

/s/ Terry S. Vajrt  
Judge of District Court  
  
/s/ Natalie Reisch  
Court Administrator

(10-05, 10-12)

## Rock County regulates use of cannabis derived products

Resolution No. 15-23  
Title and Summary  
Of

### Rock County Ordinance Regulating the Use of Cannabis and Cannabis Derived Products in Public Places

**WHEREAS**, the Rock County Commissioners are charged with protecting the public health and safety and wish to exercise such authority by regulating the use of cannabis and cannabis derived products in public places and places of public accommodation within Rock County, and

**WHEREAS**, by enacting 2023 Session Law, Chapter 63, H. F. No. 100 [hereinafter referred to "State Legislation"], the Minnesota Legislature enacted the adult-use cannabis law. Under that bill, the adult use, possession and personal growing of cannabis became legal August 1, 2023, and

**WHEREAS**, State legislation authorizes adoption of a local ordinance establishing a petty misdemeanor offense for public use of cannabis. See State Legislation Article 4, Sec. 19, Minn. Stat. 152.0263, Subd. 5, or successor statute.

**WHEREAS**, the County wishes to be proactive in protecting public health and safety by enacting regulations that will mitigate threats presented to the public by the public use of cannabis Rock County recognizes the risks that unintended access and use of cannabis products present to the health, welfare, and safety of youth and non-cannabis users in Rock County.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THE ROCK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEREBY ORDAIN AND AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, ADDING A NEW CHAPTER AS FOLLOWS:**

#### PUBLIC USE OF CANNABIS AND CANNIBIS DERIVED PRODUCTS IN PUBLIC PLACES TITLE

This Chapter shall be known and referenced as the Public Use of Cannabis and Cannabis Derived Products in Public Places Ordinance.

#### DEFINITIONS

Except as may otherwise be provided or clearly implied by context, all terms shall be given their commonly accepted definitions. The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this ordinance, shall have the meanings ascribed to them except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

(A) Office. "Office" means the State of Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management created by the State Legislation.

(B) Adult-use cannabis flower. "Adult-use cannabis flower" means cannabis flower that is approved for sale by the office or is substantially similar to a product approved by the office. Adult-use cannabis flower does not include medical cannabis flower, hemp plant parts, or hemp-derived consumer products.

(C) Adult-use cannabis products. "Adult-use cannabis products" means a cannabis product that is approved for sale by the office or is substantially similar to a product approved by the office. Adult-use cannabis product includes edible cannabis products but does not include medical cannabinoid products or lower-potency hemp edibles.

(D) Cannabis flower. "Cannabis flower" means the harvested flower, bud, leaves, and stems of a cannabis plant. Cannabis flower includes adult-use cannabis flower and medical cannabis flower. Cannabis flower does not include cannabis seed, hemp plant parts, or hemp-derived consumer products.

(E) Cannabis product. "Cannabis product" means any of the following:

- (1) cannabis concentrate;
- (2) a product infused with cannabinoids, including but not limited to tetrahydrocannabinol, extracted or derived from cannabis plants or cannabis flower; or
- (3) any other product that contains cannabis concentrate.

(F) Hemp derived consumer products.

(1) "Hemp derived consumer products" means a product intended for human or animal consumption, does not contain cannabis flower or cannabis concentrate, and:

- (i) contains or consists of hemp plant parts; or
- (ii) contains hemp concentrate or artificially derived cannabinoids in combination with other ingredients.

(2) Hemp-derived consumer products does not include artificially derived cannabinoids, lower-potency hemp edibles, hemp-derived topical products, hemp fiber products, or hemp grain.

(G) Lower-potency hemp edible. A "lower-potency hemp edible" means any product that:

- (1) is intended to be eaten or consumed as a beverage by humans;
- (2) contains hemp concentrate or an artificially derived cannabinoid; in combination with food ingredients;
- (3) is not a drug;
- (4) consists of servings that contain no more than five milligrams of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol, 25 milligrams of cannabidiol, 25 milligrams of cannabigerol, or any combination of those cannabinoids that does not exceed the identified amounts;
- (5) does not contain more than a combined total of 0.5 milligrams of all other cannabinoids per serving;
- (6) does not contain an artificially derived cannabinoid other than delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol;
- (7) does not contain a cannabinoid derived from cannabis plants or cannabis flower; and
- (8) is a type of product approved for sale by the office or is substantially similar to a product approved by the office, including but not limited to products that resemble nonalcoholic beverages, candy, and baked goods.

(H) Public place. A "public place", means a public park or trail, public street or sidewalk, any enclosed, indoor area used by the general public, including, but not limited to, theaters, restaurants, bars, food establishments, places licensed to sell intoxicating liquor, wine, or malt beverages, retail businesses, gyms, common areas in buildings, public shopping areas, auditoriums, arenas, schools or other places of public accommodation.

(I) Place of public accommodation. "Place of public accommodation" means a business, refreshment, entertainment, recreation, or transportation facility of any kind, whose goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations are extended, offered, sold, or otherwise made available to the public."

(J) Exceptions to public place or place of public accommodation. "A public place" or "a place of public accommodation" does not include the following:

- (1) a private residence, including the individual's curtilage or yard.
- (2) a private property, not generally accessible by the public; or
- (3) on the premises of an establishment or event licensed to permit on-site consumption of cannabis or cannabis derived products.

(K) Smoking. "Smoking" means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted or heated product containing cannabis flower, cannabis products, artificially derived cannabinoids, or hemp-derived consumer products. Smoking includes carrying or using an activated electronic delivery device for human consumption through inhalation of aerosol or vapor from the product.

**JURISDICTION**

This Ordinance shall be applicable within the legal boundaries of Rock County with the exception of those cities or townships that have adopted their own ordinance establishing standards for public use of cannabis.

**PROHIBITED ACTS**

(A) No person shall use cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products in a public place or a place of public accommodation unless the premises is an establishment or an event licensed to permit on-site consumption of adult-use cannabis flower and adult use cannabis products. See State Legislation Article 4, Sec. 19, Minn. Stat. 152.0263, Subd. 5, or successor statute.

(B) No person shall vaporize or smoke cannabis flower, cannabis products, artificially derived cannabinoids, or hemp-derived consumer products in any location where the smoke, aerosol, or vapor could be inhaled by a minor. See State Legislation Article 1, Sec. 9 Minn. Stat. 342.09, Subd. 1(b) (9) or successor statute.

**PENALTY**

Subd. 1. Criminal Penalty. A violation of this ordinance shall be a petty misdemeanor having a fine payable up to \$300. Nothing in this ordinance prohibits the County from seeking prosecution for an alleged violation.

**SEVERABILITY**

If any section or provision of this ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity will not affect other sections or provisions that can be given force and effect without the invalidated section or provision.

**EFFECTIVE DATE**

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and publications as required by law.

**ADOPTED** by the Rock County Board of Commissioners this 19th day of September, 2023.

ATTEST: Board Chairperson

County Administrator

(10-12)

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## MOVING SALE

Hamann Household Moving Sale: Saturday, Oct. 21, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 601 West Warren Street, Luverne Household items: Kitchen, Canning, Depression Glass, Crystal, Dishes, Furniture, Bedframes & Dressers, Vintage Items, Décor, Tools, Outdoor Furniture, Christmas Blowmolds, Old Toys, and a whole lot more. Please note that items will not be marked. All reasonable offers will be considered. Items are being sold as is and will be held only if paid in advance. No presale. Payment: Cash or Venmo. (10.12-10.19)

## CARDS OF THANKS

With deepest gratitude we would like to thank our community that has supported us after our house fire. We give thanks to the Luverne Fire Department for their quick response and professionalism; to Nick Domagala of American Family Insurance for his quick response and support; to all of the people who showed up on the day of the fire (and in the following days and weeks) to give support and help in any way they could; to our family for their immediate care, concern and support; to Phoebe, Caroline and Security Savings Bank for organizing and managing the benefit account and to everyone who contributed to that account; to our First Presbyterian Church family for their support and prayers; and to the Hoiland Family for offering and preparing a home to us to rent while we rebuild. As we begin the journey of rebuilding our home we take solace in knowing that we have a loving and caring community to support us. Luverne is truly a wonderful community and we wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

With Gratitude,

Mark, Kari, Tiana and Jaxon Lais

(9.30-10.12)

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED TO H-BC AFTER PROM SUB SALES! We sold 1600+! S&S Locker in Hills who donated 100% of the ham. Fareway Meats in Luverne who donated 100% of the turkey. Luverne Sunshine and Stuart and Karen Moser for donating the cheese. Brandon Sunshine for delivering the buns and donating supplies. Thank you! (10.12-10.14)

## RENTALS

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**Application Deadline:** Position open until filled  
**Start Date:** Immediately

**To Apply:** Application forms may be picked up from the District Office located at: 709 North Kniss Avenue, Luverne or online on the school website under Open Employment - [www.isd2184.net](http://www.isd2184.net)

**For more info contact:** Lisa Nath, Community Education Director - [li.nath@isd2184.net](mailto:li.nath@isd2184.net) or 507-283-4724



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Application form is available online: [www.cityofluverne.org/employment](http://www.cityofluverne.org/employment)

for questions contact the City Clerk's office:

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P.O. Box 659

Luverne, MN 56156

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[jmead@cityofluverne.org](mailto:jmead@cityofluverne.org)



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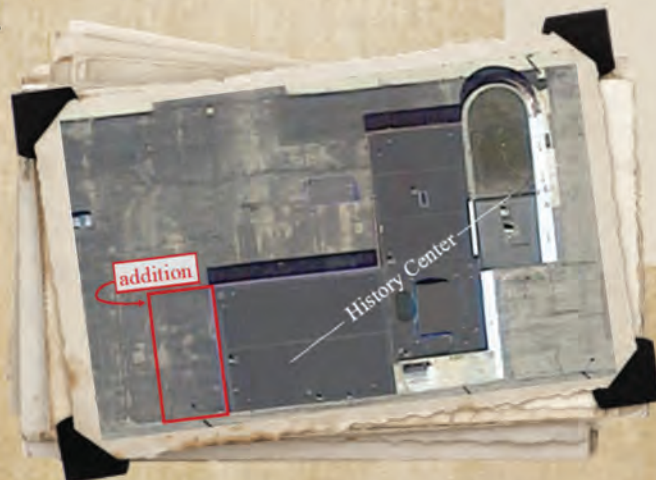
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October 12, 2023

### Net farm income expected to decrease in coming years

Farm Bureau Economist Daniel Munch lays out the details of expected farm income and expenses



... Page 2C

### Rock County native earns prestigious SDSU honor

Nicholas Uilk was named Klingbeil Endowed Educator in Precision Agriculture at SDSU.



... Page 5C

### Dr. deKoning spells out the dos and don'ts of calf weaning

There are many tools at our disposal to help make weaning an easy and healthy transition for the calves.



... Page 9C

### Next steps: Rock County continues to walk the walk

Local farmers donated soy-based shoes to Tuff Memorial Home Minnesota to Soybean Research & Promotion Council Stepping Up Program.

... Page 9C

## Meeting demand while protecting resources

# Rock County Rural Water and Minnesota DNR team up to ensure local water remains available

By Lori Sorenson

The Rock County Rural Water system is responsible for serving 815 connections along its 500 miles of pipeline in Rock County.

In addition, the pipeline serves the populations in Magnolia, Hills, Beaver Creek, Kanaranzi and Steen.

It distributes more than 305 million gallons per year, and in the heat of a typical summer, it delivers 1 million gallons of water per day during peak demand.

The system is designed to handle peak demands of a typical year with typical moisture, according to Rock County Rural Water Director Ryan Holtz.

But this past summer, users at several times demanded 1.3 to 1.4 million gallons per day. "That's when we hit our peak demands," Holtz said.

His job is to make sure rural water users get the water they need, but that's been



The DNR is also working to complete the Hydrogeologic Atlas for Rock County. It's the second part of the county geologic atlas that was completed in 2020 and will be released soon.

more difficult the past couple of years, and especially this summer.

#### Conservation warnings

With drought and extended heat, other agencies

such as the Minnesota Health Department and the Minnesota DNR get involved.

"These are regulatory agencies, but I appreciate their help," Holtz said.

He often works with

DNR's Brent Beste on the county's Drinking Water Supply Plan, which regulates levels of rural water use based on rainfall and the system's capacity.

Beste is the DNR's district appropriations hydrologist working with regional ecology and water resources.

He said his most important message in times of drought is conservation.

"Groundwater in southwest Minnesota is not unlimited," he said.

"It is a finite resource that we must collectively care for to ensure continued economic growth and to maintain the way of life in southwest Minnesota."

He said obvious conservation measures relate to "non-essential uses" like lawn watering, car washing, and things of that type.

As drought intensifies, he said those conservations get more complicated for ag

**Water resources/see 4C**

## Cool cows

# Cattle shades offer relief in hot livestock feedlots

By Mavis Fodness

Hot summer days are a little cooler in Norm Sjaarda's feedlots located north of Hills.

Earlier this year, the seasoned cattleman purchased a dozen 31-by-31-foot cattle shades, placing two in each of his open pens.

"They provide more than enough shade for the cattle underneath," he said.

"Within five minutes after we had them in, the cattle were underneath them."

Each shade is topped with a black mesh to filter the sun's intensity.

The cooler temperatures under the umbrellas brought relief from the sun's rays and intense heat to all of the 900 steers Sjaarda custom feeds.

The relief keeps the animals on a better feeding schedule, Sjaarda said.

"It's like you sitting under a tree on your lawn," he added. "The cattle were more comfortable and stayed on feed much better."

Before installing the umbrellas, Sjaarda used water to mist the cattle on



Mavis Fodness photo/1005 Ag Tab 2023 Cow Shades

The 3J & G Cattle Shades canopy in Norm Sjaarda's feedlot located north of Hills blocks 70 percent of the sun's rays from penetrating through the tarp-like fabric. The canopy allows rain to drip through the fabric, and its height allows heat from the cattle to rise upward.

hot days. He still uses the sprinklers when the humidity reaches dangerous levels.

While the water provides relief, cattle need to be introduced to the fine water spray days before the predicted hot weather so they are familiar

with the water's shocking cold.

Extended use of the misters, however, would leave the feedlots wet and muddy.

On the other hand, the umbrellas are proving themselves as a good feedlot tool.

#### Shaded cattle are under less heat stress

Veterinarian Joe Armstrong is a U of M Extension educator.

"Shade has been shown to

**Cow shades/see page 3C**



# USDA forecasts 23 percent drop in farm income from 2022 levels

Net farm income is expected to decrease \$48 billion (25.4 percent) in 2023

By Daniel Munch  
Farm Bureau  
Economist

USDA's most recent Farm Sector Income Forecast released Aug. 31 dropped net farm income expectations for 2023 lower than initial February estimates to \$141.3 billion, down 23 percent from 2022's \$183 billion.

This \$41.7 billion decline nearly erases the \$42.9 billion increase that was forecast between 2021 and 2022 but is smaller than the \$46 billion gain between 2020 and 2021 following the COVID-19 pandemic.

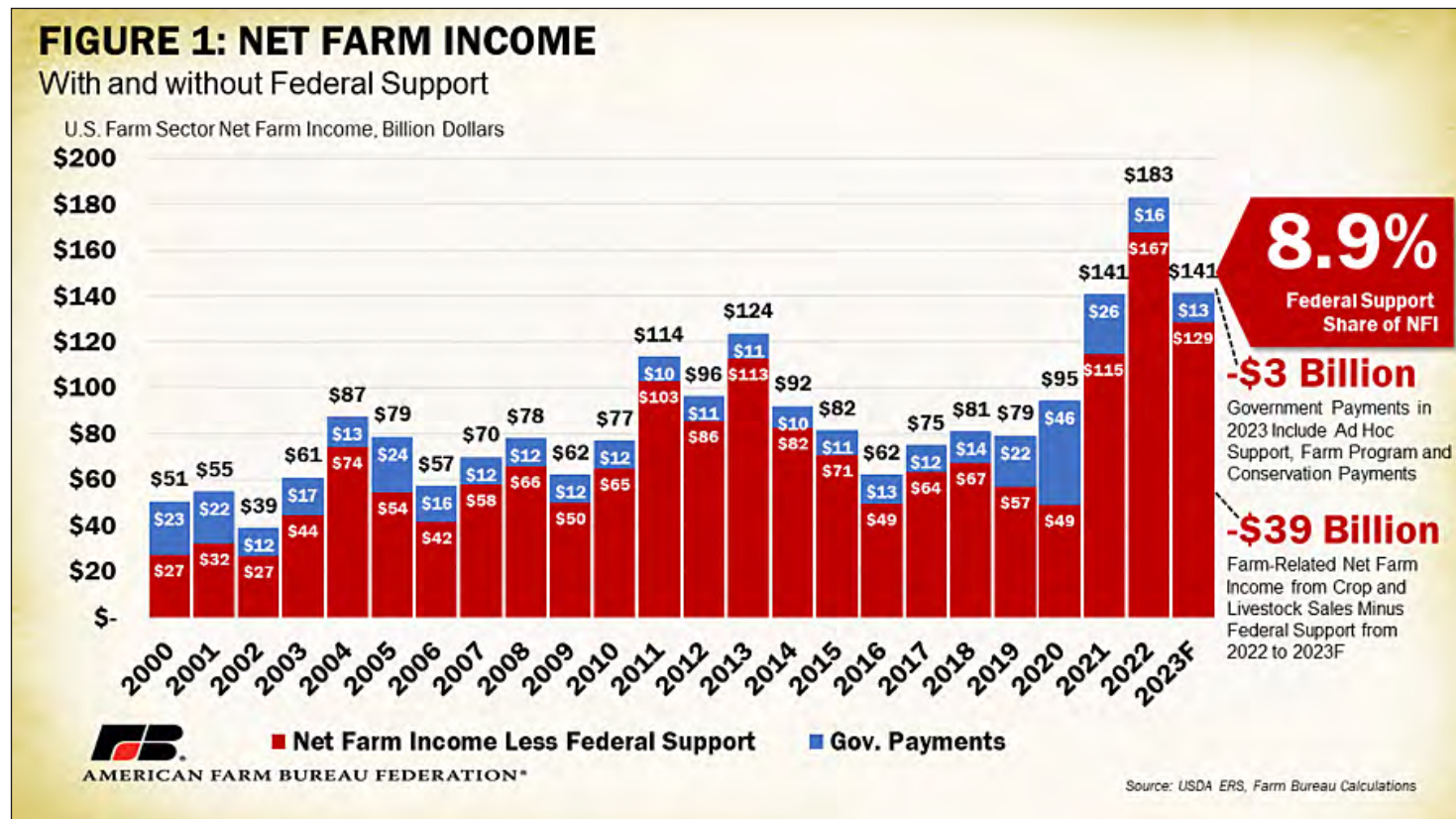
When adjusted for inflation, net farm income, a broad measure of farm profitability, is expected to decrease \$48 billion (25.4 percent) in 2023.

The forecast also shows farm and ranch production expenses continuing to increase, rising by \$29.5 billion (7 percent) in 2023 to \$458 billion, following a record increase of \$56 billion in 2022.

It is important to note USDA finalized net farm income for 2022, which has been forecast until this release. In February USDA had estimated 2022 net farm income at \$162.7 billion, a 16-percent increase over 2021.

This was adjusted to \$183 billion, a 31-percent increase over 2021. USDA made upward revisions to cash receipts received in 2022 by over \$6 billion and downward revisions to production expenses over \$12 billion, explaining much of the difference.

Direct government payments are estimated to decrease by \$3 billion, or 19 percent, between



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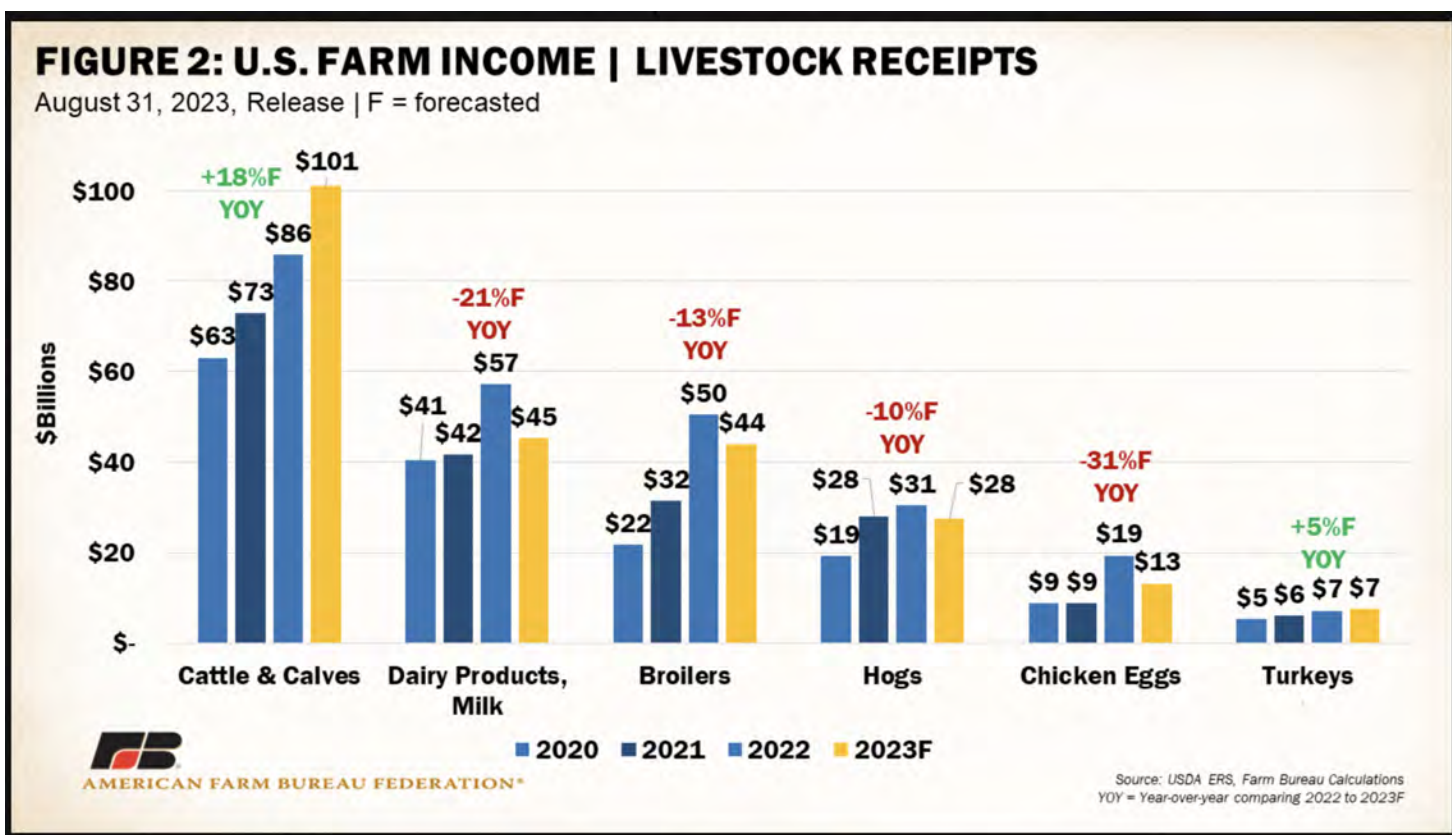
The forecast shows farm and ranch production expenses continuing to increase, rising by \$29.5 billion (7 percent) in 2023 to \$458 billion, following a record increase of \$56 billion in 2022.

2021 and 2022 to \$12.6 billion.

This marks the third consecutive decrease in government payments for producers since the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 but is higher than the \$10.2 billion in payments forecast in February.

The decrease corresponds to near total reductions in both USDA pandemic assistance, which included payments from the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program and other pandemic assistance to producers, and non-USDA pandemic assistance programs, such as the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program.

Ad hoc and supplemental program payments, which include payments from the Emergency Relief Program (ERP), Quality Loss Adjustment Program and other farm



The largest decrease in net farm income is tied to a projected fall in cash receipts from livestock due to lower prices for all major categories except cattle and turkeys. The value of livestock is expected to decrease nearly 5 percent,

bill designated-disaster programs, are expected to decrease from \$11.3 billion to \$7.4 billion, a 34-percent decline. Importantly, programs like ERP have not

yet been extended for 2022 or 2023. If Congress authorizes more payments for disasters in these years, corresponding numbers are expected to increase

dramatically.

### Livestock

The largest decrease in net farm income is tied to a projected fall in cash receipts from live-

stock due to lower prices for all major categories except cattle and turkeys. The value of livestock production (in nominal

Farm income/see 7C

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**Cattle shades offer relief in hot livestock feedlots/continued from page 1C**

lessen the physiological response of cattle to heat stress," he said.

"Shaded cattle exhibit lower respiration rates, body temperatures, and panting scores compared with unshaded cattle in weather that increases the risk of heat stress."

Cattle health is at a moderate to high risk when temperatures rise above 80 and 90 degrees respectively.

In addition, animals with dark hides or poor immune systems are at an even higher risk, especially when both humidity and temperatures levels are high.

Providing some sort of shade over a feedlot lowers the cattle's core body temperatures and the breathing rates.

Extension experts recommend providing 20 to 40 square feet of shade per head.

Overcrowding can reduce the effect of shade for providing comfort. Where the portable feedlot umbrellas are positioned can also affect results.

The structures need to be high enough to allow airflow (also necessary in keeping the cattle comfortable in humid conditions) and placed where nearby trees and other structures won't block any airflow

However, Armstrong said recouping costs of the cow shades through improved performance is hard to quantify, although antidotally the cattle appear happier and healthier.

However, there is a better change of recovery shown with sick cattle.

"But putting shade structures in sick pens with cattle prone to heat stress can be helpful," he said.



Mavis Fodness photos/1005 Ag Tab 2023 Cow Shades

Cattleman Norm Sjaarda of Hills placed a dozen cattle shades in this feedlot in the spring and provided instant relief for the animals from the sun's hot summer rays.



Steers gather under the cattle shades at Norm Sjaarda's feedlot north of Hills. The shades act as trees to filter the intensity of the sun's rays.

**Return on investment gauged by no deaths**

For Hills farmer Sjaarda, who is nearing retirement, he turned to the cattle shades as a cost savings when compared to building solid structures to provide shade in a feedlot.

At upwards of \$4,500 per cow shade, the cost is recouped quickly if it keeps a steer (valued upwards of \$3,000) alive.

Todd Jedlicka with 3J & G Shade Trees in Schuyler, Nebraska, manufactured the cattle shades Sjaarda placed in his feedlots.

Jedlicka is also a cattleman and operates a 3,000-head open feedlot.

He began shading his own feedlots 12 years ago from shade trees he manufactured on his farm.

"I had a neighbor come over and he said, 'This is the best shade

*"I had a neighbor come over and he said, 'This is the best shade tree I've seen in my whole life.' He immediately wrote a check and told me to make 20 for him."*

*— Todd Jedlicka  
3J & G Shade  
Trees*

31.5-inch mesh canopy, which is ratcheted into place at the end of each of four steel branches.

Jedlicka said the mesh canopy screens 70 percent of the sun's rays from the cattle underneath.

"The reason for that not being 100 percent is to allow heat generated from the cattle to escape," he said.

The mesh also allows water to seep to the ground through the fabric, preventing tears to the canopy from water pooling on top.

Height of the shade trees is important and Jedlicka's is at a 12.5-foot clearance, not only for airflow, but also to allow equipment to maneuver under the shade trees.

The shade trees are removed from the feedlots by a tractor or payload loader during the winter.

Jedlicka said he's already had a return on his investment into the cattle shades — he's lost no cattle from the summer's heat.

This summer's heat was especially taxing to Nebraska feedlots.

Other cattlemen, who did not provide shade inside the feedlot, had hundreds of head perish in the heat. "The ones who had the shades fared well," he said.

tree I've seen in my whole life.' He immediately wrote a check and told me to make 20 for him."

Since then, 3J & G continues to operate from the Jedlicka farm and has manufactured 4,000 shade trees for various cattlemen across the U.S.

The first shipments of shade trees to southwest Minnesota occurred this year.

His design is simple. A single tractor tire is used as a base. Each tire is filled with as much concrete as possible to provide as much stability for the single 8-inch square steel tubing used as the trunk.

At a weight of more than four tons, the trees can't be pushed over by cattle rubbing on the shade tree base or by the strong Midwest winds, Jedlicka said

Four steel pipes branch from the trunk. A steel cable runs along each edge of the 31.5-by-

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## Water resources: Rock County Rural Water and DNR team up/continued from page 1C

users.

“One specific challenge that we face with rural water systems is demands in the summer we don’t see during the winter, specifically for livestock cooling (spray misters) and agricultural spraying earlier in the summer,” Beste said.

“These are challenges we are just starting to address, but we are still trying to grasp the role each of these plays in a water system, due to better in-system meter technology from other rural water systems.”

In July the DNR issued a Level 1 warning instructing Rock County Rural Water users to conserve water.

In August, after continued heat and drought, the DNR issued a Level 2 warning, limiting what Rock County Rural Water could pump from the Rock River aquifer.

“We can’t cut water use in half, but it’s about conservation,” Holtz said.

“We want people to use the water, but when it’s really hot, it does no good to water your lawn during the heat of the day when it just evaporates. We encourage people to water at night, and we encourage farmers to fill their spray tanks overnight.”

### Ag producers

For Rock County Rural Water, ag producers drive the biggest water demand, and hot weather and spraying season tend to happen at the same time in the heat of July.

During heat waves, livestock producers also need more water to cool and care for their animals, further pushing the rural water system to operate at peak capacity.

“When we get into these high demand times, we hope that farmers will work with us,” Holtz said. “Maybe they don’t use as much water during the day; maybe they’ll fill their sprayers at night when demand drops.”

He said these conservation measures go a long way in helping the rural water system recharge overnight to meet demands the next day.

As hot, dry weather continued, the National Drought Monitor last week classified Rock County and southwest Minnesota in a D3,



Stock ponds in pastures provide a respite from heat and also a source of drinking water for cattle. During extended droughts, however, these water sources dry up, meaning cattle producers must spend extra resources hauling water to their livestock. In some cases, stagnant stock pond water can develop deadly bacteria.



“Extreme Drought” category, prompting a USDA drought disaster declaration. (See the related story on page 1A of this week’s Star Herald).

For Holtz, the declaration essentially means the local water system will qualify for disaster assistance to fund projects that have been needed for several years.

### Above-ground water storage and deeper wells

Two options that local officials have been exploring are above-ground storage facilities like a water tower and an additional deep well to support the existing system.

Both would assist with aquifer recharging — to help Rock County Rural Water keep up with demand during hot, dry peak usage periods.

“If we have enough water storage, we don’t have to run our treatment plant at max capacity, because we’ll have a buffer to meet demand,” Holtz said. “We’d have enough storage in the air for a whole day.”

Both measures have been in Rural Water’s long-range plan, but they would take a bite out of the system’s budget, and those costs would likely be passed on to users in the form of rate increases.

A 500,000-gallon water tower project may cost as much as \$3 million after land acquisition and special equipment. And drilling a 300-foot-deep well is estimated to cost nearly \$750,000.

That’s why Holtz said the recent drought disaster declaration could make a big difference for Rock County Rural Water’s bottom line.

*“If we have enough water storage, we don’t have to run our treatment plant at max capacity, because we’ll have a buffer to meet demand. We’d have enough storage in the air for a whole day.”*

—Ryan Holtz, director, Rock County Rural Water

### Continued improvement

The improvements would build on measures that are already in place to manage times of peak use and drought.

For one thing, Rock County Rural Water supplements its supply from water from the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System.

Rock County and the city of Luverne contracted with L&C more than 30 years ago when the system was being built to pipe water from the Missouri River aquifer to communities in the Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa tri-state region.

Rural water’s allocation is 300,000 gallons per day, which it pays for only as it’s used.

Plus, RCRW has mutual aid agreements with Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water and the city

of Luverne, which help each other out when needed for unique peak demand circumstances.

“We’d much rather use our existing wells, because obviously everyone’s bill goes up when that happens,” Holtz said, about utilizing mutual aid agreements.

That’s why additional storage is so important — it can help to recharge the system more quickly during peak demand.

“We don’t have concerns about running out of water, but we have concerns about peak demand and leveling off that demand,” Holtz said.

“The system can stand only so much demand at once. We can only pump the wells so hard. So, when we can spread out the use, it really helps take demand off the system.”

Simply having more

access to water will also help meet demand, Holtz said, and he hopes to secure emergency funding for another deep well.

This summer Rock County Rural Water began drawing from a recent 350-foot-deep well that took four years and nearly \$500,000 to add to the system.

It’s the first “deep water” source for the pipeline that historically has relied on 30-foot-deep wells fed by the Rock River’s shallow aquifers.

Since they were first established in 1979, those aquifers have been susceptible to drought and contamination, and the past few summers several were shut down after “sucking air” when water levels dropped.

This prompted Rock County Rural Water officials to seek other sources of clean, reliable water.

“Some of our older wells haven’t been producing as well as they used to, so we took a chance on a deeper well,” Holtz said.

“We told them to drill till they hit bedrock, and that happened at 353 feet, but we found the aquifer at 290 feet.”

It was good news for rural water, and it confirmed what Holtz had suspected: “We knew there was deeper water, because there are farms with deep wells,” he said.

“The only way we could know for sure was to go deep, but it’s a lot more money to go deep.”

This summer those investments were starting to pay off.

The new well came online in June and is pumping at a capacity of 250 gallons per minute, and the quality has tested clean and nearly clear of nitrates, which commonly pollute shallow sources.

### Meeting demand

Now Holtz is hoping another deep well, in addition to a new water tower, will help ensure his water users are served, and much of the demand comes from agriculture.

In the past five years, Holtz has seen a steady increase in demand on the rural water system.

Water resources/6C

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# Uilk named Klingbeil Endowed Educator in Precision Agriculture

Rock County native Nicholas Uilk was recently named the inaugural Klingbeil Endowed Educator in Precision Agriculture at South Dakota State University.

Shortly after graduating from SDSU with his bachelor's degree in agricultural systems technology in May 2008, Uilk completed his Master of Education degree in August 2011.

He began his teaching career at SDSU in January 2009 as an instructor in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, a position in which he served until he later became a lecturer in 2021 before being named to his newly endowed role.

"We are honored and humbled to name Mr. Nicholas Uilk as our Klingbeil Endowed Educator in Precision Agriculture," said Kasisviswanathan Muthukumarappan, Maynard A. Klingbeil Endowed Department Head and Distinguished Professor of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering.

"With his many years of farming background and nearly 15 years of teaching experience in the department, Nic is well positioned and prepared to lead our precision agriculture program into the future."

Over the past 14 years, Uilk has taught various agricultural systems technology and precision agriculture classes covering topics such as construction techniques and materials,



Nicholas Uilk is the inaugural Klingbeil Endowed Educator in Precision Agriculture at South Dakota State University.

*"Agriculture is an ever-changing and evolving industry, and technology plays a very important role in the future of production agriculture practices. Our goal in the precision agriculture program is to provide students with hands-on opportunities to support the content they are learning in our classrooms and labs, allowing them to apply the theories to the real world. I like to say, 'You didn't learn how to ride a bike by reading the owner's manual!'"*

— Nicholas Uilk, Klingbeil Endowed Educator in Precision Agriculture at South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota

microcomputer applications in agriculture, industrial and outdoor power, farm machinery systems management and emerging technologies in agriculture.

Additionally, he has designed, developed and implemented two new

courses — chemical applications in agriculture and the introduction to precision agriculture class and lab.

As an endowed educator, Uilk will be responsible for encouraging further excellence in student recruitment,

teaching, academic advising and student retention specific to the precision agriculture program.

"I am very honored to receive the Klingbeil endowment," Uilk said.

"It will be used to help provide an educational experience for our stu-

dents unmatched by any other university in the nation."

Outside of teaching classes, Uilk serves as the faculty adviser for the Jacks Agricultural Technology and Engineering Club and advises more than 80 agricul-

tural systems technology students.

He also spends time developing curriculum to meet current industry and student demands and is a member of the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Advisory Council.

Throughout his years at SDSU, Uilk has been an integral force in driving a 250 percent enrollment increase in the agricultural systems technology program since his start in 2009.

He is especially proud of the impactful hands-on learning experiences he has provided to students by utilizing Kubota utility vehicles that are fully equipped with Raven precision agriculture equipment.

"Agriculture is an ever-changing and evolving industry, and technology plays a very important role in the future of production agriculture practices," Uilk said.

"Our goal in the precision agriculture program is to provide students with hands-on opportunities to support the content they are learning in our classrooms and labs, allowing them to apply the theories to the real world. I like to say, 'You didn't learn how to ride a bike by reading the owner's manual!'"

He has also made it a top priority to create opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to connect and build meaningful

Uilk/see page 11C

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## Water resources: Rock County Rural Water and DNR team up/continued from page 4C

"Farms keep getting bigger," he said. "Our demand keeps going up as more water is needed to mix spray and other chemicals, and cattle yards are getting bigger."

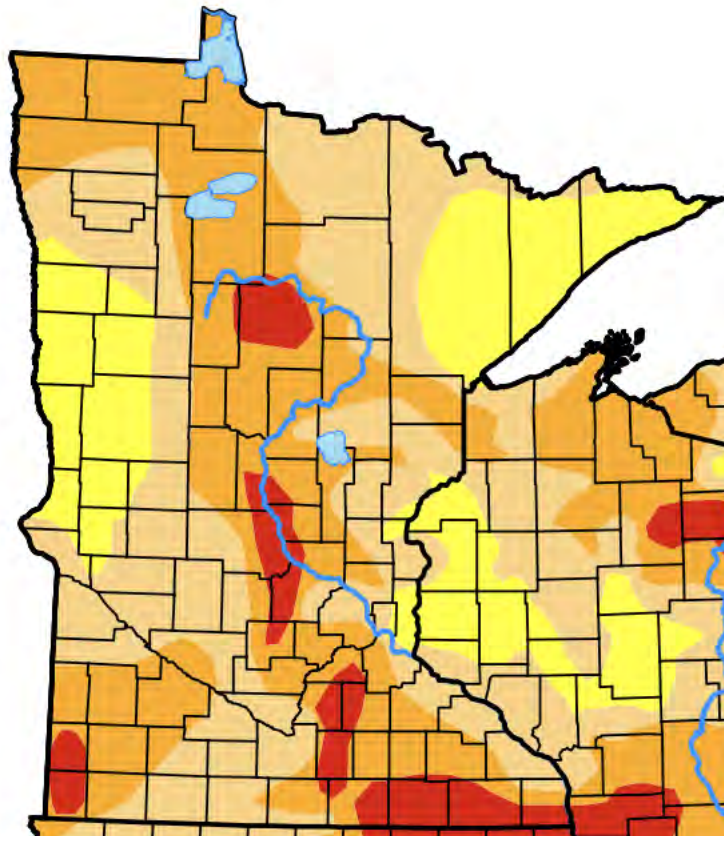
Holtz has been with RW for six years and has seen demand steadily increase since he started.

For example, in 2017 RW distributed 250 million gallons of water. Five years later, in 2022, the system distributed 305 million gallons.

Over those five years, the system hooked up roughly 50 new users, one-third of them larger customers, such as ag operations that consume a proportionally greater percent of those additional 55 million gallons. Among those new hookups are residential users affected by drought and compromised water sources.

"It's affecting more than just rural users," Holtz said. "We've hooked up several people over the past few years because their wells have failed."

An important point that Holtz wants to make is that increased hookups and increased demand hasn't translated directly to more demand on Rock County



As hot, dry weather continued, the National Drought Monitor last week classified Rock County and southwest Minnesota in a D3, "Extreme Drought" category, prompting a USDA drought disaster declaration.

*"The part that a lot of people don't understand is that when we're so dry, like we are right now, to replenish the aquifer will take a lot more than an inch of rain."*

— Ryan Holtz, Rock County Rural Water director

water sources.

That's due to the Lewis and Clark agreement.

"We are drawing less of our own water now than we were 10 years ago," he said. "We're obviously distributing more water than we did in the past, but we're using less of our own water because

of Lewis and Clark."

Holtz said his job is to make sure Rock County Rural Water is able to meet demands of its users, but he doesn't know what the future holds in terms of challenges to that role.

For example, he hopes that droughts will remain cyclical, but if

climate change dictates longer, dryer periods, it will affect how Rock County Rural Water meets demand.

"The part that a lot of people don't understand is that when we're so dry, like we are right now, to replenish the aquifer will take a lot more than an inch of rain," Holtz said.

"The drought is ongoing."

### Protecting resources

For Beste's part, he pledges to continue working with Rock County to make the most of its most valuable resource.

Through his role in the DNR's Ecological and Water Resources

Division, he works with utilities, irrigators and livestock producers and anyone else that uses water through the state's permitting program to understand how water is used.

"We do a complete analysis on permit applications as they are received and take a wide view of use to determine if more local analysis is needed," Beste said.

The DNR is also working to complete the Hydrogeologic Atlas for Rock County. It's the second part of the county geologic atlas that was completed in 2020 and will be released soon.

"This provides a comprehensive tool to assess water availability and where that water likely is found," Beste said.

He points out that the state's water permitting process helps to guide this process.

"A DNR water use permit is required when any user using a well or surface water pumps more than 1 million gallons of water per year or 10,000 gallons on any given day," Beste said.

"We encourage everyone to work with us when they begin planning a water system."

## Seeking landowners to protect high-quality wildlife habitat

Your land is important to you and has a unique character and history. As a landowner, you can be compensated for permanently protecting your property with a conservation easement.

The Minnesota Land Trust is currently accepting applications to participate in the Accelerating Habitat Conservation in Southwest Minnesota Program, a conservation initiative to permanently protect high-quality wildlife habitat.

To combat the loss of essential wildlife habitat, the Minnesota Land Trust is seeking willing landowners who want to conserve their prairie,

rock outcrops, prairie streams, wetlands and woodlands in southwest Minnesota.

Ideal projects will be located near other protected lands to help build larger habitat complexes comprising both public and private lands.

Grazing lands and upland farmland adjacent to streams and wetlands offered for habitat restoration are eligible for acceptance into the program and may be eligible for funds dedicated to the restoration of wildlife habitat.

Acres currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) are

eligible for Land Trust conservation easements.

### Applications are currently being accepted.

Eligible applications must be for property within the following counties: Lac Qui Parle, Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Redwood, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Cottonwood, Rock, Pipestone, Nobles, Jackson and a portion of Brown adjacent to Cottonwood County.

The program uses a competitive, market-based approach to acquire permanent conservation easements from private landowners in the Prairie Coteau and Minnesota River Valley

in southwest Minnesota.

Landowners retain private ownership of their land and are able to use and manage it in the future.

Hunting, limited trails, and restricted ATV use are allowed and there is no requirement for public access.

To learn more about the program or to apply, contact Chad Kingstrom, Conservation Program Manager, at 651-377-0338 or [ckingstrom@mmland.org](mailto:ckingstrom@mmland.org), or visit [www.mmland.org/sw](http://www.mmland.org/sw)

### Background information

The Minnesota Land Trust is a donor supported non-profit organization.

Its mission is to protect and restore Minnesota's most vital natural lands in order to provide wildlife habitat, clean water, outdoor experiences and scenic beauty for generations to come.

The organization has completed over 700 conservation projects statewide, permanently protecting over 77,000 acres of natural and scenic land and over 470 miles of fragile shoreline so far.

A conservation easement is a voluntary, legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or other qualified agency that permanently limits certain uses of land in order to protect

its conservation values. Landowners continue to own and enjoy the land and pay property taxes. Once created, the conservation easement is binding on all future owners of the property.

More information on Minnesota Land Trust can be found at [www.mmland.org](http://www.mmland.org).

Funding for these projects was made possible by the members of the Minnesota Land Trust and with funding from Minnesota's Outdoor Heritage Fund, as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature and recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC).

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## Farm income: USDA forecasts 23 percent drop in farm income/continued from page 2C

dollars) is expected to decrease nearly 5 percent, or \$11.9 billion, in 2023.

### Crops

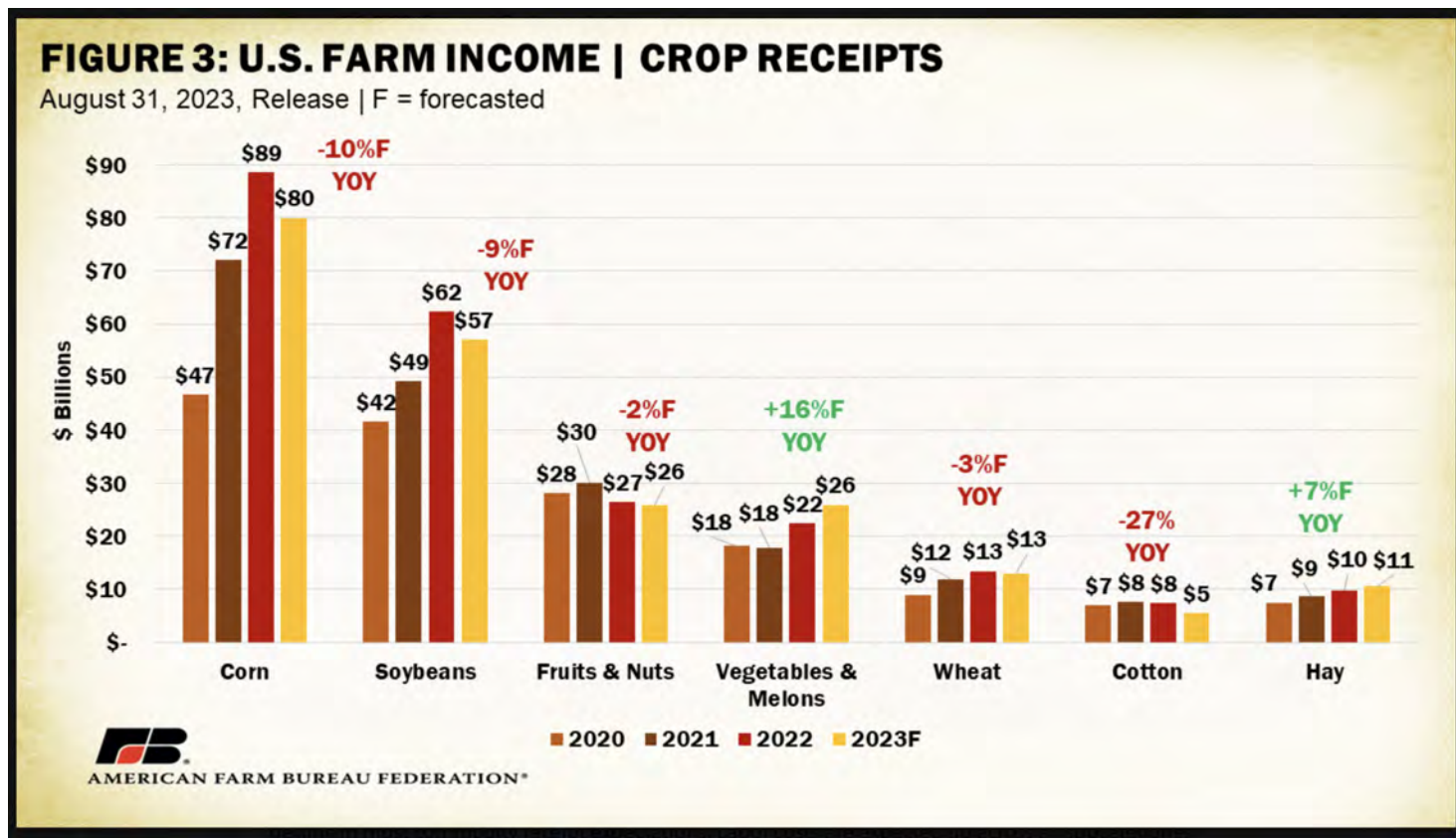
On the crops side, receipts for major row crops like corn, soybeans, cotton and wheat are expected to decline while receipts for vegetables, melons and hay are expected to increase. Receipts for corn are expected to fall by 10 percent (\$8.4 billion), while soybeans are expected to be down 8.6 percent (\$5.4 billion). Both commodities have faced declining prices since their peaks in 2022.

On the cost side, production expenses, including operator dwelling expenses, are forecast to increase for a sixth consecutive year, growing in 2023 by \$29.5 billion, or 7 percent, to reach a record \$458 billion.

### Other considerations

USDA's Farm Sector Income Forecast also provides expectations of farm financial indicators that can give insight into the overall financial health of the farm economy.

During 2023 U.S. farm sector debt is pro-



On the cost side, production expenses, including operator dwelling expenses, are forecast to increase for a sixth consecutive year, growing in 2023 by \$29.5 billion, or 7 percent, to reach a record \$458 billion.



Daniel Munch, Farm Bureau Economist

*Combined with weather uncertainty and a high cost of capital to operate their businesses, farmers and ranchers will be forced to adapt as they always have.*

jected to increase \$24 billion, or 5 percent, to a record \$520 billion in nominal terms. Though a record, this is a \$15-billion downward revision from the February report.

Nearly 70 percent of farm debt is in the form of real estate debt, for the land to grow crops and raise livestock. Real estate debt is projected to in-

crease \$19.6 billion to a record-high \$354 billion, largely due to an increase in land values across the country.

Non-real estate debt, or debt for purchases of things like equipment, machinery, feed and livestock, is projected to increase by \$4.5 billion to a record \$165.7 billion.

The value of assets regularly being purchased with debt is rising, which means it will continue to be important for farmers to pay down debt and cover interest to maintain a healthy balance sheet, an endeavor that will be even more cumbersome in a high interest environment.

Compared to 2021 and 2022, farmers and ranchers are seeing smaller revenues or returns for the investments made in the cost of production and in assets used to produce a farm product; the opposite is true from 2014-2020.

Figure 5 highlights the U.S. farm sector debt, the debt-to-asset ratio and the rate of return on farm assets.

### Summary

USDA's most recent estimates for 2023 net

farm income provide an updated estimate of the farm financial picture.

For 2023 USDA anticipates a 23 percent decrease in net farm income, moving from \$183 billion in 2022 to \$141 billion in 2023.

Much of the forecast decline in 2023 net farm income is tied to lower crop and livestock cash receipts, continued increases in production costs and a decrease in ad hoc government support.

It is important to highlight the projected nature of this forecast. 2022 net farm income numbers were not finalized until August 2023 and were adjusted upward over \$20 billion in the eight months since the year ended.

During this time USDA is digesting new information and data as it becomes available, shifting calculations from estimates to actual values.

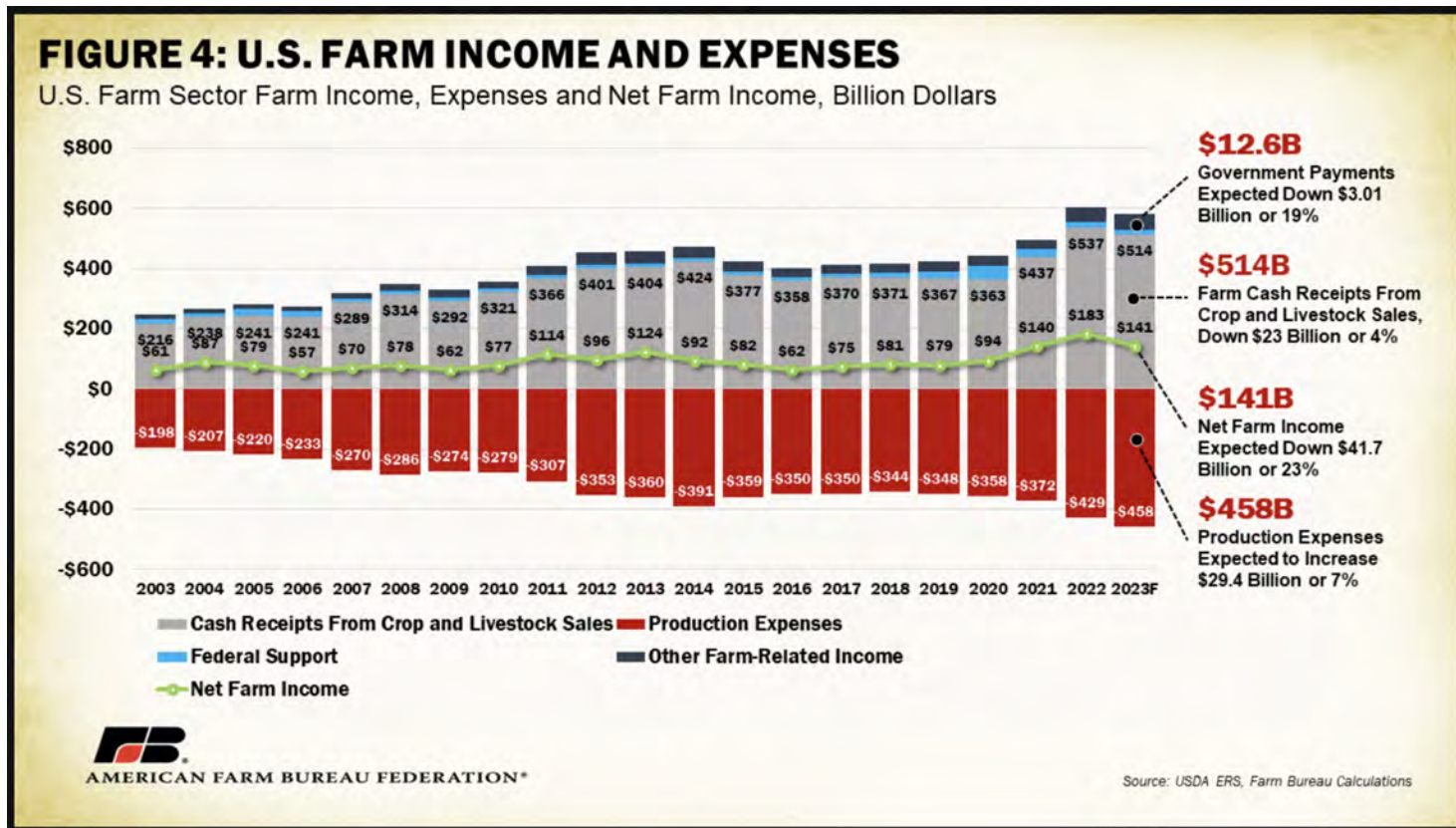
This means there is still much variability in 2023 net farm income.

At the very least, these estimates show the relationship between, on average, falling commodity prices and rising production costs and the ultimate impact on farmers' bottom lines.

Combined with weather uncertainty and a high cost of capital to operate their businesses, farmers and ranchers will be forced to adapt as they always have.

Part of being able to adapt means having clarity on rules that impact their businesses' ability to operate having access to comprehensive risk management options.

Adaptation also relies on having a resounding voice during formulation of vital legislation such as the farm bill, which can either complicate or streamline farmers' and ranchers' ability to sustainably contribute to a reliable and resilient U.S. food supply.



Nearly 70 percent of farm debt is in the form of real estate debt, for the land to grow crops and raise livestock.

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# Follow these tips to protect yourself from rising cost of insurance

**By: Barb Anderson, Cattnach Insurance Agency, owner**

If you have noticed an increase in your home/farm/auto insurance rates over the last few years, then you are not alone.

I will explain several of the dominant factors affecting the cost of insurance and some useful tools to help you take advantage of some cost saving strategies.

**Weather** is out of our control and impacts insurance claims and therefore the rates.

Although weather events are not a new problem, the cost of building materials has taken a sharp increase that has resulted in increasing claim costs.

**See the graphic above** that illustrates the cost of several input costs that have risen 29-40 percent in the past three years.

If the cost of the claim is 30 percent higher on every property



loss, then that translates into higher rates to consumers.

Increased building materials and contractor labor shortages coupled with high demand for new construction has resulted in increased home and building values.

The trend of higher cost of repairs has extended to the auto market as well.

According to The Consumer Price Index January 2020-January 2023, **auto parts have increased by 32 percent.**

Locally, Rock County and the surrounding area have been dealing with several severe storms in the last few years. 2022 saw back-to-back Memorial Day weekend storms and several other systems throughout the summer that dropped hail, heavy rain and high winds on

area property owners.

The American Property Casualty Insurance Association reports that collision severity and frequency is up 42-43 percent since 2021 and noted that social inflation factors, such as increasing wages, and juries awarding higher verdict values have added to costs.

**Save \$ with discounts** and make the most of your insurance dollar with these smart strategies:

- Higher deductibles.

- Review coverage with an experienced agent.

- Review replacement values and insure buildings to value.

- Buildings that are not in use could be removed from your policy.

- Package/bundle.

- Telematics (save \$ for your safe driving habits.)

- Payment plan discounts.

- Claim free discounts.

- Renovation discounts.

The best advice that I can give is to review your farm and auto coverages with an experienced agent. The agents at Cattnach Insurance Agency have been helping clients navigate the insurance landscape since the 1980s. Review your policy, remove unnecessary coverages, utilize available discounts and maximize your benefits when you do have a claim.



## Sen. Weber named 'Family Farm Champion'

State Senator Bill Weber (R-Luverne) was named a Farm Family Champion by the Minnesota Farmers Union at the 2023 Farm Fest near Redwood Falls. Minnesota Farmer's Union President Gary Wertish (right) presented Weber with the award for his work on the senate taxes committee and his strong support for Minnesota farm families. "Our family farms are the foundation of our state's thriving agricultural economy," Weber said. "And I will continue to serve as a strong advocate on their behalf."

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# Dr. deKoning offers tips for reducing stress in weaned calves

**By Erin deKoning, DVM  
Rock Vet Clinic**

As I write this article, fall is already here. The extreme summer heat, coupled with the lack of measurable rain, has made pasture grazing conditions very poor.

For this reason, we have had many clients decide to wean their calves earlier than normal.

There are many tools at our disposal to help make weaning an easy and healthy transition for the calves.

What makes weaning stressful to calves? Most people think it is simply the separation from the mother cow, but a lot more goes into weaning stress than just the separation.

Yes, calves do rely on their mother for nutrition, but calves also learn bovine social and survival cues from their dams.

They follow their mothers to learn how to live in a herd setting, how to find food, and how to find water.

Weaning into a dirt or concrete pen can confuse the calves because they are used to having mom show them where to eat and drink in a pasture setting.

They now have to learn where to eat and drink by themselves, while also roaming around with all of their new peers who are also confused.

The ration that we offer to newly weaned calves can also be stressful.

Newly weaned calves should have access to as much long-stem grass



*Each year at my house, we gather up all the cows and their calves on each individual pasture, just so that we can vaccinate the calves at least two weeks ahead of weaning them. It is a ton of work. Our calf working convoy makes quite the sight, traveling around from pasture to pasture toting a portable corral, four wheelers, trailers, neighbors and a vet truck.*

*By administering the vaccines ahead of the stress of weaning, the calf immune system has an opportunity to respond to the vaccine adequately. The calf will be primed and protected from whatever illness they will encounter.*



*Newly weaned calves should have access to as much long-stem grass hay as possible. After all, they are coming from a milk and forage only diet. Sudden transitions from a forage to a concentrate diet can create gastrointestinal issues for newly weaned calves. Acidosis can be a common problem that can present with symptoms of pneumonia, when in actuality it is a really bad stomach ache. Offering unlimited long stem grass hay with a gradual stepwise transition onto grains/concentrates is the best way to feed newly weaned calves.*

hay as possible.

After all, they are coming from a milk and forage only diet.

Sudden transitions from a forage to a concentrate diet can create gastrointestinal issues for newly weaned calves.

Acidosis can be a common problem that

can present with symptoms of pneumonia, when in actuality it is a really bad stomach ache.

Offering unlimited long stem grass hay with a gradual stepwise transition onto grains/concentrates is the best way to feed newly weaned calves.

Vaccines are another

useful tool for keeping calves healthy at any stage of life.

Many producers choose to vaccinate calves within a few days of weaning.

While some vaccines are better than no vaccines at all, the timing of administration can

make a huge difference on how the calf will respond to it.

The calf immune system needs time to process the vaccines administered, and mount a response.

This responding process usually takes around fourteen days on an initial vaccine.

Subsequent boosters take less time to mount an immune response since the body is already familiar with the antigens being presented.

So, if vaccines are administered at around the time of weaning, the calf is trying to respond to the vaccine while also undergoing the stress of weaning.

Administering pre-weaning vaccines can be a lot of work, but that work can pay back huge dividends for calf health.

Each year at my house, we gather up all the cows and their calves on each individual pasture, just so that we can vaccinate the calves at least two weeks ahead of weaning them. It is a ton of work.

Our calf working convoy makes quite the sight, traveling around from pasture to pasture

toting a portable corral, four wheelers, trailers, neighbors and a vet truck.

By administering the vaccines ahead of the stress of weaning, the calf immune system has an opportunity to respond to the vaccine adequately.

The calf will be primed and protected from whatever illness they will encounter.

One final tip that can help make the weaning process easier for a calf is called fenceline weaning.

A fence separates the cows from the calves, and helps to make the weaning transition gradual rather than abrupt.

Fenceline weaning allows the calf to still see, smell and hear their mother; they are just unable to nurse.

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# USDA announces lending rates for agricultural producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced loan interest rates for September 2023, which are effective Sept. 1, 2023.

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) loans provide important access to capital to help agricultural producers start or expand their farming operation, purchase equipment and storage structures or meet cash flow needs.

## Operating, ownership and emergency loans

FSA offers farm ownership and operating loans with favorable interest rates and terms to help eligible agricultural producers, whether multi-generational, long-time or new to the industry, to obtain financing needed to start, expand or maintain a family agricultural operation.

FSA also offers emergency loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters or quarantine.

For many loan options, FSA sets aside funding for underserved producers, including, beginning, women, Ameri-



Since payments began in October 2022, the USDA has provided \$1.4 billion to more than 22,000 financially distressed direct and guaranteed FSA loan borrowers. FSA loans provide access to capital to help producers.

can Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and Hispanic farmers and ranchers.

Interest rates for Operating and Ownership loans for September 2023 are as follows:

- Farm Operating Loans(Direct): 5.125 percent.
- Farm Ownership Loans(Direct): 5.000 percent.

- Farm Ownership Loans(Direct, Joint Financing): 3.000 percent.
- Farm Ownership Loans(Down Payment): 1.500 percent.

•Emergency Loan (Amount of Actual Loss): 3.750 percent.

FSA also offers guaranteed loans through commercial lenders at rates set by those lenders.

To access an interactive online, step-by-step

guide through the farm loan process, visit the Loan Assistance Tool on farmers.gov.

## Commodity and storage facility loans

Additionally, FSA provides low-interest financing to producers to build or upgrade on-farm storage facilities and purchase handling equipment and loans that provide interim financing to help producers meet

cash flow needs without having to sell their commodities when market prices are low.

Funds for these loans are provided through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) and are administered by FSA.

- Commodity loans (less than one year disbursed): 6.375 percent.
- Farm Storage Facility Loans:
  - Three-year loan terms: 4.500 percent.

- Five-year loan terms: 4.250 percent.
- Seven-year loan terms: 4.125 percent.
- Ten-year loan terms: 4.125 percent.
- Twelve-year loan terms: 4.125 percent.
- Sugar Storage Facility Loans(15 years): 4.250 percent.

## Simplified direct loan application

FSA developed a new, simplified direct loan application for producers seeking a direct farm loan. The new application, reduced from 29 to 13 pages, provides improved customer experience for producers applying for loans and enables them to complete a more streamlined application.

Producers now also have the option to complete an electronic fillable form or a traditional paper application for submission to their local FSA service center.

## Disaster support

FSA also reminds rural communities, farmers and ranchers, families and small businesses affected by the past year's

USDA lending/see 14C



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**Uilk honored South Dakota State University/continued from page 5C**

relationships with industry professionals. Specifically, Uilk has enjoyed contributing to the Precision Connect student-industry networking event that has resulted in higher placement rates for students enrolled in internship programs across several diversified degree areas.

In late September, the annual event will bring together nearly 200 students and industry partners for its

third year.

Uilk's most notable achievements and awards include the 2013 Walt McCarty Academic Advising Award, 2015 Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Teacher Award, 2020 USDA Excellence in Teaching Award for teaching and student engagement, 2020 PrecisionAg Awards of Excellence Educator/Researcher Award and the 2020 Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities National

Teaching Award.

Well respected among students, Uilk was also nominated for the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences Prexy Council Teacher of the Year Award in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2023.

His professional memberships include Gamma Sigma Delta and the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers.

In his new role, Uilk

looks forward to continuing to work alongside other faculty members to increase the number of hands-on activities and grow learning-based

education within the precision agriculture program.

"I am excited for the opportunity to drive progress in precision

agriculture through our undergraduate program and prepare the students who will go on to be leaders in the agricultural industry," Uilk said.

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# Next steps: Rock County continues walking the walk

## Local farmers donate soy-based shoes to workers at Tuff Memorial Home in Hills

After the successful Stepping Up: From Farm to Frontline campaign completed its first lap in 2022, the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council (MSR&PC) was left with big shoes to fill for 2023.

The Council decided the best way to take the next steps and make a bigger impact on communities and educating of the “miracle bean” was to dedicate more funds to the campaign, but with a twist.

This year, Stepping Up is giving back to any organization or entity in Minnesota where the local county boards see a need.

Minnesota’s organized county soybean boards are donating soy-based Skechers shoes to schools, homeless shelters, fire departments, students in need and organizations that make big impacts in their communities.

Rock County, in partnership with MSR&PC, which directs the state’s soybean checkoff resources, continues the Stepping Up campaign to promote the value-added uses of soybeans and make community connections.

As such, the Rock County Corn & Soybean Growers Association recently donated to the Tuff Memorial Home.

“We were happy to make this donation because of the dedication and work the employees put into serving our communities,” Rock County Corn & Soybean board member Lucas Peters said.

“The board strives to



Pictured are (front, from left) Sadie Kessler, Alyia Renken, Danielle Ganun, (back) Lucas Peters, Elvia Vink, Glenda McGaffee, Jessica Holvaldt, Emily Baatz, Brian Kraayenhof, Kelli Hellerud, Gary Gertz and Matt Overgaard.

*“On average, employees in nursing homes walk between 2-3 miles during their shift. Thanks to the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council for taking a huge stride in providing shoes to our staff. Thirty staff names were drawn to receive soy-based Skecher shoes of their choosing. Staff are so thankful for their generosity and can now care for our residents in the comfort of their new shoes.”*

— Tuff Memorial Home Life Enrichment Director Jocelyn Jacoby

support the community, and this was one way we thought we could make an impact.”

The continuation of the Stepping Up campaign aims to inform more consumers on the value that soybeans bring to the market, as well as soy’s versatility. Minnesota farmers also want to honor groups and organization that

are improving the quality of their communities.

“Every step matters when it comes to caring for our residents of the Tuff Memorial Home,” Tuff Memorial Home Life Enrichment Director Jocelyn Jacoby said.

“On average, employees in nursing homes walk between 2-3 miles during their shift. Thanks to the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council for

taking a huge stride in providing shoes to our staff. Thirty staff names were drawn to receive soy-based Skecher shoes of their choosing. Staff are so thankful for their generosity and can now care for our residents in the comfort of their new shoes.”

In summer 2022, more than 53 counties around Minnesota participated in the first Stepping Up campaign. In

2022 alone, Minnesota farmers and the soybean checkoff donated nearly 3,000 pairs of Skechers soy-based shoes across 120 Minnesota health care facilities.

“The Council is proud to continue the Stepping Up promotion and give back to those who serve our communities,” Council Chair Tom Frisch said.

“It’s a win-win for our county boards because

*“We were happy to make this donation because of the dedication and work the employees put into serving our communities.”*

— Lucas Peters, Rock County Corn & Soybean Board

we’re able to connect with our neighbors while also showing the value of the soybean checkoff.”

### The beginning

In 2020, Skechers released its GO line of footwear, which uses soybean oil to improve grip, stability and durability. Skechers is using the same checkoff-supported technology featured in Goodyear Tire Company’s line of sustainable soy-based tires, which incorporated soy into its rubber technology.

By using soybean oil in Skechers’ GO line, Goodyear’s tire compound reduces petroleum-based use, ultimately cutting energy consumption, weight and promoting sustainability while increasing efficiency.

For each dollar Rock County soybean farmers pay toward checkoff resources, growers receive an estimated \$12.34 in return value.

More than 1,000 commercially available products – ranging from shoes to machinery lubricants to asphalt – use commodity and high oleic soybean oil.

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# Why is property insurance more expensive and difficult to find?

**By Shirley Top, Kazlowski Insurance**

Factors affecting property insurance in the next year: Economic volatility, possible likely recession, shortage of building materials and vehicle parts, severe weather, drastic inflation leading to enormous underinsurance on properties, geopolitical events, war in Ukraine leading to higher energy costs, rising interest rates, and labor shortage resulting in more expensive workers.

Weather perils facing Minnesota are tornadoes, wind damage, hail, extreme downpours, snow loads, ice dams and wind-driven wildfires.

Let's look specifically at what is causing property insurance increases and changes in Minnesota.

In 1998 tornadoes struck LeCenter, St. Peter and Comfrey. Five tornadoes in Albany and Roseville resulted in \$950 million in losses. Most expensive storm in state history! Total insured losses in Minnesota in 1998 were \$1.5 billion, more than the previous 40 years combined!

In 1998 the Minnesota average homeowner's premium was \$368 per year. In 1998 premiums were driven by home values and building costs. Now storms are the major cost driver.

## Alarming weather trends increase in the last 25 years

Minnesota has seen more storms, more severe storms and larger outbreaks.

In 2007 Minnesota was the second-highest state in the U.S., paying \$750 million in losses. California led with \$1.4



*Property insurance companies will increase deductibles, requiring policyholders to carry more risk, along with rate increases and coverage reductions. What can you do? Watch your upcoming insurance renewals for reduction in coverage and/or changes in your deductible. ... Consider an independent agency. Independent insurance agencies represent many different companies that offer a wide variety of coverage options and pricing.*

billion in wildfires.

In 2008 Minnesota was the third-highest state in the U.S. with \$1.5 billion in property losses. Texas and Louisiana led with hurricanes.

2010 was the worst year ever. Minnesota averages 44 tornadoes per year, rating 10<sup>th</sup> in the United States. In 2010 Minnesota led the nation with 144 touch-downs. One building \$60 million!

In 2011 only 30 tornadoes hit, but one big one in North Minneapolis caused \$250 million in property losses.

On July 1, 2011, in SW Minnesota, one of the worst storms hit, with 90-MPH sustained

winds for almost 45 minutes, about the same as a category 2 hurricane.

In 2012 the record flooding in Duluth cost \$450 million in reconstruction costs.

In 2017 a June 11 hailstorm in the northern metro suburbs caused \$3.2 billion in damage, by far the most expensive storm in Minnesota history! It was the fifth most expensive storm in the world in 2017.

The National Centers for Environmental information in 2020 announced the states with the most extreme weather: (1) California, (2) Minnesota, (3) Illinois and (4) Colorado.

## Impact on property insurance rates.

In 1998 the average Minnesota home premium was \$368. In 2017 the average Minnesota home premium was \$1,433, up more than 390 percent in 19 years!

In 1998 the \$368 average Minnesota home insurance premium was the 35<sup>th</sup>-highest in the U.S. In 2020 the average Minnesota home insurance premium of \$1,481 was the 12<sup>th</sup>-highest in the U.S.

## What will change due to extreme weather losses?

Property insurance companies will increase deductibles, requiring policyholders to carry

more risk, along with rate increases and coverage reductions.

What can you do? Watch your upcoming insurance renewals for reduction in coverage and/or changes in your deductible.

Many companies' minimum deductible on home and/or farm will be \$2,500 deductible. Some companies are changing to percent deductibles. \$500,000 coverage, 1 percent deductible, equals \$5,000 deductible.

What can you do? Consider an independent agency. Independent insurance agencies represent many different companies that offer a wide variety of coverage options and pricing. Kozlowski Insurance Agency is an Independent Insurance Agency with 21 team members who provide property and auto coverage through more than 20 different insurance companies. There's no need for you to accept one quote from one company,

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Thankfully it has been a quiet spring and summer in property claims, and hopefully fall and winter will be the same. Thank you for the trust and confidence in Kozlowski Insurance Agency.



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## USDA lending rates/continued from page 10C

winter storms, drought, hurricanes and other natural disasters, that USDA has programs that provide assistance.

USDA staff in the regional, state and county offices are prepared to deliver a variety of program flexibilities and other assistance to agricultural producers and impacted communities.

Many programs are available without an official disaster designation, including several risk management and disaster recovery options.

### Inflation Reduction Act assistance for distressed producers

On Aug. 16, 2022, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law.

It is a historic, once-in-a-generation investment and opportunity for the agricultural communities that USDA serves.

Section 22006 of the IRA provided \$3.1 billion for USDA to provide relief for distressed borrowers with certain FSA direct and guaranteed loans and to expedite assistance for those whose agricultural operations are at financial risk.

In October 2022, USDA provided approximately \$800 million in initial IRA assistance to more than 11,000 delinquent direct and guaranteed borrowers and approximately 2,100

borrowers who had their farms liquidated and still had remaining debt.

On May 1, 2023, FSA announced that nearly \$130 million in additional, automatic financial assistance had been obligated for qualifying farm loan program borrowers facing financial risk. This assistance included:

- Assistance to direct loan borrowers who were past due on a qualifying direct loan as of Sept. 30, 2022, but by fewer than 60 days, and remained delinquent on that loan as of March 27, 2023.

- Assistance to borrowers who restructured a qualifying direct loan after Feb. 28, 2020, through primary loan servicing available through FSA.

- Assistance to borrowers whose interest owed on their qualifying direct

loan debt exceeded the principal owed (on a loan-by-loan basis).

In May 2023, FSA began accepting and reviewing individual requests for assistance if they took certain extraordinary measures to avoid delinquency on their direct FSA loans, such as taking on or refinancing more debt, selling property, or cashing out retirement or college savings accounts.

On May 19, USDA mailed a letter to all FSA direct loan borrowers detailing eligibility and how to request extraordinary measures assistance.

Also in May, FSA started accepting and reviewing individual distressed borrower assistance requests from direct loan borrowers who missed a recent

installment or are unable to make their next scheduled installment.

All FSA borrowers should have received a letter detailing the process for seeking this type of assistance even before they become delinquent.

As the letter details, borrowers who are within two months of their next installment may seek a cash flow analysis from FSA to determine their eligibility.

On Aug. 11, 2023, USDA announced additional automatic assistance for qualifying guaranteed farm loan borrowers facing financial risk.

This assistance will provide distressed guaranteed loan borrowers with financial assistance similar to what was already provided automatically to distressed direct loan borrowers. Based on current analysis, this will provide financial assistance to an estimated 3,500 eligible borrowers.

Since payments began in October 2022, USDA has provided \$1.4 billion to more than 22,000 financially distressed direct and guaranteed FSA loan borrowers.

For more information, producers can contact their local USDA Service Center or visit farmers.gov/inflation-reduction-investments/assistance.



## Federal funding expands broadband access in Minnesota

**By Jillian Linster, assistant policy director, Center for Rural Affairs**

Access to reliable, affordable, high-speed internet continues to be a challenge in rural Minnesota, and its absence denies residents, industries and small businesses a vital service.

Without broadband access, rural residents are often excluded from online educational opportunities, the ability to work remotely, and health care innovations such as telehealth.

Rural small businesses struggle to contend with online competitors enjoying ample cloud computing and lightning-fast broadband speeds.

Rural industries, including precision agriculture, are unable to effectively use digital technologies and data analysis to improve planting efficiency and increase crop yields.

Those challenges have not gone unnoticed. Recently the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) announced an additional \$671 million in funding to support access for hundreds of thousands of previously unserved and underserved rural Americans.

The awards are the agency's fourth round of funding through its ReConnect program,

which works to increase access by providing grant and loan funds, with telecommunications companies in some states receiving both.

Lismore Cooperative Telephone Company of Minnesota will acquire more than \$13 million as grant funding and nearly \$6 million in loans, which will benefit 3,839 people, 127 businesses, 679 farms, and one educational facility in Nobles County.

During the past year, the program has awarded \$1.44 billion, improving access in service areas encompassing 87,106 rural American households.

Thanks to USDA-RD and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, millions in broadband funding is reaching rural communities in 30 states and territories.

The ReConnect program is complemented by additional federal funding from projects like the \$42.45 billion Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program supporting the expansion of high-speed internet access across the country.

By providing grants and loans to service providers that will create jobs and expand digital infrastructure, this federal funding directly improves the quality of rural life in the 21st century.



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# American Farm Bureau: 'EPA fails the test on WOTUS again'

**By Zippy Duvall  
President,  
American  
Farm Bureau**

Second chances don't come along every day. But every once in a while, we get a chance to start fresh, learn from our mistakes and do better.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers had that chance with WOTUS (Waters of the United States).

They had a prime opportunity to bring clarity to clean water regulations and respect the efforts of farmers and ranchers across the country.

Instead, the EPA threw that second chance away and chose a shortcut rather than clearing away the muddy uncertainty and government overreach.

Farmers and ranchers know the importance of clean water firsthand — our livelihoods depend on it — and we know our families, our neighbors and our communities are counting on us.

That's why farmers across the country take active steps to protect the water on and around our land — from planting cover crops to holding the soil in place to cutting



"Farmers and ranchers know the importance of clean water firsthand — our livelihoods depend on it — and we know our families, our neighbors and our communities are counting on us." — Zippy Duvall, Farm Bureau.

back on tilling to prevent runoff.

At Farm Bureau, we have long called for EPA to recognize and respect farmers' stewardship by providing clarity with clean water regulations.

Just a few months ago, farmers saw a landmark victory at the Supreme Court in the Sackett case. The Justices unanimously struck down EPA's significant nexus test and forced the agencies to make substantial changes to the

2023 WOTUS rule.

If ever there was a time for the EPA to go back and take input from farmers and ranchers on the clarity we need, this was it. Instead, the agency charged forward, ignoring clear and important concerns raised by the court, 26 states, and farmers and ranchers across the country.

At every opportunity, Farm Bureau and our grassroots members have been coming to the table and making our voices

heard on this issue for years. EPA has simply chosen not to listen.

This time they didn't even invite feedback or comment on their new rule.

Although the EPA did remove significant nexus from the new WOTUS rule because of the court decision, they have not removed the ambiguity from the rule.

Here's one example: EPA has left the definition of "relatively permanent" water as vague as

possible.

This gives them plenty of room to regulate areas that look nothing like waterways to an ordinary person — and leaves farmers with no way to know what parts of their land might be "waters" in EPA's eyes.

For nearly a decade now, farmers and ranchers have been left guessing as regulations bounce back and forth.

If the EPA had listened to farmers, they could have finally

*For nearly a decade, farmers and ranchers have been left guessing as regulations bounce back and forth. If the EPA had listened to farmers, they could have finally brought certainty and achieved a clear, permanent WOTUS rule.*

brought certainty and achieved a clear, permanent WOTUS rule.

While this latest WOTUS rule is not the one we were hoping for, let's not lose sight of the fact that the courts — including the Supreme Court — have often put the EPA back in check when it comes to its blatant overreach.

We have achieved awesome victories together as we advocated for what is right for our farms, ranches and our natural resources. We will keep pressing forward, back to the courts again, until we have the clear rules that farmers deserve.

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# PACE Act would improve access to credit for farmers

U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and John Hoeven (R-ND) introduced the Producer and Agricultural Credit Enhancement (PACE) Act, legislation to improve farmers' and ranchers' access to credit by modernizing loan limitations for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) loan programs.

"Too many American farmers and producers operate on razor-thin margins. Having access to credit can often mean the difference between economic viability and financial hardship. By expanding credit opportunities for producers and farmers, this legislation will strengthen the rural economy across Minnesota and the country," said Klobuchar.

"Production costs for our farmers and ranchers continue to rise due to record inflation and increasing costs for fuel, fertilizer and other inputs," said Hoeven, the ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee.

"Our legislation will help credit programs to keep pace with the current needs of producers so they have access to the capital they need to support their operations and ensure Americans have access to



Lori Sorenson photo in western Rock County

The PACE legislation would help credit programs keep pace with the current needs of producers so they have access to the capital they need to support their operations and ensure stable agricultural economies for future ag ventures.

the food and fuel we need." Specifically, the PACE Act:

- Increases loan limitations for the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) Direct and Guaranteed Loan Programs for Farm Operating Loans and Farm Ownership Loans by the following amounts:

- Direct Operating: Increase from \$400,000 to \$750,000.

- Guaranteed Operating: Increase from \$2.4 million to \$2.6 million.

- Direct Ownership: Increase from \$600,000 to \$850,000.

- Guaranteed Owner-

- ship: Increase from \$2.04 million to \$3 million.

- Changes the inflation benchmark for guaranteed ownership loans to the National Ag Statistics Service (NASS) Ag Land Values land survey.

- Indexes the Direct Farm Ownership Down Payment Program to align with current loan limitations, helping support beginning farmers and ranchers to finance the purchase of a family farm.

- Increases loan limitations for the FSA microloan program from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

- Directs FSA to promulgate rules allowing distressed borrowers to refinance guaranteed loans into direct loans.

The PACE Act is supported by National Farmers Union, American Farm Bureau Federation, American Soybean Association, American Sugarbeet Growers Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Barley Growers Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Cotton Council, National Pork Producers Council, National Sorghum Producers, National Sun-

flower Association, U.S. Canola Association, U.S. Beet Sugar Association, U.S. Dry Pea and Lentil Council, U.S. Peanut Federation, USA Rice, Farm Credit Council, and American Bankers Association.

"Farmers Union members welcome the introduction of the Producer and Agricultural Credit Enhancement Act. Access to credit is essential for farmers, and USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) loan programs are a unique and important source of capital for farm operations. Given sky-high land values and el-

evated input costs, this bill takes the important step of updating FSA loan limits, while expanding credit opportunities for all types of producers, and creating a new pathway for FSA to assist distressed borrowers," said National Farmers Union President Rob Larew.

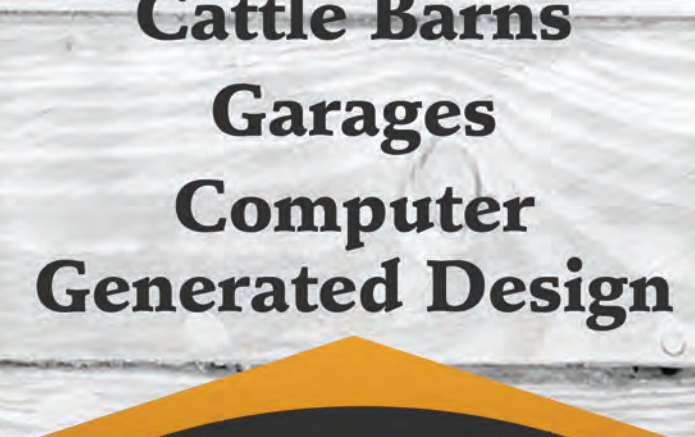
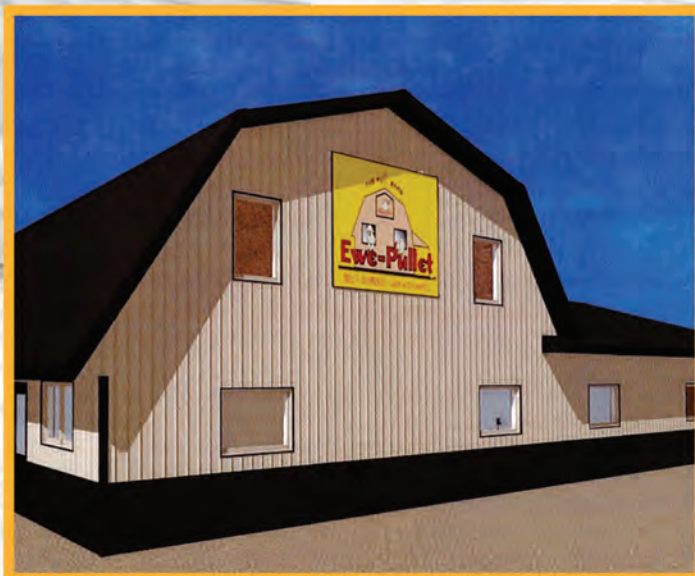
"Thank you, Senators Klobuchar and Hoeven, for putting forward this commonsense legislation to modernize FSA loan programs and strengthen the farm economy."

"Access to capital is critical to everyone in production agriculture — especially beginning farmers and ranchers. Farm Credit thanks Senators Hoeven and Klobuchar for their leadership on the Producer and Agricultural Credit Enhancement Act," said Farm Credit Council President and CEO Todd Van Hoose.

"It would increase FSA's direct and guaranteed loan limits to reflect the current costs of farming and ranching, benefiting producers across the country. Farm Credit looks forward to working with Senators Hoeven and Klobuchar to include this important legislation in the Farm Bill."

Representatives Brad Finstad and Angie Craig have introduced a companion bill in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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