



# Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, October 19, 2023

## VanDerBrink businesses and family to develop lots in Hardwick

*Auction service, Johnny V.'s Motor Sports and truck repair, plus housing coming to new addition*

By Mavis Fodness

Hardwick City Council members agreed to sell property in the city's new Scott Addition to Steve and Yvette VanDerBrink, according to action during the council's regular monthly meeting Oct. 10.

They approved the VanDerBrinks' offer of \$124,100 for 4.26 acres, which is more than half of the seven acres the city purchased from Bullerman/Scott family earlier this year for \$88,000.

The Scott Addition, located on the southwest side of Hardwick, consists of three tracts.

The VanDerBrinks bought Tract 2, a commercial lot, and Tract 3, a residential lot.

The city still owns just over 2.5 acres to build a new fire hall, which is a stipulation of the original land sale.

Currently, the city is working with Denver Township supervisors, who are interested in building an office area to adjoin the fire hall along with a laydown yard for township materials and equipment.

A purchase agreement for Tract 1 between the city of Hardwick and the township is pending.

The city also approved additional property sales to provide street access from County Road 7 (First Street) into the new addition.

Hardwick lots/see page 5A



Mavis Fodness photo/1012 Harvest 2023 Corn

## Harvest resumes after much-needed moisture

John Hemme (in combine) and Jarnet Johansen return to the 2023 corn harvest Monday afternoon west of Hardwick after scattered rain showers dampened the area over a four-day period. The majority of area farmers finished the soybean harvest last week prior to the much-needed moisture, which started Oct. 12 and accumulated roughly an inch of rain over the four days. Statewide, according to the weekly crop progress and condition report released Monday, soybean harvest is 76 percent complete, with corn harvested for grain at 45 percent complete.

## MDH updates Beaver Creek wellhead protection plan

By Lori Sorenson

Beaver Creek City Council members learned Wednesday night that the community's drinking water is clean and relatively well protected against contaminants.

That's according to Amanda Strommer with the Minnesota Department of Health.

She updated council members at their Oct. 11 meeting on Beaver Creek's wellhead protection plan, something the MDH updates every 10 years.

She said the town's aquifer

*"It's a little less likely for contaminants to get down into the aquifer because of the depth of your well, and the natural geology."*

— Amanda Strommer, Department of Health

and 200-foot-deep well (constructed in 1974) has a low vulnerability to contamination.

"It's a little less likely for contaminants to get down into the aquifer because of the depth of your well, and the natural geology," Strommer said, referring to

glacial till and clay-rich sediments that protect the aquifer.

"Some systems in other communities in Rock County that have really shallow wells are very susceptible to spills and chemicals and other things at the surface."

She said the assessment also

considers water quality testing for nitrates, chloride-bromide ratios and tritium, which is used to age-date water.

"We know you have old, deep, protected water, so that's really good," Strommer said.

The summary report stated that there are few to no water quality concerns based on the tests.

"At present, none of the contaminants for which the Safe Drinking Water Act has estab-

Beaver Creek water/see 2A

### Twisted Farmers Fab, LLC

## Hartz Welding and Repair finds creative outlet after investing in CNC

By Lori Sorenson

Last summer a tornado sent a silo through the back wall of Jacob and Amanda Hartz's shop north of Beaver Creek.

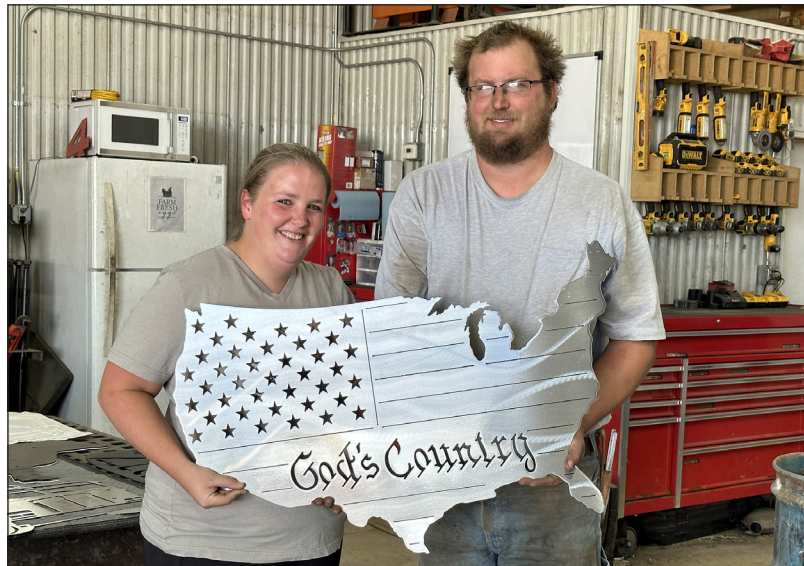
"Things were just a mess," said Amanda. "It was all twisted."

She's a nurse at Sanford Luverne Clinic, and Jacob operates Hartz Welding and Repair in addition to feeding swine for Lynch Livestock.

Together they have three children, ages 12, 9 and 7, who help on the acreage that also has guineas, chickens and cats. In April the couple added a CNC machine to the welding business to manufacture custom parts for repair work — and to add a creative outlet to the business.

One of the first things Jacob programmed the machine to produce was a cutout of a cow's head that, when attached to a wall, appears to peek around the corner.

"It's the peek-a-boo cow," he said, demonstrating how it



Lori Sorenson photos/1019 twisted farmers fab

In April Jacob and Amanda Hartz invested in a CNC machine for Jacob's welding business to manufacture custom parts for repair work — and to add a creative outlet to their Beaver Creek business.

looks when attached perpendicularly to a wall.

He made a metal cutout sign for "Hartz Welding and Repair" and soon started making business signs for others. Some were simple, others intricate and ornate.

Word traveled about the talent and craftsmanship coming out of the Hartz shop, and the couple found themselves in need of a business name for their new line of work.

Twisted Farmers Fab/see 3A

## City orders owner to raze ruined house in Hardwick Second property also in violation

By Mavis Fodness

The Hardwick City Council further enforced its nuisance ordinance Oct. 10 with one of two property owners who failed to comply with administrative citations.

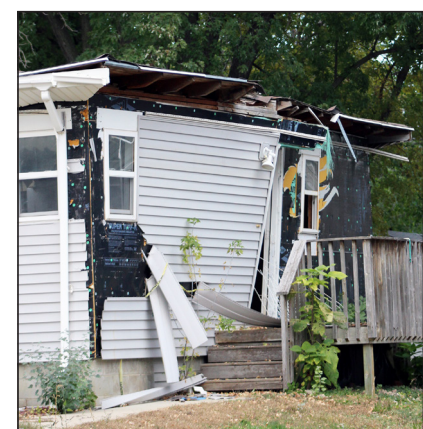
Nicole Halverson's home at 207 1st St. West was damaged Sept. 17, 2021, when a tree fell on the roof during a storm that produced 70 mph winds.

Halverson, who was home at the time of the winds, was uninjured, but the home is now uninhabitable.

In the two years since the storm, neither Halverson nor James Holloway, whose name is also listed on property tax statements, has repaired the collapsed roof or replaced the broken and/or missing windows.

The home's interior has been exposed to weather elements and open to possible mold, rodents and other pests, and city officials fear the structure is a potential haven for criminal activity.

The Halverson home, as is, fails to meet city building stan-



Mavis Fodness photo/1019 Hardwick A tree fell on the roof at 207 First St. West in 2021 and repairs were never made, leaving the home exposed to the weather and pests.

dards for a shed or a dwelling.

A resolution drafted by the city's attorney David Owen reads, "The building is a general safety hazard in its current state."

The administrative order to make repairs was issued Aug. 22 to Halverson's current address in Kenneth.

Hardwick housing/see 3A



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 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 (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.

### Operation Christmas Child

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). Call Edna Buys at 507-227-7169 or Charla Sandbulte at 507-227-1722, or go online to samaritanpurse.org for more information.

### Blood donation opportunities

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in the area in the following locations to accept donations:

- Luverne from noon to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at Living Rock Church on East Main Street.
- Adrian from 1 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25, in the Adrian High School, 415 Kentucky Ave.
- Lismore from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 31, in the American Legion on Main Street.

To make an appointment, use the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Donors will receive \$10 gift cards to merchants of their choice and will be entered in a drawing for \$5,000.

### LHS presents 'Wild Pink'

The Luverne High School drama department will present "Wild Pink" Thursday through Saturday, Oct. 26-28, in the performing arts center. The play begins at 7 p.m.

### Collection for medication Oct. 28

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, Oct. 28. If you have unused or expired medication, bring to the Rock County Sheriff's Office for safe disposal. The drop box is available 24/7 in the lobby. Helping to promote this event is the Substance Free Coalition of Rock County, a team of #Luv1LuvAll.

### Community Ed

Call 507-283-4724 to register for the following:

- Students (grades K-6) can learn to decorate **Halloween-themed cookies** like a pro at B's Bakehouse on Oct. 28. Fee is \$35. Register by Oct. 18.
- Looking for something beyond Monopoly or Clue to entertain family and guests? 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.

### Library Happenings

Call the Rock County Library at 507-449-5040 or email rockcountystaff@gmail.com for the following:

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



(Submitted photo)

## Culligan celebrates new location

Culligan Water of Luverne celebrated the opening of its new location at 321 East Main Street with a ribbon-cutting Tuesday morning. Pictured are, from left, Becky Walgrave, Holly Sammons, Jenny Jorgenson, Annie Opitz, Kathy Heeren, Jeremy Hough (Culligan Sales & Service Tech), Amber Lais, Rich Johnson (Culligan owner/dealer), Bob Junak, Angie Dietz (Culligan general manager/controller), Wendel Buys, Susy Dahlke (Culligan experience manager/part owner), Cris Oeltjenbruns, Dave Cone (Culligan Owner/Dealer), Amanda McDonald, Gina Graff (Culligan Luverne customer service representative), Stacey Smidt and Adam Geraets.

Culligan is now located in the former Stroeh's Auto building at 321 East Main Street. In addition to Luverne, Culligan of Southern Minnesota has locations in Mankato, Madelia, Sleepy Eye, New Ulm, Redwood Falls, Marshall, Slayton, Tracy and Pipestone.

## Beaver Creek water plan/continued from page 1A

lished health-based standards has been found above the maximum allowable levels in the city's water supply, nor are any present at one-half those levels," the report states.

It did, however, find low levels of arsenic and manganese.

### Unused, unsealed wells are potential sources of contamination

The next phase of the wellhead protection plan will look at potential sources of contamination.

"One of the things we look for in a low-vulnerability aquifer like yours is we look for any unused, unsealed wells," Strommer said.

"Because if those are drilled down 170 to 200 feet deep, they're connected to the same aquifer you're pumping from and they're open conduits for spills or chemicals at the surface that could get down into the aquifer."

Also, she said old wells often have cracks in the shaft that can allow subsoil

*"From the county's side, the environmental office has helped with these types of plans before and we'll help do whatever we can. Whether it's providing information or help with finding wells ... or whatever we can do."*

— Arlyn Gehrke, Rock County Land Management Office

contamination, so she said that will become a priority to locate and seal unused wells.

Council member Alan Harnack noted that at one time there were four farms in every section. "I'm sure there are wells there," he said.

Strommer said the assessment will consider historical information and records, in addition to public education — letting people know they should seal their wells — to address those potential sources of contamination.

"Mostly, people need to know if there are wells in this area, not to be afraid to

tell us about them, because there is grant funding available," Strommer said.

### Grant funding

"The grants are a really great tool, because any unused well or issue that we identify can be eligible for grant funding," Strommer said.

Once the Beaver Creek's wellhead protection plan is written, the city can access state funding to address issues outlined in the plan.

"You can get up to \$10,000 in grants per project per item with no cost share or match required.

"If it's something in your plan that will protect the source of the water, you can get that grant funding as many times as you need." In addition, she said

the community can apply for competitive grants that could supplement the non-match grants.

Funding is commonly available for well sealing, generators, security equipment and future water supply planning.

"We can write those types of things in the plan," Strommer said.

She said she and her staff and city staff are about halfway through the process.

"We'll work with city staff to write the next part of the plan and we'll come back to the council," Strommer said. "After the local government reviews it, there's a public hearing before it's finalized."

She said that would happen before the end of the year.

Arlyn Gehrke with the Rock County Land Management attended the Oct. 11 meeting in Beaver Creek to offer support.

"From the county's side, the environmental office has helped with these types of plans before and we'll help do whatever we can," Gehrke said. "Whether it's providing information or help with finding wells ... or whatever we can do."

## LOST DOG - Garretson, SD

MINI POODLE, TAN, 16 YEARS OLD, 7 LBS

MAY BE HIDING UNDER DECKS/PORCHES OR IN SHEDS, WINDOW WELLS, ETC.

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## NEW DEADLINES STARTING IN NOVEMBER

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## Twisted Farmers Fab is creative outlet of Hartz Welding and Repair/continued from page 1A

“Twisted Farmers Fab,” harkens to the storm that wreaked havoc on their shop last year. Their business, logo, a yellow metal cutout chicken, is a playful nod to their roaming farmyard chickens and guineas.

“I’m just glad this thing wasn’t sitting here when the storm came through,” Jacob said, pointing to the large plasma CNC machine he purchased in April.

“It smashed my toolboxes and the bathroom. ... The lathe was sitting there. Luckily that didn’t get smashed.”

Computer numerical control (CNC) automates the control, movement and precision of machine tools through the preprogrammed computer software.

### ‘I was bored, and now I’m not bored’

While it has practical applications for Hartz Welding and Repair, the couple are clearly enjoying the machine’s creative possibilities.

“This was something else to do,” said Jacob, who has been welding for ag repair for eight years.

“I was bored, and now I’m not bored.”

He points to a life-size metal cutout “Sasquatch” that he made. Why would he want a Sasquatch?

“Why not?” he shrugs. “I’m going to build a stand for him and put him out in the middle of the yard and put a Santa hat on him.”

Amanda said they saw one online and decided they had to have one of their own.

“I’m going to get a little Red Rider [wagon] for him to pull behind him,” Jacob said.

“... for the art of conversation.”



Jacob and Amanda Hartz invested in a CNC machine in April for Jacob’s welding business to manufacture custom parts. One of the first things Jacob programmed the CNC machine to produce was a cutout of a cow’s head that, when attached to a wall, appears to peek around the corner (at left). Lori Sorenson photos



Above right, wind spinners have become one of Jacob’s favorite gifts to make — and give away to people. The pink figure skater was a gift to Wayne and Mary Thompson in memory of their daughter, Brooke. The ATV wheeler was a gift in memory of Carson Ehde.



Earlier this summer, they used a photograph of the late Carson Ehde riding a wheelie on his four-wheeler and created a personalized wind spinner of that image for Carson’s parents.

In both instances, the families weren’t expecting the gifts; the Hartzes simply presented them.

“With the wind spinners, there’s just something about them,” Jacob said. “Hopefully they help someone.”

The Children’s Remembrance Garden in Luverne features three donated Hartz wind spinners.

One of them features a silhouette of parents holding the hands of a young child.

Meanwhile, the couple has filled more than 100 orders for personalized work and have sold dozens of pre-made products online and at vendor fairs.

But with harvest in full swing, they’ve put artwork on hold for ag work, but they’re scheduled for a vendor fair in Larchwood, Iowa, on Oct. 28, and they’re gearing up for Christmas gift orders.

“It’s all custom; we can personalize anything, depending on size,” Jacob said about the possibilities of their work.

“People may not realize what they’re able to do. ... For most of these, there will never be another one. It’s cool. It’s custom. It’s theirs.”

Twisted Farmers Fab, LLC, has a Facebook page featuring the many personalized products they’ve done for customers.

The couple can take orders through via email, amanda.hartz2012@gmail.com. Order can also be arranged by phone, 507-220-2719.



Meanwhile the creativity is beginning to pay off. One of his recent projects is a 10-foot long and 3-foot tall custom sign for a vacation home in the Black Hills. There have been many others like that one.

A large metal sign for Leuthold trucking features a detailed cutout of the Leuthold truck, and it will hang on the trucking business shop wall.

Other custom signs are

framed and put on posts for display in front of businesses.

A popular custom gift is a collapsible four-sided fire pit that can be customized and personalized with art cutouts on all four sides.

A recent Luverne Cardinals-themed metal pit was donated for the Luverne Blaze raffle this summer. They donated two similar items to other charities.

Trucking business signs (left), collapsible fire pits (below) and saw-blade art are among dozens of products available for sale and available for customizing at Jacob and Amanda Hartz’s Twisted Farmers Fab business.



### Gifts from the heart

As it turns out, the Hartz couple donates a good share of their talent to charity and people they want to help.

For example, personalized wind spinners have become thoughtful gifts for people mourning the loss of loved ones. They’re made of 16-gauge powder-coated steel that are durable enough to stand up to Rock County’s gusty winds.

The Hartzes presented Wayne and Mary Thompson with a wind spinner that features a cutout silhouette of their late daughter, Brooke, in a figure-skating pose.

“I like these the most,” Jacob said about the Thompson wind spinner.

“Some things come from the heart. She figure-skated. Now Thompsons are going to be able to see her twirling.”

## Hardwick housing; city issues orders to raze condemned properties/continued from page 1A

Halverson had 10 days to comply with the first order or face fines of no less than \$100 per day and may be subject to a misdemeanor conviction.

The August order was never appealed, and Halverson did not contact city officials to negotiate a repair timeline prior to the issuance of the Oct. 10 raze order.

“Since nothing has been done, and since these hazards seem rather extreme, the council opted to proceed with the process to have the property razed instead of proceeding forward with enforcement of an administrative citation,” Owens said after the meeting.

Halverson has 20 days to challenge the raze order.

“If no challenge is made, I am authorized to make a summary motion asking the court to enforce the order as written,” Owens said.

Once the deadlines pass, the city will have the house razed, the foundation filled and debris removed with all costs assessed against the property.

According to the county assessor’s office, the house was purchased by Halverson and Holloway in 2013 for \$56,000.

In 2021, prior to the home’s damage, market



The home at 207 First St. West in Hardwick (above) is owned by Nicole Halverson of Kenneth and James Holloway. Hardwick City Council ordered that it be razed in 45 days. After 45 days, the city will raze the storm-damaged structure, fill the foundation and clean the lot of debris, assessing the costs to the property owners. The home at 106 First St. East in Hardwick (at right) remains under an administrative order for violating the city’s nuisance ordinance. The owner, Sam Vasquez of Magnolia, stayed further action by the council by cleaning up debris in the last 60 days. Mavis Fodness photos/1019 hardwick home citations



value was at \$68,800. In 2022, the market value was reduced to \$7,700.

No property tax payments have been made on the property since 2021.

### Second property still in possible violation

The second uninhabited house at 106 1st Ave. West was issued a citation to clear nuisance materials on Aug. 16.

The property is owned by Sam Vasquez, Magnolia, who purchased the house in 2021.

The citation to clear the property of nuisance materials was issued on Aug. 16, and since then, Vasquez told the council he intended

to clean the property.

The council noted at their Oct. 10 meeting, Vasquez has cleared the property of nuisance items, but no additional repairs have been made to the home’s interior.

The council noted that the house’s doors and windows are now securely closed, and the structure interior is not open to the elements.

However, the interior remains hazardous, with areas of the home falling into the basement.

Council members indicated they would not move forward with a raze order for the Vasquez property for now.

# FALL LEAF PICK UP

## 2023 PICK-UP DATES

(ONE ROUND PER WEEK)

- Rake leaves to the gutter by 7 a.m. Monday.
- Avoid areas close to parked cars and street grates.
- One round through the city each week.
- Branches, yard clippings, or bagged leaves will not be picked up.

\*More dates may be added, weather permitting.

**1ST PICK-UP**

**OCT. 16-20**

**2ND PICK-UP**

**OCT. 23 - 27**

DUE TO WEATHER  
SCHEDULE MAY CHANGE

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Rock County

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## Want to earn money for improving your health? Read below

Members of the S7 Wellness Group (which includes me) have been challenged this month to get more individuals signed up for our virtual health group.



### RUMINATIONS

By Mavis Fodness, Reporter

In the saddle, I ditched the saddle entirely for the champ show's bareback riding class. I was by far the oldest competitor in the class full of 20-somethings.

I came to be in that class due to a challenge earlier this year where I double-dog-dared readers of my columns to stop sitting on the sidelines. Because I didn't sit on the sidelines when asked to ride bareback, I had the best experience.

No ribbons resulted from my trip to the Twin Cities show, but I received a prize outside the ribbon I sought.

The improved posture and a more positive mental attitude are by far the best prizes and come as a result my focus on wellness.

What are your health goals?

Lose weight?

Be stronger?

Rely on fewer prescriptions?

Run a 5K? (my next challenge)

Consider being coached by people who have your interests at heart. No matter what the challenge (donkey races, anyone?), S7 Wellness can help you meet goals and earn \$50 as a result.

For taking the initiative into wellness last year, I've already earned a first-place ribbon and plan on earning many more.

For each new member we attract, we'll receive \$100 — that we can split with the new member.

I thought I would give the challenge a try and completed the required Facebook posts about my own wellness journey that began a year ago.

At that time, I challenged myself to try to win another ribbon at the WSCA Champ Show. The large rosettes are given to the Top 10 horseback riders in each performance class.

My third annual trip occurred last month, and I went into the competition a different person, as pictures showed.

My first two years showed me as overweight, slumped-shouldered and very stiff in the saddle. This year's pictures show a welcomed opposite.

"A completely different human" is how my daughter and S7 Wellness coach described me last week. And I agree, thanks to her and the wellness program.

The difference is not just in weight.

I've kept the weight off while still shopping at the local grocery store, mindful of the items I'm choosing to put in my mouth.

Not only do I look better

## Support the folks who support our families affected by dementia

Last week families and volunteers "Painted the Prairie Purple" for Dementia Awareness Week, which culminated with a Dementia Walk Saturday.

The efforts are dedicated to increasing understanding and awareness of dementia, a condition affecting millions worldwide. Dementia is not a single disease, but a collection of symptoms that result from disorders affecting the brain.

These symptoms can impact memory, thinking, behavior, and the ability to perform everyday tasks. While Alzheimer's Disease is the most well-known, there are many other forms of dementia, each with unique necessities.

Amid a growing number of older adults with dementia, Luverne and Rock County are developing support resources for both the patients and their families. In particular, A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota in Rock County promotes education through a number of opportunities.

For example, the organization

offers aging and dementia training, "Dementia Friends" sessions, caregiver retreats and future dementia education events.

It's a good thing A.C.E. and other organizations are supporting local families on their dementia journeys, because odds are pretty good we or a family member will struggle at some point in our lives.

According to the American Alzheimer's Association, 10 percent of adults will have dementia after age 70, and those odds jump to 20 percent over age 80, and over 30 percent after 90. Meanwhile, younger people are not immune.

What we're learning is that dementia and other brain health conditions can be isolating and alienating for individuals who have

the condition, and it can be utterly exhausting for their loved ones trying to care for them.

Fortunately, in Rock County, no one needs to travel that path alone.

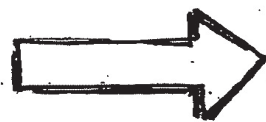
Saturday's Dementia Awareness Walk was a fundraiser for the Southwest Minnesota Dementia Awareness Network, and all of the money raised stays to help local dementia support programs.

We're grateful for these volunteers and services, and encourage our readers to support this important work.

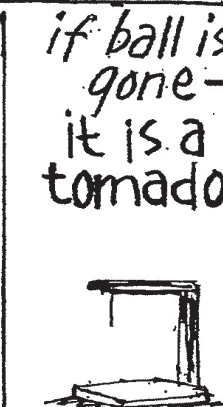
Checks can be written to "SW MN Dementia Awareness Network" and sent to A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota — Rock County, 105 S. Estey Street, Suite 2, Luverne, MN 56156.

### STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

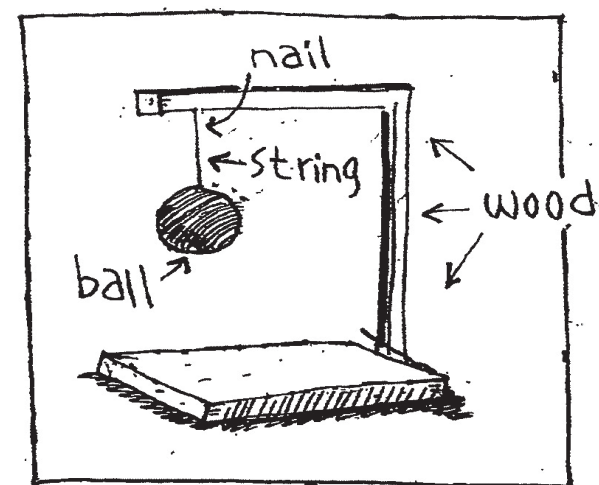
Minnesota  
make your own  
Weather  
barometer



how to use:



FD FISCHER



## Thone: 'Paper rules have no relevance...'

### Letter to the Editor:

The paper rules have no relevance for the innocent. The rules of God define the innocent. The rules of man punish the criminals. God's Rule: Do no harm or damage to person, place, or thing, willfully or with extreme negligence.

This government excels at forced choices, forced permissions, financially raping and jailing the innocent, and ruining the innocent peasant.

To truly know God is to do and be responsible. Drive and copulate responsibly and do no harm or damage. No group of men can give mothers permission to take the life of their offspring. Every human being has a God given right to be and do, including being born.

Licenses, permissions, certificates, forced payments, forced choices, are the tools of the slave Master. We render unto Caesar

what is Caesar's. If we choose to use Caesar's garbage service, we pay.

You cannot regulate the guilty by punishing the innocent. If you willfully choose to be shackled and punished by our corrupt public servants, please do not demand that I must do the same.

The evil extort the innocent with forced choices, forced permissions, and forced payments. They declare themselves the master of God and the peasants with their paper rules.

You write words on paper giving mothers permission to take the life of their offspring. In the eyes of God, you are murdering the most innocent and defenseless.

You write words on paper to financially rape us for moving in public. In the eyes of God, you are exploiting and extorting the innocent who move.

You write words on paper to

financially rape us for living in our homes. In the eyes of God, you are exploiting and extorting the innocent for living.

You write rules that only royalty can protect themselves with guns. In the eyes of God everyone has that right, which shall not be removed, to protect themselves.

The only right you haven't extorted and exploited yet is breathing.

Our servants are exploiting and extorting the living out of us peasants.

**18 U.S. Code § 872. Extortion by officers or employees of the United States**

(2) The term "extortion" means the obtaining of property from another, with his consent, induced by wrongful use of actual or threatened force, violence, or fear, or under color of official right.

**Terry Thone,  
Luverne**

## Everything's not the same when it comes to pumpkins

It's funny how everything has changed. Some things you thought would never change — yet they did.

Case in point, the pumpkin. Used to be one color choice — orange. Then the white pumpkin crept into the fold, and now you have a regular buffet of pumpkin colors to choose from.

While I am not an expert of pumpkins, I am not sure if all the pumpkins on our front porch ARE pumpkins or if they're gourds or even squash. Most likely some of all three.

We have small ones, medium, and larger ones, and very large ones ... orange, white, and, new this year, a couple of yellow ones. Some are a mixture of green, orange and white.

My favorite pumpkins are the



### FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson,  
general manager

bumpy ones. They have so much character, yet they are kind of the Charlie Brown Christmas tree of the pumpkin family.

At last count we had 29 different pumpkins on our front porch. ... That was until I spotted a really cool-looking, bumpy one at the pumpkin truck stand in the Dollar General parking lot. That puts us at 30, and as any pumpkin display artist will tell you, never have an even number of pumpkins on display. Always an odd number.

Guess I keep my eye open for one more.

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Rock County's newspaper since 1873

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## ON THE RECORD

### Dispatch report

**Oct. 6**  
 •Complainant on W. Main Street reported suspicious activity.  
 •Complainant on 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Hills, reported property damage.  
 •Complainant reported lost property.  
 •Complainant on 111<sup>th</sup> Street and Rock River Drive reported a miscellaneous public assist.  
 •Complainant reported a civil issue.  
 •Complainant on N. Oakley Street reported a runaway.  
 •Complainant on W. Main Street and Warren Street requested assistance from another department.

**Oct. 7**  
 •Complainant on W. Main Street, Hardwick, reported an issue with road and drive laws.  
 •Complainant on 81<sup>st</sup> Street and 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue requested roadside assistance.  
 •Complainant on N. Cedar Street and E. Luverne Street reported an accident to property damage.  
 •Complainant on W. Interstate drive reported theft.  
 •Complainant east-bound on the ramp of Interstate 90, Luverne, reported a transient.  
 •Complainant on E. Crawford Street reported a civil issue.  
 •Complainant on 91<sup>st</sup> Street reported a fire.  
 •Complainant in Hills reported suspicious activity.

**Oct. 8**  
 •Complainant on E. Dodge Street reported disturbing the peace.  
 •Complainant on N. McKenzie Street reported an open door.  
 •Complainant on E. Crawford Street reported a civil issue.  
 •Complainant reported lost property.  
 •Complainant on

Interstate 90, mile marker 18, Magnolia, reported a transient.  
 •Complainant on Main Street and Walnut Avenue reported road and drive laws.  
 •A warrant was issued on W. Virginia Street.

**Oct. 9**  
 •Complainant on 90<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported vandalism.  
 •Complainant on 81<sup>st</sup> Street, Valley Springs, reported theft.  
 •Complainant east-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 11, Luverne, reported debris.  
 •Complainant on N. Oakley Street reported truancy.  
 •Complainant in the 24-hour parking lot reported an issue with road and drive laws.  
 •Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported an issue with road and drive laws.

**Oct. 10**  
 •Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported a fire call.  
 •Complainant on N. Elmhurst Avenue reported disturbing the peace.  
 •Complainant on Hatting and Freeman reported an issue with road and drive laws.

**Oct. 11**  
 •Complainant on N. Freeman Avenue reported a transient.  
 •Complainant on E. Luverne Street reported a fire.  
 •Complainant on 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported fraud.

In addition, officers responded to 2 motor vehicle accidents, 2 deer accidents, 3 escorts, 7 ambulance runs, 3 paper services, 6 animal complaints, 2 fingerprint requests, 2 burn permits, 1 drug court test, 1 purchase and carry permit, 1 stalled vehicle, 18 traffic stops, 5 abandoned 911 calls, 2 tests, and 1 welfare check.

## Hardwick land development/continued from page 1A

The council bought .27 acres from John Javner for \$2,500 and .083 acres from Charlie and Katie Dilly for \$1,500.

The city will take care of clearing trees on those properties for the access road.

### VanDerBrinks plan to honor city's intent

When the seven acres were originally purchased, the Hardwick City Council intended to offer lots for business expansions and new housing units in the Scott Addition.

However, cost of development and management of the sales involved expenses and expertise outside the realm of the elected and appointed officials.

"There is a cost to develop undeveloped land," said city clerk Tammy Johnson. "After a lot of discussion, the council felt it made financial sense to sell to a motivated developer who has a similar vision as we do."

The VanDerBrinks intend to focus on Tract 2 and move the family's businesses to Hardwick.

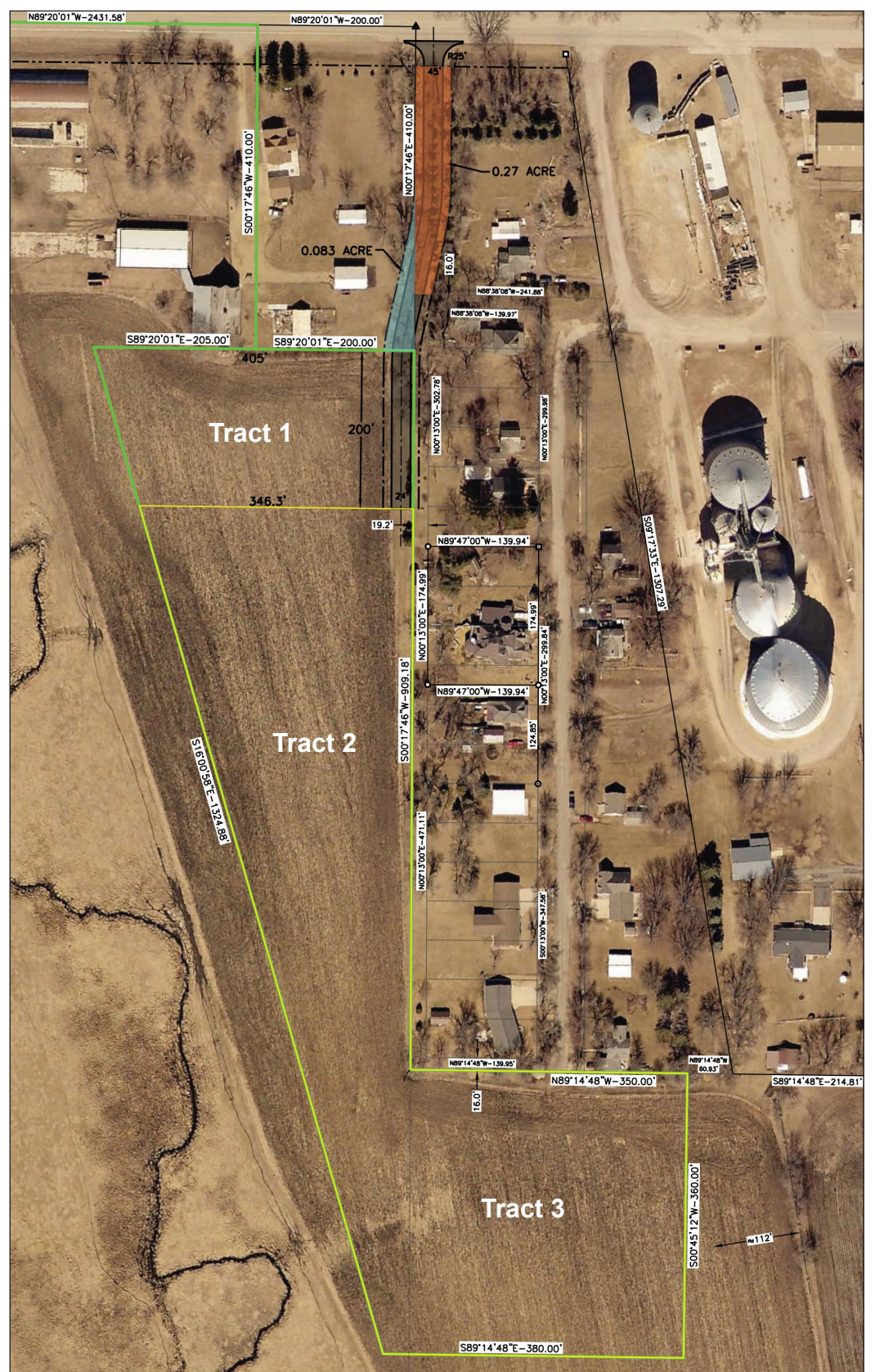
For more than two decades, Yvette operated her auction and real estate business, VanDerBrink Auctions, from her living room. Now she plans to construct an office and large events space for indoor auctions.

She has indicated she would also like the events space to be rentable by the public.

Her husband, Steve, and son, Johnathon, would also move their businesses off the farm and build new in Hardwick.

They closed on the purchase agreement Friday, giving the family businesses in-town store fronts, something they've been discussing for a year.

"The idea is brand new to us," Yvette said. "I am really excited about having an



The Scott Addition, located on the southwest side of Hardwick, consists of seven acres. The VanDerBrink family bought Tract 2, a commercial lot, and Tract 3, a residential lot.

office. It will give me more opportunities to do more things."

Steve sold his truck repair business in Lismore and started his own shop on the farm in 2021. Johnathon started Johnny V.'s MotorSports earlier

this year. He repairs small engines on lawn and recreational vehicles.

On Parcel 3, Yvette said a residential housing development is still planned.

The parcel could be divided into four or five

lots for single family or even twin homes.

However, construction will first take place for the VanDerBrink businesses on Parcel 2.

"We feel down the road something will happen (on Tract 3)," she said.



## Luverne Class of 1958 gathers for reunion

The LHS Class of 1958 gathered for a 65<sup>th</sup> reunion Sept. 30. 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 (Goembel) Larson and Roy Moeller. (This is reprinted to correct an error last week in which the Star Herald referred to the class as being from Hardwick)

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**LUVERNE CARDINALS**

**REQUEST FOR SURPLUS PROPERTY SEALED BID**  
 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2184  
 LUVERNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Independent School District No. 2184 is requesting bids for the following surplus property:  
**1 - 2011 Chevrolet Suburban LS**

**Vehicle specifications:** 5.3L, V8, Automatic, 6 speed HD with Overdrive, 4-wheel drive with 150,900 miles.

Questions may be directed to Brad Goembel, Transportation Supervisor, and the vehicle may be seen at the Bus Garage by appointment. Call 283-8088 and ask for extension 2180.

Bids will be received by Independent School District No. 2184 until 5:00 p.m. October 25, 2023, at the office of the Superintendent of Schools, 709 North Kniss Avenue, Luverne, Minnesota. Minimum bid accepted will be \$7,000.

Each bid must be in a sealed envelope marked "Surplus Property Bid" with the bidders name, address, and phone number included. Property sold "as is".

Bids may not be withdrawn within thirty days after the scheduled closing time for receiving bids. The Independent School District No. 2184, Luverne, Minnesota, reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities in bids.

**David Wrigg**  
 Clerk

**PALACE THEATRE UPCOMING EVENTS**

**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.

**Hockeyland**  
 Monday, October 23 7:00 pm  
 Join Hockeyland director Tommy Haines and Andy Shriver from Positive Coaching Alliance for a screening and conversation.  
 Tickets: Adults \$7, Students FREE

**Movie title coming soon**  
 Afternoon Escape: TBD  
 Thursday, October 26 2:00 pm  
 \$5 Admission

**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!  
 Tickets: \$20 for Students \$25 for Adults

**Knickers**  
 A BRIEF COMEDY  
 NOVEMBER 10-12 & 16-19, 2023  
 THE THEATRE PALACE THEATRE  
 LUVERNE, MINNESOTA  
 TICKETS: \$10 - \$25  
 Green Earth Players Presents: Knickers  
 November 10 - 12  
 November 16 - 19

**Mason Dixon Line Presents: A Kickin' Country Christmas**  
**Saturday, December 9**  
 Tickets on sale now!

104 E. Main St. • Luverne, MN 56156 • 507.283.4339  
 WWW.PALACETHEATRE.US

## MENU AT GENERATIONS

**Monday, Oct. 23:** Parmesan chicken, spaghetti noodles, green beans, warm apple slices.

**Tuesday, Oct. 24:** Tater tot casserole, mixed vegetables, warm peaches, dinner roll.

**Wednesday, Oct. 25:** Baked ham, boiled diced potatoes, baked cabbage, bread, dessert.

**Thursday, Oct. 26:** Turkey and gravy over mashed potatoes, corn, dinner roll, warm fruit crisp.

**Friday, Oct. 27:** Sloppy Joe, bun, cheesy hashbrowns, baked beans, cookie.

*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).*

## 1943: Chores kept Meyer out of school and at home

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 Feb. 17.

"No, I didn't go to school a great deal," said Ernest A. Meyer, Luverne, when he was asked if he had had an opportunity to get an education when he was young.

"You see," he explained, "father always kept a lot of livestock, and there were enough chores to keep all of us at home busy all the time. I remember I started plowing with a walking plow drawn by three horses when I was nine years old. I had to reach up with my hands when I took hold of the plow handles. Man, were my legs ever tired when I quit at night! Someone had to do the work, and it happened to be the hired man and me that fall, for father and my brother were out threshing.

"I went to 'summer school' for a few years, and to 'winter school' until I was 12. The winter I was 13, I didn't go because I was needed at home. We had at that time about 1,000 head of sheep, 200 head of cattle, 350 head of hogs and 50 or 60 horses, and I had to help with the work. After that, I never did go back to school."

### Born in Iowa

Mr. Meyer was born in Benton county, Iowa, September 9, 1871. He was the fourth child of Ernest and Elizabeth Meyer who had come to Iowa from Germany when they were 9 and 11 years, respectively. They had lived first in Clayton county, until they bought an 80-acre farm in Benton county, which was later enlarged by the elder Mr. Meyer, as his farming operations prospered.



## BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann,  
Rock County Historian

The more modern types of machinery were just coming into use as Mr. Meyer was growing up. His father, being one of the better-known farmers in the community, always seemed to be the first to get a new piece of farm machinery when it came out. "A dealer would generally come to father first," Mr. Meyer said, "and by offering him a pretty good deal, he was generally sure of a sale. When the other people living around us were told that 'Mr. Meyer has one', the dealer usually had no trouble in making more sales in the territory."

Mr. Meyer recalls that he was about 12 years old when they had their first plow with a seat on it—a small sulky. He also recalls that he drove one of the old harvesters, while two men stood on it and bound the grain as it was being cut. Not long after, his father bought one of the cumbersome binders which used wire to tie the bundles. "That was about the clumsiest piece of machinery I've ever seen or used," declared Mr. Meyer. "It would take three good horses to pull it empty. When we used it in the field, it made plenty of work for six horses. The machine was generally considered unsuccessful. Often the wire would

Bits, continued on 6A

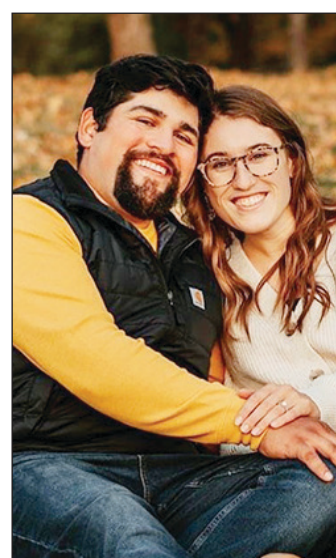
## ENGAGEMENT

Tony and Wendy Gacke of Luverne and Brian and Sue Buettner of Clear Lake, Minnesota, announce the upcoming wedding of their children, Jonathan Gacke and Kendra Buettner.

Kendra graduated from Becker High School, and from UMD and the University of Minnesota with a bachelor's degree in cell and molecular biology and doctorate of pharmacy. She currently works as an MTM clinical pharmacist at Cuyuna Regional Medical Center.

Jonathan is a graduate of Luverne High School. He currently works as a property adjuster at Midwest Claims Services in Duluth.

Jonathan and Kendra will unite in marriage Sat-



Kendra Buettner and Jonathan Gacke

urday, Oct. 21, 2023, at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary in Duluth.



Mavis Fodness photo/1012 Hills FD Cadets

Sawyer Bosch (left) and Logan Susie are two cadets on the Hills Area Volunteer Fire Department. The two H-BC Secondary School students respond to emergencies and attend trainings with the other full-time volunteers, but their duties at a scene are limited. The cadet program allows anyone not yet 18 years old to experience the emergency response duties.

## Cadet program exposes secondary students to volunteer fire fighting

Program allows under 18 to experience emergency response duties

By Mavis Fodness

A cadet program with the Hills Area Volunteer Fire Departments is exposing high school students to fire fighting in their community.

The latest cadets are H-BC senior Logan Susie and junior Sawyer Bosch.

At age 17, they can't apply to be full-fledged volunteers until they reach age 18. Until then, they are gaining valuable experience.

As cadets, they respond to 911 calls like the full-fledged volunteers, but their duties are limited.

"They can't drive a truck or wear air packs, but they can set the trucks up, pull hoses, drop the tank, fetch tools and fill air tanks," said fire chief Jared Rozeboom. "Their help frees someone else up to help somewhere else."

Each cadet follows the same guidelines as the full-time volunteers. They live within a seven- to eight-minute response time from the fire station in Hills and attend the regular monthly meetings and trainings.

As a high school senior, Susie said his daytime schedule allows

him to respond to calls in the afternoon and fulfill a desire for community service.

"Ever since I was a little kid, I wanted to be some type of first responder," he said.

Susie recently responded to a car accident on the outskirts of Hills.

Within minutes, he and the other fire department volunteers were at the scene.

"It felt good to respond," Susie said. "If we didn't have volunteers in Hills, I don't know how long it would be before someone could get here and help."

Bosch's class schedule doesn't allow him to respond to calls during the school day.

His experience comes outside of school hours.

He recently watched the full-time members assist with a medical emergency, where he carried in the medical equipment.

"I felt I helped some," Bosch said. "That's the main reason I joined."

After emergency calls, Susie and Bosch restock and organize the trucks used during the call.

"One of our jobs is to know

where everything is and what everything is so it can be placed back in the correct spot," Bosch said.

The two have plans to join the volunteer department once they turn age 18 in May 2024.

Brock Harnack was a cadet in May 2022 and is currently completing the 145-160 hours of training to become a full-time volunteer firefighter.

He said the cadet experience was an asset during the months of training.

"My advice is to try not to miss anything (of what was happening at a fire or an accident scene). Pay attention and don't be surprised about what can happen," he said.

Harnack joins 19 others on the Hills Fire Department, who earn a pension for the years of service on the department.

Chief Rozeboom said he hopes the cadet experience has lasting effects on the department and volunteers.

"Whether they stay here or go elsewhere, I hope they join a local fire department," he said.

## REMEMBER WHEN

### 10 years ago (2013)

•Beginning Oct. 28, the former I-90 Gas Stop station in Luverne will become a Holiday gas station and store.

Holiday Stationstores reached an agreement with I-90 Fuel Services Inc. to convert 16 of the Gas Stop convenience stores to Holiday Stationstores.

This expands the Holiday brand in South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota.

The Gas Stop stores converting to Holiday are located in Sioux Falls, Aberdeen, Brandon, Mitchell, Mobridge, Pierre and Volga in South Dakota and Luverne and Worthington in Minnesota.

### 25 years ago (1998)

•The Battle Ax trophy returned to Luverne for the first time since 1995 after the Cardinal football team dominated Pipestone-Jasper 37-6 in Pipestone Wednesday, Oct. 14.

Luverne senior tailback Billy Schneider ran for 188 yards and three touchdowns to help the Cardinals score 37 unanswered points in the final three quarters during the annual clash with their Southwest Conference rivals.

The win brings the Battle Ax hardware back to Luverne after a two-year absence.

### 50 years ago (1973)

•Beaver Creek's "Do Your Thing" talent show held Oct. 11 was applauded by a full house estimated at more than 300 persons. The evening proceeds were \$184.05.

The program was held to raise funds for the new Beaver Creek recreation facility.

The program included acts ranging from "12 o'clock Rock" by the first graders to "Three Blind Mice" performed by five

high school girls, from a Sunday school group singing a medley of songs to a Pa and Ma Kettle skit by a 4-H group, from ear catching piano solos to guitar playing of the Elvis Presley days, from square dancing to music today by the Hills-Beaver Creek stage band.

### 75 years ago (1948)

•Two completely new lines of 1949 Nash cars will go on display here tomorrow at Luverne Nash Co.

The new Nash 'Ambassador' and '600' models are so drastically changed in design that all body design and major assembly line equipment used on 1948 models had to be scrapped in order to produce them, according to Lloyd Rapp, local Nash dealer.

The '49 Nash cars are the first of the industry's postwar models with front wheels totally enclosed. This styling advance, permitting full wheel swing on curves, was made possible because the new gender line is well outside the wheels. Tire removal is accomplished without difficulty.

### 100 years ago (1923)

•Three young ladies are winners of Kiwanian prizes and guests of honor at club luncheon.

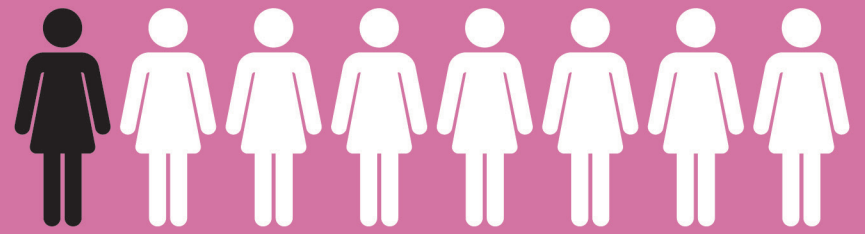
Miss Gladys McDowell is winner of the first prize, and the Misses Helen and Evelyn Stager winners of the second and third prizes, respectively, offered by the Luverne Kiwanis club in an essay contest on "The Constitution of the United States," recently conducted among students of the Luverne high school.

The prizes were offered by the Kiwanis club as a feature of "Constitution Week," and all members of the English classes of the Junior and Senior classes of the high school were invited to participate.



# October is BREAST CANCER

— AWARENESS MONTH —

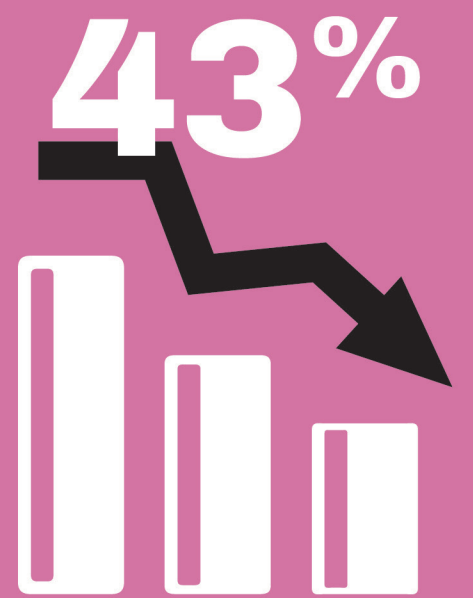


**1 IN 8 WOMEN IN THE U.S. WILL BE DIAGNOSED WITH BREAST CANCER IN THEIR LIFETIME.**



**ABOUT EVERY TWO MINUTES, ONE CASE OF BREAST CANCER IS DIAGNOSED IN THE U. S.**

**IMPROVEMENTS IN EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT CONTRIBUTED TO A 43-PERCENT DECLINE IN THE BREAST CANCER DEATH RATE IN THE U.S. BETWEEN 1989-2020**



## 5 STEPS TO DETECTING BREAST CANCER EARLY

**THERE ARE MORE THAN 4 MILLION BREAST CANCER SURVIVORS IN THE U.S. AND MORE THAN 7 MILLION WORLDWIDE**

**1 PRACTICE ROUTINE SELF-EXAMS**

**2 KNOW YOUR RISKS AND FAMILY HISTORY**

**3 VISIT YOUR DOCTOR REGULARLY**

**4 KNOW WHEN TO GET A MAMMOGRAM**

**5 FOLLOW UP AFTER A SCREENING OR TEST**

Statistics from Susan G. Komen, [komen.org](http://komen.org).

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# LHS volleyball team falls to Windom Eagles 3-0

**By Greg Hoogeveen**

The Luverne volleyball team fell to Windom in three sets Tuesday, Oct. 10, on the road.

The Eagles took the Cardinals 25-17, 25-23 and 25-14.

Head coach Sarah DeBeer said, "We had great moments during the match, but we just couldn't take control."

Setting leaders were senior Elle Halverson with 10 set assists and junior Amira Cowell with 12 set assists in the game.

Junior Ella Reisdorfer had 12 digs for Luverne, and senior Belle Smidt had nine digs against Windom.

Top Cardinal servers were senior Tori Serie at 10 of 19 with one ace and Cowell serving 9 of 9 at the service line.

Reisdorfer registered nine kills in the game, and senior Morgan Ahrendt added five kills.

Luverne is now 9-13 in regular season play and is scheduled to take on the Patriots Tuesday, Oct. 17, in Hills.

## Cross country/from page 1B

The **Luverne boys' varsity 5,000-meter** team placed first with a combined time (Top 5 finishers on a team) of 1:27:13.50.

Murray County took second in a combined time of 1:29:19.00, Windom was third at 1:32:04.30 and Jackson County Central was fourth at 1:39:32.00.

The Luverne boys' individual finishes are as follows:

Janiszkeski finished first with a time of 16:28.00.

Senior Ryan Fick finished third at 16:56.40.

Junior Dylan Ommen finished eighth at 17:35.80.

Freshman Marcus Papik finished 10th at 17:55.40.

Junior Leif Ingebretsen finished 18th at 18:17.90.

Senior Zach Terrio finished 22nd at 18:37.50.

Junior Kaleb Hemme finished 23rd at 18:41.60.

Junior Eli McLendon finished 45th at 20:36.90, and sophomore Zander Fountain finished 83rd at a time of 28:00.50.

In the **Luverne boys' junior varsity 1,600-meter** event

seventh-grader William Gehrke placed 29th with a time of 6:44.06.

The **Luverne girls' junior varsity 1,600-meter** event seventh-grader Bridget Sandager finished 13th with a time of 7:17.48.

Eighth-grader Emma Wieneke finished 25th at 7:54.40.

Eighth-grader Natalie Berning finished 36th at 8:57.15 and seventh-grader Mallory Berning finished 38th with a time of 9:06.26.

Luverne's next event will be the Big South Conference Championship Tuesday, Oct. 17, in Marshall.

Last year Luverne won both the boys' and girls' team titles in the varsity 5,000-meter in Fairmont, and the teams look to defend their titles this year in Marshall.

The Cardinals will travel to Madison Thursday, Oct. 26, for the Section 3A Tournament.

This year's cross country state tournament competition will be Saturday, Nov. 4, at the Les Bolsted Golf Course on the University of Minnesota campus.

# SENIOR ATHLETES of the Week

**Makena Nelson**  
**Sport:** Cross Country  
**Parents:** Jodi and Corey Nelson  
**What I like most about Cross Country:** I love how our team is so close and supportive.  
**Other extracurricular activities/hobbies:** I enjoy reading and going on walks with my family.  
**Favorite Class:** Psychology



**Cade Kracht**  
**Sport:** Football  
**Parents:** Mert and Bobbi Kracht  
**What I like most about Football:** Hanging out with my friends every day and getting to be a part of a team.  
**Other extracurricular activities/hobbies:** Golf  
**Favorite Class:** Lifetime fitness



**Sarah Stegenga**  
**Sport:** Tennis  
**Parents:** Craig & Anne Stegenga  
**What I like most about Tennis:** Spending time and making memories with the team.  
**Other extracurricular activities/hobbies:** Basketball, track, dance, Student Council, National Honor Society, yearbook, BPA, church youth group and CEO.  
**Favorite Class:** Spanish



**Tori Serie**  
**Sport:** Volleyball  
**Parents:** Christal and Dan Serie  
**What I like most about Volleyball:** I like the atmosphere and the energy the game brings while playing alongside my teammates.  
**Other extracurricular activities/hobbies:** Basketball, softball, National Honor Society, peer tutoring and choir.  
**Favorite Class:** Child Development



# Patriots football team prepares for New Ulm

**By Greg Hoogeveen**

The Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots are gearing up for a close home contest with New Ulm Cathedral on Wednesday, Oct. 18.

"Having the week off was helpful because Wednesday night games are always a quick turnaround in regard to preparation," head coach Rex Metzger said.

He was referring to the canceled Westbrook-

Walnut Grove game that was supposed to have been played Friday, Oct. 13.

Now Metzger and his 6-0 Patriots are focusing on playing their best game against the 6-1 Greyhounds in a non-conference match.

"New Ulm Cathedral is a very good football team," Metzger said. "They are big upfront and have heavy juniors and seniors."

Both H-BC and New Ulm played the same four

opponents in the regular season this year.

H-BC took on Heron Lake-Okabena/Fulda Aug. 31 and beat them 51-6. New Ulm beat HLOF 42-8 on Sept. 7.

The Patriots blew away Cedar Mountain 40-6 Sept. 15, while New Ulm beat Cedar Mountain 22-19 on Sept. 22.

H-BC beat Mountain Lake 26-21 on Sept. 22, and New Ulm won their game

with Mountain Lake in overtime, 20-14.

The Patriots beat Renville County West 45-14 on Sept. 29, and New Ulm beat Renville 16-0.

The final matchup between H-BC and New Ulm Wednesday, Oct. 18, will be a tightly contested game that will depend on turnovers and team execution in the end.

Game time is 7 p.m. in Hills.

# Teaming up for public service

### LHS volleyball players serve with a purpose

**By Greg Hoogeveen**

The Luverne volleyball team got together Tuesday, Oct. 3, for their yearly public service projects day.

"It gets the girls out of the gym and working together in a different way that helps out the community," head coach Sarah DeBeer said about the annual activity to help local organizations.

"We get the whole program together, from varsity to the C-squad, to go out and serve the community as an organization."

This year 42 students and three coaches broke up into three groups to pull weeds at the Oaks and Poplar Creek along with the Good Samaritan Society, clean at the Rock County Food Shelf, and help weed and clean at the Brandenburg Gallery.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/1019 vb group4 Greta McClure (left), Ava Sieve, Emma Saarloos, Allie Kracht and Jordyn Reisch help clean the exterior and interior of the Brandenburg Gallery Tuesday, Oct. 3, as part of the volleyball team's yearly service project day.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/1019 vb group6 CeCe Rock (left), Bernie Rock, Tori Serie and Ella Reisdorfer smile in the rain while picking up leaves and garbage at the Good Samaritan Society Tuesday, Oct. 3, for the volleyball team's public service day activities.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/1019 vb group2 Seniors Belle Smidt (left), Morgan Ahrendt, Kira John and Ella Halverson take part in helping weed and clean up around the Oaks and Poplar Creek Tuesday, Oct. 3, as part of the volleyball team's public service day.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/1019 vb group1 LHS players participating in public service day include (front, left) Lilian Palmquist, Kiesli Smith, Tori Serie, CeCe Rock, Bernie Rock, Julia Beyer, Tenley Behr, Macie Edstrom, Hadley Vanderburg, Allie Kracht, Jordyn Reisch, Ella Apel, Anna Banck, (middle) Hannah Cowell, Amira Cowell, Kaelyn Braun, Kylie Vander Lugt, Belle Smidt, Hannah Sneller, Aubrey VanBelle, Hannah Woodley, Paige Kubesh, Payton Behr, Gabbie Nath-Huls, Ella Reisdorfer, Alexis Braun, Izzy Steensma, Kassidy Saarloos, (back) Ava Loosbrock, Ella Halverson, Kira John, Morgan Ahrendt, Jocelyn Altman, Riley Kurtz, Greta McClure, Rhiannon Bartels, Emma Saarloos, Blaycie Remme, Kianna Winter, Hallie Bork, Ava Sieve, Nardy Merida and Kylie Kindt.

## H-BC volleyball/from page 1B

boer added two kills and one block.

Senior Brynn Rauk was 14-14 serving with one ace.

Rauk also provided one kill and 15 set assists.

Sophomore Abbie Harris was 10 of 12 serving and had 12 set assists.

Senior Grace Anderson went 12 of 14 serving with 12 digs.

Sophomore Claire Knobloch added nine digs for the Patriots in the match.

**SWC 3, H-BC 1**

H-BC fell to Southwest Minnesota Christian 3-1 at home Monday, Oct. 16.

"In the first set the girls looked amazing," head coach Meghan Zyls-

tra said.

"Everything the team was doing was connecting and they were making smart choices."

The Patriots took the first set, winning 25-23 over the Eagles.

"In the last three sets for some reason we didn't stay as aggressive and gave them too many easy balls to come back at us," Zylstra said.

In the second set, H-BC fell 25-12, third set 25-17 and in set four they fell 25-16.

"I think it all boils down to confidence with our team. They've been in a slump for quite a few years and don't have belief in themselves that they can win," Zylstra said.

"But they've come so incredibly

far and do so many good things. I'm really proud of them."

Elbers had 15 kills, two blocks, was seven of 10 serving and had two digs.

Bakken had five kills, two blocks, was 13 of 14 serving with one ace and posted four digs.

Deelstra added six kills for the Patriots, one block and was seven of eight at the serving line.

Sammons had four kills in the match for the Patriots.

Rauk posted 16 set assists, was 15 of 18 serving with two aces, one kill and four digs.

Harris had 12 set assists, was seven of seven serving with four digs.

Spykerboer had two kills, one block and four set assists.







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# Just a thought about a new wildlife management area

By Scott Rall

As is part of my normal pheasant hunting opening weekend activities, I made the drive to the 2023 Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener event in Owatonna.

This area is not necessarily known as the hotbed of pheasant hunting opportunities in our great state, but there were about the same number of birds harvested by attendees as any other events of its kind since 2012. So I guess you might need to think of a quick swing through Steele County next time.

There are all kinds of interesting tours, events and all-around showcasing of the area's attractions and things that make this community very special. I was very impressed by their historic downtown area. The weather was pretty bad on Friday when I arrived, and some of the events had been moved inside.

I went through the list of my options and landed on a special land dedication to be held on Friday afternoon. Steele County has a number of wildlife management areas but the Somerset Wildlife Management Area was pretty special in its own right.

So, what makes this one special? Bisected by the Straight River, Somerset WMA was an early part of Minnesota's suite of public lands, dating back to the Save the Wetlands program in the 1950s in Minnesota. It was created in 1957 and dubbed WMA #157. It was later named for a nearby township.

Just ponder that the first of multiple transactions on this wildlife habitat



## THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall  
Outdoors columnist

complex date all the way back to 1957. This is 66 years ago and only a few years after the Wildlife Management Area program started in the state. Piece by piece and inch by inch, this complex has grown to over 440 acres.

In the land of conservation, large parcels excel. Larger contiguous parcels have a larger wildlife carrying capacity than the same number of acres split into numerous parcels.

This has much to do with the fact that nest predators have a harder time finding the nests and depleting the hatch in large connected spots. Strip habitat like a buffer along a stream is easily traversed, and nesting success is much lower.

The fact that this tract is made up of several different purchases over 66 years is a testament to the folks doing the habitat work in Steele County. Building habitat complexes can take decades, and the Minnesota Pheasants Incorporated, not affiliated with Pheasants Forever, along with members of the Isaac Walton League, get a lot of credit for the work getting done here. I just wish there were more folks willing to give of their time and talent to protect the natural resources we all cherish in Minnesota.

Many different funding sources were used over the years, but each one took an active partner to "do the work" to procure the funds.

There is one aspect of attending a special land acquisition that goes beyond all of the speakers and the messages they share. Why is when conservation has a success almost nobody normally ever hears about it? Almost all of the good work that gets done flies below the radar. How many folks would vote to renew the Land and Legacy amendment when it comes up for renewal if they had heard about all the great things that have been accomplished with these special dedicated funds? I'm sure it would be just about everyone.

Many different organizations work with either the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to acquire these import acres for the benefit of all citizens regardless if you are a hunter or not.

Every Minnesotan benefits from clean water, reduced soil erosion, decreased flooding, robust wildlife populations, and let's not forget the humble pollinators like bees and butterflies. I would love to have a special land dedication for each and every one

of these gems of natural resources spread out all across the state of Minnesota.

Let's not forget even for one minute that citizen-owned lands make up less than 2 percent of the land base in most southern counties of Minnesota. Even with conservation successes like Somerset WMA, we still have a long way to go to protect our water and the critters that live on these lands.

There is one other message I would like to share with you today, and it is an important one to me. Regardless of your political persuasion, conservation needs us all. I will give Governor Walz a tip of the hat for the conservation spending in the past legislative session. The highest on record, if my research is correct.

He made this commitment from the podium in Worthington, Minnesota, the host town for 2022, that conservation, hunting, and the great outdoors in Minnesota would see significant funding increases. This has absolutely happened.

The governor and I will never ever see eye to eye on many issues, but the pheasant hunting opener is one of those days where you can just enjoy for one day the lifestyle many of us cherish with a smile and an out-held hand.

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



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