



# Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, December 15, 2022

## Walleye Wind Farm comes online next week

By Lori Sorenson

All 40 turbines in Rock County's Walleye Wind Farm are now spinning and sending "test" energy to NextEra's collector substation, and on Dec. 22 the project will be officially online.

It marks the end of a nearly two-year process of acquiring land, clearing Minnesota regulations, and construction.

For developers, engineers, technicians and workers, it marks the end of another safe construction period for nearly 200 employees who made Rock County their temporary home.

"Rock County and its communities have been great partners," said project director Mark Lennox of NextEra Energy Resources, which built and will operate the wind farm.

He said Walleye Wind's nameplate capacity of 109 MW will produce enough electricity to power roughly 1,000 homes per turbine per year, or 40,000 homes in a year considering 40 turbines.

What that means in terms of "green" energy is that Minnesota Municipal Power Agency will be able to offset fossil fuel among its total energy resources portfolio.

In terms of production tax credits for Rock County, the turbines will generate \$400,000 to \$600,000 in annual local tax revenues, nearly \$18 million over 30 years.

Meanwhile, Rock County landowners with turbines on their ground will see lease payments of roughly \$17,000 per turbine per year, adjusted for inflation, over the 30-year lifetime of the wind farm.

In addition, they and surrounding affected landowners benefit from wind rights leases.

"We're really confident that this project, over its lifetime, will make a meaningful contribution to the community," Lennox said.

Walleye Wind Farm comprises a 49-square-mile (31,000

Walleye Wind/see page 2A



Greg Hoogeveen photos/1215 snow

Six to eight inches of heavy snow blankets evergreens at the Blue Mound Ice Arena Friday morning.

## Winter hits with a vengeance

By Lori Sorenson

Rock County residents and businesses spent the weekend shoveling out from a 6- to 8-inch moisture-heavy snow that fell overnight and into Friday morning.

The sudden snow dump prompted local E-learning and school closures Friday and a full-



Poppy at the courthouse is blanketed with heavy snow at the Veterans Memorial.

throttle snow removal day for street workers and highway department employees.

The sunny weekend revealed Narnia-style snow scenes around the county, and overnight fog Saturday added a frosty finish on trees,

Snowfall/see page 2A



At left, the "Patriot" 7-foot-tall nutcracker on Main and Estey is draped in white. At right, a red brick home sets off the snow-laden branches of a tree Friday morning after the overnight snowfall.



## Survey supports new \$26.5 elementary for H-BC

Board to decide Dec. 27 on whether to proceed with building referendum; vote would be in April

By Mavis Fodness

Residents in the Hills-Beaver Creek School District support a new elementary school but do not support additions to the secondary school.

That's according to a district-wide survey conducted by School Perceptions out of Slinger, Wisconsin, for the district.

H-BC School Board members reviewed the results at their Monday meeting and will present the information to the district's stakeholder committee.

Board members will meet in a work session at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19, to hear the stakeholder committee's recommendation. They will also hear more information from the architect and construction manager hired to examine the district's long-term facility needs.

"We heard loud and clear we are not to make any additions to the secondary school," said superintendent Todd Holthaus.

"We also heard loud and clear not to add a track and field practice field or a competitive football field."

However, the majority of H-BC residents supported building a new elementary school in Beaver Creek rather than updating the current facility.

District households were mailed a notice in mid-November directing them to participate in the online survey with their assigned I.D. number.

The survey had 348 respondents or a 30 percent response rate. The survey's error of margin is 5.4 percent.

Results divided respondents into three groups: school staff,

H-BC school build/see page 2A

## Rock County lieutenant retires after 32 years with State Patrol

Lt. Sorenson started first few years in SD Parks and Pipestone Sheriff's Office

Except for two years of school in Alexandria and two years as a Pipestone County Deputy, Matt Sorenson lived his entire life in Rock County and spent his entire career in the Minnesota State Patrol.

At his Dec. 3 retirement party in Luverne, Sorenson reflected on 34 years in law enforcement, 32 of them with the State Patrol.

"It's been good," he said, surrounded by family, friends and colleagues.

"There were some tough times and tough situations, but the people have been ... It's been good."

His short retirement speech

Sorenson retires/see page 3A



Lt. Matthew Sorenson retired this month from the Minnesota State Patrol. He's pictured with the "Please buckle up" message on the rock at the end of his driveway west of Luverne.

## District extends contract with Oftedahl through June 2026

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne School Board members negotiated a new three-year contract with Superintendent Craig Oftedahl through June 2026.

He will receive salary increases of 2.75 percent each year with the contract that begins on July 1, 2023. The board approved the contract at their Nov. 22 meeting.

With the increase, Oftedahl's salary for the 2023-24 school year will be \$152,517 followed by \$156,711 for 2024-25 and \$161,021 for 2025-26. Vacation days will also increase by five days from 25 to 30 days.

The contract extension comes a month after Oftedahl's annual evaluation on six goals set by the seven-member board, administration and Oftedahl.

Oftedahl's evaluation ratings

ranged from a low of 3.0 to a high of 3.85 on 4-point scale with 4 being the highest. Oftedahl's overall performance for the 2021-22 school year fell between 4 (distinguished) and 3 (accomplished) with an accumulative rating of 3.47.

Ratings according to district goals were as follows:

1.) Provide leadership for the school district for those prioritized projects identified by the school board, administration and facilities supervisor. Rating 3.57

2.) Provide leadership for the school district based on the political landscape to achieve adequate staffing as necessary in order to sustain the educational programs of the Luverne School District. Rating 3.57

Superintendent/see page 2A



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### UMC community free meal Christmas Eve — December 24

The United Methodist Church will host a free Christmas Eve community meal at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 24. Please sign up at church or call the office. A pick-up option is available by calling 507-283-4529.

### Annual Christmas meditation Dec. 23 at Palace Theatre

The United Methodist Church annual Christmas Meditation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23, at the Luverne Palace Theater. Relax, reflect on the past year, remember the reason for the season, and take time away from shopping, baking and other holiday stressors. Listen to peaceful piano music, and center into the Christmas season in the darkened theater, lightened only by Christmas lights and calming winter pictures on the movie screen.

It's a free event and open to all who are welcome to stay as long as their heart needs. Christmas goodies and cider will be available in the lobby.

### Community Ed

Community Education will offer the following classes. Call 507-283-4724 to register.

Students (grades 4-6) will follow along with the instructor step by step to create a painting at **Paint & Snack class** on Dec. 19. Fee is \$33.

**ECFE Classes** for Children ages 0-5 years and parents offers information and support to parents and provides activities for parents and children to explore together through classes that meet once a week throughout the school year.

**Defensive Driving** 8-hour class provides a 10 percent premium discount on auto insurance to anyone 55 years of age or older. The 8-hour class needs to be taken once and the insurance discount is good for three years. A 4-hour refresher class can be taken every three years to remain eligible for the insurance discount.

**New Residents: Census Information Needed** for Preschool Children. Call 507-283-4724 with information for children ages 0 to kindergarten. The school district uses the information for planning purposes, mailing out information on school events, including the state-mandated Preschool Screening for all 3-year-old children. If your child is 4 and has not been screened, call to complete the screening before kindergarten.

### Library Happenings

For information about library happenings, call 507-449-5040 or email rockcountystaff@gmail.com.

Trivia Night is at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of every month at Take 16 in Luverne. Team registration begins at 6 p.m.

Reminiscence Kits are available featuring various topics such as gardening, pets, baking, sewing, farming and hunting. The kits are designed to use with a loved one experiencing memory loss, encouraging the loved one to open up about activities they once loved in the past.

### A.C.E. respite care available, volunteers needed

A.C.E. of SW Minnesota (A.C.E.) offers respite care services in Rock County for those needing a break from caring for a loved one. It offers short-term (1-3 hours), temporary care for families and caregivers by providing a brief period of reprieve from the daily cares they provide to their loved one.

Volunteers provide non-professional supportive services to offer caregivers time for themselves to remain healthy. Respite care volunteers are also needed. Trained A.C.E. volunteers provide respite care to family caregivers of adults age 60 and older who are suffering from long-term health conditions.

Contact Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064 or ace.rock@co.rock.mn.us.



Greg Hoogeveen photos/1215 snow

Four- to 5-foot tall snowpiles line Main Street Friday morning as Public Works crews clear the roadways in Luverne.

## Heavy snowfall ushers in official winter season/from page 1A

patios and fence lines Sunday morning.

On Monday, however, clouds rolled in bringing freezing rain overnight into Tuesday when residents awoke to thick ice that weighed down tree branches prompting many to break and fall.

On Tuesday, schools called for another e-learning day to prevent dangerous travel for buses on slushy out-county roads.

Clouds were in the forecast the rest of the week, along with more rain and snow.

The entire state of Minnesota was under a winter storm advisory Tuesday and Wednesday.



## H-BC school build/from 1A

parents with children currently in the district, respondents without children in the district.

About a third of the respondents in each group supported keeping the elementary school in Beaver Creek.

Just over 20 percent of all respondents supported moving the elementary school to Hills.

In the question about whether or not to build a new elementary school, results indicated:

- 49 percent of staff would support building a new elementary. Just 9 percent of staff supported only updating the current facility.
- 36 percent of parents supported building a new elementary, with 10 percent of parents supporting only updating the current facility.
- 18 percent of non-staff, non-parents supported building a new elementary, with 16 percent supporting updating the currently facility only.

Board members will make a formal decision about a possible building referendum at their Dec. 27 meeting, after another board work session and Wednesday's stakeholders' meeting.

"They don't want to preclude what the stakeholders want," Holthaus said.

If the board agrees to go forward with a referendum, exact project details will be presented at yet-to-be determined public information meetings.

Estimated cost of the new elementary school is \$26.5 million.

A potential referendum vote to fund the project could take place in April.

## Walleye Wind/from page 1A

acres) footprint that relies on an Automatic Detection Lighting System to alert aircraft of the 374-foot-tall towers (577 feet to the tip of the blade).

The technology perches atop a radar tower near the five-acre Walleye Wind operations yard where the full-time technicians are based.

As aircraft approach the windfarm's warning buffer — three miles of the footprint border and roughly 1,500 feet high, the lights are activated.

Once an aircraft clears the boundary, the lights will automatically stop blinking.

However, as the turbines are still gearing up to go online, company officials explain that the lights have

been blinking for extended periods after activation.

"It's a self-learning system, and the radar is still in the process of understanding what's a big bird and what's an airplane," said NextEra spokesperson Sara Cassidy.

"After a few months they'll automatically go off when aircraft clear the boundaries."

She said company officials have enjoyed working with Rock County leaders and landowners on the project.

"The ongoing support we've received from the community has been amazing," Cassidy said.

"We've been very proud to be part of that community, and I have to say a big 'thank you' to all involved."

## Superintendent/from page 1A

3.) Provide leadership in the area of finances for the school district. There are lingering challenges post pandemic to the fund balance and to remain diligent in our quest to maintain our policy goal. Rating 3.71

4.) Continue to cultivate community partnerships to maximize resources and enhance student opportunities such as CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) and medical class. Rating 3.85

Each school year, Oftedahl has two professional goals that he's rated on.

Ratings were:  
1.) Strengthen communication on a consistent basis for the Board of Education and community. Rating 3.0

2.) Lead the process to improve the efficiency of the district in all areas with focus on bringing job descriptions brought current and up to date. Rating 3.14

Oftedahl started with the Luverne district in 2015.

## #TellUsTuesday Results

Scan Here to Vote for this Week's Survey!



### What Was Your Favorite Part Of Winterfest?

The craft show	21%
Festival of Nativities	42%
All of the food	16%
Flannel Fest/Take 16 Events	5%
Free movie at the Palace	16%

## Food Shelf evening hours

The Rock County Food Shelf is now open for an additional evening shift from 5 to 6 p.m. the first and third Thursdays of the month. Call Mary at 507-227-5548 or Katie at 507-227-3531.

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## Lt. Sorenson retires from MN State Patrol/ from page 1A

wasn't a surprise to those who know him. "Matt is a man of few words, but when he speaks, he speaks volumes," Rock County Sheriff Evan Verbrugge said afterward.

"He is calm in the eye of the storm, but when he needs to act, he will do so."

Captain Casey Meagher of the State Patrol Marshall District offered similar praise when he nominated Sorenson for a Distinguished Service Award.

"Lt. Sorenson provides incredible support to the troopers in the Marshall State Patrol District, to our allied agency partners and to the general motoring public," Meagher recently wrote in the nomination.

"He has a reputation of being fair, honest and respectful while having established strong working relationships across agency and rank boundaries."

Sorenson said he'll miss the people he's come to know and the relationships he's built over the years, with both law enforcement and the general public.

"I got to know so many really good people," Sorenson said.

"I'll miss them and our friendly conversations, whether it's the gas station attendant who knew my schedule or staff in the Marshall office and county law enforcement centers."

Meagher said Sorenson had a way of bringing out the best in people, especially the troopers he worked with, treating each one with respect and professionalism.

"Lt. Sorenson is known for his logical and creative approach to problem solving," Meagher said. "His positive attitude and approach to daily tasks is contagious to those who work alongside him."

### Changing rank, continued public service

This work ethic, along with training and experience, raised his rank from trooper to corporal and in 2014 to lieutenant, which put him and his partner lieutenant at the helm of 30 troopers in 13 southwest Minnesota counties of the Marshall District.

Sorenson frequently assisted the Governor's Office with security details, and he was deployed with fellow State Patrol troopers to the George Floyd riots of 2020 and the Republican National Convention in 2008.

For most of his career he specialized in crash reconstructions to investigate fatal and serious injury crashes.

But generally, he assisted the motoring public, often in bad weather and with roadside emergencies.

"Working in blizzards were some of the scariest things I won't miss," Sorenson said about icy roads and poor visibility.

"I can remember one time running in the median from a box truck that rolled and sank in the snow. The snow covered me as he rolled over. ... He stopped probably 20 feet from me."

For this reason, Lori Sorenson said she'll be glad her husband is retired.

"I'm glad I won't have to worry about him during those long winter shifts," she said at the retirement party.

"And we're grateful for the troopers and younger officers who are still out there protecting and serv-

*"Matt is a man of few words, but when he speaks, he speaks volumes. He is calm in the eye of the storm, but when he needs to act, he will do so."*

— Rock County Sheriff Evan Verbrugge

ing." Verbrugge, who's been with the Rock County Sheriff's Office for 31 years, often worked with Sorenson and the State Patrol during blizzards and other incidents such as apprehending suspects.

"Matt didn't complain; you could tell that he loved what he did as a Minnesota State Trooper," Verbrugge said.

"In law enforcement, we see people in their most vulnerable state, and Matt always treated the people with respect and dignity and empathized with them."

He said he appreciated Sorenson's professionalism.

"After many years in law enforcement you can become hard to people's feelings, but Matt always kept his professionalism and I think other officers have looked up to him for how to present themselves in the public."

### Retired trooper, still a farmer

Sorenson grew up on a farm west of Hardwick, the son of Arden and Mary Ellen Sorenson. He graduated from Jasper High School in 1986 and from Alexandria Technical College Law Enforcement program in 1988.

After summer jobs with the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks and a two-year stint with the Pipestone County Sheriff's Office, Sorenson started in 1990 with the State Patrol.

The 10-hour shifts with several days off in between allowed him to continue raising corn and soybeans

on the family farm and on the acreage west of Luverne where he and Lori live.

Their combined family includes his daughter, Alexx Sorenson, and grandson Colton, in Edgerton and Lori's sons, Jonathan Ehde in Sioux Falls and the late Carson Ehde, who died this summer at 21.

In addition to farming in retirement, Sorenson will continue as treasurer of the Rock County Pheasants and recently accepted appointments to the Rock County Rural Water Board and the American Association of State Troopers.

### Final 10-7 to dispatch

At the end of the day Friday, Dec. 2, Sorenson, known by his lieutenant badge number as 2302, completed radio signoff for the last time.

"2302 will be 10-7," he radioed the dispatcher as he had thousands of times before. "Have a good night."

The dispatcher noted the time, and continued:

"On behalf of the citizens of Minnesota, the Minnesota State Patrol District 2300 and Minnesota State Patrol radio communications, we thank you for your 32 years of dedicated service. It's been an honor working with you. Congratulations, and enjoy your retirement."



Matt Sorenson in 1990 during his first year with the Patrol.



Lori Sorenson photo/1215 LACF group

This past year, 23 organizations received \$68,500 in grants from the Luverne Area Community Foundation. Representatives of groups receiving grants include (front, from left) Pat Saum, Amy Cook, Corrine Bonnema, Betty Mann, Jane Blank, Sondra Coulter, Lois Leenderts, Sheila Westfield, Stacy Schepel, (second row) Emily Crabtree, Zoe DeBates, Marie Atkinson-Smeins, Jocelyn Jacoby, Marie LaRock, Bonnie Meinerts, Linda Wenzel, Morgan Van Holland, Angela Sneller, Renee Edmundson, (back) Ryan Johnson, Michael Blank, Lee Sells, Dan LaRock, George Bonnema, Laura Gee, Eric Sage and Heidi Sehr.

## Luverne Area Community Foundation celebrates generosity

By Lori Sorenson

The Luverne Area Community Foundation hosted its annual Friends of the Foundation Celebration of Philanthropy Monday night, Dec. 5, at Take 16 Brewing Company in Luverne.

The event recognizes and celebrates businesses, nonprofits and individuals who benefit from and support the foundation's mission of strengthening the community.

In 2022 LACF provided grants totaling more than \$68,500 to 23 local causes.

"This night is to celebrate you," LACF director Emily Crabtree told the group.

### Mike and Cheryl Cox receive Spirit of Philanthropy Award

This award recognizes an outstanding individual or family with a proven record of exceptional financial generosity and volunteer leadership to one or more Rock County nonprofit organizations, who has "demonstrated extraordinary civic and charitable responsibility, and whose generosity inspires others to philanthropic action."

Crabtree said Mike and Cheryl Cox received the award for their service in the community. "Both Mike and Cheryl are role models for what it takes to make a community thrive and lead by example for others to do their part in making this happen," she said.

She mentioned SHARE, Hospice, Compassionate Friends, LACF, child and adult mentoring, church, education are just a few of the many areas these two have supported. "They believe that when you choose to donate your resources, time or talents, it not only benefits your but an entire community," Crabtree said.



#Luv1LuvAll received the Non-Profit Spotlight Award, which recognizes an outstanding volunteer group that has demonstrated exceptional commitment to the community through direct involvement, financial support and leadership. Pictured are (kneeling, from left) Amy Cook and Stacy Schepel, (standing) LACF director Emily Crabtree (left) Marie Atkinson-Smeins, Wanda Jarchow, Linda Wenzel, Scott Wessels and Holly Anderson.

The Coxes shared their inspiration for giving in the community.

"We have taken special note how our previous generation has given with financial contributions as well as their time in worthy opportunities," they said.

"We feel fortunate to be able to do some of this as well. We along with our family have benefited from the many opportunities here from excellent schools to recreational activities, the arts and so much more."

Crabtree said this is why they were recognized Monday night.

"Mike and Cheryl are two of the most generous people I know, and

while an important part of that is in gifts, a bigger part of it is in action – the how can I help, what do you need, the smile, the hand hold, the you can do this," she said.

"This action is not special for any one person or project but for all persons and meaningful community supports."

### Hartquist Funeral Home named Outstanding Business

This award recognizes a business that has "created a culture of philanthropy with their organization

LACF awards/see page 5A

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**NOTICE OF ELECTION FILING**

Notice is hereby given to all townships having elections in March that the terms of one treasurer and one supervisor will expire March 2023.

You must file with your Township Clerk between Jan. 3, 2023 to Jan. 17, 2023.

Teresa Kramer, Secretary  
Rock County Township Association

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Decorated with solar lights, a volunteer roadside evergreen shares Christmas cheer with motorists traveling along Highway 23 in western Rock County.

*'This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine'*

## Let your little lights be powered by inspiration to shine in dark places

A popular children's gospel song from my Bible school days in Kenneth urged us to be



### ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

"lights in the darkness," even if it meant brightening only our own little corners of the world.

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine," was playing in my head last month when I unraveled a set of solar-powered Christmas lights. I was curious how or if they would work.

A perfect little evergreen tree has been growing and taking shape in a lonely corner of a field along Highway 23 near our home.

For years I've pondered how to get Christmas bulbs on it, and with improved technology of solar lighting, I decided this year the little tree would be festive.

It took two strands to circle its nearly 9 feet to the tip, and I attached the 4-inch square solar panels to their accompanying stakes in the ground and drove away.

Meanwhile, I discovered the lights came with two in a package, so I strung the extra ones on our new little ornamental trees planted this fall in memory of Carson.

The wires fell unevenly on the sparse branches, but the effect was exactly what I hoped for.

The following night, after a day of charging in bright sunshine, the multi-colored bulbs illuminated the two little trees in an otherwise dark part of our east lawn.

Admiring the twinkling colors against the dark sky, I suddenly realized the stars were competing for attention. Tipping my gaze directly overhead, the constellations took my breath away. They were

spectacular.

I breathed deeply and took in the moment that made me feel so tiny in a vast universe, yet so close to the heavens at the same time.

I wondered about Carson and how he was faring as a newcomer to heaven. I hear it's so fabulous you no longer think about earthly concerns or loved ones left behind.

That's when a shooting star blazed across the southern horizon. I gasped. "I love you too, Carson. Thanks for the message."

Around that same time, I started getting texts from the neighbors about the tree along the highway. "Did you do that? People are noticing."

I smiled.

The little roadside evergreen was also producing the desired effect — to share Christmas cheer with motorists traveling along an otherwise dark and lonely stretch of highway.

The spirit of the holidays can be shared in many ways, but I love that the solar lights draw their strength from the sun in order to spread cheer.

We might all do well to lean on a higher power over holidays, which can be dark and lonely if we're grieving loved ones.

I intend to let "this little light of mine shine" ... powered by the one who came to us in a manger ... and hopefully by more Carson messages in the stars.

Merry Christmas, dear readers. Let your little lights shine wherever and however you're able.

## Give where you live

### STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

It's no secret that citizens, businesses and organizations in Luverne and Rock County are among the most generous in the nation.

It's a badge we proudly bear on occasions when told our Dollars for Scholars is second in the nation (first in terms of scholarship amounts awarded per student) or when we learn our little community raises more money for the American Cancer Society than most cities three times our size.

But we don't always hear about the donations made quietly without fanfare and the efforts to help families and individuals behind the scenes, without requests for press releases and pictures in the paper.

That's why the Luverne Area Community Foundation's annual Celebration of Philanthropy is such a big deal.

The Star Herald attends the event, which invites both donors and recipients to celebrate the difference that generosity can make

in a community. It goes without saying that it's truly a cause for celebration.

Monday night, Dec. 5, at Take 16 Brewing Company in Luverne, LACF again recognized and celebrated businesses, nonprofits and individuals who benefit from and support the foundation's mission of strengthening the community.

"This night is to celebrate you," LACF director Emily Crabtree told the group.

This year 23 local organizations received over \$68,500 in grant funding from the foundation.

Monday evening offered an opportunity for grant recipients to explain their missions and how they use their funds.

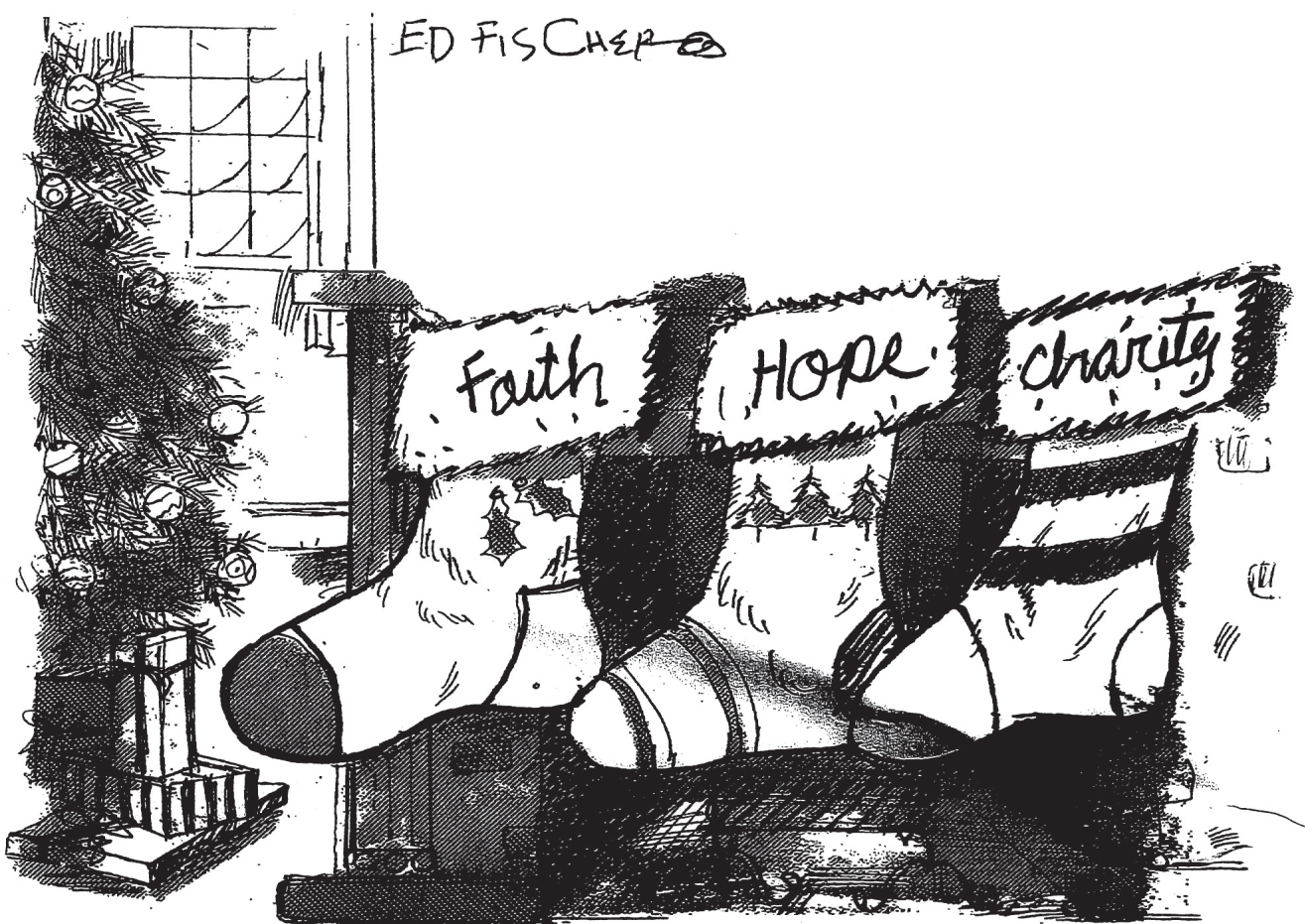
"When you give a gift to the Luverne Area Community Foun-

dation, you are helping support the grant requests that come from the not-for-profit organizations that work for the strength and health of our communities," Crabtree said.

Another important takeaway from the evening is that gifts to the LACF Community Grant Fund help the organizations receive the funding needed to fill the gaps or strengthen the programs they are running for the communities we live in.

The point is, if you want to make a difference, if you want to create impact, make part of your annual giving to the LACF Community Grant Fund.

The Luverne Area Community Foundation can be reached at 507-220-2424 or Emily@luvacf.org.



## When something needs fixing, take it to a repairman

The Peterson snow blower got its first workout of the season, and more than likely, by the time you read this, Round 2 is in the books as well.

I had to put a new electric starter on the nearly 20-year-old blower.

Installing the starter is a simple repair, so I thought. After an hour or so of frustration, I did what I should have done to begin with — take it to Eddy.

A memory just popped into my head. Those of you my age or older might recall this as well. There was an episode of the Andy Griffith show where Aunt Bee's freezer was acting up and Andy told her repeatedly to call the repairman. Aunt Bee had Gomer come over and try to fix it, but he only compounded the problem. Andy again said, "Call the repairman."

So, I did what Andy told Aunt Bee ... I loaded up the snow blower and took it to Eddy.



## FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, general manager

In less than five minutes, Eddy had the new starter installed and I was on my way home.

Now that the snow blower is up and running, I thought it's time to turn my attention to the office snow shovel.

My son-in-law gave me one of those heavy duty white plastic shovels last year. Didn't take long for that shovel to become my go-to shovel, and I came to the quick conclusion that we needed one at the office.

Come to find out the shovel has a name — it's the "The Original" Snow Plow.

The one I picked up at Bomgaars is the 24-inch model. It's also available in 30-, 36- and 48-inch widths. The price tag of \$49.99 for the 24-inch model will give you a little sticker shock, but like I told the cashier, it's worth every penny.

"The Original" Snow Plow isn't what you would call a stocking stuffer, but if you're looking for a last minute present for the snow shoveler in your life, this would be a great Christmas gift.

The shovel is available in Luverne at Bomgaars and Ace Hardware. At least they were before the last snowfall.

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## ON THE RECORD

### Dispatch report

**Dec. 2**  
 •Complainant on E. Main Street, Hardwick, reported a driving complaint.  
 •Complainant on E. Luverne Street reported a civil issue.  
 •Complainant on N. Freeman Avenue reported a civil issue.  
 •Complainant on N. Cedar Street reported vandalism.  
 •Complainant on N. McKenzie Street and E. Dodge Street reported vandalism.  
 •Complainant on N. Cedar Street reported vandalism.  
**Dec. 3**  
 •Complainant on W. Main Street reported theft.  
**Dec. 4**  
 •Complainant on W. Lincoln Street reported property damage.  
 •A missing person was reported.  
 •Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 10, Luverne, reported a driving complaint.  
**Dec. 5**  
 •Complainant on N. McKenzie Street reported vandalism.  
 •Complainant on N. Main Street, Kenneth, reported theft.  
 •Complainant on 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 191<sup>st</sup> Street, Hardwick, reported a parking issue.  
 •Complainant on In-

terstate 90 and Highway 75 reported a driving complaint.  
 •Complainant on N. Main Street, Kenneth, reported a civil issue.  
**Dec. 6**  
 •Complainant on E. Lincoln Street reported a runaway.  
 •Complainant on E. Main Street reported fraud.  
 •Assistance from another department was provided on N. Hiawatha Avenue, Pipestone.  
 •Complainant on S. Donaldson Street reported a civil issue.  
 •Complainant on S. Donaldson Street reported a civil issue.  
**Dec. 8**  
 •Assistance from another department was provided in Brandon, South Dakota.  
 •An outage was reported.  
 •Complainant on N. Cedar Street reported a parking issue.  
 In addition, officers responded to 6 motor vehicle accidents, 1 deer accident, 1 vehicle in the ditch, 1 transport, 1 escort, 6 ambulance runs, 2 paper services, 2 animal complaints, 13 background checks, 2 gas drive-offs, 3 alarms, 7 purchase and carry permits, 3 stalled vehicles, 8 traffic stops, 5 abandoned 911 calls, 1 test, 3 welfare checks and 3 follow-ups.

## Administrator, finance director, water and wastewater supervisor to retire at year-end

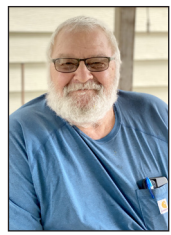
By Lori Sorenson

Luverne City Administrator John Call presented his last budget hearing during his last City Council meeting Tuesday, Dec. 6, ahead of his official retirement at the end of the month.



John Call

Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian thanked him for his leadership.



Al Lais

"He's led our community and our city for 17 years, and he's been one of the most involved city administrators that I've ever worked with," Baustian said at the end of the meeting.



Barb Berghorst

He said Call has been a mentor to administrators in other communities around the state.

"Many, many other city administrators look up to Mr. Call. ... You've given them guidance and mentorship," Baustian said.

"As mayor, I've been very proud to work with you on the city council."

Luverne's new city administrator, Jill Wolf, began training under Call this week.

"The torch will be passed over the next two weeks, and we're so grateful that you're still giving us that time to mentor and bring our new city administrator up to speed," Baustian said.

Call and his wife, Brenda, will continue living in Luverne after his retirement.

"The next person to help me move will be Jeff Hartquist," Call joked.

Baustian thanked Call for his community involvement.

"Thank you, and congratulations on your retirement," he said. "We're happy you're staying here."

Call admitted he was getting choked up, but responded, "You're very much welcome. It's all been good. I appreciate everything."

With that, the meeting adjourned while council members stood and applauded their retiring city leader.

### Torch passed in city finance and water and wastewater departments

The city administrator isn't the only city leadership position changing hands this year.

City Finance Director Barb Berghorst retired this summer after more than 30 years at the helm, and Luverne Water and Wastewater Supervisor Al Lais retires at year-end after nearly 50 years with the city.

Robyn Wessels has taken over as finance director, and Darrel Ykema is the new Water and Wastewater Department supervisor.

The Star Herald will feature these landmark retirements in next week's edition.



Lori Sorenson photos/1215 LACF awards

The Luverne Area Community Foundation hosted its annual Friends of the Foundation Celebration of Philanthropy Monday night, Dec. 5, at Take 16 Brewing Company in Luverne. The event recognizes and celebrates businesses, nonprofits and individuals who benefit from and support the foundation's mission of strengthening the community. In 2022 LACF provided grants totaling more than \$68,500 to 23 local causes. "This night is to celebrate you," LACF director Emily Crabtree told the group.

## LACF celebrates spirit of philanthropy/continued from page 3A

and has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to philanthropy" through financial support of nonprofit organizations, leadership involvement, and volunteer participation and commitment of its workforce in establishing a role model for the business community.

Hartquist Funeral Home & Cremation Services, owned by Jeff and Sara Hartquist, makes financial donations for families it serves to Hearts of Hope – a family grief camp.

The burial insurance company, Funeral Directors Life Insurance Company, also partners with Hartquist Funeral home through a program called Helpers of People to match their donations to qualifying charitable organizations – doubling local impact.

Serving families through death care, the Hartquists said they have learned that relationships matter.

"All of us bring something unique to life and make this world better for it," Jeff Hartquist said.

"As a company, we encourage charitable giving and lead by example, encouraging staff to bring a company check along with their personal donations to many local fundraisers."

He said they encourage their staff to be involved in the community.

"Being blessed with talents and treasures not put into action results in wasted potential and opportunity," Hartquist said.

He encourages involvement and works with staff to allow for extra activities whenever possible to help sustain and improve the communities they said they're blessed to be part of.

"We are continuing to work towards becoming a true Kingdom Company, which operates under the philosophy that none of what's been given to us is ours and should be used as a means to give back to others," he said.

### #Luv1LuvAll receives Nonprofit Spotlight Award

The award recognizes an outstanding volunteer group that has demonstrat-



ed exceptional commitment to the community through direct involvement, financial support and leadership. "Leadership in their organization comes by identifying issues within the community that are either not currently being addressed, are hard to tackle or need greater public awareness," Crabtree said.



Hartquist Funeral Home and Cremation Services received the Outstanding Business Award, which recognizes a corporation or business that has created a culture of philanthropy with their organization and has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to philanthropy. Receiving the award from LACF director Emily Crabtree (left) are Sara and Jeff Hartquist.

keeps its vision, leadership and commitment to stay the course."

Born out of a 2017 Blandin leadership grant called Leaders Partnering to End Poverty, #Luv1LuvAll was formed with active focus teams that offer programs, education and activities.

•**The Brain Health** group is comprised of local mental health professionals and advocates and others who have expressed a desire for mental health improvement in the community. Funds support brain health education in the community, online and in school.

•**The Oral Health Task Force** works to increase local access to oral health. Funds have been used to work with Children's Dental Services out of Minneapolis to provide a monthly mobile dental clinic since 2019. Other activities include student dental screenings, oral hygiene education and more.

•**Substance Free Coalition of Rock County** uses a federal opioid grant for substance-free education and youth activities, NARCAN training and distribution, peer recovery training and more. The grant focus is on awareness, prevention, treatment and recovery.

Other #Luv1LuvAll focus groups work on resource guides, dementia awareness, safe and affordable housing and more.

The Luverne Area Community Foundation can be reached at 507-220-2424 or Emily@luvacf.org.

STAR-HERALD.COM | 507-283-2333

## PALACE THEATRE UPCOMING EVENTS

	<b>Afternoon Escape: Ticket to Paradise</b>	PG-13
	Thursday, December 15	2:00 pm
	Tickets: \$5	
	<b>Black Panther: Wakanda Forever</b>	PG-13
	Friday, December 16	7:00 pm
	Saturday, December 17	7:00 pm
	Sunday, December 18	2:00 pm
	Tickets: \$5 for kids age 3 – 12 <sup>th</sup> grade, \$7 for adults	
	<b>Christmas Meditation</b>	
	Friday, December 23	4:00-7:00 pm
	FREE ADMISSION	
	<b>Ring in the New Year with MASON DIXON LINE!</b>	
	Saturday, December 31	7:30 pm
	The Midwest's premier Country-Rock Band! TICKETS ON SALE NOW!	
104 E. Main St. • Luverne, MN 56156 • 507.283.4339 WWW.PALACETHEATRE.US		

## Avril Susie's essay chosen best in VFW Voice of Democracy contest

By Mavis Fodness

Three Hills-Beaver Creek Secondary students were recently honored by the Wilmont VFW and VFW Auxiliary as winners in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests.

Joining the H-BC students in the contests were students from Adrian and Worthington Christian Schools.

Patriot's Pen are entries from students in sixth, seventh and eighth grades. This year's essay theme is "My Pledge to Our Veteran."

Avery Winter from Fulda High School was the first-place winner. Brynn Bakken, an eighth-grader from H-BC was second along with H-BC's Hailey Moser, also an eighth-grader. The first- and second-place Patriot's Pen winners are now entered into the district contest.

Voice of Democracy entries are from students in grades 9-12. This year's theme is "Why is the Veteran Important?"

Avril Susie, a junior from H-BC was chosen as this year's Voice of Democracy essay winner. Second place was awarded to Claire Hoffman of Adrian and third to Kelli Renneke of Fulda. Susie's Voice of Democracy essay is now entered into the district contest with the possibility of competing in the state and national contests.

### Why is the Veteran Important?

By Avril Susie

Why is the veteran important? This is not a hard question to answer. There are so many reasons why veterans are so influential.

Veterans are important to our nation and its history because they are a model community of men and women who are



Hills-Beaver Creek middle school and high school students wrote winning essays for the VFW's Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contest. Pictured are (from left) H-BC secondary English teacher Megan Klumper, first-place Voice of Democracy essay writer Avril Susie, third-place Patriot's Pen writer Hailey Moser, second-place Patriot's Pen writer Brynn Bakken, H-BC middle school English teacher Lydia Scruggs, and Gina and Robert Newman, VFW Post 2603 auxiliary member and quartermaster. Essays written by Susie and Bakken are now eligible for the district competition.

dedicated to the hard work in all that they did to defend and protect our country and our futures. They value our country: the land of the free and home of the brave.

First and foremost they endangered themselves every day, in far-away countries and lands that are unfamiliar to them. They never knew what was to come next, which is something everybody is scared of. That just shows how daring and fearless our veterans were. Whether they served in active combat or even just a support role they put themselves at high risks for mental health disorders or physical damage.

Our veterans have kept order and peace, and without those two things there would be chaos. They are selfless people who ask for very little in return. They left their families without

hesitation to fight for their country, not knowing if they would ever see them again. Putting themselves in harm's way so that people they know and don't know stay out of harm's way. Most of us could never imagine doing that, but they did it regardless.

Veterans come from all walks of life. Many of those veterans stepped up when our country was in need of them the most. Most of them embrace their responsibility as a veteran as a great sacrifice and honor, and it shows in all of our freedoms and opportunities we have today.

Once a year in the United States we honor their sacrifice on Veterans Day, November 11. It doesn't matter if they served 50 years or just one. They put their life on the line for us. All veterans should be

celebrated and remembered equally. Again, they are noble people who don't just do the job for themselves. These brave, honorable, and altruistic men and women believe in something greater than themselves.

They know that if we didn't have their help, that others may not be free. At one time in their lives they raised their right hand and earnestly swore an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States and they do that with pride.

Veterans come from various walks of life. Some may be younger, some may be older, and some may be people we ignore as we walk by them on the street. It's important to recognize and remember them. It doesn't have to be Veterans Day for you to thank one. It is important to acknowledge and show gratitude to

those who served every day.

Our veterans represent the colors on our flag: red, white and blue. Red represents hardiness and valor that they so bravely show. The veterans show hardiness because they have the ability to endure difficult conditions. Valor comes from the great courage they showed when faced with adversity. They don't back down when things start to get tough or out of control because they are doing it for the people of the country they so proudly helped build.

The color white on our country's flag represents purity and innocence. Veterans show purity because they defend our country without the thought of malice or evil intent. Their innocence shows because they have no intent of causing

Essay, continued on 8A

## MENU

**Monday, Dec. 19:** Salisbury steak in gravy, baked potato with sour cream, glazed carrots, bread slice, dessert.

**Tuesday, Dec. 20:** Beef chili with beans, romaine salad with dressing, fruit, corn bread muffin, cookie.

**Wednesday, Dec. 21:** Cheesburger casserole, California Normandy vegetables, dessert.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Security Savings Bank.

**Thursday, Dec. 22:** Meatballs, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, dinner roll, fresh fruit.

**Friday, Dec. 23:** Chicken ala king, whole grain brown rice, peas and carrots, fruit mix, dessert.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church.

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).

## Bible Study meets Tuesdays

CoffeeBreak Bible Study meets each Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. at the Christian Reformed Church in Luverne. There will be Story-Hour Bible stories and playtime for ages 3 to kindergarten, and a nursery is available. It's free for all faiths and no prior Bible knowledge is necessary. Call Kristi Stroeh at 507-227-5102 or email at [kristi.stroeh@hotmail.com](mailto:kristi.stroeh@hotmail.com)

## REMEMBER WHEN

### 10 years ago (2012)

•Voters living in the Hills-Beaver Creek School District voted to increase the district's operating referendum to \$1,521 per pupil unit.

Nearly 60 percent, or 389 voted to increase taxes and approve the referendum during the three-hour Tuesday evening vote.

The 651 voters of 1,259 registered voters came out to vote after a day of moving snow to get to the polls.

The new referendum will replace the existing \$855.79 per pupil unit referendum and bring in approximately \$249,981 in additional revenue per year for 10 years for operating expenses.

### 25 years ago (1997)

•The dream of a hospice cottage for Luverne Community Hospital is becoming a reality.

Recently, the Luverne City Council accepted bids of \$404,943 for the construction of a five-bedroom residence to be located on the corner of Oakley and Luverne streets. "We will probably break ground in April," said hospice volunteer coordinator Helen Saum. "Our charity dinner and auction are April 17. Maybe we'll tie it in together."

From the exterior, plans for the one-story building feature a wood frame construction, brick trim and a front porch. The interior 3,219 square feet will be divided into five patient rooms and baths, an open kitchen/living room/dining room area, family room and office.

"We want to stay very residential and home-like," Saum said. Architects from Baldrige and Associates, Sioux Falls, revised the plans for the cottage in recent months. "Because of a donation, we went back to the original plan and added a few things, such as a bath and shower for each patient room," Saum said. "It was something we really couldn't afford before."

The LCH board had previously planned to get bids and start construction this summer, but a gift from the estate of George Conrad changed the timetable for the cottage.

### 50 years ago (1972)

•The traditional Christmas song, "O Tannenbaum," will

be sung in the language it was originally written, when the first and second graders from the Luverne elementary school present their annual program Wednesday, Dec. 20.

The children, who are directed by Mrs. Don Talbert, have learned the German words to the familiar song, one of a number of secular and sacred selections which the 212 voices will sing during the program. The concert, which begins at 9:30 a.m. in the elementary school gym here, is open to the public.

### 75 years ago (1947)

•Thieves obtained about \$130 in cash in three break-ins here early Monday morning.

Business places entered and losses reported were: Luverne Oil Company service station, \$79 in cash; Eberlein's Tavern, owned by Floyd O. Johnson, \$20 in cash; and the Rainbow Inn, owned by Ray Schadwinkel, \$30 in cash and a leather jacket valued at \$29.

Attempts were also made to break into the Rock County Cooperative Oil company service station on the corner of Main and Estey, and The Grill, owned by M. R. Roberts.

### 100 years ago (1922)

•Tomorrow will be the big day of the pre-Christmas season for the youngsters, both little and big, of Luverne and Rock county, for after a year's absence, Santa Claus is again to pay a brief visit to the city to exchange greetings with all his little friends and acquaintances. And no doubt many of the grown up kids will also want to be on hand to renew their former intimate friendship with old Santa and restore themselves in the good graces of this generous old man.

Santa is to be accompanied on his trip by Uncle Sam, and owing to the fact that his sleigh had been wrecked in colliding with the North Pole, he is making the trip this year by auto. The two distinguished gentlemen are expected to arrive at about 2:15 from the east, and every youngster in the county, ranging in size from those who have just learned to walk to the big kids, is expected to meet them and escort them down Main street to the bank corners. This parade will be headed by the Luverne band, and all the whistles in town will blow and bells will ring to give Santa and Uncle Sam a hearty welcome.

## 1943: L.G. Larson is a man with 'experiences'

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 July 8, 1943.

A man with experiences is L. G. Larson, who lives in the northwest part of Beaver Creek township. Student school teacher, store clerk and farmer, Mr. Larson can relate many interesting incidents which occurred to him during his lifetime.

Born April 20, 1868, in Hardanger, Norway, he came with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gunder Larson, at the age of two to Ridgeway, Iowa. They lived in Iowa for six years, and then decided to come farther west to obtain some of the free land that was available to those who would homestead it. They, like most of the pioneers, came here with oxen and covered wagons, the trip requiring three weeks. There were several families in the caravan, but most of them went to the vicinity around Colton. At that time, there was no such town as Colton, and the community was only known as Skunk Creek.

His father happened to



## BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, Rock County Historian

be fortunate enough to be able to buy a quarter section homestead for \$50 from the late Daniel Danielson, legally described as the northeast quarter of section 12, Beaver Creek township. Mr. Larson spent his boyhood on his father's farm, going to school when he had the opportunity.

### Difficult Years

The first years here were difficult ones for many of the early settlers and the Larson family experienced many of those pioneer days hardships. However, Mr. Larson states, his family always had something to eat, if it was nothing

Bits, continued on 7A

## 'How to' advice for successfully growing beautiful amaryllis

(First paragraphs are carried over from last week's column.)

Amaryllis are the drama plants for winter. They grow from a bulb, and like a tulip, the flower buds form in the bulb prior to its going dormant.

Your job as the plant keeper is to persuade that flower to come out of the bulb and bless you with its beauty.

In recent years "waxed" bulbs are the easy route because you don't have to plant the bulb in soil. Looks easy and is easy, but I have yet to see a real success story. The flower stem gets pretty heavy so if it actually gets to that stage, it is difficult to keep it standing upright. And when it's done or you're tired of it, you pitch it ... end of story.

On the other hand, I believe that when I purchase a bulb like this, I am making an investment in its future, and my plan is to have the joy of a repeat performance year after year.

So now I'll tell you how to make that happen.

Amaryllis originate in south Africa. The environment they grow in has a rainy season and a dry season, but no cold season. The bulb grows at soil level and the dry season causes the bulb to go dormant, which it will remain until the rainy season begins.

When the bulb resumes growing, it may produce a flower stalk before the leaves, or they might grow simultaneously.

The drama is the fact of how fast that flower stalk grows and the spectacular flowers they produce ... three to five blooms per stalk. We want to replicate those growing conditions to insure the blooms for the next season.

So, if you bought an unpotted bulb, plant it with the widest part of the bulb at soil level. Water the potting mix lightly and keep it just moist until growth begins.

It is imperative to



### KNOW IT AND GROW IT

By George Bonnema, Luverne Horticulturalist

place the potted bulb where it will receive bright sunlight. If the light is too low, the leaves will stretch toward the light source and their weight often causes them to break at the base.

After the blooms have finished, cut the flower stalk off at the base, but allow the leaves to remain. The recipe for success in getting that bulb to bloom again is to allow those leaves that give the energy for the bulb to develop its flower buds for the next bloom season.

Use a water-soluble plant food once per month and in spring after danger of frost, you can plant it in the garden for the summer.

Remember that this is a frost-sensitive bulb, so be sure to bring it back indoors prior to freezing temperature in the fall.

When you bring it back indoors, cut off the leaves at the top of the bulb and store it dry until new growth resumes.

They often remain dormant for a couple of months. The growing season from the time of blooming until fall is when the flower buds develop.

Planting outdoors is not required but bright sunlight indoors is essential for success.

*Bonnema is a gardening enthusiast and former greenhouse owner. He can be reached at flowergb@iw.net.*

## Bits/continued from page 6A

more than potatoes and sour milk.

Other families, however, were less fortunate. One that Mr. Larson remembers in particular came to visit them. Driving an ox-team, the husband and wife and two children drove into their farmyard, and his father knew at a glance that they had had nothing to eat for some time.

They apparently knew that the Larsons had food, and they were given something to eat. The family had a six-months-old baby, that Mr. Larson recalls, that developed pneumonia. There were no doctors nearby so they summoned John R. McKisson, who had no medical training, but had served as driver for a physician. The child, by some miracle, lived.

Luverne was in its infancy when Mr. Larson was a boy. He remembers coming here with his parents to buy food and clothing, and recalls how some of the younger people in town would ride horseback to a farm west of town to play croquet.

### Remembers Storms

Like other pioneer settlers, Mr. Larson experienced the great snows of the 1880's. He speaks of the winter of 1886 and 1887 as the "great snow winter." The storm

struck on the afternoon of October 14, following a morning of drizzling rain. "Father had built a sod stable," Mr. Larson relates, "so we managed to get all the stock inside. We fed them plenty of hay and feed, but they had no water for two days, because of the storm. There were many other similar storms that winter, and we really had a lot of snow piled around us. One thing about it, it lasted way into the spring months.

"One incident of that particular winter, I'll never forget. One morning father, mother and I heard something thumping on the roof of our sod house. It was dark as pitch inside, and we didn't know what in the world it could be. Father lit a candle, the only light we had in those days, and went to the west door. He tried to open it but found that a solid bank of snow was packed against it. He had a shovel, and finally broke through, and we found that it was no longer night but day and the noise we heard on the roof was made by a neighbor girl, Sophie Tollefson, who had come on barrel skis to visit us."

*This article will continue in next week's edition of the Star Herald.*

*Mann welcomes correspondence sent to mannmade@iw.net.*

## OBITUARIES

### Jason Remme

Jason Michael Remme, 39, Luverne, died Monday, Dec. 5, 2022.

A memorial service was at 1 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Luverne.

Jason Remme was born on June 24, 1983, to James and Idella (Rye) Remme in Luverne. He was baptized at Bethany Lutheran Church and attended Ellsworth Public School, graduating in 2002.

After graduation, Jason worked several jobs, at a hog confinement building, for Bayliner, and for BP gas. He found his calling when he accepted a position as a cook at the Howling Dog. He worked as a cook for the next 20 years. People would often call to see if he was cooking before coming down.

On Oct. 21, 2020, Jason married Brittany Pastorella.

Jason was a family man who loved spending time with his wife and children. He and Brittany enjoyed driving around listening to music. He also enjoyed having bonfires with his daughters. He shared his passion for Vikings football, Star Wars, and Batman with his friends and family. He also loved cats and was a very gifted guitar player. In

his spare time, he enjoyed driving and working on his Ford pickup truck.

Jason is survived by his wife, Brittany Remme of Luverne; his parents, James Remme of Luverne and Idella Rye-Hastings (Terry Hastings) of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; his stepdaughters, Giada of Pipestone and Antonia of Luverne; his siblings, Becky Jo (Curt) Nelson of Luverne, Brian Remme of Luverne, and Jessica (Jeremy Dobernecker) Rye of Kansas City, Missouri; his maternal grandmother, Trudy Rye; a brother-in-law, Jeff Badger; his father-in-law, Earl Horton; many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and other relatives; and numerous friends including special friends Jodi Reverts and Craig Enninga.

He was preceded in death by his mother-in-law, Susan Horton; his father-in-law, Anthony Pastorella; his maternal grandfather, Isak Rye; and his paternal grandparents, Duane and Bernice Remme.

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

(1215 F)

### Angeline Reisdorfer

Angeline Leona Reisdorfer, 96, Lismore, died Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, at the Adrian Country Living Cottages.

A time of fellowship will be from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15, at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Lismore and also one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday. A memorial Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 16, at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Lismore. Burial will be in the St. Anthony Cemetery.

Angeline Roemeling was born on Aug. 28, 1926, to George and Wilhelmina (Goldhorn) Roemeling in rural Adrian. She attended country schools before graduating from Adrian High School in 1945.

Angeline married Jim Reisdorfer on April 19, 1949, at the Adrian Methodist Church. The couple farmed for 47 years before moving into Lismore in 1998.

She was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Lismore, the WCCW, the Christian Mothers, and the Lismore Senior Citizens. She

enjoyed ceramics, crocheting, fishing, picnics, traveling, and playing cards with her family.

Angeline is survived by her four children, Randy (Mary) Reisdorfer, Ron (Jeri) Reisdorfer, Rick Reisdorfer (special friend Mary Crow), and Renee (Terry) Peterson; 12 grandchildren, Cory, Glen, Jill, Chad, James, Eric, Jessie, Jamie, Justin, Jolene, Kristin and Kelli; 29 great-grandchildren; and two sisters-in-law, Anita Reisdorfer and Shirley Reisdorfer.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Jim, on Sept. 4, 2020; an infant son, Roger; a daughter-in-law, Diane; infant granddaughters, Nora and Amelia Reisdorfer; six brothers, Seibo, Sye, Ed, George, John and Jake Roemeling; and four sisters, Helen Paradis, Kate Juene-man, Minnie Lund and Elsie Henning.

Arrangements are provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Adrian, dingmannandsons.com.

(1215 F)

### Evelyn Taylor

Evelyn Mae Taylor, 94, Worthington, died Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, at the Crossroads Care Center in Worthington.

A memorial Mass was Monday, Dec. 12, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church in Worthington. Burial will take place at a later date.

Evelyn Bucher was born April 9, 1928, to Ferdinand and Elda (Chapman) Bucher in Worthington. She graduated from Worthington High School.

After graduating from high school, Evelyn worked as a dental assistant to Dr. Merrill in Worthington.

She married Earl Taylor on June 27, 1950, in Worthington. She continued to work until she and Earl started their family. The couple farmed south of Adrian before moving to a farm west of Adrian. They retired and moved to Worthington in 1984.

During her time in Adrian, she was an active member of St. Adrian Catholic Church. She was a current member of St. Mary Catholic Church in Worthington, the Grey Ladies, the Red Cross, the Senior Citizens, Garden Club, Neighborhood Club, and the Center for Active Living.

Evelyn was a cancer survivor of 30 years. She enjoyed playing cards, word find and reading. She enjoyed traveling and took several trips to England later in life.

Evelyn is survived by four

children, Barbara Shire of Luverne, Janet (Paul) Slater of Worthington, Steve Taylor of rural Bigelow, and Sharon Deutsch of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; son-in-law Rob Graef of Heron Lake; 10 grandchildren, Danny Shire, Carolyn Loudermilk,

Ellen (Shawn) Toloday, Jenny Graef, Katie Kilgore, Jessica Slater, Jon Slater, Brian (Jen) Deutsch, Travis (Ashley) Asmus and Nicole (Bryce) Mack; 14 great-grandchildren; two sisters, Norma Jepperson, Fergus Falls; and Ellen (James) McMurry, Kempner, Texas; brother-in-law Gene (Marva) Taylor of Adrian; and a sister-in-law, MaryAnn Taylor of Mason City, Iowa.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Earl, on July 16, 1999; a daughter, Marilyn Graef; son-in-law Don Deutsch; three grandchildren, Rochelle Deutsch, Brad Deutsch and Michael Shire; a brother, Elden (Joyce) Bucher; brothers- and sisters-in-law Don Jespersen, Jerry (Lucille) Taylor, Jim (Joan) Taylor, Bill (Dee) Taylor, Paul (Beverly) Taylor, Fr. Robert Taylor, Carroll (Lorraine) Taylor, Bryan Taylor, and sister-in-law Sr. Brian.

Memorials are preferred to the Worthington Dollars for Scholars.

Arrangements were provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Worthington, dingmannandsons.com.

(1215 F)

### Gene Davis

Gene Robert Davis, 95, Minneapolis, died peacefully on Nov. 26, 2022.

A Celebration of Life will be Dec. 15, at Johanna Shores in Arden Hills. Private interment will be at a later date at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Gene attended Luverne High School and Augustana College. He was a Merchant Marine and Army veteran. Gene made a career as an insurance underwriter.

After retirement, Gene enjoyed reading biographies, gardening, and traveling the world with his wife, Mary Ann. He looked forward each day to Happy Hour, visiting and reminiscing with family

and friends while drinking a Manhattan.

He is survived by his wife of 76 years, Mary Ann (McDowell) '46; children Betsy Fisher, Nancy Flatgard, Jeff Davis (Beth Kaup); four grandsons; five great-grandchildren; sister Sandra Robison; sister-in-law Beverly Davis; many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Jo-Anna Davis; son-in-law Jerry Flatgard; his parents, Orlie and Lucille Davis; siblings Keith (Marge) Davis, Donna (Bob) Anderson, Dale Davis, and Lynn (Kathy) Davis; and brother-in-law John Robison.

(1215 F)

## DEATH NOTICES

### Lorraine Draper

Lorraine Draper, 81, Pipestone, died Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, at Pipestone Hospice.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18, at Peace United Methodist Church in Pipestone. A funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Dec. 19, at the church.

Arrangements are provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Pipestone, hartquistfuneral.com.

(1215 DN)

### Leslie Harms

Leslie Raymon Harms, 77, Brewster, died Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022, at the Sunset Hospice Cottage in Worthington.

A private memorial service will be at a later date at Hersey Cemetery near Brewster.

Arrangements are provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Worthington, dingmannandsons.com.

(1215 DN)

### Dennis Johanning

Dennis Leo Johanning, 74, Ellsworth, died Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, at the Sanford Luverne Medical Center in Luverne.

A funeral Mass was at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at St. Adrian Catholic Church in Adrian. A private family burial will be at a later date.

Arrangements were provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Adrian, dingmannandsons.com.

(1215 DN)

### Wilda Pfeifer

Wilda Pfeifer, 87, Luverne, died Friday, Dec. 2, 2022, at the Good Samaritan Society - Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne.

A memorial service will be at 1:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 19, at Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne. Burial will take place at a later date at Mount Mariah Cemetery in Rural Coffeen, Illinois.

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

(1215 DN)

### Gary Wagner

Gary Lynn Wagner, 70, Worthington, died Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, at the Sunset Hospice Cottage in Worthington.

A private family service will take place at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery in Minneapolis at a later date.

Arrangements are provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Worthington, dingmannandsons.com.

(1215 DN)



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## What's the legal length of snowplow blade attached to a truck?

**Question:** Last week I noticed a truck with a snowplow blade on it. It took up the whole traffic lane. It was not a Minnesota Department of Transportation truck. What is the legal length allowed for a snow blade?



### ASK A TROOPER

By Sgt. Troy Christianson, Minnesota State Patrol

**Answer:** The maximum legal width is 8 feet, 6 inches in Minnesota. Snowplows start at widths of 6 1/2 feet for smaller pickups and go up to 9- and 10-foot-wide plows for dump trucks. The most common size plow is 7 feet, 6 inches.

If you are over 8 feet, 6 inches, you can apply for a permit through the state. The permit will allow you to transport the plow on the roadway.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.

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

## Essay: Why is a Veteran Important/from page 6A

anybody harm but only intend to free us.

Lastly, the color blue on our national flag represents vigilance, justice and perseverance. If our veterans didn't have vigilance, we wouldn't live in our great and safe country that we have today. They have the ability to keep careful watch for possible danger or difficulties. Justice is what our vets fight for and want for us and we strive for justice for them as well. And they show perseverance by not backing down despite the situation they are faced with.

I feel that we take

the precious freedoms we have for granted. We don't consider what these brave men and women had to sacrifice. It is crucial to let them know that we are so incredibly grateful for leading our country and keeping it a safe and secure place that we can call home. Thanks to them I am free to do what I want and I have so many opportunities and chances that I can pursue.

Our veterans are a true example of bravery, excellence and true Americans. So thank you and all you do. Our country would not be the same without you.

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Mavis Fodness photos/1215 Hardwick Santa Day 2022

Santa and Mrs. Claus (Mike and Patty Buysse) have their hands full as Owen (center), age 1, was too fascinated with Santa on Saturday to look at the camera for the Franz family picture. Siblings Kameryn (left) and Haylie try to focus Owen's attention.

## Hardwick's annual holiday event features snakes, snappers and Santa

Hardwick Santa Day featured a variety of experiences Saturday afternoon at the local community center including ornament making, cookie frosting, pictures with Santa and a more unusual Christmas tradition of a visit from Zoo Man aka Brent Mielke. Mielke from Sleepy Eye returned to Santa Day, this time with a rescued snapping turtle named Emily, Baby the red-footed tortoise and Razor, a royal python.

**At right:** Mielke (far left) brings a python around the community center in Hardwick. He also showed a snapping turtle, who was rescued after being run over by a vehicle, and a red-footed tortoise after it was found near Benson, Minnesota.



**Below:** Joseph Bullerman cringes, then laughs as Razor, the python, is placed as a crown on his head.



Avery Marshall-Booker takes a bite out of the sugar cookie he decorated Saturday at Hardwick Santa Day.



Rayna Johnson hesitates to pet Baby, the red-footed tortoise, as her dad, Tyler, uses a finger to stroke the tortoise's leg to show that Baby is friendly.

Nothing says Christmas like a card from home...

Look for our display at Christmas in the Park!

## SEND A CARD TO A SERVICE MEMBER!

Let our soldiers, airmen and women, sailors and marines know you are thankful for their service!

- Use a greeting card - or make your own!
- Do NOT put your card in an envelope.
- Avoid using glitter - it's a problem if it gets on uniforms.
- Avoid political statements or religious discussions, but feel free to let them know you are praying for them!
- Don't date your card/letter because they will be sent out all year long as part of MILITARY MISSIONS care packages.

Cards will be collected at the park or drop them off at The Star Herald office.

## Do you have a loved one serving in the military?

If you'd like cards sent specifically to your service member, please contact The Star Herald office with their address and we will make sure some of the cards get sent to them! Questions? Please contact us at 507-283-2333.

Rock County STAR HERALD





## Decorative plow blades

Mavis Fodness photos/1208 Snow Plow Blade Painting

Dylan Gehrke's fifth-grade students gather in the city of Beaver Creek garage to paint a festive scene on a snowplow blade on Dec. 5. The activity was suggested by Beaver Creek public works superintendent Travis Helgeson, who normally paints the two plow blades before using them to clean the streets of snow.

## H-BC fifth-graders design, paint snow blade with school focus theme

By Mavis Fodness

Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary fifth-graders used teamwork to complete a painting project for the city of Beaver Creek.

Each year public works supervisor Travis Helgeson gives the city's two snowplow blades a coat of paint to help the snow slide off the curved surfaces.

This year he asked the H-BC fifth-graders and teacher Dylan Gehrke to do the painting for him.

However, the students needed to come up with a design.

H-BC art instructor Isabel Sylvania assisted in the first-time project.

"This project has been done in many cities including Sioux Falls," she said. "We are very excited to bring this idea into H-BC and turn it into a tradition."

The students focused on the school's yearlong theme of "Level Up," a video game term that requires players to complete a series

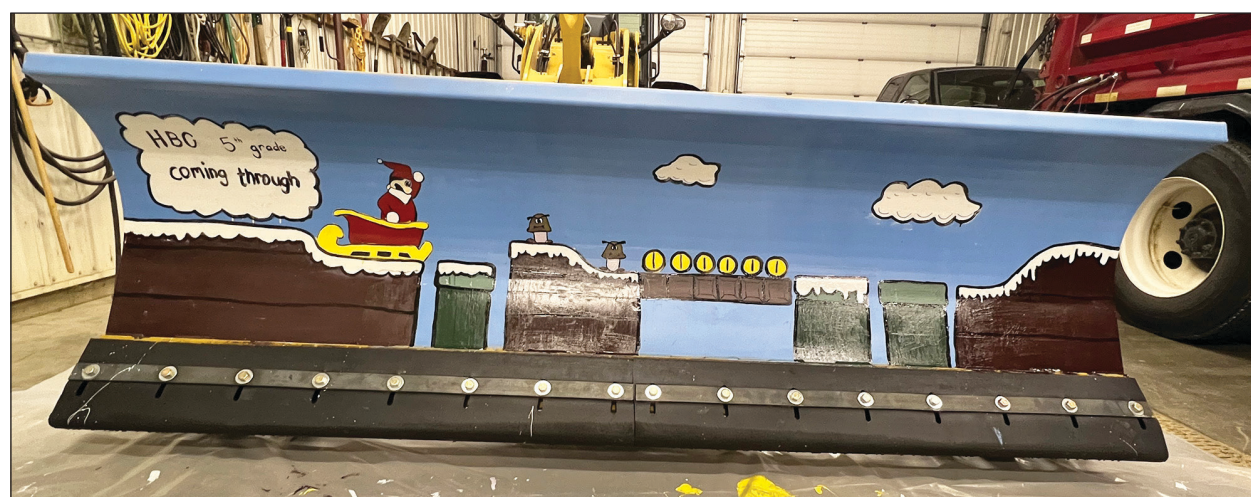


Photo courtesy of Isabel Sylvania

Above is the completed design for the city of Beaver Creek snowplow blade. The elementary students' message "HBC 5<sup>th</sup> grade coming through" is written on the left side of the design.

of obstacles before they "level up" to the next obstacle series.

The theme focuses on rewarding positive behaviors.

Students earn points that can be redeemed for fun items or activities.

The blade project focused on positive teamwork.

"There is so much sensitivity and empathy that each student has to apply to be successful in a team," Sylvania said.

Each student designed an idea and shared the design with classmates.

Because the school's "Level Up" theme is often depicted as going through levels of a video game, the students chose Mario Brothers as a design.

In early December Sylvania outlining the snow blade with the students' chosen design. On Dec. 5 students took turns filling in the sketches with paint.

"We learned that when we have disagreements in a collaborative project like this, we need to listen, put ourselves in the other person's shoes, understand there is no right answer, and morph our ideas to fit everyone, if possible," she said.

Helgeson and his wife, Kenzie, painted the city's second snow blade, also using Mario Brothers and "Level Up" as a theme.



Eva Hubbard takes care to paint snow on the Mario Brothers-themed scene Hubbard and her fellow fifth-grade students designed for the city of Beaver Creek snowplow blade.

## Shining a light on hard-to-dispel myths about public lands and their importance

About a month ago I was invited to speak at the Ecumen Meadows. This is an assisted living facility located in Worthington. The residents of this facility make up all walks of life, and many of them are retired farmers.

My topic was about public lands and the work that my local chapter of Pheasants Forever has been involved in to protect the local drinking water supply for our community.

The water protection work being done in and around the city wells in Worthington's wellhead protection area includes acquisitions by my chapter which ultimately get planted to grass. Native vegetation cover eliminates the applications of fertilizers, herbicides and manure on these acres. This keeps these chemicals from leaching into the ground and contaminating the water.

I dispelled many myths folks have about public lands. The first is that we



### THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall  
Outdoors columnist

only buy land from willing sellers. We do not use eminent domain, which is a proceeding to forcefully take someone's property. In almost all cases, the landowner who is interested in selling actually contacts me. They reach out to me for a variety of reasons, but the conservation legacy they desire to achieve is satisfied by selling their property to a conservation organization.

There is a myth that public lands don't pay any taxes. No matter how much or how often you share the facts of the matter, many folks will never believe them. Public lands that ultimately transfer to the

state of Minnesota make payments in lieu of taxes, a fancy term referred to as P.I.L.T. These dollars are paid from the Minnesota state general fund, and for all public lands in the state, the sum is about \$40 million per year. This money is sent to the counties to be distributed to all of the normal agencies that would receive a share of personal property taxes. These include counties, school districts, townships and others.

The amount the county agencies receive is a special formula. The formula is 3/4 of 1 percent of the appraised value of the land on the day it was purchased.

This rate stays the same for the first five years, and then county assessors will adjust that amount as land values rise and fall.

In every case I have been involved in, the PILT payment has been substantially more than the revenue the county would have received from the prior landowner. The smallest increase was 9 percent more and the largest was 225 percent more than what the county got before the lands became public.

Public lands are a benefit to the county from a revenue standpoint. The other thing to remember is that public wildlife lands and the folks who use them do not destroy roads with heavy equipment like feed trucks might or other industrial equipment. The maintenance cost required from government drops to almost zero.

The last – but not the least – myth that needs constant clarification is the myth that conservation

organizations are buying up the land and running up land prices for young or new start farmers.

Nothing could be further from the truth. In the year I checked, there were 43 land sales in my county. Pheasants Forever purchased only one of the 43. As far as conservation organizations running up the price of the land, the parcel purchased by my chapter was the lowest cost per acre of any sale in the county that year. Not only are we not buying up all the land, we are often purchasing the lands that in many cases should never have been farmed in the first place.

To see this in yet another light, Nobles County Pheasants Forever is one of the most successful land acquisition chapters in the nation. We have purchased 43 separate parcels over a 39-year period. Even with this high level of success, we have only impacted 7/10 of 1 percent of the land base

in our county, and almost all of that work has been in an area critical to protecting the city's water supply. In fact, all public lands in Nobles County account for less than 2 percent of the county's land base. When you consider all of these facts, you will see that the myths surrounding public lands are just that ... myths!

The next time you hear someone perpetuating myths that surround public lands, you now have the rest of the story, the correct information, to clear up the thinking of those who try to convince others that public lands provide little value to anyone.

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](mailto:scottarall@gmail.com) or on Twitter @habitat champion.



Greg Hoogeveen photos/1215 BBB HBC Metzger

Patriot freshman Jamin Metzger fights for a rebound with LHS seniors Riley Sneller and Gavin DeBeer. Metzger finished the game with four offensive and six defensive rebounds.

## LHS and H-BC boys' basketball teams meet on the hardwood Dec. 6 in Hills

**By Greg Hoogeveen**

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team hosted cross-county rival Luverne Tuesday, Dec. 6, in Hills, where the Cardinals came out on top 74-39.

It was H-BC's home opener and Luverne's first away game of the season

after dropping the home opener to Southwest Christian 75-46 on Dec. 1.

Luverne's head coach John Sichmeller said he was pleased with his team's effort.

"I think our guys were nervous for their first game last week and it looked like they were

more composed and ready to play vs. H-BC," Sichmeller said.

For H-BC's part, coach Kale Wiertzema said the Cardinals' fast-paced tempo in the first half resulted in several turnovers and missed opportunities by his Patriots. "After getting down

early and getting rid of the nerves, I thought we did a great job battling back to get the score 26-24," Wiertzema said.

Toward the end of the half, Luverne went on a stretch, hitting multiple threes and put an end to

LHS & H-BC/see page 3B

## Luverne places two wrestlers at Jackson Invite Dec. 10

**By Greg Hoogeveen**

The Luverne wrestling team participated in the Jackson County Central Pizza Ranch Invite Saturday, Dec. 10, in Jackson.

Luverne was one of 17 teams wrestling in the tournament and placed 10th overall as a team.

Individually, two Luverne wrestlers climbed their way into the championship rounds.

"This tournament is always tough — usually there are a lot of state-ranked kids," coach Jordan Kopp said.

"The fact we had two wrestlers out of nine make the championship is pretty awesome."

Senior DJ Rock, 160-pound class, and junior Sam Rock, 170-pound class, took second place in their brackets.

DJ Rock took a 3-0 record into the championship round.

He wrestled Walker Jones of Aitkin, beating him by a 16-11 decision in Round 1 before pinning Ty Kolbe of Fairmont-Martin County West in the quarterfinals.

In the semifinals, DJ pinned Isaiah Rodriguez of Jackson County Central, but in the championship match, DJ fell to Carver Rohman of Fairmont-Martin County West 18-7 in a major decision.

Sam Rock in the 170-pound class, also took a 3-0 record into the championships.

He pinned Carter Ellis of Waseca in the quarterfinals and beat Gage Cyphers of Fairmont-Martin County West in the semifinals in a 3-1 decision before falling to JCC's Dylan Withers in the championship.

Luverne eighth-grader Matthew Gangestad, wrestling at 120, went 2-2 for the day, losing in the quarterfinals.

He pinned Tyler Hawkins of Wabasha-Kellogg in Round 1 before losing to Isaiah Nelson, New London-Spicer, by technical fall 18-1.

In the first consolation round Gangestad received a bye to advance to consolation Round 2 where he fell to Teague Meyer Murray County Central by a 5-1 decision.

Following is a breakdown of Luverne's other outcomes in each bracket.

JCC Invite/see page 4B

*"This tournament is always tough — usually there are a lot of state-ranked kids. The fact we had two wrestlers out of nine make the championship is pretty awesome."*

— Jordan Kopp  
head coach

## LHS girls' hockey lose heartbreaker, now 7-1

**By Greg Hoogeveen**

The Luverne High School girls' hockey seven-game winning streak came to an end over the weekend when the Cardinals dropped an overtime loss to Mankato East on the road.

After a decisive 17-1 win over Austin at home on Dec. 6, the Cardinals lost a hard-fought game 4-3 to the Tigers in the All Seasons Arena.

The Cardinals, now 7-1, are scheduled to host Minnesota River Friday, Dec. 16, and River Lakes Stars (central Minnesota) Saturday, Dec. 17, in the Blue Mound Ice Arena.

**Mankato East 4, Luverne 3**

The Cardinal girls' hockey team traveled to Mankato Saturday, Dec. 10, to take on the Cougars, who play in the Big Nine, comprised of larger central Minnesota schools.

The Cardinals ended the day with their first loss of the season in overtime play.

"The girls played hard and controlled most of the game," coach Tony Sandbulte said. "We made some costly mistakes and East made us pay."

At the end of the second period Luverne was up 2-1 after scoring by eighth-grader Izzy Steensma and senior Kamryn Van Batavia.

Steensma scored in Period 1 at 3:34 assisted by Rylee Kurtz, and Van Batavia scored in the second at 12:25 assisted by Payton Behr.

In the third period at 5:36 Van Batavia scored again on a power play, assisted by sisters Payton and eighth-grader Tenley Behr.

This put Luverne up by 2, with Mankato trailing 3-1.



Greg Hoogeveen photos/1215 LHS GHOC McClure

Greta McClure hits the ice after her second period goal assisted by Isabella Steensma.

The Cougars, however, came back with two goals of their own in the third period to send the game into overtime with the score locked at 3-3.

In the end, Mankato's Ava Tibodeau slid one past Cardinal goalie Mallory Von Tersch at 4:41 to clinch the win.

In the game Von Tersch stopped 25 of 29 shots from Mankato East. Luverne made three of its 49 shots on goal in the game.

**Luverne 17, Austin 1**

The Cardinal girls' hockey team pelted the Austin Packers 17-1 Monday, Dec. 6, at the Blue Mound Arena.

The win extended their season record to 7-0 and kept Luverne at the top of the Big South Conference three games ahead of conference rival New Ulm.

The win was largely due to puck control and offensive pressure as two Cardinal skaters registered hat tricks in the game.

Steensma and freshman Paula Martinez each recorded three goals.

Martinez started Luverne's scoring at 3:14 in the first period with an assist from Ella Apel.

Apel followed up scoring herself at 6:39 with an assist by Anika Boll.

Steensma, assisted by Mallory Nelson, and Greta McClure and Kamryn Van Batavia, each assisted by

LHS girls hockey/see page 4B

## LHS gymnasts win Jackson County tourney

**By Greg Hoogeveen**

The Luverne gymnasts participated in the St. James Area Snowflake Invitational in St. James Saturday, Dec. 10.

Five teams were invited, with the Luverne Cardinal girls crowned team champions.

Luverne scored 127.275 points, followed by Redwood Valley at 127.025, Pipestone Area at 125.550, Windom-Mountain Lake at 118.750, and St. James at 95.575.

Individually, Luverne placed two gymnasts in the all-around. Sophomore Ella Reisdorfer took first place with a 34.550 and sophomore Amira Cowell placed fourth with a 32.100.

For her first-place all-around recognition, Reisdorfer placed first on the vault with a score of 9.100, second on bars with an 8.225, second on beam with an 8.725 and fourth on the floor with an 8.500.

To place fourth in all-around, Amira Cowell placed fourth on the vault with a score of 8.400, first on bars with an 8.225, 12th on beam with a 6.800, and first on the floor with a score of 8.675.

The Cardinals placed other gymnasts in individual events as follows:

•Vault: Hailey Como placed fourth with an 8.700, and Kendra Thorson placed seventh with an 8.500 out of 16 gymnasts.

•Uneven parallel bars: Reagan Gangestad placed eighth with a 7.125, Como placed tenth with a 6.950 and Addyson Mann placed 12th with a 6.700 out of 23 gymnasts.

•Balance beam: Thorson placed ninth with a 7.150, Gangestad placed 10th with a 6.950 and Winter placed 16th with a 6.450 out of 22 gymnasts.

•Floor exercise: Thorson placed 12th with a 7.450 and Como placed 20th with a 7.400 out of 23 gymnasts.

## Luverne boys' hockey drops one to Windom

**By Greg Hoogeveen**

The Cardinal boys' hockey team traveled to New Ulm Friday, Dec. 9, where they dropped a 2-1 game to the Eagles.

The loss puts Luverne's season record at 2-1-1, and New Ulm now stands at 5-0 for the season.

The host Eagles scored the lone goal in the first period at 6:12, followed by another at 2:36 in the second period.

The Cardinals regrouped after that to deny New Ulm the shutout when LHS junior Henry Hartquist scored unassisted at 13:34 in the third period. It would be Luverne's only goal in the game.

"We struggled to match their intensity and physicality throughout the game and spent 25

minutes playing short-handed," coach Phil Paquette said.

Given the Cardinals' penalty killers effective defense during penalty play, the score could have been worse for Luverne.

During a total of 25 minutes of penalty play, Luverne didn't give up a goal.

LHS junior goalie Tyler Arends blocked 49 of the 51 shots on goal. Luverne shot 24 times on New Ulm's goaltender, making just one.

"Our goaltending was outstanding but we did not do enough to support that effort," Paquette said.

Luverne's game with Windom Tuesday, Dec. 13, was postponed due to weather. LHS travels to Rochester on Saturday, Dec. 17.



Greg Hoogeveen photos/1215 LHS GBB John

LHS junior Kira John drives the lane against Pipestone's Emersyn Smidt. Smith posted 14 points and seven rebounds in the game.

## Cardinal boys' basketball team falls to Pipestone

**By Greg Hoogeveen**

The Luverne boys' basketball team traveled to Pipestone Friday, Dec. 9, and was defeated 75-57.

"We played a good first half and had a few turnovers that cost us before half," coach John Sichmeller said.

Luverne fell behind the Arrows at the half 28-35.

"Pipestone was hot from 3 (3-point line) and we couldn't make enough shots to keep up with them," Sichmeller said.

The Arrows were 56 percent at the 3-point line, making 10 of 19.

Luverne shot 18 percent at the 3-point line,

making three of 16.

Senior Gannon Arhendt led Luverne's scoring with 19 points, shooting three of four at the line. He snared five rebounds in the contest.

Sophomore Carter Sehr ended with 14 points and made five for five at the line, grabbing two rebounds.

Junior Gavin DeBeer finished with 12 points and shot five for eight at the line with five rebounds.

Luverne's game with Jackson County Central Tuesday, Dec. 13, was postponed due to weather.

The Cardinals will face Redwood Valley Friday, Dec. 16, at home.

## Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team edges out MCC

**By Greg Hoogeveen**

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team edged out visiting Murray County Central 55-52 Tuesday, Dec. 6, in Hills.

Both teams were equally balanced which led to a close competition and even scoring.

Offensively H-BC made 19 of 57 shots, compared with the Rebels' 19 of 66. MCC edged the Patriots on 3-pointers, making five of 20 to H-BC's five of 23.

"I thought that our girls did a great job on the offensive end of being patient and spacing the floor really well," Patriots' coach Dylan Gehrke said.

On defense, H-BC had an edge on total rebounds and steals. "Defensively, I thought we did a real nice job," Gehrke said.

"In the second half we were up eight to 10 points most of the half. MCC started to get some shots to fall and cut the deficit from 10 to four late in the game to make things interesting at the end."

He said the Deelstra sisters led on both ends of the floor.

Junior Layla Deelstra scored 12 points and contributed six rebounds, five assists and four steals.

Eighth-grader Olivia Deelstra had an impres-

sive double-double with 14 points, 11 rebounds, two assists and four steals.

Sophomore Emma Deelstra scored three points and snared one rebound.

Senior Olivia Bork contributed six points, five rebounds and two assists.

Junior Lanae Elbers blocked six shots, with seven rebounds and four points.

Ninth-grader Abbie Harris posted two blocked shots, four rebounds and seven points.

Also contributing were junior Brynn Rauk with six points, two assists and four rebounds, ninth-grader Claire Knobloch with two rebounds and one steal, and junior Larissa Steinhoff with three points, two rebounds, one assist and one steal.

Gehrke said the MCC team presented tough competition for his Patriots.

"Props to MC. They have a lot of experience and a lot of fight in them," he said.

The Patriots, now 2-2 for the season, are scheduled to travel to Alcester-Hudson Friday, Dec. 16.

H-BC's game with Adrian on Dec. 9 was postponed when AHS canceled classes due to weather.

## Luverne girls' basketball team bounces past Pipestone 59-42

**By Greg Hoogeveen**

The Luverne High School girls' basketball team hosted Pipestone Friday, Dec. 9, defeating the Arrows 59-42.

"I thought the game was anything but pretty," Luverne coach TJ Newgard said about foul troubles, turnovers and missed opportunities on both sides.

"We had a ton of open looks that we were unable to knock down and missed way too many free throws."

The Cardinals ended the game

with 14 total fouls and made 14 of 33 free throws at the line. Pipestone committed 24 fouls and made four of nine free throws.

Newgard said he was still satisfied with the win.

"Any time you can beat a really good team (undefeated at the time) without playing your best, you have to be happy," he said.

Scoring leaders for Luverne were senior Elizabeth Wagner with 18 points and eight rebounds and junior Kira John with 14 points and seven rebounds.

Senior Averill Sehr helped out with two rebounds and seven assists.

Coming off the bench in the second half, senior Jocelyn Hart contributed five rebounds and two assists.

"These girls just grind and do whatever they have to do to come out on top," Newgard said.

Luverne's game with Jackson County Central Tuesday, Dec. 13, was postponed due to weather.

LHS will host Redwood Valley Friday, Dec. 16.



## Hartquist named to All State Golf Team

Luverne High School junior Henry Hartquist was named to the 2021-22 All State Golf Team for his performance in the fall boys' golf season.

Hartquist competed at the State AA Golf Tournament at the Ridges at Sand Creek in Jordan June 14-15.

He shot a two-day total of 152 to finish in 12th place out of 85 golfers in the tournament.

Athletes are selected for the honor by the Minnesota State High School Golf Coaches Association.

## LHS H-BC basketball game/continued from 2B

H-BC's run.

The half ended in favor of Luverne 40-24.

In the second half the Cardinals kept up the momentum by pressing the Patriots in the back court.

"Our inexperience was evident," Wiertzema said. "We had 28 turnovers with 75 percent of those coming from being sped up and uncomfortable versus their pressure."

Luverne outshot the Patriots in the second half 34-15 with a majority of the scoring coming at the foul line where the Cardinals shot 73 percent as a team.

H-BC senior Brock Harnack led the Patriots with 19 points, five rebounds and one blocked shot.

Defensively freshman Jamin Metzger grabbed 10 rebounds and sophomore Beau Bakken had seven rebounds.

For Luverne, sophomore Carter Sehr posted 22 points and senior Gannon Ahrendt had 21 points with seven re-



Greg Hoogeveen photos/1215 BBB LHS Winter

LHS senior Ja'shon Winter draws a foul against H-BC sophomore Cameron Allen driving the basket.

bounds and four blocked shots.

Luverne's game with Jackson County Central Tuesday, Dec. 13, was postponed due to weather. The Cardinals will face Redwood Valley

Friday, Dec. 16, at home.

The Patriots' game with Red Rock Central was also postponed due to weather Tuesday, Dec. 13.

They'll host Alcester-Hudson Friday, Dec. 16.

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Greg Hoogeveen photos/1215 LHS GHOC Martinez

Ninth-grader Paula Martinez scores her first goal of the night against the Austin goaltender. Martinez was one of two girls with hat tricks against Austin. Eighth-grader Izzy Steensma also netted three goals in the game.

## LHS girls' hockey/continued from 2B

Macie Edstrom, finished the first period scoring one goal each.

In the second period, with Luverne leading 4-0, the Cardinals went on a scoring run to rack up nine goals by seven different players.

McClure started the run with a goal at 4:40 assisted by Steensma. Tenley Behr contributed another unassisted goal at 4:57.

Moments later, at 6:31, Martinez scored her second goal assisted by Apel.

The Austin Packers scored their lone point of the game at 8:32 when Sarah Wangen, assisted by Camille Dunlap, found the net on LHS goalie

Von Tersch.

But the Luverne scoring continued soon after that with a Tenley Behr goal at 8:46 assisted by Steensma.

Payton Behr scored at 9:45 assisted by Kamryn Van Batavia and Nelson.

At 11:44 Martinez scored her third goal assisted by Nelson and Edstrom.

At 13:12 Steensma scored her second goal, followed by another from Edstrom unassisted at 14:07.

At 14:44 seventh-grader Ellie Van Batavia scored, assisted by McClure, to end the second period, Luverne 13,

Austin 1.

Early in the third period at 1:19, Steensma shot her third goal unassisted.

Nelson got her lone goal at 3:20 assisted by Kamryn Van Batavia, who at 8:30 reversed the roles and scored with an assist by Nelson.

Eighth-grader Cassidy Saarloos ended the scoring at 13:30 with a powerplay goal assisted by Apel.

Luverne outplayed Austin on the ice, allowing only seven shots on Luverne's goalie Von Tersch the entire game.

The Cardinals hammered the Packers goalie with 53 shots on goal.

## LHS gymnasts defeated by Worthington in close contest

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne gymnasts went on the road to take on the Trojans at the Worthington Learning Center/Gymnastics Facility Tuesday, Dec. 6.

The Cardinals lost the overall meet, posting a 139.350 to 130.325 score.

"The girls had a great meet overall. We were happy with how we did," said coach Phoebe Flom.

"There were plenty of mistakes, and we know we can get better, so the girls had a really positive attitude," she added.

Individually, Luverne had two gymnasts place in the all-around. Sophomore Ella Reisdorfer took fifth place with a 34.175 and sophomore Amira Cowell placed sixth with 34.125.

Individually the Cardinals placing in the Top 6 included:

- vault: Amira Cowell, second, 9.125. Ella Reisdorfer, third, 9.050. Kianna Winter, fifth, 8.775.

- uneven parallel bars: Amira Cowell, second, 7.975. Ella Reisdorfer, fifth, 7.475. Hailey Como, sixth, 6.775.

- balance beam: Ella Reisdorfer, tie for fourth, 8.750. Amira Cowell, fifth, 8.575.

- floor exercise: Ella Reisdorfer, fourth, 8.900. Kianna Winter, fifth, 8.550. Amira Cowell, sixth, 8.450.

The Cardinals were scheduled to travel to the St. James Invitational Saturday, Dec. 10, and then host Pipestone Thursday, Dec. 15.

Individual stats

All-around: Ella Reisdorfer 34.175, Amira Cowell 34.125  
Vault: Amira Cowell 9.125. Ella Reisdorfer 9.050. Kianna Winter 8.775, Hailey Como 8.700, Kendra Thorson 8.650.

Uneven parallel bars: Amira Cowell 7.975. Ella Reisdorfer 7.475. Hailey Como 6.775, Reagan Gangestad 6.650, Addyson Mann 6.450.

Balance beam: Ella Reisdorfer 8.750. Amira Cowell 8.575, Kianna Winter 8.050, Reagan Gangestad 7.575, Kendra Thorson 7.500

Floor exercise: Ella Reisdorfer 8.900. Kianna Winter 8.550. Amira Cowell 8.450, Kianna Winter 8.550, Addyson Mann 6.950, Gabbie Nath-Huis 6.900

## JCC invite/from page 2B

**106** — Brody Kopp was pinned at 1:49 by JCC's Kyler Thier in Round 1.

He won by decision 11-7 over Worthington's Saul Galvez in the consolation before losing to Pierce Rohman (Fairmont-Martin County West) by technical fall 19-2 at 5:17 in the consolation Round 2.

**126** — Rayden Boyenga lost by technical fall (16-0 5:31) to Kameron Koerner (Windom-Mountain Lake).

In the first consolation round, Boyenga lost in by fall (3:36) to Holton Hanson (New London-Spicer).

**126** — Leif Ingebretsen lost by fall (3:14) in Round 1 to John Pelarski (Aitkin).

In the first consolation round, Ingebretsen lost by major decision (12-4) to Oscar Galvez (Worthington)

**132** — Josh Stroh fell to Caleb Nelson (New London-Spicer) in 2:22 in Round 1.

In the round 1 consolation, Stroh lost by fall (0:59) to Jared Hunter (Windom-Mountain Lake).

**138** — Hudson Hough lost by major decision (14-2) to Carlos Ulloa-Castillo (Adrian Area).

In the Round 1 consolation, Hough was pinned by Talan Osborne (Lake Crystal Welcome Memorial Area) in 0:50.

**182** — Jacob Madison pinned Lucas Selthun (Waseca) in Round 1 at 5:49.

In the quarterfinals, Madison lost to Brady Andersen (Hutchinson) by fall (4:26).

In the Round 2 consolation, Carson McCain (New London-Spicer) pinned Madison (1:46)

Despite the stiff competition, Kopp said he was pleased by the outcomes of the JCC tournament.

"The best part is these wrestlers want more. They aren't satisfied," he said. "This team is special. They are going to do some great things this year."

The Cardinal wrestlers competed in the Redwood Valley Triangular on Dec. 6. (See the related story.)

They are to host a tournament in Luverne on Saturday, Dec. 17.

## Luverne wrestlers compete in Redwood Valley Triangular

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne wrestling team lost two matches in the Redwood Valley Triangular Tuesday, Dec. 6.

They went up against Jackson County Central and Redwood Valley.

The Cardinal wrestlers traveled to the Jackson County Central Invitational Saturday, Dec. 10. (See the related story).

They are scheduled to host a tournament in Luverne on Saturday, Dec. 17.

**JCC 46, Luverne 21,**

The first team Luverne faced on Dec. 6 was Jackson County Central.

"We wrestled Jackson who won state last year and is ranked No. 1 this year, and we put up some good points against them," Jordan Kopp said.

Luverne had four individual weight class winners with DJ Rock at 160 and Jacob Madison at 182 earning six team points each with pins.

Hudson Hough at 138 scored three team points with his win by decision, and Matthew Gangestad earned six team points, winning by forfeit.

In the match Luverne ended up forfeiting three weight classes and Jackson forfeited one class.

Following are other results from the dual.

**106** — Kayden Eller (J) fall over Brody Kopp.

**113** — Dallas Grossen (J) dec. 6-2 over Bernie Rock.

**120** — Matthew Gangestad (L) won by forfeit.

**126** — Isaiah Rodriguez (J) fall over Leif Ingebretsen.

**132** — Tate Phillips (J) fall over Josh Stroh.

**138** — Hudson Hough (L) dec. (6-4) over Ryan Fricke.

**145** — Landon Andrews (J) won by forfeit.

**152** — no match.

**160** — DJ Rock (L) fall over Isaiah Rodriguez.

**170** — Dylan Withers (J) major decision (9-1) over Sam Rock.

**182** — Jacob Madison (L) fall over Braeden Erickson.

**195** — Braydan Winter (J) won by forfeit.

**220** — Kasey Storm (J) fall won by forfeit.

**285** — Cameron Scholten (J) dec. (3-1) over Masyn Akkerman.

**Redwood Valley 51, Luverne 30**

Luverne fell to Redwood Valley 51-30 in the second contest of the day.

"Redwood matched up with us really well. We had a couple of wrestlers out of the lineup or else I think the match could have ended differently," Kopp said.

The Cardinals again forfeited three weight classes to Redwood; however, they won six weight classes by pinning their opponents.

Those wrestlers were Bernie Rock at 113, Leif Ingebretsen at 126, DJ Rock at 160, Sam Rock at 170 and Jacob Madison at 182.

Following are other results from the dual.

**106** — Casen Meyers (R) fall over Brody Kopp.

**1113** — Bernie Rock (L) fall over Ashton Panitzke

**120** — Gavin Brandt (R) fall over Matthew Gangestad.

**126** — Leif Ingebretsen (L) fall over Isaiah Nelson.

**132** — Austin Ourada (R) fall over Josh Stroh.

**138** — Lucas Fuhr (R) fall over Hudson Hough.

**145** — Max Fuhr (R) won by forfeit.

**152** — Zachary Guggisburg (R) won by forfeit.

**160** — DJ Rock (L) fall over Zachary Guggisburg.

**170** — Sam Rock (L) fall over Viktor Ortega.

**182** — Jacob Madison (L) fall over Evan Reinke.

**195** — Axel Uhlenkamp (R) won by forfeit.

**220** — Hunter Rebstock (R) dec. (8-2) over Kane Akkerman.

**285** — Griffin Evans (R) fall over Masyn Akkerman.

# KEEP IN MIND! We Have Early Deadlines

## CHRISTMAS Star Herald

December 29 Edition

Deadline for advertising will be  
Thursday, Dec. 22 by 10 am

## NEW YEAR'S Star Herald

January 5 Edition

Deadline for advertising will be  
Thursday, Dec. 29 by 10 am

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2





# Star Herald PUBLIC NOTICES

December 15, 2022 Page 7B

...continued from previous page

remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 02, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

PLACE OF SALE: Rock County Sheriff's Office, 1000 N. Blue Mound Avenue, Luverne, MN 56156.

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on August 2, 2023.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

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Dated: November 30, 2022

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Mortgagee

TROTT LAW, P.C.

By: /s/  
N. Kibongni Fondongallah, Esq.  
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.  
\*Sung Woo Hong, Esq.\*  
Attorneys for Mortgagee  
25 Dale Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
(651) 209-9760  
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### EMPLOYMENT

### EMPLOYMENT

### EMPLOYMENT

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### ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE Part-time /Full-time Dispatcher

The Rock County Administrator is now accepting applications for the position of **Dispatcher** in the Rock County Sheriff's Office until **December 22, 2022 at 5:00PM. Full-time and Part-Time positions are available.** Minimum qualifications are a High School diploma or equivalent with one year of work related experience. Applicants must possess excellent communication skills, have the ability to read a map and multi-task duties in a fast paced environment. The work is performed on a shift rotation basis and is a union position of Local Union No. 2558C. **Starting hourly wage will be \$20.62 - \$22.31 DOQ with additional compensation for overtime and shift differentials.** Rock County offers an excellent benefit package for the Full-Time position. All interested persons must complete a Rock County application form; for an application form and full job description, please go to [https://www.co.rock.mn.us/job\\_opportunities/index.php](https://www.co.rock.mn.us/job_opportunities/index.php). For additional questions, please contact the Rock County Administrator's Office at 507-283-5065 at the Rock County Courthouse in Luverne, Minnesota. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or email [susan.skattum@co.rock.mn.us](mailto:susan.skattum@co.rock.mn.us).  
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# Dear Santa,

## Kristin Schomacker's class



Kristin Schomacker's second-grade class includes (front, from left) Dominic Rigney, Kallista Van Grootheest, Sadiella Rodas Chicas, Michah Eagle, Hunter Cook, Hank Petersen, (second row) AJ Pearce, Henry Graves, Raelynn Remme, Mackenzie Walker, Corina Deming, Gunner Johnson, Brooke Zeutenhorst, Norah Benjamin, (back) Gracelynn Myhre, Jenna Goembel, Benson LeBrun, Mrs. Schomaker, Hobe Sandbulte, Samuel Ainsworth, Gabriella Flores, Rayna Sterling and (far back) class helper Paula Jelken.

Dear Santa,  
I was a good girl this year. Please give my mom a coat for Christmas. How are the reindeer?  
From,  
Corina Deming

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good boy. I want a Trigger 6 and Trigger 7 hockey stick. Do you read the naughty and nice list every day?  
From,  
Hobe Sandbulte

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good girl. What I want for Christmas is I want books. How are the reindeer?  
From,  
Gabriella Flores

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good boy. I want a PS5. PS How is Rudolph?  
From,  
Hunter Cook

Dear Santa,  
I've been a good girl this year. Can you please get me a bean bag? What kind of cookies do you like?  
From,  
Norah Benjamin

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Can I have a PS4 please? I will give cookies and warm milk.  
From,  
Henry Graves

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good girl this year. Can I have a new dog please, Santa? How is Mrs. Claus?  
From,  
Raelynn Remme

Dear Santa,  
I have been working hard at school this year. I want a sparkly bracelet for Christmas.  
From,  
Rayna Sterling

Dear Santa,  
I've been good. I would like a new Nerf gun. Do you have dogs?  
From,  
Benson LeBrun

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good boy this year. May I have 'The Wings of Fire' books 9-16 for me and my brothers, please? Have a Merry Christmas!!  
From,  
Samuel Ainsworth

Dear Santa,  
I am good. Can you get me a LOL doll? How are the reindeer?  
From,  
Michah Eagle

Dear Santa,  
Can I have some money please? How are the reindeer? Do you want some warm milk, cookies, and reindeer food?  
From,  
Gunner Johnson

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. Will you please give me a remote control robot? How is Rudolph?  
From,  
AJ Pearce

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. I want you to bring my mom, dad, and sisters, and me a pet. Do you want me to give you a hot or a cold glass of milk?  
From,  
Jenna Goembel

Dear Santa,  
I've been good and bad. Can I please have a heated Ranger that comes with a bigger plow? How are the reindeer?  
From,  
Hank Petersen

Dear Santa,  
Do you want me to give you some warm milk or cold milk and do you want me to have some cookies for you? Can I have an American girl for Christmas? I have been good this year.  
From,  
Mackenzie Walker

Dear Santa,  
I'm good. For Christmas I want Legos. How are you doing and how are the reindeer? I am sorry that I didn't make it to see you.  
From,  
Dominic Rigney

Dear Santa,  
I have been good and nice. I want a new bike for Christmas. Are the toys done?  
From,  
Brooke Zeutenhorst

Dear Santa,  
I am good. I want a fuzzy cat. How are the deer?  
From,  
Kallista Van Grootheest

Dear Santa,  
I was good today. I want a new pretty notebook for Christmas. How are you Santa?  
From,  
Sadie Rodas-Chicas

Dear Santa,  
I have been good. How are the reindeer doing? I want a new hoverboard.  
From,  
Gracelynn Myhre



Dear Santa,  
I want a football launcher because I saw it on a commercial. I want an Xbox so I can play with my friend Jordan. Santa, is Rudolph doing good? How many reindeer do you have? Merry Christmas!  
Sincerely,  
Oliver Connell

Dear Santa,  
Please can I have a drone and a remote-control helicopter? Can I have a dinosaur set please? Can I have cowboy boots? My brother wants a car. Merry Christmas. How is Rudolph doing?  
Sincerely,  
Kameryn Franz

Dear Santa,  
May I please have new cleats? Is it okay if I have an Oculus, a football, and a toy robot? Is this a little too much? Is Rudolph ever cold in the sky? What are the reindeer's favorite toys? I wonder?  
Sincerely,  
Cash Apel

Dear Santa,  
How are you doing? I want some books and a remote-control car. How are your reindeer? How many reindeer do you have?  
Sincerely,  
Kale Smith

Dear Santa,  
How is Christmas going? Can I please have a Gizmo Watch? Can I please have a hoverboard and a dog? Are the reindeer being naughty? Can I please have 3 BFF necklaces? Did you decorate your home? When is your birthday? What is your favorite holiday? What is your favorite color?  
A good girl,  
Addisyn Facile

Dear Santa,  
Has Rudolph been playing with the elves? How many elves do you have? What I want for Christmas is a small miracle for my cat, Nip, to come back. Have I been a good boy this year? Merry Christmas.  
Your biggest fan,  
Eli Ainsworth

Dear Santa,  
Can I have a Gizmo Watch, a camera, and a sled? How are you doing? How are the reindeer? Can I have a remote-control car? How is Mrs. Claus? Can I have a pocket knife?  
Sincerely,  
Jacob Deutsch

Dear Santa,  
How is your December? I would like a hoverboard for Christmas because my house is really boring. I would also like a Gizmo Watch so I could call my mom when I want to talk to her. What do you want for Christmas? Are the reindeer being naughty? Do you like living in the North Pole? How many Elf on the Shelf dolls do you have? Who is your favorite reindeer? Do you celebrate Christmas with Mrs. Claus? Why do you love Christmas so much? Do you love Mrs. Claus?  
A good girl,  
Georgia Schlosser

Dear Santa,  
How is it going, Santa? I think I heard you on the roof. How is Jim, my elf, doing? I want mini Sprint cars for Christmas please. How many reindeer do you have and how many elves do you have? Do you ever go on vacations? I want an RC Lamborghini please. Merry Christmas!!!!  
Your biggest fan,  
Hayden Elbers

Dear Santa,  
How is Rudolph the reindeer? Where is the North Pole? How many elves do you have? Please can I have a S22 phone, computer, toys, and games?  
Sincerely,  
Bruce Rensch

Dear Santa,  
I want a big pack of Pokemon cards. Will you give me 2 bumper cars and a Nerf gun? Do you have any kids? What is your middle name?  
From,  
Ryder Sherwood

Dear Santa,  
How is Rudolph doing? Can I have an Elf on the Shelf please? Please Saint Nick, I want a Gizmo Watch please. I want an iPhone 12 for Christmas. Please Santa Claus!  
Sincerely,  
Charlotte Rensink

Dear Santa,  
Has my elf Buddy been good or bad when he was not at my house? How has Rudolph been doing? I want a phone and a Little Alive Pet Mommy Surprise for Christmas. How have all the elves been doing? I also want a Squishmallow and a necklace with my name on it.  
Your biggest fan,  
Harper VandenHoek

Dear Santa,  
How is Rudolph? What do you do after Christmas? How are your reindeer doing? I want a hoverboard because I never got to practice. Can I get a mug for my mom because she has been wanting a new mug. Can I get new wheels because I get a new Christmas dress to wear for Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas.  
Your biggest fan,  
Baneen Kadhim

## Laura Louwagie's class



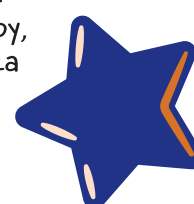
Second-graders in Laura Louwagie's class are (front, from left) Eli Ainsworth, Harper VandenHoek, Addisyn Facile, Georgia Schlosser, Jose Preza, Cash Apel, Kale Smith, (second row) Jacob Deutsch, Charlotte Rensink, Ricky Nadolski IV, Ryder Sherwood, Baneen Kadhim, Korie Schomacker, Genesis Bonilla Soto, Kameryn Franz, (back) Bruce Rensch, Lily Lund, Micah Sandbulte, Hayden Elbers, Micaela Hemme and Oliver Connell.

Dear Santa,  
How is Rudolph doing? May I have an Elf on the Shelf for Christmas? How are you? I love Christmas!  
Your biggest fan,  
Korie Schomacker

Dear Santa,  
How is your year going? I want a 410 shotgun because my brother has a 20 gauge. Can I have a RC monster truck because they are fun to drive? Can I have a 22 Bolt Action Rifle? Can I have a dog because they are fun to play with? How is Rudolph?  
A good boy,  
Micah Sandbulte

Dear Santa,  
Hi Santa! What time do you come back to the North Pole? Can I please get an Obi-wan action figure? How old is Rudolph?  
Your biggest fan,  
Ricky Nadolski

Dear Santa,  
Can I have an iPad for Christmas? Can I have 2 toy swords, a toy car, a toy house, 2 soldiers (1 with a van and 1 with a car)? Santa, how old are you? Can you do magic?  
A good boy,  
Jose Preza



Dear Santa,  
How is Rudolph the Red-nosed reindeer? I want a Gizmo watch that can call and an iPhone please. I want a Baby Yoda stuffed toy and a shirt or blanket. I want a pony. How is the North Pole? I want a gymnastics bar and a balance beam. I also want a hoverboard, a VR headset, a painting set, colored pencils, and a necklace with my name on it in cursive.  
Sincerely,  
Lily Lund

Dear Santa,  
How are you doing in the North Pole? I want a stuffed animal velociraptor. I also want an OMG doll. Can you actually speak to elves? Why do you live in the North Pole? I want a pet cat too. Merry Christmas!  
The best kid,  
Micaela Hemme

Dear Santa,  
How is Rudolph doing? Please can I have a watch and a toy dinosaur? Please can I get a chapter book? How many elves do you have? Do you enjoy Christmas?  
Your biggest fan,  
Genesis Bonilla Soto



Dear Santa,  
I've been very good this year. For Christmas I want Madden 23 and an autographed Justin Jefferson jersey. Please get my little sister a big panda for Christmas. I will set out cookies and milk.  
Love,  
Jonah Gogue

Dear Santa,  
I've been good. I want a unicorn for Christmas. I helped my Grandma wash the dishes. My Grandma wants a new watch and my dad wants a new game.  
Love,  
Estelle Olson

Dear Santa,  
I've been good this year. I've helped my mom with my baby sister. This year I want a new American Girl doll. Could you bring my little brother a toy dinosaur? You are my favorite person on Christmas ever.  
Love,  
Olivia Rigney

Dear Santa,  
I've been good this year. I've helped my mom feed my frogs. For Christmas I've always wanted a Zuru robo snake alive. And for my friend, Ryker, could you bring him one million v-bux and could you say it was from me because he always wanted it and I want to give it to him. I might leave milk and cookies for you.  
Love,  
River Johnson

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas! I have been good this year. Also how are your reindeer doing? For Christmas I want a book, I don't care which one. Also could you get my brother a new phone because my dad accidentally washed it. I will leave you cookies and milk. Have a safe trip! I hope you're doing good!  
Love,  
Brooklyn Luethje

## Kelly Bergan's class



Second-graders in Kelly Bergan's class are (front, from left) River Johnson, Gavyn Gainey, Spencer Hacker, Bryson Noah, Madison Peters, Estelle Olson, (second row) Hunter Aldrich, Braelinn Papik, Olivia Rigney, Evren Janiszkeski, Mrs. Bergan, Jocelyn DeGroot, Brooklyn Luethje, Jaylynn Fitzpatrick, (back) Jonah Gogue, Stella Schomacker, Daniel Eggebrecht, Elise Crawford (standing in front of Daniel), Cade Van'tHof, Kingston Woods, Felicity Woodley and Emrik Syndergaard.

Dear Santa,  
I like you. Can you get an elf for Connor? I think he will love it. I want a new Legos set. I wash the dishes, get the laundry, feed the dog, fish, cats, and play with the kittens.  
Love,  
Hunter Aldrich

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas! I hope you're having a great time. I wish for a Floppa plush. I want two please. It would be nice. I can't wait for Christmas! It's going to be AWESOME! I think I will leave some candy for you.  
Love,  
Emrik Syndergaard

Dear Santa,  
I am a good boy. I help feed the dogs. My elf's name is Butter. I love him so much. Are you real? Because my brother doesn't believe in you. I want a piano and can you get my dad a tool box? Can you get my mom a big purse? I still believe in you.  
Love,  
Spencer Hacker

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good. I help my mom if she is sick. Can you bring me a RC car? Mine needs to be fixed. The tires are broken. Can you bring my mom a new car with snow tires on it?  
Love,  
Bryson Noah

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas! I've been good this year by helping my baby brother and with the dishes. I helped my mom put away the dishes. I want gymnastics stuff for Christmas. Can you bring my baby brother some tractors? I will leave cookies and milk.  
Love,  
Felicity Woodley

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas. I've been good this year. I've listened to my teacher. Santa, can I have an iPad and can you get my dad a watch? How is Rudolph and Vixen? I'm going to leave you cookies and milk.  
Love,  
Braelinn Papik

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas! I've been good this year. I would like a new RC car. And can you please get my sister a new hover board? I hope you have a safe trip. I will leave cookies and milk for you. Can you get my mom a new coat. And for my dad a new pair of boots, snow pants, hat, and gloves.  
Love,  
Cade Van'tHof

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas! I've been good this year. I've helped my friends this year. For Christmas I want a mom and baby cheetah stuffed animal. Can you also bring my mom and dad some chocolate covered peanuts? I will leave cookies, milk, and carrots for the reindeer. I hope you have a safe sleigh ride and myself is happy. Bye!  
Love,  
Elise Crawford

Dear Santa,  
I've been pretty good this year! Do you have Rudolph as your leader? We will give you cookies when it is Christmas Eve. Can you please bring me a wallet? And for my little sister Danika a tablet?  
Love,  
Kingston Woods

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas! I've been good this year. I've kept my room clean. And I give my dog his pill and give him food. What I want for a present are roller blades. Could you also get my sister new roller blades? I'm going to leave out cookies and milk for you and carrots and oats for your reindeer.  
Love,  
Evren Janiszkeski

Dear Santa,  
I wish you could come and see me when I'm downstairs at my house and play something with me, and watch TV, and play in the snow. I've been good this year. I've helped take care of my sister and carried my mom's groceries. Can you bring me a Ravens football?  
Love,  
Gavyn Gainey

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas! I've been good this year. I unload the dishwasher after school and I clean my room. I want a balance beam for Christmas and can you please bring new Air Pods for my dad? I will make you some cookies and get you some milk. I hope you have a safe trip to Luverne.  
Love,  
Madison Peters

Dear Santa,  
I've been good this year. I help clean in the house. I like books! Do you like books? I would like books this year. I'll leave you a picture this year. I like you Santa. Can you get a wallet? I did not argue with my mom or dad. And I clean my room.  
Love,  
Jocelyn DeGroot

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas! I've been good this year. I help my mom keep the house clean. I want a squish mellow and my sister wants a mini fridge. I'm going to leave you cookies and milk and a picture of you and me hugging and opening presents together. Thank you for the present.  
Love,  
Jaylynn Fitzpatrick

Dear Santa,  
Merry Christmas! I've been good this year. I have fed my dog and sometimes I help my mom make supper. For Christmas I want a Ninja Lego set. My younger brother also wants a Lego set. I will leave cookies, milk, and a carrot for one of your reindeer. What is your favorite Christmas cookie?  
Love,  
Daniel Eggebrecht

Dear Santa,  
I've been good this year. How are the reindeer? How is Mrs. Claus? I will leave cookies for you, but I won't promise that you will see the cookies because my dog might eat them. For Christmas I want an OMG doll. And for my dog I would like a brand new collar.  
Love,  
Stella Schomacker



Dear Santa,  
How are you? How is Mrs. Claus? How are the reindeer? I would like a Five Nights at Freddie's figurine.  
Love,  
Myika Menning

Dear Santa,  
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? Please tell Rudolph he is my favorite reindeer. Make sure he also behaves.  
Love,  
Ellianna Kopp

Dear Santa,  
How are you Santa and Mrs. Claus? My mom has been sad because Zachery died. Can you please give her a necklace that says Zachery? I want a dress, high heels, and a makeup set.  
Love,  
Ajayda Rivas

Dear Santa,  
I like you because you make Christmas come true. How is Mrs. Claus doing? How are you doing? I want an LOL because they are glittery. Brooklyn wants an LOL because they cry.  
Love,  
Maggie May

Dear Santa,  
Hi, how are you, Santa Claus? How are the reindeer? I would like a Vikings hat. I would like a Santa hat. I have been really good this year.  
Love,  
Baxter Meinerts

Dear Santa,  
I would like an RC car for Christmas because I have been good. My brother loves Pokeman. Can you get him some? Please and thank you.  
Love,  
Kenrick Stanley

Dear Santa,  
How are you and Mrs. Claus? Can you get Mary a Rainbow High doll? And can you get me pictures of puppies? And I think I should have pictures of puppies because I have a dog at my house and it will remind me of it.  
Love,  
Victoria Larson

Dear Santa,  
How are you and Mrs. Claus? Are the reindeer good? Can you please get my little brother and sister water tattoos? Can you also get me a hoverboard? Thank you because my siblings have cleaned their room and because I have got good grades.  
Love,  
Siena Barron

Dear Santa,  
Hi, how are you doing? Can you bring my mom a pretty necklace? Can you please bring me a cute stuffed animal? My mom has been nice to people and I have been good.  
Love,  
Audrey Sparks

## Lori Nath's class



Second-graders in Lori Nath's class are (front, from left) Baxter Meinerts, Audrey Sparks, Ayden Garcia, Roni Chapin, Calvin Amborn, (second row) Siena Barron, Etta Nelson, Ajayda Rivas, Dawson Stratton, Ellianna Kopp, Maggie May, Mary-Jane Waddington, (back) Victoria Larson, Jaxon Phelps, Madison Van Santen, Greyson Mundt, Gavin Grijalva, Myika Menning, Carter Hamm. Not pictured: Mia Lanoue, Kenrick Stanley

Dear Santa,  
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing? Can you give this to my elf named Eve and can she come early, thank you? Madison VanSanten wants three friendship necklaces.  
Love,  
Etta Nelson

Dear Santa,  
How are you? I would like my mom to have a memory pillow because she has been the best mother. How is Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer?  
From,  
Mary-Jane Waddington

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas could you please get me Super Mario Maker 2? And for Calvin could you please get him a PS5? Could you please say hi to Mrs. Claus and Rudolph?  
Love,  
Gavin Grijalva

Dear Santa,  
Hi, how are you and Mrs. Claus? I want a Polly Pocket because I help my mom and dad. Can you give Siena some things too because she is kind and helpful?  
Love,  
Mia Lanoue

Dear Santa,  
I would like lipstick because I have been good all year Santa, and I have been helping clean and do chores and more too. Santa, please give Siena a makeup set because she has been kind all year too, and she has been kind to everyone. Santa give my mom and dad money because they have been good too, and they deserve it Santa please.  
From,  
Roni Chapin



Dear Santa,  
Hi, this is Greyson. How are you doing up there? I would love a Vikings helmet and Jonah wants one too. How is Rudolph doing? Please get my mom a Vikings helmet too. Thank you.  
Love,  
Greyson Mundt

Dear Santa,  
How is Dasher? Is he okay? Can you please give my mom some Tuesday nights off so we can have some mom and son dates. She has been really nice. I would like an RC car because I have been nice.  
Love,  
Dawson Stratton

Dear Santa,  
Hi, how are you, Santa? How is Rudolph? Could you give me a PS5 because I have been good this year? I want Carter to have what he wants this year, but I don't know what he wants for Christmas.  
Love,  
Calvin Amborn

Dear Santa,  
Hi, how are you and Mrs. Claus and your reindeer? For Christmas can you please bring me two friendship bracelets for being good in school? Can you get Siena a hoverboard for being a good friend?  
Love,  
Madison VanSanten  
Nath letters/cont. on 4B



# Dear Santa,

## Nath letters/ From page 3B

Dear Santa,  
My baby brother needs a tablet because he bothers me when I am on my tablet. I would like Power Rangers, cars and tracks, Monster trucks and tracks, and a Lego construction set. Thank you, you are the best.  
Love,  
Ayden Garcia

Dear Santa,  
My mom and dad work so hard. Please let them have a present. And can I have Pokeman cards because I have been working so hard in school. And can I have some Vikings' stuff? How are you doing?  
From,  
Carter Hamm

Dear Santa,  
Hi I am Jaxon and I have a question. What do you do in the summer? Can you give this to my elf named Sparkle - please come early. I think Etta should get a bunny for Christmas because she listens in class.  
Love,  
Jaxon Phelps

## Renee Edmondson's class



Hills-Beaver Creek second-graders in Renee Edmondson's classroom are (front, from left) Hadley Miller, Nora Kellenberger, Otto Smook, Vivienne Tatge, Ryker Mathers, Sylan Stoltenberg, Claire Kruger (second row) Rydr Klosterbuer, Raelynn Poncelet, Harper Uittenbogaard, Harper Dejong, Ruthie Opheim, Virginia Berry, Clara Lange, Oliver Pasch, (back) Maylee Rheault, Mayday Round, Elliot Engelkes, Jessamy Dwire, Ellie Metzger, Aubrey Nuffer, Cooper Wiertzema, Wesley Wiertzema and Hunter Cronberg. Not pictured: JJ Ochalib

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a kitten, please, please. Can you bring my sister Lego boxes? What's your favorite color?  
Safe Travels,  
Raelynn Poncelet

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want Dog Man books. Can you bring my dad football cards? Is Rudolf a boy or a girl?  
Safe Travels,  
Ellie Meätzger

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a LOL toy. Can you bring my sister a new toy? What does your bedroom look like?  
Safe Travels,  
Harper DeJong

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want LOL dolls & Barbies. Can you bring my mom a new coffee maker? What is your name?  
Safe Travels,  
Aubrey Nuffer

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want everything. Can you bring my sister a TV? Are you real?  
Safe Travels,  
Elliot Engelkes

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a PS5. Can you bring my mom some Mountain Dew? Are you magical?  
Safe Travels,  
Cooper Wiertzema

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a dog. Can you bring my mom a toy car? What's your real name?  
Safe Travels,  
Clara Lange

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a Rubik's Cube. Can you bring my brother a plane? What's your real name?  
Safe Travels,  
Hadley Miller

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a snake and Pokemon. What does your bedroom look like?  
Safe Travels,  
Oliver Pasch

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want to have a PS5. Can you bring my brother a TV? What is your real name?  
Safe Travels,  
Mayday Round

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a game. Can you bring my brother toys? What do you like?  
Safe Travels,  
JJ Ochalib

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a pet dog. Can you bring my sister a phone? How many reindeer do you have?  
Safe Travels,  
Maylee Rheault

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a lot of horses. Can you bring my big sister some more makeup? What is your favorite animal?  
Safe Travels,  
Jessamy Dwire

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a big Nerf gun. Can you bring my mom a pack of Diet Coke? What is your real name?  
Safe Travels,  
Otto Smook

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a Barbie house. Can you bring my dad a snake? What is your real name?  
Safe Travels,  
Vivienne Tatge

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a Squishmallow. Can you bring my mom coffee? Do you have a son?  
Safe Travels,  
Virginia Berry

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a Hatchimal. Can you bring my mom a coffee maker? What do reindeer eat?  
Safe Travels,  
Ruthie Opheim

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want an airplane. Can you bring my mom a bracelet? Do you get presents?  
Safe Travels,  
Hunter Cronberg

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want some slime. Can you bring my mom a coffee mug? What is your name?  
Safe Travels,  
Harper Uittenbogaard

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a Hatchimal. Can you bring my mom white chocolate? Santa, what is it like to live in the North Pole?  
Safe Travels,  
Claire Kruger

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a RC car. Can you bring my mom a snake? How many presents do you make?  
Safe Travels,  
Ryker Mathers

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want my very own hamster. Can you bring my mom a boat? Why won't you let me see you?  
Safe Travels,  
Sylan Stoltenberg

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want my sister to come back. Can you bring my mom a new coffee mug? What is your name?  
Safe Travels,  
Wesley Wiertzema

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want slime with a charm. Can you bring my brother Henry a big bear? What do you do for fun?  
Safe Travels,  
Nora Kellenberger

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. For Christmas I want a Nintendo Switch & Xbox. Can you have my brother be nice? How many reindeer do you have?  
Safe Travels,  
Rydr Klosterbuer



*Merry Christmas  
from all of us at*

**Rock County STAR HERALD & Luverne ANNOUNCER**

Rick Peterson, Wyatt VanSteenberg, Lori Sorenson, Mavis Fodness, Greg Hoogeveen, Heather Johnson, Brooke Huisman, Deb Lusty, Jennifer Nelson and Esther Frakes.



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**Ellsworth Locker**

Meats & Sausages

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**Beef Bundle**  
5 Pounds Each: Boneless Roast • Boneless Sirloin • 85% Lean Ground Beef (1# packs) • Round Steak • Ground Beef Patties

**Pork Bundle**  
5 Pounds Each: Pork Chops • Ground Pork • Pork Roast • Bratwurst • Bacon

**Happy Camper Bundle**  
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1 lb. Hickory Smoked Wieners  
• 1 lb. Pepperoni Beef Stix

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