



Rock County

STAR HERALD

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Thursday, December 17, 2020

Restaurants, bars may defy order to stay closed

New round of state Covid-19 relief funds would be for those in compliance

By Lori Sorenson

On Wednesday, Gov. Tim Walz was expected to announce whether he will continue his four-week "pause" on bars, restaurants, fitness centers and other venues to slow COVID-19 cases.

The pause was due to end Friday, but this week nearly 200 bars and restaurants statewide were threatening to open their doors for business regardless of orders.

"When do we decide enough is enough and how much is this worth fighting for?" said Brian Sterling of Sterling's Restaurant and Grille in Luverne.

"We're thinking about opening and defying government orders."

He and Howling Dog Saloon owner Jodi Reverts took to Facebook Live Sunday night to explain their rationale and seek support. They were joined by Codie Deutsch of 75 Diner.

"It's not that we don't take COVID seriously; we don't want anyone getting sick," Reverts said. "But while we're closed, our customers are going across the border to shop and dine."

They spoke about their employees being out of jobs and livelihoods and about their patrons not having local places to socialize.

"It's been nine months," Sterling said. "Some businesses didn't survive the first round of closures."

They thanked the community for local support and said the Facebook event was intended to seek community input about possibly defying orders.

More relief on the way — for those who abide by orders

On Monday, Gov. Tim Walz extended the Covid-19 peacetime emergency that gives the state flexibility in responding to the pandemic.

This includes safely and effectively distributing the vaccine. (See the related story.)

Legislators were also working on a \$216.5 million aid package for state businesses hit hardest by pandemic closures.

The deal would include \$100 million headed to restaurants, bars, breweries, bowling alleys, fitness centers and others that suffered a 30-percent loss since last year.

The Minnesota Department of

Bars, restaurants/see page 3A



Mavis Fodness photo/1210 Hardwick Santa 2020

Heath Petersen holds 16-month-old Hatcher as children (from left) Hank, Huck and Kenzi tell Santa and Mrs. Claus (Rodger and Dianne Ossenfort) what they want for Christmas. Pictured at left, Hadley Meyer, 2, catches a glimpse of Santa and Mrs. Claus from her car window.

Hardwick passes Santa magic to next generation

Rodger and Dianne Ossenfort mark 30 years as community jolly couple

By Mavis Fodness

Nic Johnson first met Santa at age 1. Saturday, at age 26, Johnson didn't feel too old to greet and have his picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the annual Hardwick Santa Day.

Except now he knows the Christmas couple by their real names, Rodger and Dianne Ossenfort.

Despite knowing the Ossenforts are not the real Santa and Mrs. Claus, he wasn't shy about making a Christmas present request.

With a wide grin Johnson told the Clauses, "I want two tractors."

The same holiday delight was passed on by mom Amber Hoogestraat to her own children, Elliot (9), Hudson (6) and Cooper (4).

As a child, Hoogestraat (nee Weinkauff) recalls the many Decembers going with her two sisters for a magical meeting with Santa on Main Street Hardwick.

"We attended many, many years," she said. "Such great memories that I love to pass on to my children."

This year everyone received socially distanced greetings from Santa and Mrs. Claus due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Hardwick Community Club, the organizer of the annual event,



"I want two tractors for Christmas," Nic Johnson told Santa and Mrs. Claus Saturday as his mom, Tammy Johnson, snaps a picture. At age 26, Nic said he isn't too old to greet the Christmas couple whom he first met when he was 1

talked with 18 children via Zoom.

Hardwick Santa Day was the couple's last public appearance of the

Hardwick Santa couple sees generations of 'kids'/continued on 2A

moved all activities outside the community center to meet the state's health guidelines.

Instead of up-close greetings from Santa and Mrs. Claus, the 80 children who participated in the hourlong event looked up to the Ossenforts, who stood on the deck of the community center while greeting visitors below.

Instead of having children sit on their laps for holiday pictures, children stood on the sidewalk with the Christmas couple above them on the deck.

The Ossenforts are now entering their third decade portraying the yuletide couple.

"Some things were definitely different this year," Dianne said. "We just do what we have to do."

The couple didn't make personal stops to area nursing homes, hospitals or make personal visits to individual homes.

Last week in Luverne the couple

First round of Covid vaccine arrives next week

By Lori Sorenson

Rock County's first doses of the Covid-19 vaccine are expected next week, and local health officials are preparing for its administration and prioritizing who will get it.

"While this process is just starting, a safe and effective vaccine will have a game-changing impact on the course of the pandemic," said Sanford Luverne director Tammy Loosbrock.

She said vaccines are prioritized for frontline health care and long-term care residents until sufficient doses are available for the general population.

"Initial supplies are limited so front-line health care workers have been prioritized by groups. With shipments expected weekly, we expect to get to all priority populations within the first several weeks."

She said the Luverne hospital has a list of direct caregivers that will be offered the vaccine first.

According to Jason Kloss of Southwest Health and Human Services, approved providers are being trained this week ahead of next week's vaccine distribution.

Among his key talking points is the message that the vaccine is safe.

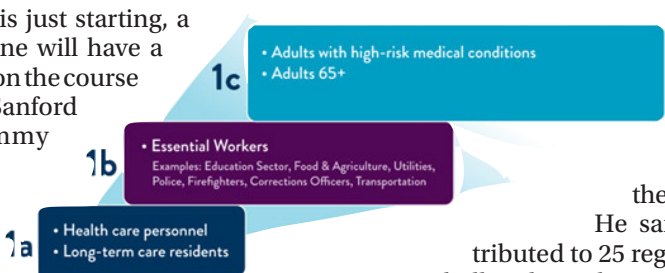
"We want Minnesotans in every corner and every community to know they can trust the process, the safety and the effectiveness of the vaccine," Kloss said Monday.

He said the vaccine will be distributed to 25 regional "hub" sites, including Marshall and Worthington, that are set up to receive vaccine deliveries through the national vaccine distribution chain.

"Those hubs have been tested and they are ready to receive the vaccine and distribute initial doses," Kloss said.

"Initial vaccines will be given in closed settings —

Covid-19 vaccine coming next week/see page 3A



County urges lawmakers to allow local control of CARES

By Mavis Fodness

Rock County Commissioners are encouraging state lawmakers to give local governments control over how additional coronavirus relief money should be distributed locally.

Among the decisions Monday night during this week's special session was where additional relief money, estimated at about \$218 million, would be spent.

Rock County could potentially receive \$150,000 to \$300,000 in additional funds to be spent within a 90-day window.

Commissioners meet Dec. 22 and will decide how the additional funds will be distributed.

Earlier this year commissioners infused \$832,350 in CARES relief into

the county, or about 70 percent of the initial relief amount received in July. Another \$358,120 was spent in October and November.

A total of \$1.188 million in CARES money was distributed in Rock County, according to written reports submitted to state officials.

At their Dec. 8 meeting, commissioners agreed a second round of CARES money will be distributed as effectively and as quickly as the first round.

The aid will target businesses affected by the recent monthlong in-person closure mandate set to end Saturday.

"Somehow we need to determine

County CARES funds/see page 3A



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County	Total Cases	DAILY average in last 7 days	Percent Change
Rock	966	11.4	+7.5%
Pipestone	836	5.9	+4.4%
Nobles	3,395	19.6	+4.1%
Minnehaha (SD)	23,188	183.7	+5.5%
Lyon (IA)	1,140	6.1	+4.3%

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

Date Range	10/25-11/7	11/1-11/14	11/8-11/21	11/15-11/28
Rate	126.42	184.85	261.34	249.65

According to Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan guidelines:

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

Based on this data, plans for area schools are:

LUVERNE - Elementary: HYBRID | Middle/High School: ONLINE
HBC - Elementary: In-person | Secondary: In-person/HYBRID

Current data as of December 15, 2020. Sources: MDH & The New York Times

Sponsored by: Rock County Emergency Management

Numbers behind the numbers

City Council trims \$35,000 from \$2.9 million levy as ‘right thing to do’

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne City Council members agreed to scale back the city's levy for taxes payable in 2021.

The council approved the measure at the Dec. 8 meeting after some residents pushed back on the city's proposed 9.67 percent levy increase.

“Publicly, it's the right thing to do,” said Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian. “With Covid and people losing jobs and being laid off...”

The 2021 tax levy was proposed at \$2,298,720, which is \$202,596 more than the current levy.

Tuesday's resolution decreased that proposed amount by \$35,000.

“I think this means more than the actual dollar amount; this shows we're listening,” Baustian said. “It's the right thing to do.”

The action results in the total tax rate for taxes payable in 2021 being close to the total tax rate for taxes payable 2020.

	Pay 2020	Original Pay 2021	Reduced Pay 2021	
City	61,567	64,308	63,331	
County	22,43	22,574	22,574	
School	19,399	17,489	17,489	
RDC	0.15	0.152	0.152	
TOTAL TAX RATE	103.546	104.523	103.546	
\$250,000 home	\$ 3,007	\$ 3,035	\$ 3,012	0.1377%
\$150,000 home	\$ 1,667	\$ 1,682	\$ 1,670	0.1500%

Due to how the different calculations are done on different types of values of properties, the reduction in the city's portion of the city's net tax levy doesn't equal the same reductions in the overall property taxes.

“We can say we are trying to attain a zero percent overall tax increase,” said Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian, but more accurately we can say the total tax rate should be nearly the same for taxes payable in 2021 as it is for taxes payable in 2020.”

Considering Luverne's growing tax capacity and market value of properties, taxes on a \$150,000 home would likely not increase at all. Property taxes on an average \$250,000 home may increase by only \$5.

Lessons in tax capacity

The levy and its effect on property taxes presents an opportunity for lessons in tax capacity.

The total estimated market value of property in Luverne increased 3.78

percent this year, from \$323 million to \$335.3 million.

Of that increase, \$5.47 million was new construction, which didn't include Premium Minnesota Pork's \$30 million investment in their facility.

If one-quarter to one-third of that investment is for the structure, that's a \$7.5 million to \$10 million addition to market value, according to City Finance Director Barb Berghorst

“If part of that is going to be included in the market value for tax capacity, we know that we're going to have a much bigger tax base to spread our levy,” Berghorst said at the Sept. 22 meeting about the pool and fitness center project.

She said she's projecting the 2021 levy for taxes payable 2022 will increase 11.5 percent; however, she said PMP's building investments would impact tax capacity in a way that property tax statements

Levy numbers/see page 5A

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

H-BC band, choral concert Dec. 18

The Hills-Beaver Creek Secondary School will livestream the ninth- through 12th-grade band and choir concert at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18. It will be on H-BC cable channel 242 as well as Facebook Live on the school's social media page.

Food for seniors Dec. 17

Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors 60 and older, sponsored by A.C.E. of SW MN, will be from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, with drive-thru distribution in parking lot at 319 E. Lincoln, Luverne. Call Linda Wenzel at 283-5064 for information. Pre-registration is required for those not already enrolled.

Free food Dec. 17

New Life Celebration Church will offer free food at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, at the Generations Building on East Lincoln Street in Luverne.

Vehicles should enter the west parking lot from Lincoln Street and drive to the double glass doors on the west side of the building where volunteers will load groceries into cars. Walkers should receive their pre-packaged groceries on the east side of the building. Call 507-283-4366 with questions.

Support Angel Trees for SYS students

The annual Southwestern Youth Service Angel Tree in Magnolia will not be accessible to the public this year, due to pandemic restrictions.

Instead, Angel Trees are located in Lewis, Bomgaars, Sunshine and the Magnolia Cafe. The trees are decorated with cards with requests from SYS students, and churches, families, individuals, organizations and businesses collect the cards to fulfill wishes.

Follow the SYS Facebook page and people can call SYS at 507-283-4425 for gift ideas. Gifts can be dropped off at the west door of the facility by pressing the doorbell for staff to accept the items.

Help local families

The Luverne School counseling office encourages community support for helping local families this Christmas. Go to the website, www.signupgenius.com/go/508084EA5A82BA0FE3-christmas to sign up to give gifts to students in pre-K through 12th grade. Students identified three gifts — a clothing item, a book and a toy within a \$25 total.

Gifts (unwrapped) can be returned to the elementary office by Monday, Dec. 14. Questions can be directed to s.schepel@isd2184.net.



At left, a portable heater was the secret to Santa and Mrs. Claus spending an hour outside in 20-degree weather Saturday visiting with children about what they want for Christmas. At right, Mallory Nath and her son, Braxley, 3, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Hardwick Santa couple sees generations/continued from page 1A

season. Even though the event was outside, Dianne said each child got a special greeting and individual time with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The Ossenforts were comfortable in the 20-degree weather as they waited for children to exit vehicles and

come up to the deck.

Many sported smiles and were ready to tell Santa what they want for Christmas.

“I think it was a great day and I loved the heater,” Dianne said.

A portable heater was hidden

behind the deck railing to ward off the day's wind chill.

Keeping with Hardwick Santa Day tradition, each child received a bag filled with holiday treats – and this year, a craft item they can assemble at home.



At left, Amber Hoogstraat (holding Cooper) shares her excitement of seeing Mr. and Mrs. Claus with sons Elliot (left) and Hudson. At right, cars line up outside the Hardwick Community Center as Cyndy Baustian (right) encourages her granddaughters Paisley (left) and Avery to talk with Santa and Mrs. Claus perched on the porch above them.



Mavis Fodness photo/1210 Hardwick Santa 2020

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City offers relief to Luverne businesses

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne businesses will get another shot of financial help from the city to get through pandemic budget shortfalls.

At their Dec. 8 meeting, Luverne City Council members approved a resolution that will transfer \$100,000 from the Electric Utility to the Economic Development Authority.

The EDA would then use the money to provide continuing financial assistance to small businesses in Luverne that are continuing to suffer from the COVID-19 health pandemic.

The financial grants are based on electric utility usage and are aimed at the businesses that were originally

closed by state mandates.

It also specifically targets the bars, restaurants and other facilities that are closed at this time under the latest governor's mandate.

The council approved the resolution unanimously. "I support this," council member Caroline Thorson said. "I feel like we must continue to do what we can to help our businesses."

It is estimated that the targeted money will help more than 50 businesses with checks that will go out over a four-month period (January through April).

The city mailed letters to eligible entities, but if some feel they are overlooked, they can contact City Hall at 507-449-2388.

Bars, restaurants in compliance may get state aid/

from page 1A

Revenue will directly pay businesses, depending on their size and extent of losses.

In Rock County, most will qualify for \$15,000 to \$25,000.

The department of revenue will look at the businesses' Quarter 2 and 3 earnings from 2019 and compare them to the second and third quarters of 2020.

If their losses are greater

than 30 percent, they'll get a check directly from the department of revenue — if they're in compliance with executive orders.

The deal also includes \$102 million that counties would distribute to local businesses and \$14 million for movie theaters and entertainment venues. (See related story.)

County CARES dollars/

continued from page 1A

who is getting killed by this thing the worst and we need to help these people," said Commissioner Greg Burger.

"The state has no idea who that is in Rock County — I think it needs to fall in our lap."

The Rock County Board unanimously approved a resolution to that effect that will be shared with state lawmakers and the Association of Minnesota Counties, in which Rock County is a member.

'Nothing went back'

Rock County previously allocated \$1.188 million in CARES dollars to local businesses, nonprofit organizations and schools in a matter of months.

Local officials faced a Nov. 30 deadline to turn unspent dollars back to the state for distribution by the end of

the year.

Commissioners discussed the expenditures and deadline status at their Dec. 8 meeting. "Nothing went back," said Auditor-Treasurer Ashley Kurtz.

Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek school districts were among the last organizations to receive CARES dollars (\$20,000 each).

The Rock County Sheriff's Office closed out the county's allocation by receiving \$395 for overtime work related to the pandemic.

Rock County's original allocation was \$1.144 million but grew to \$1.188 million when unspent dollars from three townships and one city with populations less than 200 residents was turned back for allocation elsewhere in the county.



Mavis Fodness photos/1217 Luverne Student Donation Drive

The Luverne Student Council received over \$1,100 for the food shelf Monday and enjoyed the in-person group activity.

Students spread spirit of generosity with donation drive

Photo and text by Mavis Fodness

In a festive flare, the Luverne High School student council set up tables and decorations under the canopy of the middle-high school Monday night.

For two hours the high school student leaders greeted donors and collected and sorted items for the Rock County Food Shelf.

The group later sorted the dozen boxes of collected personal hygiene and non-food items for easier distribution to individuals and families.

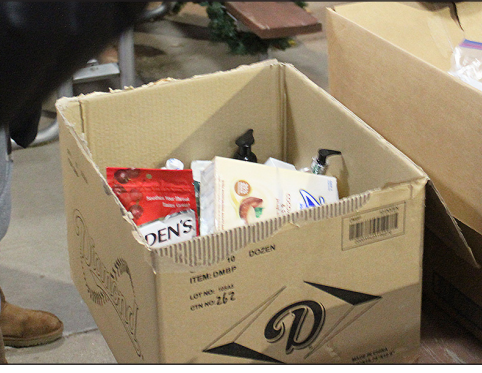
The group also received over \$1,100 for the food shelf. Students enjoyed the in-person group activity.

The school is in a distance-learning model, where students complete classes online. Distance learning will continue until Jan. 4.



Above, students collect items from passersby under the east school canopy.

At left, student council members Peter Baustian, Cade Wenninger, Regan Feit and Griffen Jarchow sort donations into boxes to be distributed.



Luverne Area Community Foundation announces grant award recipients for 2020

The Luverne Area Community Foundation granted nearly \$84,000 to dozens of local organizations in 2020.

LACF grants are typically awarded in the categories of health care and community.

This year, however, the foundation established a Community Crisis Fund to award grants for Covid-19 assistance. Those recipients are listed here.

Health Care Grants \$45,600

- Rock Ranch Inc. – Rider Lyft for seniors and or disabled riders.
- LIFT/Luverne Farmers Market – POP program (Power of Produce) child healthy eating education.
- Luverne Fire Department – New fire safety hoods for head protection and extraction gloves.
- Sanford Luverne Medical Center – Bladder scanner.
- Luverne Public Schools – Flu Shot Clinic

for students and teachers.

- Hills-Beaver Creek Schools – Flu Shot Clinic for students and teachers.
- Hills Fire Department – New AED (Automated External Defibrillator).
- Lutheran Social Services – Shelf-stable meals for seniors through home-delivered meals.
- Sanford Luverne – Meta Lab/Sleep Apnea machine for at home testing.
- Rock County Opportunities – added washer and dryer for community laundry services.

Community Grants \$24,868

- Hardwick American Legion Auxiliary – new chairs for Hardwick Community Center/Legion.
- Luverne Child Guide – at risk youth scholarships.
- Rock County Sportsmen's Club – window improvements.
- Blue Mound Ice Arena – net equipment updates.
- A.C.E. of Southwest MN – adult resource booklet update.
- Luverne Baseball Association

– baseball/softball field groomer.

- City of Hills – baseball field updates.
- Southwest Youth Services – online learning platform in collaboration with Blandin Tech Grant.
- City of Beaver Creek – support for community splash pad.
- City of Magnolia – new signage for city park and campground.
- Luverne Public School – elementary music orchestra event.
- Luverne Hockey Club – technology enhancement for online event viewing.
- Blue Mound Area Theatre/Palace Theatre – interior signage.

Community Crisis Fund Grants – Covid 19 assistance \$13,165

- Little Lambs Preschool – child-sized hand washing stations and air purifier
- Blue Mound Area Theatre – sanitizing vapor machine to clean theatre

area.

- #Luv1LuvAll – mental health support materials Covid 19.
- Big Buddies of Rock County – mentor buddy support.
- Luverne United Methodist Church – community meal support during Covid-19.
- Rock County Opportunities – client services online platform during Covid-19.
- Luverne Child Guide – return-to-school safely supplies.
- LIFT/Luverne Farmers Market – handwashing stations and social distancing materials for Farmers Market safety needs during Covid-19.

Crisis Fund still open

The Community Crisis Fund will be open until there is no longer a local need.

Deadlines for the next rounds of competitive grants are March 31 and Sept. 30, 2021.

Covid-19 vaccine coming/

continued from page 1A

we're bringing the vaccine to the first priority groups. This means there's not a 'list' that Minnesotans need to get on to get vaccine."

Since Phase 1a is based on employment and place of residence, people eligible for this category will be contacted by their employer or the facility where they live to let them know when vaccine is available to them.

Phase 1b is for essential workers including education, utilities, law enforcement, firefighters and transportation workers.

Phase 1c is for adults over 65 and adults with high-risk medical conditions.

In later phases, vaccine will be available at settings like pharmacies or primary care providers, and people will be able to make an appointment to get it.

"We know we will get vaccine, but it won't be enough for everyone right away," Kloss said.

The Covid-19 vaccines went through the same rigorous clinical trials that other vaccines go through.

Steps were taken that al-

lowed the process to be more efficient, such as being able to make vaccine while it was still going through trials so it would be ready if/when it was approved.

People need two doses about a month apart for full protection.

After the second dose, it will also take about two weeks for their bodies to build up protection.

"So it's about six weeks total from the first vaccine to when you should be protected," Kloss said.

"That's another reason we can't stop the masking and social distancing right away."

Carol Ohlsen
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Plug in your tree (or your leg lamp) but make sure your light shines from within

We have a leg lamp on display in our western Rock County neighborhood, proudly illuminated in a highway-facing window.



ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

It was a highly-anticipated mail-order gift, and the neighbors (our friends) documented its delivery in a series of group text images.

First came a photo of the “major award” assembled and plugged in. Then, to prove its authenticity, came a photo of the delivery box with large block letters, “F-R-A-G-I-L-E.”

We laughed out loud (LOL) by text.

But not everyone in our neighborhood was laughing. One questioned the “message it sends about Christmas.”

He clearly hadn’t seen the classic “Christmas Story” movie.

We told him to lighten up and suggested he forget about Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny, too, if he couldn’t appreciate the iconic leg lamp.

It’s worth noting that the leg lamp owners are good and faithful Christians who also have a healthy sense of humor.

But the conversation provoked thoughts of my own about how Christians should display Christmas.

Under the dark cloud of a pandemic in what will be my first Christmas without my parents, I delayed decorating a tree in our home.

After all, does a Christmas tree illustrate the meaning of Christmas?

I found myself again pondering the question Friday night in Kenneth where a hand-me-down tree was loaded with ornaments hung in memory of loved ones.

I joined dozens of people in counting down to the tree lighting in memory of those

who passed.

It was a chilly night, but my heart was warmed by the knowledge that I wasn’t hurting alone.

My contribution to the tree was a small photo ornament framing the smiling faces of my mom and dad. It was taken in the summer of 2015 after Mom’s brain surgery (the first of several in her cancer fight) and during Dad’s long hospital stay with a broken leg.

The image captured their resiliency and spirit of hope.

Which seemed to be the case for the Kenneth Christmas tree.

The tiny town gets smaller each time a resident passes away, but on Friday night the spirit of Christmas twinkled in the colored bulbs and on the faces gathered in the park.

Is Christmas about the Christmas tree? We all know it’s not. And it’s certainly not about a leg lamp in the window.

As Christians, we know Christmas has nothing to do with ornaments or trees or things that light up.

Christ’s birth signified hope and peace and the promise that we would never be alone.

So, how best do we honor Christ’s birthday?

We could start by striving to live as Jesus inspires us to live — with kindness, generosity and resiliency in the face of adversity.

Merry Christmas, everyone. Plug in a leg lamp if it makes you smile, but make sure your light shines from within for the true spirit of the season.

Keep your heads up, Rock County.

We’re seeing light at the end of the tunnel

We learned that Rock County will receive its first doses of the Covid-19 vaccine next week, which is the best news of the year in many ways.

It would be better news if it meant our sick ones healed overnight and our businesses could reopen tomorrow.

Realistically it will be several months before we start seeing the pandemic in our rearview mirrors.

But at least the arrival of a vaccine puts a finish line in sight.

And it allows us to take stock of how we’re doing at this point in the race.

There have been disappointing failures and heartbreaking losses, but mostly it’s fair to say we can be proud of our community response to the pandemic disaster.

Our businesses have been creative about marketing takeout and curbside product pickup. Some have grown more proficient at online retail, and some have

switched gears to offer products and services to meet COVID-19 demands.

Our Chamber director and volunteers have worked overtime to keep our community vibrant and connected, despite restrictions on festive crowds and social engagement.

Our non-profits and philanthropists have found opportunities to be generous in ways we wouldn’t have previously known possible.

And we at the Star Herald discovered there is more important news than ever to cover in our communities, especially — for historical record — the pandemic’s

impact on our schools, businesses and families.

And we’ve all learned to accept help from others. That’s been the hardest feat of all.

Again, we’re not out of the woods, and this little pep talk certainly doesn’t mean to make light of real and painful struggles still well underway in our homes, schools and businesses.

But it is a sincere observation that we in Rock County know how to do disasters. We’re optimistic, we’re resilient and we’ll come through this stronger than ever.

Merry Covid Christmas, dear readers. Things are looking brighter already.



Check out LACF’s ‘celebration’ for some holiday cheer

It’s not easy this Christmas season to be jolly and merry and shouting “Ho, ho, ho, Merry Christmas.”

But if you need a feel-good moment, I encourage you to check out the Luverne Area Community Foundation’s virtual Celebrations of Philanthropy. To do so, go to www.luvacf.org and click the link.

Each year, somewhere between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Foundation hosts an in-person gathering to thank the friends and donors for their commitment to our community.

Well, because of the current COVID-19 situation, that isn’t possible, so Plan B was put in place. After watching the virtual celebration, I am giving plan B an A+.

Throughout the year, Luverne Area Community Foundation Executive Director Emily Crabtree and the board of directors, along with other volunteers, host a variety of fundraisers to support dozens of worthy causes throughout



Rock County.

The Virtual Celebration of Philanthropy showcases many of the organizations that received grants and how they used the money. None of this would be possible without the generosity of the donors.

LACF also gave out three awards. The Non-Profit Spotlight award was given to The Luverne Child Guide program.

The Foundation’s Spirit of Philanthropy went to Pat and Kim Von Tersch for their generosity and volunteer leadership

FOR WHAT IT’S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, general manager

in the community.

The Outstanding Business for 2020 was handed out to the Rock County Star Herald.

We are very honored to have been selected to receive this award.

So, like I said early on, if you need to add a dose of jolly and merry to your “Ho, ho, ho, Merry Christmas,” watch the virtual Celebration of Philanthropy on the Foundation’s website. Once again, it’s www.luvacf.org and click on the link.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Olson questions Sen. Weber’s opposition to election results

To the Editor:

As former Luverne residents, Carole and I were very surprised of the reports that Senator Weber was among the Republican state senators that supported the efforts to oppose the election of Joe Biden.

In the past I found Senator Weber to be a reasonable and well-thought-of city councilman and community member.

I find it hard to believe that a reasonable and

thoughtful man would support such a resolution.

It would really be helpful for Senator Weber to explain his reasoning. Why is it necessary to continue to help divide the country?

Is the pressure of his colleagues in St. Paul too much to remain reasonable?

Thanks for the opportunity to express my thoughts.

Charles Olson
Burnsville

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

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

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

- Dec. 4**
- Assistance from another department was requested on W. Sherman Avenue, Ellsworth.
 - Complainant on S. Walnut Avenue reported a water main break.
 - Complainant on Edgell Street reported someone ice fishing on thin ice.
 - A phone scam was reported on 2nd Street, Kanaranzi.
 - Complainant on E. Barck Avenue requested to speak to a deputy.
 - Report of an assault in progress at location on W. Warren Street.
- Dec. 5**
- Fire on E. Main Street reported at location.
 - Complainant on 150th Avenue and 131st Street reported a hunting concern.
 - Complainant on 111th Street reported people using muzzle loaders in bow hunting only.
 - Complainant on E. Main Street reported vandalism.
- Dec. 6**
- Complainant on 31st Street, Hills, reported information.
 - Complainant on U.S. Highway 75, Luverne, reported someone chasing a deer on horse.
- Dec. 7**
- Complainant on 31st Street, Hills, reported found items.
 - Complainant on N. Oakley Street reported vandalism.
- Dec. 7**
- Complainant in Trent reported an assault.
 - Complainant on 161st Street reported found cell phones.
 - Complainant reported flames and smoke.
- Dec. 8**
- Complainant on Round Wind Road reported a suspicious person.
 - Complainant on S. 5th Street, Beaver Creek, reported a phone scam.
 - Complainant in Aurora County, South Dakota, reported a subject with a Rock County warrant.
 - Complainant on County Road 4 reported vulnerable adult abuse.
 - Complainant on County Road 6 and 21st Street, Hills, requested the fire department.
 - Complainant on 80th Avenue, Hills, reported

- property damage.
- Complainant on Mead Court reported a suspicious vehicle.
- Dec. 9**
- Suspicious activity was reported at location on N. East Park Street.
 - Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 19, Magnolia, requested backup.
 - Complainant on N. Freeman Avenue reported theft.
 - Complainant on W. Mead Court reported motor vehicle theft.
 - Complainant on Main Street and Kniss Avenue reported property damage.
 - Complainant on W. Warren Street and S. East Park Street reported an abandoned vehicle.
 - A pedestrian was reported at location on County Road 4, Luverne.
 - Complainant on County Road 4, Luverne, reported a pedestrian along roadway.
 - Complainant on E. Fletcher Street reported harassing communications.
 - Roadside assistance was requested westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 11, Luverne.
- Dec. 10**
- Complainant on 20th Avenue, Hills, reported a suspicious noise.
 - Complainant on 20th Avenue, Valley Springs, reported found property.
 - Complainant on 10th Street, Luverne, reported scam/fraud.
 - Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue requested to speak to a deputy.
 - Complainant on 20th Avenue, Valley Springs, reported suspicious activity.
 - Complainant on 21st Street and 60th Avenue, Hills, reported a possible flare-up.
 - Complainant on W. Hatting Street requested patrol in the area.

In addition, officers responded to 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 vehicle in the ditch, 1 transport, 9 escorts, 27 ambulance runs, 3 animal complaints, 2 fingerprint requests, 1 burn permit, 1 driver's license check, 3 alarms, 8 purchase and carry permits, 6 traffic stops, 4 abandoned 911 calls, 3 tests, 2 welfare checks, 2 reports of cattle out, 1 OFP and 1 follow-up.

Luverne City Council reduces proposed levy amount/ continued from page 2A

would reflect less than half that increase.

"I feel confident that our increase for the city part of the levy and affected taxes will be under 5 percent for taxes payable 2021, and I think it will also be under 5 percent for 2022," she said.

Levy increases don't proportionately affect property tax increases, thanks to a number of factors.

"We're resetting our levy a little bit higher, and as our tax capacity grows, we keep our rate somewhat stable," City Administrator John Call said during the September budget meeting.

"We are growing, and our market values are increasing and that's good for our fiscal health."

A \$150,000 home for example, saw an actual property tax increase of 1.3 percent in 2020, despite the levy increase of 9.41 percent.

"We have a low tax rate — among the lowest in southwest Minnesota with comparable communities," Call said.

"And I want to thank the school district and county for the role they play in watching their budgets and keeping spending low. That keeps the total levy low for all of our taxpayers."

Spending philosophy

Baustian defended the city's spending decisions, like the \$5 million pool and fitness center expansion, even though they have resulted in budget increases.

"There have been city councils whose objective is to cut, cut, cut," Baustian said.

"I say the object of the game is economic development, good housing stock, jobs and good quality of living. These all cost money, but I'm willing to do things that put our community over others."

He said amenities like spring junk cleanup, fall leaf pickup, trimming boulevard trees and picking up residents' Christmas trees aren't standard in many communities.

The Luverne City Council has long advocated slow and steady levy and fee increases, rather than drops and spikes dictated by budget cycles.

"People have criticized city purchases, but if you don't fund depreciation, you're just pushing those expenses down the road," Baustian said.

The Dec. 8 meeting included the city's truth in taxation hearing, which no member of the public attended.



The \$5 million project, includes an outdoor splash pad on the south side of the pool and fitness center.

Luverne City Council approves plans for pool and fitness center expansion

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne City Council members took action at their Dec. 8 meeting to approve plans and specifications for the pool and fitness center expansion and improvements.

The \$5 million project, which includes an outdoor splash pad on the south side of the pool, could be completed in May of 2022 if all goes as planned.

In addition to the splash pad, improvements will include:

- new locker rooms.
- four family changing rooms.
- flat space rooms for group aerobic exercise.
- new office space and staff area.
- larger rooms for both 24-hour weightlifting and aerobic exercise machines.
- new mechanical and heat, ventilation and air-conditioning for the facility.

According to the timeline discussed at Tuesday's meet-



Bid letting will be in January of 2021, and the yearlong construction process will start next spring. The council discussed the fact that facility use is currently limited to only 50 percent due to the pandemic, so the project construction will be less inconvenient for members.

ing, bid letting will be in January of 2021, and the yearlong construction process will start next spring.

The council discussed the fact that facility use is currently limited to only 50 percent due to the pandemic, so timing the project during

an already limited use would be appropriate.

City Administrator John Call said this project wasn't hatched overnight.

"The Luverne Aquatics and Fitness Center Expansion has been on the city's planning priority list since the January 2016 goal-setting session by the Luverne City Council," he said.

The project went through a public planning process in the summer of 2016 facilitated by the city with technical assistance from Sanford Health.

A steering committee was appointed by the mayor in 2019, and the committee was assisted by CO-OP Architecture from Sioux Falls.

At Tuesday's meeting, facility manager Sam Honerman said she's excited about the project moving forward after so much time planning.

"Good things come to those who wait," she said. "This will be a phenomenal facility."

How it will be paid for

At Tuesday's meeting, the council moved forward with plans for a \$5.8 million tax abatement bond issue to be repaid over 20 years at an estimated 1.83 percent interest.

The amount would cover construction, furnishings and equipment, plus bond issue costs.



In addition to the splash pad, improvements will include new locker rooms, four family changing rooms and larger rooms for both 24-hour weightlifting and aerobic exercise machines, among other amenities.

The total taxes abated in any one year cannot exceed ten percent of the net tax capacity of the city. For Luverne this amount would be a maximum of \$340,000 of annual principal.

The city has requested that Rock County participate in the abatement, which would amount to roughly 175 parcels being taken off the tax rolls for the period of the abatement.

If Rock County declines to participate, the city will abate taxes for 20 years with a 20-year debt issuance. If the county participates, the city will abate the taxes for a 15-year period.

The county will take up the matter Dec. 22.

Minnesota requires a public hearing in order for the city to issue tax abatement bonds, and that hearing is set for Jan. 12.



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Drawing parallels

Local historian researches decades-long polio epidemic, sees similar stories, data to current coronavirus pandemic

By Lori Sorenson

With the COVID-19 pandemic reaching peak spread, Rock County Historical Society President Betty Mann has been drawing parallels to the polio epidemic of the 1930s and '40s.

At a recent Luverne Rotary Club meeting, she presented findings from her research in local medical records and in the Star Herald headlines.

She said word got out slowly, with the first information appearing Aug. 1, 1930, in a medical article about polio.

She said it mentioned three cases.

Harold Rud, 19, son of Olaf Rud by Hills, was the first fatality on Aug. 15, 1930.

"He was threshing and it was very hot, and within two days he had passed away. He went very quickly," Mann said.

The other two cases were 5-year-old John Bode in Luverne and 3 1/2-year-old Janice Thistlewood.

Later in the year Owen Winkler, 4, son of Wesley Winkler, also had polio.

Mann said her research was extensive.

"I have spent close to 15 hours paging through the Star Herald, she told the Rotary Club during their November meeting via Zoom .

"In looking through past Star Heralds, I found many cases of things that happened, but people weren't sure what it was. So there wasn't too much mentioned until 1938."

Funding the iron lung

She said that's when Minnesota started forming county committees for polio to raise money.

"Half of the money went to the national organization and half stayed in the county," Mann said.

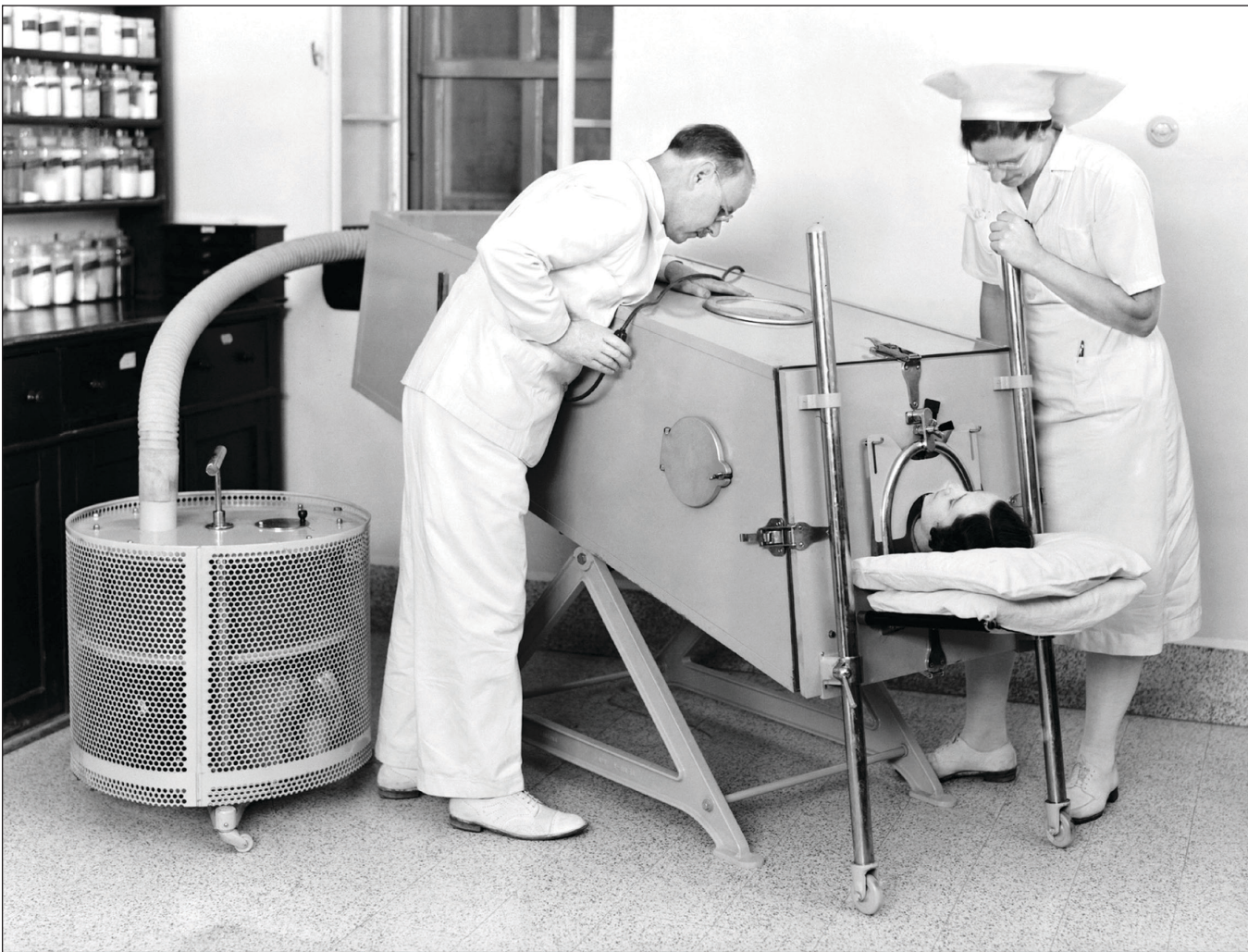
Often fund drives supported the purchase of iron lungs, which could help polio victims stay alive.

Mann ticked off her findings:

In the 1930s everybody who got polio had a sign on the door, which is what they often did for any disease ... small pox, measles ...

In 1930 they thought it was from over-exercising, and they banned kids from riding bicycles when it was too hot.

In 1941 they started raising money for an iron lung. It cost \$1,350. We had one here in Rock



A polio patient lies in an iron lung in March 1940. When polio-weakened muscles used in breathing, the device assisted with respiration. (Minnesota Good Age, April 2020)

County at the hospital. There were nine in the Twin Cities.

"You can see what a monstrosity this was," Mann said, holding up a black-and-white photograph. "It was really quite large. People had to lie in it very flat. Of course it was to aid their breathing. It was a very ugly thing to have to be in."

In 1941 the Luverne outdoor swimming pool was closed, which Mann said was a big disappointment since it had just been built.

"In 1939 they had built this new outdoor swimming pool down by the river, and in 1941 they closed the swimming pool because they thought everyone who was getting sick was caused by the chlorine and the chemicals they were using in the swimming pool. But they didn't know for sure," Mann said.

She said she also remembers getting ill.

"I remember this distinctly. I was 11 years old at that time, and I remember lying in bed with a

'I remember this distinctly. I was 11 years old at that time, and I remember lying in bed with a very high fever.

My mother for two to three days was at my bedside.

— Betty Mann

very high fever," she said.

"My mother for two to three days was at my bedside. She sponged me down with cold

cloths for 24 hours trying to get my temperature down."

In the fall of 1941, Mann said a group of people from the University of Minnesota drew her blood and her mother's blood and also from the other polio children and their parents.

"And the strange thing about this whole process is we never ever heard another thing about it," Mann said. "We never heard whether it was polio or wasn't polio."

She said when the United States became involved in World War II in December of 1941, she assumed that the war became more important than polio."

Also, by the winter months, the disease wasn't striking as often.

"Polio was only during the summertime when it was very hot," Mann said.

"At that time, if you stayed out in the sun too long, you would get it. They recommended that everybody wear a hat."

She also recalled that fresh fruit and vegetables were linked to polio.

Pandemics, continued on page 8A

CELEBRATIONS

Card showers

Gail and Anita Johnson will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on Tuesday, Dec. 22. Greetings may be sent to them at 410 S. Fairview Drive, Luverne, MN 56156.

Carol Ohlsen will celebrate her 100th birthday on Friday, Dec. 25. Greetings may be sent to her at Evans Memorial Home, 1010 N. Elm Street, Cresco, IA 52136.

Audrey De Beer will celebrate her 90th birthday on Saturday, Dec. 26. Greetings may be sent to her at 707 S. Bradley St., Apt. 3, Rock Rapids, IA 51246.

MENU

Monday, Dec. 21: Sloppy Joe filling, choice potato, baked beans, bun, pineapple chunks.

Tuesday, Dec. 22: Turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes with gravy, broccoli flowerets, bread dressing, Christmas dessert.

Half-Price Days sponsored by Main Street Financial.

Wednesday, Dec. 23: Lasagna, peas and pearl onions, peaches, bread, gelatin.

Half-Price Days sponsored by Ken and Phyllis Vos.

Thursday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 25: Closed—Merry Christmas to all of our friends from the crew at LSS!

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

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

Free, frozen healthy meals are available through Lutheran Social Services at Generations thanks to a Covid-19 grant through the state of Minnesota.

Anyone in Minnesota in need of nutrition can receive up to five meals plus snacks at each event on a first-come first served basis.

Food can be picked up for others in a household at no cost and is available for pickup in other communities.

Meals are available beginning at 12:30 p.m. Wednesdays Dec. 23 and 30 at 319 E. Lincoln. Call 507-283-9846.

1901: Kenneth flourishes

The following appeared in *The Rose History* in 1911.

Rock County Village (continued from 12-10-20 edition of the Star Herald)

The year 1901 was one of substantial improvement. The town's first blacksmith, E. M. Newell, came from Edgerton in February, erected a shop and was ready to serve his patrons by the twentieth of the month. Thomte & Johnson were on the ground in March and commenced the erection of a livery barn. In the course of the next month the same firm saw a hotel building, a two story structure, 24x50 feet in size, well under way. The hostelry was opened the second week in May. The first sidewalk in the town was constructed early in April. Another business enterprise was added to the village during the same month by Walter Bemis, one of the grain buyers, who engaged in the farm implement business in connection with his other interests. The first dwelling house in the village was brought to completion early in May and was occupied by Section Forman Solen. This was only the beginning of other improvements of the same nature that were consummated during the course of the year.

A visitor to Kenneth, writing in the Rock County



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president
Rock County
Historical Society

Herald of May 3, 1901, pictures the condition of the flourishing hamlet at that date:

Unostentatiously, but none the less surely, a new town, small but enterprising, has grown up in Rock county and gives promise of many good things in the future—greater growth, population, business and importance. One year ago Kenneth, Minnesota, had no existence; today it is a bustling burg with every equipment for transformation into a city. Peopled by enterprising, thrifty and progressive citizens, its business enterprises in the hands of public spirited and far-sighted men, and

Bits, continued on page 8

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2010)

•Members of the Luverne Economic Development Authority took a field trip at Luverne's Midwest Fire business Tuesday morning at the conclusion of their meeting.

LEDA assisted Scott and Pam Schneekloth with the relocation and expansion of Midwest Fire. Tuesday's tour was a follow-up on business since the project was completed two years ago.

City officials weren't disappointed.

They were impressed by the spacious, sunny showroom, the heated and enclosed shop areas, ample office space and state-of-the-art technology.

The Schneekloths operated Midwest Fire in its Maple Street location near downtown Luverne from 1987 until moving into its new \$2.3 million building in April of 2008.

The move nearly tripled the workspace for Midwest Fire operations, which increased its workforce from 19 to 32 employees. And they're looking to hire another.

"I'm very happy," owner Scott Schneekloth told LEDA board members during the tour. "We've had another really good year."

25 years ago (1995)

•Tammy Wessels-Makram, adopted daughter of Stan and Gert Wessels, Luverne, recently decided to find her biological mother. Tammy, 34, hasn't yet found that woman, but her search led her to a series of newspaper articles by the *St. Paul Dispatch* about a Baby Jane Doe whom adoption officials believe to be Tammy.

The Christmas 1961 edition of the *Dispatch* gives the account of what was presumably Tammy's debut into the world. ...

Despite all the publicity, Tammy's biological mother did not step forward to claim her, and she ended up under the care of the Ramsey County Welfare Department.

A St. Paul adoption agency eventually placed her under the care of a southwest Minnesota couple - far enough away from the metro area that the publicity would likely not follow her.

At last, Baby Jane Doe was given a new name and a new family in the home of Stan and Gert Wessels, who lived on a farm near Ellsworth at the time.

The rest is history. According to the adoption plan of Children's Home Society of Minnesota, the court terminated the rights of the birth parents (who couldn't be found) on March 6, 1962. On March 30, 1962, Stan and Gert took her home, and the adoption became

final on July 2, 1963.

50 years ago (1970)

•Federal funds spent in Rock County during the year ending June 30, 1970, totaled \$9,950,919, according to the annual report of federal spending released this week.

The expenditure represents \$887 per person.

Rock County ranked next to the lowest in per capita spending in the four-county area of Rock, Nobles, Pipestone and Murray Counties. Murray had the highest of \$988 per capita; Pipestone had \$940 and Nobles was low with \$887.

75 years ago (1945)

•The local American Legion post is sponsoring another school patrol.

At Magnolia Friday evening, a patrol was installed in the school there, and they are now on duty. Representing the American Legion at installation ceremonies was Lloyd Johnson, chairman of the local patrol committee, and R. L. Fritz and Oscar Martinson, members of the committee. The program included a talk by Supt. Lloyd Paul, presentation of badges by Mr. Johnson, and instructions in patrol work by R. H. Hudson and Ted Swenson, members of the state highway patrol.

Members of the patrol are Jerome Bonnett, Lloyd Michelson, Kermit Oldre, Eugene Flanigan, Eugene Cragoe, Gerald Van Dorsten, Billy Hysken and John Johnson.

100 years ago (1920)

•At the International Grain and Corn show, held the first week in December at Chicago, James Bjerk, of Beaver Creek township, was awarded 13th prize on a string of ten ears of yellow dent corn.

Every corn producing state in the union was represented by numerous exhibits, and agricultural experts declared that the show was the most comprehensive of its kind ever held. Twenty places were awarded in each of ten-ear string classes, and this left a great many of the entries still unplaced.

Mr. Bjerk was the only Rock county farmer who exhibited at the show, and his winning was made on Golden Jewel, in the breeding of which he has given much thought and attention. He won several prizes on corn at the late State Seed shows, and has also been a highly successful exhibitor at different county fairs.

OBITUARIES

Darrell Heckt

Darrell Louis Heckt passed away on November 25, 2020, at the age of 72. "Hec" is a U.S. Marine, served his country in Vietnam, is a husband, father and friend to everyone he met.

He was born on July 20, 1948, to Selma and Alvin Heckt in Luverne, Minnesota. When asked if he ever attended college, he said "after returning from Vietnam, he entered the front door of college and exited the back on the same day." Anyone that knows Hec is accustomed to that kind of response and remembers he had a "one-liner" for anything. You would consider yourself lucky to be in his presence.

After his one-day college experience, he started his family in Iowa and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He then moved his family to Houston, Texas, in 1973 to pursue a successful career. Hec was willing to do whatever it took to support his family from driving a truck, starting Midwestern Construction, working at the Airlines, Harris County, working at Strike with his family, being a handyman and performing every odd job you can think of, in addition to his day job. He was also known for telling a story or two along the way, which will never be forgotten and will be shared for generations to come. He treated everyone he met the same, whether you were wealthy or "didn't have a pot to piss in," you were his friend.

However, when it came to his passion, Hec loved to cook and spent his life serving others food every opportunity he had. From opening his house on the weekends and serving the whole neighborhood, to cooking at Strike for clients with Mom, to a catering business, he fed thousands of people all over Houston.

Life threw its challenges at Hec and Mom, as the family survived their house burn-

ing down in the '70s, several floods at 1111 Baffin, raising five kids including several others they considered their own, taking in anyone that needed a helping hand or a place to stay, all while working multiple jobs. You could always count on Hec and Mom. When it was all said and done at 1111 Baffin, they successfully raised five college graduates, have 13 beautiful grandchildren and a close Christian family they are proud of.

If you measure a man's success by his devoted wife, Hec was a winner. His most cherished person, soul mate, rock that he leaned on every day, was his wife, ("Mom") Audre J. Heckt. She stood by his side through all of the difficulties, and he knew he could not make it without her. He has faith in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ with the help and dedication of our devoted Catholic mom.

His beloved mother, father, and grandson Mathew Butler preceded him in death.

He is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Audre Heckt; sons Jason Heckt, Justin Heckt, Gabriel Heckt, Nathan Heckt and daughter Emily Butler; daughters-in-law Loree Heckt, Kirstin Heckt, Alma Heckt and son-in-law Greg Butler. In addition he is survived by his cherished grandchildren, Zach, Kylie and Courtney Heckt, Jeremy and Jacob Heckt, Major, Sloan, Luke and Briggs Heckt, Finley, Reese and Dylan Butler; his older brother Dale and younger sister Darlene; as well as treasured friends, relatives and hundreds of others whose lives he's touched.

Hec is leaving his earthly life as the ultimate warrior, a man's man, a once in a generation man.

The Lord brought home one of his heroes, and we will really miss you, Dad!

(1217 V)



Timothy 'Don' Cashin

Timothy Donald "Don" Cashin of Albert Lea, Minnesota, died December 11, 2020, at home from complications of COVID-19 in the care of Mayo Hospice, surrounded by family members.

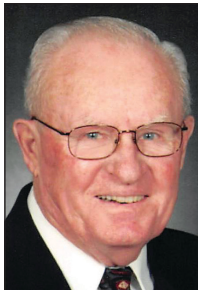
Don was born April 29, 1929, in Montgomery, Minnesota, to John and Cecilia (Shaughnessy) Cashin and was raised on a farm. He attended school in a one-room school house and graduated from Montgomery high school in 1947. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin Graduate School of Banking and the American Institute of Banking. He attended post graduate school of banking in 1971 and 1978.

Don married Betty (Gabriel) Nov 11, 1950, at St. Augustine Catholic Church in Austin, Minnesota.

In 1947 Don began his banking career with the First National Bank of Austin, as a messenger boy then as auditor. He was transferred to Albert Lea in 1953 where he spent 28 years advancing to Senior Vice President of the First Bank. In 1981 Don was transferred to the First Bank in Luverne, Minnesota, as president, CEO and Chairman of the Board.

In 1983 Pipestone, Minnesota, First Bank was consolidated with Luverne where he held joint responsibility of both banks. In 1987 First Bank was sold to the Bob Short family of Minneapolis and Don became president, C.E.O., and board chairman of the newly named First Farmers and Merchants National Bank. He was a Director of the Minnesota Bankers Association from 1994-97 before retiring in 2006, at which time he and Betty returned to Albert Lea.

Don was very active in the Austin, Albert Lea, and Luverne communities, where he was named Outstanding State President of the Minnesota Jaycees, president of the Albert Lea and Austin Jaycees,



president of the Albert Lea Lion's Club and head of the Third and Fourth Degree of the KCs and district deputy of Albert Lea KCs.

While in Luverne, Don was president of the Country Club and Chamber of Commerce. He served on chamber committees such as Chamber Ambassadors and Green Earth Players. He was secretary/treasurer of the Economic Development Corporation and board member of the Community Hospital. Don received the Paul Harris Fellowship in Rotary in 2006.

Don and Betty are the parents of seven children: Tim (Holly) Cashin of Tonka Bay, Kathy of New Hope, Mary (Ken) Sutherland of White Bear Lake, Nancy (Rol) Hoiium of Albert Lea, Peggy (Roger) DeWild of Austin, Tom Cashin of San Francisco, and Maureen (John Storm) Cashin of Hackensack.

Survivors include all seven children; brother John Cashin of Oakdale; and sister Rita Ann Halloran of New Hope. Also surviving are 16 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

Don was preceded in death by his wife, Betty, on December 31, 2019; his mother and father; grandsons Timmy Cashin and Spencer DeWild; two sisters, Margaret Vollmer and Mary Krenik; three brothers-in-law, Richard Krenik, Roger Vollmer, and Joe Halloran; sister-in-law Wilma Cashin; and nephews Gene Krenik and Dan Cashin.

Don especially enjoyed time with his family and friends and had the thrill of attaining four holes-in-one in his golfing efforts.

A celebration of life will be postponed until next summer due to COVID restrictions.

The family requests memorials to Mayo Clinic Health System - Albert Lea Hospice (MCHS - Albert Lea Hospice). (1217 V)

Konrad Eidahl

Konrad Orlan Eidahl, 86, Luverne, died Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020, at Crossroads Care Center in Worthington. A celebration of life will be at a later date.

Konrad was born on Jan. 31, 1934, to Kenneth and Mabel (Knutson) Eidahl in Leland, Iowa. He first attended school in Lake Mills, Iowa, before graduating from Albert Lea High School. He earned a degree in education from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. He then was drafted into the United States Army and served two years as a medical technician. He also played the French horn in the Army band in Europe before being honorably discharged.

In 1958 Konrad accepted a teaching position in Clarkfield, where he met Barbara Potter. He and Barbara were married on Sept. 3, 1961. They moved to Luverne a few years later, where Konrad taught sixth grade.

Konrad was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church in Luverne, where he served as an elder, deacon, usher and as president of the congregation in the late 1980s. Konrad was also a member of the Lions Club, the National Education Association and the Minnesota Education Association. He coached several sports and enjoyed keeping statistics for the Luverne High School basketball team. Konrad retired



from Luverne Public Schools in 1992 after teaching for 34 years. Konrad's hobbies included playing Stratomatic baseball and couples' bridge. He loved sports, music and travel. He also worked as a DJ at KQAD in Luverne every other Sunday.

His first wife, Barbara, died in 1996. A few years later, he married Javonne Vermedahl. They lived in Emmons until her death last year.

Konrad is survived by three children, Kyle (Carol) Eidahl of Tallahassee, Florida, Pam Christensen of Luverne, and David (Lynn) Eidahl of Delano; eight grandchildren, Daniel Mann, Jessica (Lance) Amato, Cara (Justin) Muth, Stephanie (Tim) Connell, Matt Christensen, Cody Christensen, Marcus Eidahl and Christian Eidahl; three great-grandchildren; a sister, Kate Hermanson of Owatonna; and a brother-in-law, Richard Ferguson of Owatonna.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Barbara; his second wife, Javonne; his son Mark Eidahl; his son-in-law Tim Christensen; and a sister, Marcia Ferguson.

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

(1217 F)

Marcus Emery

Marcus Jay Emery, 26, Luverne, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, at his home.

A funeral service was Saturday, Dec. 12, at the United Methodist Church in Luverne. Burial with military honors followed at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Marcus Emery was born on March 26, 1994, in Luverne. He was raised by his mother, Sandi Emery, and attended Luverne Public Schools, graduating in 2012. In June of 2011 Marcus enlisted in the United States National Guard. He was proud of his time with fellow service members and welcomed the camaraderie and teamwork. While serving in the Guard, he received the Army Achievements Medal, the Army Reserves Component Achievements Medal, the National Defense Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon, the Minnesota Good Conduct Ribbon, and the Minnesota Service Ribbon. He currently held the specialist rank.

Following his basic training, Marcus worked for Gary Frodermann on G&S Farms. In May of 2017 Marcus began working in the plumbing assembly with fire trucks at Midwest Fire in Luverne.



Marcus enjoyed attending gun shows, playing paintball, gaming, tinkering with his trucks, and golfing with his uncles and aunt. He loved spending time with his brothers and fishing with his grandfather and great-grandfather. He enjoyed his mother's good cooking. He was known for his sense of determination, strong work ethic, his kindness, and being a good listener.

Marcus is survived by his mother, Sandi Emery, and Nick Reisch of Luverne; his brothers, Sam Emery and Rocco Reisch of Luverne; his grandmother, JoAnn Emery of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; his grandparents, Mark and Debbie Emery of Luverne; an aunt, Tami (Kyle) Van Heerde of Sioux Falls; two uncles, Jay Dee Emery of Sioux Falls and Joe Emery of Mitchell, South Dakota; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents, Howard and Mary Emery, and Ralph Jensen and Jackie Losen; and a great-uncle, Tom Emery.

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

(1217 F)

Lilly Sammons

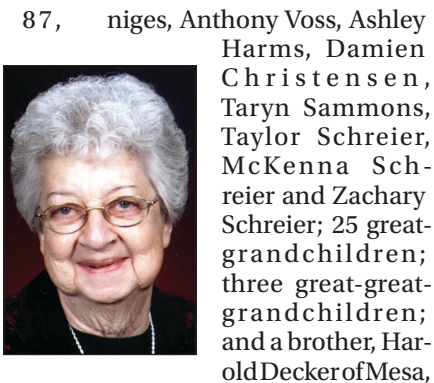
Lilly Sammons, 87, Luverne, died Sunday, Dec. 13, 2020, at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

A private family service will take place at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19. The funeral service will be live-streamed on Facebook/DingmannFH.

Lilly Yarrington was born Jan. 19, 1933, to Fred and Nina (Crippen) Yarrington. She graduated from Slayton High School in 1950.

Lilly married Leslie Sammons on Sept. 1, 1951, in Slayton. She liked to read and play word games. She especially enjoyed her grandchildren and attending their events.

Lilly is survived by three children, Donna (Mike) Rank of Faribault, Mike (Ronda) Sammons of Round Lake, and Michelle Schreier of Currie; 12 grandchildren, Heather Vacura, Josh Klay, Chad Sammons, Angela Sneller, Lindsay Jen-



niges, Anthony Voss, Ashley Harms, Damien Christensen, Taryn Sammons, Taylor Schreier, McKenna Schreier and Zachary Schreier; 25 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and a brother, Harold Decker of Mesa, Arizona.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Leslie Sammons, in 1996; two children, Kristi Baker and David Sammons; three grandchildren, Shane Klay, Eric Sammons and Melissa Christensen; and son-in-law Paul Schreier.

In leau of flowers, memorials contributions may be directed to Luverne Meals on Wheels.

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

(1217 F)

COLLEGE NEWS

Area students graduate from MSU Mankato

Minnesota State University Mankato awarded degrees to Fall 2020 graduates through a website with commencement videos available on Saturday, Dec. 12. Each graduate received a "commencement-in-a-box" package including a printed commencement

program, a diploma holder and other gifts.

Area graduates include Colin Varley, Adrian, Bachelor of Science in social studies teaching, magna cum laude; and Sierra Wieneke, Bachelor of Science in psychology, summa cum laude.

Wendland graduates from MSU Moorhead

Emily Wendland, Luverne, will graduate from Minnesota State University Moorhead with a Bachelor of Science degree in entertainment industries and technology.

Virtual graduation cer-

emonies will be live-streamed on Dec. 17 and 18 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at <https://www.mnstate.edu/registrar/graduation/>

Congratulations to graduates may be tweeted to #MSUM2020.

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The family of Darlene Blank would like to thank all those who comforted us after the loss of our mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Thank You

to the City of Beaver Creek for providing a much appreciated lunch and gathering space after the family graveside service, to all those who sent condolences, to Hartquist Funeral Home, and to Sioux Falls Prairie Creek Memory Care Assisted Living. Thank you all for your many kindnesses and support.

Pandemic affected the entire country/continued from page 6A

“Everything had to be cooked, because they thought maybe there was something in those fresh fruits and vegetables,” Mann said.

‘A shock to the whole community’

By 1946 the general consensus was that one out of every 10 cases involving minors, one died. “It was a tragic thing all over the United States,” Mann said. Then, in August of 1946, Mann lost her good friend Audrey Schlapkohl to polio. “She was just a year ahead of me in school,” Mann recalled. “She had spent her first year at USD, and then in the summer she was at home in Luverne working at the coffee house. ... Very suddenly she got sick and died. It was a shock to the whole community.”

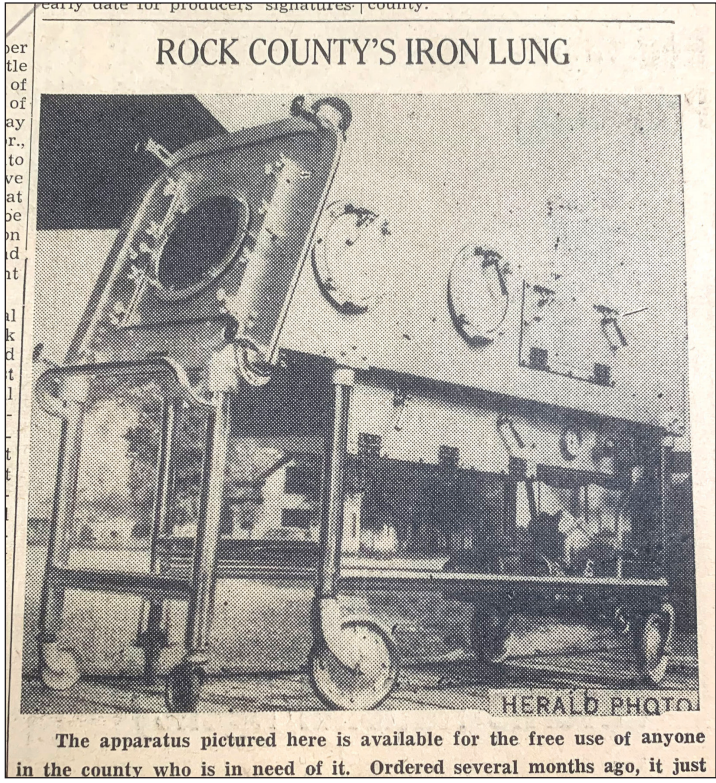
Following that, 13 more people died in 1946 and 66 became ill, many of them children and young adults, and often both children and their mothers were ill at the same time.

By the 1950s polio was striking more than 40,000 people per year nationwide. “In 1951 there were no cases in Rock County and everyone was very encouraged that year,” Mann said. “But all the poster children were wearing leg braces and crutches.”

By March of 1953, they were very close to finding a vaccine, and “Mothers’ Marches” were organized. “The mothers would ring doorbells,” Mann said. “If you left your light on, the mothers marched around Luverne and asked for donations. Then they canvassed businesses downtown.”

Story of survival

Mann told the story of Maurice Fitzter, who survived a close call with polio. He was 26 years old, and he and his wife, Helen, had a son. That summer he had been working on the



‘It was very, very hot, over 96 degrees, and Maurice (Fitzter) wasn’t feeling well. They discovered he had polio.’

— Betty Mann about Fitzter who survived a close call with polio while working on the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills with the Hills Electric crew. “It was very, very hot, over 96 degrees, and Maurice wasn’t feeling well,” Mann said “They discovered he had polio.” Incidentally, his brother-in-law Leonard Stine also had polio, as did Mrs. Curt Maxwell, Margaret Winter and Ray Husen. As Mann told the story

of Fitzter’s polio, she said he got sick the day of the church dedication in Hills. “His back started hurting him, so he went to Dr. Martin, who sent him to McKennan where they took a spinal tap,” Mann said. “There was no doubt that it was polio.” Fitzter remembered that he was wrapped in hot, moist blankets to keep his muscles from

tightening up, but ended up being paralyzed, all but his arms. He was able to go home from the hospital for Christmas but continued physical therapy three days a week. Insurance helped with medical expenses. “He hired help for the chores, and neighbors helped them,” Mann said. “After three summers he finally got stronger and was finally able to work on his own. ... He wore braces all the rest of his life. At the end of his life, he suffered from what they call post-polio syndrome.”

To add insult to injury, Mann said the Fitzter family was avoided like the plague. “I thought this was so interesting,” Mann said. “People walked on the other side of the street when they saw him coming. They were afraid they might get it.”

Raising money for a cure Mann said in1953 there was a rabbit hunt that brought in 40 cents apiece. “Jack rabbits were quite prevalent at this time,” she said. “We don’t ever see them anymore. They had very large back feet and were doing a lot of damage to the crops.” School children made cards with little slots that a dime would fit into. “When you got all the little holes filled with dimes, you donated it to the polio fund,” Mann said. In 1954 there were Mothers Marches and many fundraising events, and in 1954 the polio vaccine was discovered. “In 1955 students were given shots in schools,” Mann said. “The national foundation funded the first shots in schools. The shots were given in the upper arm. A second was given a week later followed by a third shot later.” Mann said her research ended in January 1957 with an article that said they hoped that “... this was likely the last time raising money for the March of Dimes.”

Sanford Luverne offers guidance for self-care at home

Rest, fluids, recommend for those recovering from COVID on their own

There is currently no vaccine or medicine approved to prevent the virus. For those recovering from Covid-19 at home, treatment is aimed at helping the body’s immune system fight the virus. This is known as supportive care. Sanford Luverne is encouraging the public to learn the basics of supportive care, and the organization has released the following information. **Get rest.** This helps your body fight the illness. **Stay hydrated.** Drinking liquids is the best way to prevent dehydration. Try to drink 6 to 8 glasses of liquids every day, or as advised by your provider. Also check with your provider about which fluids are best for you. Don’t drink fluids that contain caffeine or alcohol. **Take over-the-counter medicine** to ease pain and reduce fever. Follow your health care provider’s instructions for which OTC medicine to use. If you’ve been in the hospital for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and now are home, follow all of your health care team’s instructions. This will include when it’s OK to stop self-isolation. You may also get instructions on position changes to help your breathing, such as lying

on your belly (prone positioning). If you’ve had confirmed COVID-19, your health care team may ask you to consider donating your plasma. This is called COVID-19 convalescent plasma donation. Plasma from people fully recovered from COVID-19 may contain antibodies to help fight COVID-19 in people who are currently seriously ill with the disease. Experts don’t know the safety of COVID-19 convalescent plasma or how well it works, but research continues. The FDA has approved it for emergency use in certain people with serious or life-threatening COVID-19.

For those caring for a sick person at home, follow all instructions from health care staff: wash hands often, wear protective clothing, and make sure the sick person is masked. If they can’t wear a mask, don’t stay in the same room with the person. If you must be in the same room, wear a face mask. When wearing a mask, make sure that it covers both the nose and mouth. •Keep track of the sick person’s symptoms. •Clean home surfaces often with disinfectant. This includes phones, kitchen counters, fridge door handle, bathroom surfaces, and others. •Don’t let anyone share household items with the sick person. This includes eating and drinking tools, towels, sheets, or blankets. •Clean fabrics and laundry thoroughly. •Keep other people and pets away from the sick person.

Bits/continued from page 6A

surrounded by a rich and productive agricultural country, Kenneth enters the list of Rock county towns with every promise of growth and prosperity. Where one year ago was but a fertile field are now two well stocked general merchandise stores, a hardware store, a commodious hotel, a lumber yard, a blacksmith shop, three elevators, livery stable, restaurant, two dray lines, farm machinery and implement business—all housed in handsome and substantial buildings. There was a marked and steady growth throughout the whole of 1901. The population of the village had reached a point where the erection of a commodious two-story school building became advisable and the building was completed late in the year. The business interests of the young town continued to prosper, and a number of enterprises were added. Among these was a bank, an institution much desired. The bank opened for business July 1 in the A. D. Parker building, with Mr. Parker in charge. In September the town was supplied with a physician. Dr. Van Krevelen, formerly of Holland, moved to Kenneth and opened a drug store which he conducted in

connection with his practice. A number of new business buildings were brought to completion during the season of 1901. The question of the incorporation of Kenneth became an issue in 1902. The substantial and increasing growth of the town, together with the splendid material advancement that it had been privileged to enjoy during the short time of its existence, seemed in the eyes of the town’s business men to justify the desire to assume the privileges and obligations of local self government. Several obstacles confronted the promoters of the plan for incorporation. It was found necessary to extend the bounds of the proposed corporation for a number of miles in each direction from the village in order to secure the population required by law before any village is entitled to form itself into an independent municipality. There was considerable opposition to the scheme, especially by many farmers whose lands it was proposed to include within the corporation. A petition signed by A. D. Parker and

thirty-seven others, asking for the incorporation of Kenneth, was presented to the board of county commissioners and was considered by that body at its regular meeting on December 19, 1902. A petition of remonstrance signed by B. Halverson and seventeen others was submitted to the commissioners on the same occasion, and the matter was brought to a focus. Both sides to the controversy were represented by authorized representatives and arguments for and against incorporation were made. The board ordered that the petition be referred to the county attorney for his opinion as to its legality, especially in regard to the quantity of territory which had been included.

The story of the village of Kenneth will continue in the Dec. 24 edition of the Star Herald. *Donations to the Rock County Historical Society can be sent to the Rock County Historical Society, 312 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156.* *Mann welcomes correspondence sent to mannmade@iuw.net.*

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Granite countertops and gorgeous custom cabinetry grace this beautiful 3 bedroom, 2 bath ranch home. Three bedrooms are located on the main floor with floor to ceiling windows to bring in natural light throughout the house. Large entry with tile floors brings you to a large living room open to the dining area with a bay window. Spacious family room adorns the lower level with a three sided gas fireplace. Impeccably maintained with new furnace, newer roof, new gutter guards and newer appliances. This home also features a 12 x 16 shed with cement floor.

11970 111th St
Leota, MN \$109,900

Open concept with new carpets highlight this 1.5 story home! The main floor features two bedrooms, bathroom, and handy laundry area. A welcoming entryway leads you to the open living area and kitchen. Two additional bedrooms are upstairs with an open space that could be used as a sitting area, office or play area. Abundant storage throughout. The basement includes one finished bonus room or non-legal bedroom. Huge backyard includes nice storage shed, fire-pit and large patio area.

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

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Former Luverne Cardinal surges for the Golden Gophers

LHS grad Jaxon Nelson enjoying strong start in his sophomore season at University of Minnesota

By **Brennen Rupp**

The Minnesota Golden Gophers are off to one of their best season starts in program history. The top-ranked team in the country has yet to trail in a game and owns an 8-0 record.

The 8-0 mark is the best start to the season for the Gophers since the 1987-88 campaign.

Dating back to last season, the Gophers have won 10 straight games, the longest winning streak since 1995-96.

A big reason for the team's fast start is the growth and development of the players within the program, according to Gophers' assistant coach Ben Gordon.

"The biggest thing is the culture of our group coming together," he said. "We got guys getting older and getting more acclimated."

One of those young players is former Luverne Cardinal Jaxon Nelson.

As a Gophers freshman, Nelson played in 33 games and recorded six points. Now as a sophomore he's finding his footing.

"A year can make a huge difference in a young man's life," Gordon said.

"He's not the loudest, most outspoken guy, but you can tell he's grown up. He's comfortable right now. He feels comfortable and it's showing in his play that he's more confident."

Nelson is on a three-game point streak for the Gophers. In the last three games the sophomore has scored two goals and recorded one assist.

"He's playing with a group that we've dubbed the fourth line," Gordon said.

"I wouldn't really call it that. We have all four lines



Photo Courtesy University of Minnesota Athletics/1217 Jaxon

Luverne's Jaxon Nelson has scored two goals in the past three games for the Minnesota Golden Gophers. The Gophers are currently 8-0, which marks the best start to a season for the Gophers since 1987-1988.

"A year can make a huge difference in a young man's life. He's not the loudest, most outspoken guy, but you can tell he's grown up. He's comfortable right now. He feels comfortable and it's showing in his play that he's more confident."

— Gophers Assistant Coach, Ben Gordon.

that can be dangerous. He's been the driving factor on that line. He's playing with Cullen Munson, who is a senior. He's an older player. Nelson is doing a great job of setting the spark for the team."

The success that Nelson is enjoying should come as no surprise. He's enjoyed success at every level he's played.

In high school Nelson helped the Cardinals reach the state tournament in 2014.

That state tournament berth was the first in program history for the Cardinals.

Nelson finished his prep career with 290 career points, which ranks fifth all-time in Minnesota State High School League history. His

155 career goals is sixth most in MSHSL history.

In 2016 he scored a state record 78 goals.

During his time in the USHL Nelson played for the Sioux Falls Stampede and the Omaha Lancers.

During the 2018-2019 season with the Lancers, Nelson scored 19 goals.

All the success Nelson has enjoyed is a credit to the work that he puts into honing his craft. He said he spent this past offseason focused on developing into a player that can impact the game in a variety of ways.

"I just wanted to get bet-

"My line is just playing well right now. We were out in Michigan for those four games and we just played really well. We just grinded down on teams and made it really hard to play against us."

- Jaxon Nelson

ter in all aspects of my game," Nelson said. "I was going to Sioux Falls three or four times a week and working out every day. I was putting in a lot of work. Hard work pays off."

That hard work did not go unnoticed by the Gophers coaching staff. Gordon said that Nelson is handling everything the coaching staff throws at him.

"He's growing up and he's becoming more mature," Gordon said.

"He's playing on power play, the penalty kill. I'm not sure he was ready to play that many minutes last season. Now he's handling those responsibilities and he's been a driving force for us."

The 2020-2021 season marks the 100th season of Gophers hockey, and Nelson said every player has bought into what their role is on the team.

"I think we're just playing well as a team," Nelson said.

Jaxon Nelson/page 10A

Winter sports season looks promising in Rock County

As it stands right now, the winter sports season for the Minnesota State High School League is scheduled to begin on Dec. 21. The first contests are scheduled to take place on Jan. 4.

If and when the winter sports season starts, it should be an exciting one in Rock County.

LSH Hockey

The Luverne girls' hockey team is coming off a state tournament berth and finished the regular season with a 20-4 record.

The Cardinals will return four of the top five goal scorers from last year's state tournament team.

Kamryn Van Batavia led the Cardinals with 42 goals as a freshman. She'll look to build off that success this season as a sophomore.

Reghan Bork finished with 17 goals. Rylee Gee had 14 goals and Roz Oye finished the season with 10 goals.

With a strong group of players returning, the Cardinals will look to replicate the success they enjoyed last season.

The Cardinal boys will return four seniors from a team that finished the regular season with a 15-10 record. They opened the section tournament with a 4-3 victory over Marshall but fell to Hutchinson 6-1 in the second round.

LHS Basketball

The Luverne girls' basketball team reached the sub-section championship game for the first time in 40 years last season.

The title game against Windom ended with the Eagles defeating the Cardinals 54-52 on a buzzer-beater.

The Cardinals return a strong group of players from last year's team that earned the No. 1 seed. With the core of last season's team back, the Cardinals could be in store for another special season in 2021.

On the boys' side of things, the Cardinals finished the basketball season with an 11-13 record.



RUPP'S RANTS

By **Brennen Rupp**, reporter

They return a number of key contributors from last season's team, and they'll look to get over the .500 mark in 2021.

LHS Wrestling

The Luverne wrestling team returns one member that earned Big South All-Conference honors last season. Riley Cowell led the Cardinals in total wins last season and will look to build off that success as a senior.

H-BC Basketball

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball squad is coming off a season in which they claimed the Red Rock Conference title.

They reached the sub-section championship where they fell to Southwest Minnesota Christian, 50-47.

The Patriots return three players that earned all-conference honors last season. Seniors, Taryn Rauk and Abby Knobloch both earned all-conference honors. Junior, Kenadie Fick also earned all-conference honors last season.

The Patriot boys finished the 2019-2020 season with an 8-15 record and will return a pair of varsity letter winners from last season's team.

Cousins Zander and Gavin Wysong will look to lead the Patriots over the .500 mark in 2021.

Wrapping Up

I'm looking forward to hopefully bringing you winter sports coverage in 2021. What that season will look like is a mystery to everybody.

No matter what it looks like, hopefully it's one that can start and finish with no interruptions.

Hunters: Follow the rules

I consider myself a pretty die-hard outdoors man. I have been spending many late afternoons chasing ringnecks across the southwest portion of the state.

Populations in this part of the state are normally higher than elsewhere, but I don't often see many other hunters.

That changed in the past few weeks.

As I drove from one public ground to the next, it took me until about the fifth stop to find a Wildlife Management Area where there weren't already hunters. It was Thanksgiving weekend and this was kind of expected.

At one of those spots a conservation officer approached and asked to see my license. I was glad to show it to him although it took me more than a few minutes of rummaging around in my wallet past the Kansas license, my South Dakota license, next to my Nebraska license and finally to my Minnesota license.

I knew I had it, but I was starting to sweat a little by the time I found it.

I was looking for the light blue-colored vinyl one that you get when an electronic license seller location prints it off their machine. When I found it, it was white paper as I had purchased it online for the first time ever this year.

I asked him about what percentage of folks he checks end up with a warning or citation. I was pleasantly surprised when he was seeing violations in only about three or four out of 100 hunters or fisherman checked.

There has been lots of news recently about a huge bust that gathered up over 100 people that had participated in the illegal taking of game. This investigation took many months and roped in a few dif-



THE OUTDOORS

By **Scott Rall**, columnist

ferent TV personalities who had their own shows.

All of the violations ended up with thousands of dollars in fines and restitution. They also suspended the hunting privileges of many well-known folks. There was a bunch of equipment confiscation as well. All of these centered around one big outfitter across several different states.

There is a piece of federal legislation called the Lacey Act that covers the illegal sale and transport of not only animals and animal parts but also endangered plants as well. It is one of the few regulations that actually has some teeth to it.

To me the Lacey Act is the game and fish equivalent to the RICO statutes for Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations crimes. I am all for "lock 'em up and throw away the keys" for those who think the game and fish rules don't apply to them.

I am referring to gross violations, not one or two fish over your limit, although someone with 50 fish over their limit should pay a fine large enough that it would actually keep them from being able to afford bait for a year.

Many states have reciprocity agreements with Minnesota regarding game and fish violations. If you get your hunting or fishing privileges revoked in one state, they are then automatically also revoked in all of the other states who are parties in this

reciprocity agreement.

When I hear people tell stories that they harvested many times the number of ducks or pheasants, or caught 100 times more fish than other anglers or hunters of their experience level, I would often say to myself that these folks are not using all of the legal methods I use.

One winter it was a struggle to catch fish on a river near my home. There were three other guys who had caught over 100 in just a few days.

After a few months it came out that they were caught using about 60 tip ups per person. The limit in Minnesota is two tip ups per angler.

It only made sense that they would catch a lot more fish than my two tip-ups could.

When you hear of these stories of superstar outdoors people, remember, there certainly are great fishers and hunters, many that will far exceed my prowess level, but in some of those cases they are just playing by different rules.

Hunting and fishing can be challenging endeavors. It should be, but remember, it's more about having a quality outing than the number of any species you pursue.

Scott Rall, Worthington, is a habitat conservationist, avid hunting and fishing enthusiast and is president of Nobles County Pheasants Forever.

Area schools release honor rolls

Luverne High School Honor Roll

Quarter 1 A Honor Roll

Seniors: Russell Aanenson, Zachary Ahrendt, Kaitlyn Anderson, Peter Baustian, Ethan Beyer, Simon Boyenga, Xavier Carbonneau, Ethan Curtiss, Rachel DenHerder, Jonathan Dolo, Regan Feit, Rylee Gee, Dyllon Gehrke, Josephine Golla, Benjamin Jarchow, Elise Jarchow, Elisabeth Kelm, Shelby Kracht, Alex Mann, John Miller, Autumn Nath, Carlton Oftedahl, Rozilynn Oye, Sadie Reisdorfer, Ainslie Robinson, Genevieve Rolfs, Jayson Rops, Brynn Thier, Solveig Tofteland, McKenzie VanGrootheest, Lauren Ver Steeg, Cade Wenninger, Leah Wynia, Gracie Zewiske.

Juniors: Trista Baustian, Seth Bose, Kendall Buss, Billi Connell, Pierce Cunningham, Elise Ferrell, Trygve Gangestad, Jacob Hansen, Kayetlin Huiskes, Olivia Huisman, Griffen Jarchow, Mary Opitz, Ethan Rahm, Kristin Rud,

Grace Sandbulte, Madeleine Schmuck, Cheyenne Schutz, Casey Sehr, Jacey Smith, Macy Stratton, Hope Thorson, Luke Thorson, Chance Tunnissen, Brooklyn Ver Steeg, Mia Wenzel, Olivia Wieneke.

Sophomores: Abigail Anderson, Josie Anderson, Ross Bergman, Emma Beyer, Brady Bork, Parker Carbonneau, Zachary DeBoer, Egypt Forrest, Jady Hart, Jocelyn Hart, Tori Hemme, Camden Hoven, Grace Ingebretsen, Camden Janiszkeski, Anja Jarchow, Katharine Kelm, Isabella Lanoue, Reese Louwagie, Jocelynn Mann, Lacey Morseman, Ethan Nath, Mallory Nelson, Carly Olson, Logan Ommen, Isabella Oye, Joseph Remme, Alyia Renken, Travis Schempp, Averill Sehr, Ryenn Stegenga, Cedar Viessman, Mallory Von Tersch, Ava Vortherms, Christina Wagner, Elizabeth Wagner.

Freshmen: Morgan Ahrendt, Tyler Arends, Zoey Berghorst, Kayla Bloemendaal, Brynn Boyenga, Kai Buss, Cassandra Chesley, Jenna

DeBates, Elle Halverson, Henry Hartquist, Julia Hoogland, Kira John, Patrick Kroski, Emma Lusty, Jacob Madison, Makena Nelson, Tori Serie, Elizabeth Smidt, Sarah Stegenga, Zachary Terrio, Perceyis Trierweiler.

Quarter 1 B Honor Roll

Seniors: Cooper Arends, Rebecca Austin, Anna Boltjes, Brennan Brecher, Trinity Carson, Bailey Cowell, Ann Dara, Tyler de Cesare, Matthaus Dobbe, Justin Dohlmann, Isaac Eidem, Cassie Flanagan, Mia Halverson, Emma Hinz, Gretchen Jacobsma, Blake Koffron, Camron Kopp, Anthony Kramer, Hailey Kruger, Destiny Matthiesen, Nathan Meeker, Jaime Palmquist, Katlin Petronek, Hunter Sandbulte, Paige Sandbulte, Shaid Shearer, LaShad Smith, Eric Somnis, Nathan Spillman, Lindsley, Ethan Teunissen.

Juniors: Hunter Ahrendt, Rylee Anderson, Christopher Aning, Jase Arp, Brandon Berghorst, Luke Bosch, Nathaniel Cole-Kraty, Kyle Ferguson, Jordan Friedrichsen,

Morgan Gonnerman, Burke Johnson, Kyle Kephart, Zachary Kruse, Jamie McCarthy, Trissa Morseman, Chase Overgaard, Eli Radtke, Jonathan Saarloos, Ashton Sandbulte, Lacey Saker, Alenya Sayavong, Colin Schoeneman, Brenn Siebenahler, Macie Swenson, Tanner Terrio.

Sophomores: Gannon Ahrendt, Justis Ahrendt, Mariam Alinzi, Avarie Brecher, Sarah Gehrke, Andy Halverson, Lauren Hansen, Tiana Lais, Cole Mann, Priscilla Muehr, Austin Ossefoort, Mason Smith, Riley Sneller, Carsen Tofteland, Harrison Uithoven, Kamryn Van Batavia, Kaylee Vorhees, Ryan Vos.

Freshmen: Tucker Banck, Anika Boll, Hailey Boll, Abby Boltjes, Morgan Bonnett, Conner Connell, Sarah de Cesare, Elliot Domagala, Brendan Eidem, Ryan Fick, Michael Halsne, Uriel Hernandez, Isabel Honerman, Addison Huiskes, Ava Loosbrock, Joelia Lopez-Bomstad, Tyler Rolfs, Dennie Sandbulte, Sawyer Saker, Mitchell Sauer, Will Serie, Kiesli Smith.

Metzger named Coach of the Year

By **Brennen Rupp**

Hills-Beaver Creek's football coach, Rex Metzger was named District Coach of the Year for the 2020 season.

Metzger coached the Patriots to a perfect 7-0 season.

The Patriots ended the 2020 season with a section championship victory over Mountain Lake Area.

The Patriots were recently awarded the Associated Press nine-man state champions.



Photo Credit Mavis Fodness/1217 H-BC tree

H-BC Christmas Tree

The Hills-Beaver Creek 2020 Christmas Tree is dedicated to the 2020 H-BC football team. The Patriots were recently named the Associated Press State Champions in Nine-Man. The tree was put together by Ms. Oftedahl's students.

H-BC High School Honor Roll

Quarter 1 A Honor Roll

Seniors: Tyson Bork, Annie Bos, Chase Bosch, Thomas Dysthe, Calvin Erickson, Hannah Fick, Ethan Gray, Ashlee Kelderman, Kathleen Kiers, Seth Klarenbeek, Abby Knobloch, Emilee Kodet, Allison LaRock, Taryn Rauk, Jacob Sheppard, Lauren Tatge, Brandon Taubert, Avery Vis, Zander Wysong.

Juniors: Austin Allen, Jacob Axness, Taylor Durst, Kenadie Fick, Danette Leenderts, Samantha Moser,

Tara Paulsen, Liam Raymon, Tess Van Maanen.

Sophomores: Devon Dysthe, Jenifer Martinyuk, Brayden Metzger, Amallia Ternus.

Freshmen: Grace Anderson, Sylvia Fick, Taylor Gehrke, Ty Leuthold, Brynn Rauk, Larissa Steinhoff.

Eighth: Gracie Fagerness, Jackson Gacke, Lukas Hubbard, Michael Martinyuk, Mazzi Moore, Jack Moser, Kadence Rozeboom, Bailey Spykerboer, Rebekah Swenson, Amber Wiersema, Gracie Wilhelm, Ava Zomer.

Seventh: Micah Bush, Claire Knobloch, Abigail

Olson, Ella Sammons.

Quarter 3 B Honor Roll

Seniors: Tryce Bennett, Adrienne Boltjes, Tory Knobloch, Abigail Olson, Dewell Rauk, Jacey Vanden Hoek, Gavin Wysong.

Juniors: Cole Baker, Troy Durst, Leeanna Gaugler, Andrew Harris, Ethan Kruger, Donavon Leenderts, Drew Leenderts, Daniel Martinyuk, Dallas Page, Mackenzie Voss.

Sophomores: Olivia Bork, Cody Moser, Aspen Shimp, Joshua Wiersema.

Freshmen: Layla Deelstra,

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Jaxon Nelson off to strong start/continued from page 9A

"I think everyone bought in. We all are playing for each other. Everyone's blocking shots and taking a hit. Everybody is making plays. We're just playing unselfish right now."

The Gophers recently wrapped up the first half of their season by sweeping Michigan State and the fifth-ranked Michigan Wolverines.

During the first game against Michigan State, Nelson won seven out of 10 faceoffs.

In the second game against the Spartans, Nelson scored his first goal of the season. Nelson's goal was in the first period and put the Gophers up 2-0 en route to their 4-2 victory.

In the series opener against the Wolverines, Nelson tallied an assist as the Gophers defeated Michigan

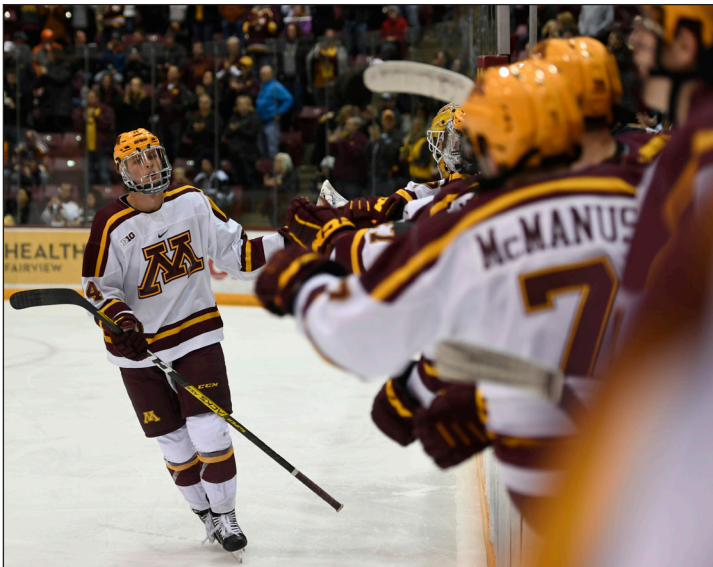


Photo Courtesy University of Minnesota Athletics/1217 Jaxon

Luverne's Jaxon Nelson celebrates after a Gophers goal. The former Luverne Cardinal has scored two goals in the last three games for the Golden Gophers.

3-1.

Nelson scored his second goal of the season during Minnesota's 4-0 series

finale victory over Michigan.

Nelson credits his linemates for his recent success. "My line is just playing

well right now," Nelson said. "We were out in Michigan for those four games and we just played really well. We just grinded down on teams and made it really hard to play against us."

Amid a season with so many unknowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Gophers remain focused.

"We are taking one game at a time and one day at a time," Nelson said. "We don't even know our schedule for when we get back after Christmas."

The Gophers may not know which team they play in their next game. For Nelson, he's focused on controlling what he can control.

My goal is to keep playing at a high level," Nelson said. "I just want to continue to make an impact on the game each time I'm on the ice."

KEEP IN MIND!

We Have Early Deadlines

Christmas

Luverne Announcer

December 26 Edition

Deadline for advertising will be Monday, Dec. 21 by 10 a.m.

OFFICE CLOSED

December 24 & 25 (Thurs. & Fri.)

New Year's

Luverne Announcer

January 2 Edition

Deadline for advertising will be Monday, Dec. 28 by 10 a.m.

OFFICE CLOSED

December 31 & January 1 (Thurs. & Fri.)

Questions? Call 283-2333

Wear a mask
in public spaces.

Get tested if you
have any symptoms.

Answer if your health
department calls.

STAY SAFE MN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday, Dec. 19: 5:30 p.m. Worship service with Communion. In-person worship service in Sanctuary. Sunday, Dec. 20: 9 a.m. Worship service with Communion. 9:15-9:45 a.m. Drive-thru Communion. NO Sunday school. 10 a.m. Giving Tree delivery. 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom. 4-7 p.m. Drive-thru Live Nativity. Tuesday, Dec. 22: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Dec. 23: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 12 Noon Registration deadline for Christmas Eve services. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are still available. Online Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. — NEW TIME! Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, Dec. 17: 1-3 p.m. 5-6:30 p.m. Food Shelf curbside. Saturday, Dec. 19: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Sunday Dec. 20: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Worship service — SD In-house worship service — Services held on radio and live on Facebook. YouTube will also have services posted. 4:30 p.m. Genesis to Revelation Bible Study with safe distancing. Monday, Dec. 21: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Messenger deadline. Wednesday, Dec. 23: 1-3 p.m. Food Shelf curbside. 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Thursday, Dec. 24: 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Christmas Eve Service in house and Livestream on Facebook. 5:30 p.m. Community Meal — pickup and delivery.

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

Worship services in-person and through Facebook Live Sunday 10:15

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, Dec. 20: 10 a.m. Worship service at Bethlehem. 10:30 a.m. Sunday school Christmas program (church basement). Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills, Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. You can find more info on our website blchills.org. 6 p.m. 8th-9th grade Confirmation. Tuesday, Dec. 22: 2 p.m. Bible study at Tuff Home; 2:30 p.m. Bible study at Village. Thursday, Dec. 24: 10 a.m. Tuff. 10:30 a.m. Village Christmas Service. 3 and 5 p.m. Bethlehem Christmas services.

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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

"Silent Night, Holy Night, all is calm ..." We all know this beloved Christmas carol, and may have fond memories of singing it, likely with a lit candle in hand, seeing the faces of family and friends bathed in soft light, warm and snugly at the end of the Christmas Eve worship service, before heading back out into the cold and snow to go back home.

But that's not how the first Silent Night went. The story goes, the church in Oberndorf, Austria, had an organ. In 1818 there were mice who ate holes in the bellows used to make the organ work, and the organ couldn't be repaired before the Christmas Eve service. The priest of the church, Father Joseph Mohr, had written a poem a couple of years earlier. He brought it to the church musician, Franz Gruber, who wrote a melody to go with the poem. The new carol was sung, accompanied by guitar, at the Christmas Eve service, and it slowly gained popularity throughout the world.

The people who attended that 1818 Christmas Eve Mass didn't expect to hear a new song that night; they expected organ and choir and all the usual traditions to continue. I bet some were angry, and some were disappointed. I bet some were wondering, and some thought it was a sweet little song. Nobody could have predicted that the song would be translated into over 300 languages and still sung as a beloved Christmas carol over 200 years later!

This Christmas of 2020 is similar to that 1818 Christmas. Things are different here in Luverne this year. We have no bellows on our organs, and hopefully we don't have hungry mice in our churches. But we do have a virus that is infecting our community

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Ann Zastrow
Grace Lutheran Church
Luverne

*This
Christmas
of 2020 is
similar to
that 1818
Christmas.*

and our world. Church worship services will likely look and sound a bit different, but Christ's birth will still be celebrated. Some of the traditions may continue (such as the Live Nativity at Grace this Sunday), but others (such as children sitting on Santa's lap) may not, due to safety concerns.

In 1818 the residents of Oberndorf, Austria, were faced with an unexpected dilemma. People were creative and worked around it.

In 2020 the residents of Luverne are faced with an unexpected dilemma. People are being creative and are making plans to work around it.

But the one thing that IS still the same is Christ will come. Maybe his arrival will be remembered through a poem, about a silent night, where all is calm and bright. Maybe his arrival will be remembered through watching a Christmas Eve service online, eating Christmas cookies and drinking hot chocolate with your family in your living room.

However this Christmas looks, Christ will be here. Emmanuel, God With Us. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

These weekly church page messages are contributed to God's Work through the Church and by these concerned and responsible citizens & businesses:

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Hengeveld probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF ROCK

PROBATE COURT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

In Re: Estate of
Donald E. Hengeveld, a/k/a Donald Hengeveld
Deceased

Court File No.: 67-PR-20-282

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING FOR
FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT
OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN SUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
ANCILLARY PROCEEDING

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of January, 2021, at 8:30 O'clock A.M., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Rock County Court-house, Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above name deceased, dated August 27, 2013, and for the appointment of Bonnie Hengeveld, whose address is 1000 S. Charlotte Circle, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57103-3004, as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in supervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, said personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the personal representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

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

Dated: December 8, 2020

/s/ Terry Vajrt
District Court Judge

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

(COURT SEAL)

(12-17, 12-24)

Ackerman probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF ROCK

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

In Re: Estate of
Mary Ann Ackerman
Deceased

Court File No.: 67-PR-20-273

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION OF
INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP,
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on 01/04/2021, at 8:30 A.M., a hearing will be held in this Court at Rock County Courthouse, Luverne, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship of the Decedent, and for the appointment of Mary Brown, whose address is 714 N. Freeman, Luverne, MN 56156 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised,

the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

Dated: December 8, 2020

/s/ Terry Vajrt
District Court Judge

Attorney for Petitioner
Donald R. Klosterbuer
Klosterbuer & Haubrich, LLP
120 N. McKenzie, PO Box 538
Luverne, MN 56156
Attorney License No: 0056674
Telephone: (507) 283-9111
FAX: (507) 283-9113
Email: drklosterbuer@khlawmn.com

(12-17, 12-24)

New Creation Community Church assumes name

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true ownership of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: **New Creation Community Church**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:

575 County Highway 4, Beaver Creek, MN 56116 USA

NAMEHOLDER(S):

Name: **New Creation Ministries, Inc.**

Address: **575 County Highway 4, Beaver Creek, MN 56116 USA**

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Signature : /s/ **Kate Anderson**

MAILING ADDRESS: 575 County Highway 4, Beaver Creek, MN 56116

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: katearn@gmail.com

PHONE NUMBER: None provided

(12-17, 12-24)

Big Top Tents and Events assumes name

MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME
MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to

that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true ownership of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: **Big Top Tents and Events**

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:

321 W. Hatting St., Luverne, MN 56156 USA

NAMEHOLDER(S):

Name: **Big Top Tent Rentals, LLC**

ADDRESS:

110 S. Minnesota Ave., PO Box 2700 Sioux Falls, SD 57101 USA

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Signature : /s/ **Stacey Smidt**

MAILING ADDRESS: None provided

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: stacey.smidt@gmail.com

PHONE NUMBER: None provided

(12-17, 12-24)

Kremin probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF ROCK

PROBATE COURT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

In Re: Estate of

Alberta Mae Kremin, a/k/a/ Alberta Kremin,
Deceased

Court File No.: 67-PR-20-256

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

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 25th day of January, 2021, at 8:30 O'clock A.M., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Rock County Court-house, Luverne, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship and for the appointment of Nicole Wilhelmi, whose address is 117 S. Dakota Street, Steen, Minnesota 56173, as administrator of the estate of the above named decedent in supervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, said administrator will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the administrators shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

Dated: December 8, 2020

/s/ Terry Vajrt
District Court Judge

Paul A. Vis
Attorney for Petitioner
Eisma and Eisma
130 East Main
Luverne, MN 56156
(507) 283-4828
I. D. #297550

Court Administrator

(COURT SEAL)

(12-17, 12-24)

City of Luverne seeks bids by Jan. 19

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids will be received by the City of Luverne of Rock County, Minnesota for the proposed addition and renovations for Luverne Aquatics & Fitness Center until 2:00 p.m., local time on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. The bid letting will be held in the City of Luverne Council Chambers, 305 E Luverne St, Luverne, MN 56156.

A pre-bid meeting will be held Tuesday, December 22 at 10:00 a.m., local time at the Luverne Aquatics and Fitness Center, 802 N Blue Mound Ave, Luverne, MN 56156. If COVID restrictions are in place, the meeting will be held virtually and Contractors will need to contact Sam Honerman at (507) 449-5036 to schedule a time to tour the building. Copies of the Plans and Specifications will be made available electronically (pdf format). Technical questions shall be directed to CO-OP Architecture, LLC, Sioux Falls, South Dakota at 605-334-9999 or justin@co-oparch.com.

Bids shall be submitted to the City of Luverne in a sealed envelope with the name and address of the bidder clearly identified on the envelope and the words "Bid for Luverne Aquatics & Fitness Center". All bidders shall take note of the AIA Document A701 "Instructions to Bidders", and the AIA Document A201 "General Conditions of the Contract for Construction". Faxed bids will not be accepted; nor, will faxed bid adjustments be accepted. One combined bid will be accepted for complete construction (all general, mechanical, electrical, etc., material and labor) as required to provide a complete project.

Nobiddermaywithdrawbidfor30daysfollowingthebidopeningwithoutawrittenrequestexplainingthecauseofthewithdrawalandwithout written consent of the Owner after reviewing the cause.

Liquidated damages shall be in effect for this project. See Bid Form, Agreement for Construction and the General Conditions for details.

The Contractor and all subcontractors shall submit to the Owner a signed statement verifying compliance with each of the criteria described in the State of Minnesota "Responsible Contractor" law as codified in Minnesota Statute section 16C.285. See the Instructions to Bidders for more details.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a certified check, a cashier's check or draft certified or issued by a state or national bank, in the amount of at least five percent (5%) of the total amount of the bid, payable to the City of Luverne; or in lieu thereof, bidder may furnish a bid bond in the amount of not less than ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid, such bond to be issued by a surety authorized to do business in the State of Minnesota and payable to the City of Luverne as a guarantee that such bidder will enter into a contract with the City for the work described in the bid and as specified.

The City of Luverne reserves the right to reject any part of, or all bids, and to waive any informalities or irregularities therein.

City of Luverne of Rock County, Minnesota

John Call,

City Administrator

(12-17, 12-24)



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(12-17, 12-21)

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Basement room for rent: All utilities paid; includes tv/internet; washer/dryer. \$550 rent. Please text 605-799-6587 or call 605-749-2314. (12.10-12-26)

For Rent in Luverne: Two-bedroom apartment with central air, on-site laundry, includes water, heat and one-stall garage. No smoking and no pets. 507-920-0406. (12.12-12.31)

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CARDS OF THANKS

The family of Darrell Brown would like to thank you for your phone calls, memorial gifts and cards of sympathy following the passing of our dear husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Thanks to the Tuff Nursing Home and Sanford Hospital for all of his wonderful care.
Family of Darrell Brown
(12.12-12.17)

EMPLOYMENT

New Prairie Insulation of Beaver Creek has full time insulation installer positions available. Monday-Friday; Health insurance, vacation pay, holiday pay, retirement plan, bonus, opportunities; will train. Call 605-376-3006. (tc)

Great Plains Processing, Luverne has an opening for an Operator/Packaging Tech to work Sunday - Thursday 11 p.m.-7 a.m. Full benefits package. Starting wage \$18/hour + Shift dif. WITH RAISE after 90 day review. Fill out an application at 301 S Walnut Ave, www.gpp-co.com or email hr@gpp-co.com (12.3-12.19)

EMPLOYMENT

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

FULL TIME POSITION
ROCK COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF

The Rock County Administrator is accepting applications for a Deputy Sheriff to work in the Rock County Sheriff's office until the position is filled. This position assists the Rock County Sheriff's Office in enforcing the law and the protection of life and property throughout the county. Work is performed on a rotating shift basis. Applicants must possess a high school diploma or equivalent and a two-year degree in law enforcement or related field, plus an eight-week skills course. Upon being hired, the officer must either be eligible to be licensed, or be a fully licensed Peace Officer in order to comply with the post standards in Minnesota. In addition, the applicant must have completed the following training: qualified in the use of firearms, First Responder course, possess a current CPR card and a valid Minnesota class "D" driver's license. The starting salary range is \$23.37 – \$25.28, with the maximum range at \$33.26; additional compensation includes overtime, shift differential, standby and call back pay. Full time positions are union eligible and include an excellent benefit package. To obtain a full job description and an application for this position, please visit county's web site at https://www.co.rock.mn.us/job_opportunities/index.php. For additional information please contact Sheriff Evan Verbrugge at 507-283-5000 or by email at evan.verbrugge@co.rock.mn.us or contact the Rock County Administrator's office at 507-283-5065. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. An Equal Opportunity Employer

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED
Age 55+ workers needed for part-time custodial work at the Adrian & Beaver Creek rest areas on I-90
Contact Green View 651-639-1913

EMPLOYMENT

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (LPN)

The Minnesota Veterans Home is seeking applicants for Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) positions.
Evening shift: 2:45 pm-11:15 pm. \$21.61/hr depending on experience.
Every other weekend and some holidays required.
Excellent benefits including:
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Midwest Fire Equipment & Repair Company is looking for a full time Fire Apparatus Plumbing Assembler. Our team is looking for an individual who has a positive attitude, organizational skills and can work in a fast-paced professional manufacturing environment.
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Duties: Assembling plumbing & electrical subcomponents, assist in implementation and sustainment of SS and lean efforts.
Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. This position requires strong work ethic and mechanical aptitude. Experience in the fire apparatus field, and/or plumbing or electrical assembly a bonus, but not required.
Applications are available online at www.midwestfire.com. Please email completed application or resume to darcie@midwestfire.com. Applications will be accepted through January 4, 2021



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* Mailed as periodicals. Allow up to 2 weeks out of state.



Greg and Connie VandeVelde hang an ornament for Greg's late mother, Clare Vande Velde in Kenneth.



(Lori Sorenson photos)



Kenneth community remembers loved ones

At left, Kenneth Mayor Keith Hoven addresses the crowd before the tree-lighting in the city's park. Above, Kenneth resident Joyce Schelhaas takes in the evening with family and friends.



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Rock County
STAR HERALD

A note from Mayor Patrick T. Baustian

The news from Governor Walz that a COVID-19 vaccine will soon be available in Minnesota is great to hear for sure, but we can't let our guard down. Let's enjoy the Christmas season while being COVID-19 responsible and maybe next year we can reminisce about how we wore masks to church on Christmas Eve in 2020 or how we had a Zoom family gathering for our gift exchange. Please stay safe.

Mask up and Merry Christmas!

Over 183,000 Doses Expected To Be Distributed By The End Of The Year

DETAILED DISTRIBUTION PLAN*

Phase 1A: Long-term care residents/workers, health care workers
Phase 1B: Other essential workers (EMS workers, teachers, etc.)
Phase 1C: Adults 65+ or with medical conditions

*The plan is subject to change. MDH officials say there are priority groups within each phase.

Both Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines have a 95% efficiency rate.

STAY SAFE MN

COVID-19 INCUBATION TIMELINE
COVID-19 HAS UP TO A 14 DAY INCUBATION PERIOD

DAY 0
MIKE WAS EXPOSED TO COVID-19.

DAY 5
MIKE GOT TESTED & THE RESULTS WERE NEGATIVE.

DAY 8
MIKE THOUGHT HE WAS OKAY. HE ATTENDED DINNER WITH FRIENDS AND A LARGE FAMILY GATHERING. HE WAS CONTAGIOUS ON DAYS 8 & 9 (48 HOURS BEFORE SYMPTOMS) & NOW HE HAS EXPOSED 23 PEOPLE.

DAY 10
MIKE BECAME SYMPTOMATIC & TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19.

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

Luverne MINNESOTA
Love the life!

Sincerely,

Mayor Patrick T. Baustian

Minnesota's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan

Tuesday, Gov. Tim Walz addressed plans for a vaccine rollout in Minnesota once one is approved in the United States.

Health officials have said that health care workers and long-term care residents would be among the first to get the shots in the state.

"We're here today on a day that didn't even seem possible when this started," Walz said during the announcement. "We've been working on this for months; [Minnesota was] the template for what they were doing with this nationally."

Walz says the biggest thing is for Minnesotans to feel comfortable with the data and distribution plan as a lot of work has been put into it with no corners skipped. The state will be partnering with both the federal government and local communities to make the plan happen.

Walz reiterated to Minnesotans that it's important to listen to local and public health officials in this process, not social media.

The governor said a statewide coalition has been huge for the state. Walz feels confident in how the state will be able to distribute vaccines, as in just 13 weeks, over 2.1 million flu vaccine doses had been administered in the state.

The federal government will tell the state how much vaccine is given. Then, the federal committee decides priorities for the vaccine, and the state committee will decide how to get the vaccine to top priority Minnesotans. In week one of vaccine distribution, the state will receive 46,800 doses of the Pfizer vaccine. In the first month, a total of 183,400 vaccine doses (combined Pfizer and Moderna doses) will be distributed. Both versions of the vaccines require two doses.

Walz noted that the final vaccine distribution schedule isn't set in stone and is constantly changing. He also acknowledged that the plan is well below the state's population initially but says it can help a lot with targeting health care workers and long-term care residents. More vaccine production is expected to ramp up as the process goes on.

The state is lining up with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidance on who should get the vaccine first. In a three-phase approach, state health care workers and those in long-term care facilities will be first. The second phase includes people who are most at risk for serious complications from the virus. Then the third phase includes the general population.

If the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approves the vaccine, Americans could start getting vaccinated as early as next week. But even so, Walz warned the state is still far from getting back to normal.

"It's not going to happen when the first needle goes in an arm here in a week or so – that's just the very beginning," Walz said. "And so I think when you're seeing this: 5,000 cases, hospital capacity up, an average of 30, 40 deaths a day, we're going to have to mitigate."

The Pfizer vaccine has a federal hearing on Thursday that could give it the green light. Moderna's is set for a week later. **Both vaccines have a 95% efficiency rate.**

Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner Jan Malcolm said it will most likely take six months before the vaccine process is well underway and a return to normal starts to become reality. However, slowing the community spread during that time will be a key factor.

MDH Director of Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention and Control Division Kris Ehresmann said there will be 25 "hubs" in the state where Minnesotans can get vaccinated. She adds from the "hubs," they will then be sent to 180 other locations.

From KSTP News

From Luverne Elementary School
Second-graders



Santa Claus

101 Santa Claus Lane
North Pole, AK 99705

Shop Local

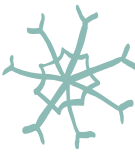
Luverne
Love the life!



Mrs. Kristin Schomacker's second-graders write letters to Santa



Dear Santa,
I like toys a lot. I am good this year.
How good you are. I love you Elf.
Your friend,
Ellie Hoogland



Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I want a mini dirt bike.
My mom wants a new car.
Your friend,
Chandler Papik



Dear Santa,
How are you doing Santa? Can I please have a
real phone, iphone 5. Thank you!
Your friend,
Erin Mongold



Dear Santa,
I want 1 million dollars, a lamborghini, and a
google of money. I am good this year.
Your friend,
Kullen Radisewitz-Scheer



Dear Santa,
I'm really nice to my teacher this year. I want a
slime kit for Christmas. My mom wants a Roomba
for Christmas. Thank you! What is it like in the
North Pole? Thank you!
Your friend,
Mollee Pick



Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. You should give
my brother coal, he has been naughty. But for
Christmas, I want an iphone.
Your friend,
Hannah Hess



Dear Santa,
I have been good. And what I want for Christmas
is a horse and a real baby. Santa can you take a
picture of you? And if you don't have a horse I
will just stick with the picture.
Your friend,
Kenzi Petersen



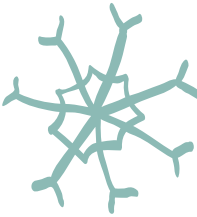
Dear Santa,
I am very good. I want this for Christmas, a Nin-
tendo Switch. I want this for Bridget, my sister, a
phone. I am so excited for you to get this! What
is in your village?
Your friend,
Clara Sandager



Dear Santa,
I've been good. What is at the North Pole? What
is your favorite snack? I would like a puppy.
Your friend,
Silas Dopheide



Dear Santa,
Give me a GoPro! I am ok.
Your friend,
Rocco Reisch



Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. What is it like in the
North Pole? I want a Nerf gun for Christmas.
Your friend,
Liam Wolthuizen



Dear Santa,
I've been good this year. This year I want a Nerf
gun. What's it like at the North Pole? How many
elves are there?
Your friend,
Joss Johnson



Dear Santa,
I want a woodworking kit. How is Rudolph? I
was nice this year.
Your friend,
Jacob Bullerman



Dear Santa,
I have been good. I believe in you. I want a gold
hockey stick. I want a rare Nerf gun.
Your friend,
Brecken Van Belle



Dear Santa,
I have been good to my friend. I want the last
piece to my LOL snowman.
Your friend,
Athena DeBoer



Dear Santa,
I want a Fairy Flier, the pink please. I have been good.
Please give my puppy a toy. Please! Please! Please!
Your friend,
Gemma Zix



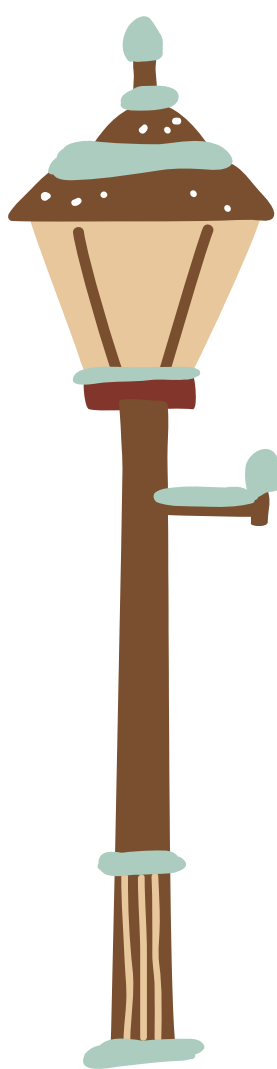
Dear Santa,
I have been very good this year. How have the
reindeer been? How have you been? Okay, now
can I have Hot Wheels?
Your friend,
Levi Baker



Dear Santa,
I have been very good. I want a real puppy and
two bones that say Tucker. You are the best. We
love you Santa.
Your friend,
Lucy Knips



Dear Santa,
I've been good this year. This is what I want for
Christmas, a Nerf gun. I don't have any questions
but I have a lot of presents that I want.
Your friend,
Bentley Leicher





Mrs. Laura Louwagie's second-graders write letters to Santa



Dear Santa,
Please bring a Pokemon card deck for Hank because we both like Pokemon. How is Mrs. Claus? Please bring a good and fun Christmas for everyone because I don't want anyone to go into Christmas without the Christmas spirit.
Sincerely,
Josh Luitjens



Dear Santa,
Please bring Evren a toy LOL doll because she does not have a lot. Do the reindeer still like carrots?
A very good girl,
Eden Janiszski



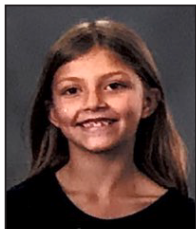
Dear Santa,
Please bring Kyra an OMG doll because she has been asking for one. I'm going to put cookies and milk under the tree for you.
Sincerely,
Adrianna Spoonhour



Dear Santa,
Please give my mom a clean house because she wants to relax. You should be looking for the key on our door.
Sincerely,
Emery Vanderburg



Dear Santa,
Please bring Nolan a hoverboard because he is nice. Thank you, you are nice. I like you, you are the best.
Sincerely,
Ava DeKam



Dear Santa,
Please bring Kalysa a cat because she really wants one. She also wants clothes. How are you doing?
Sincerely,
Kyra Kremen



Dear Santa,
Please bring Nevaeh a big teddy bear because she has been a good girl. Please get my sister Sam some Pockies for Christmas please.
Sincerely,
Kali Johnson



Dear Santa,
Please bring Trenton some Airpods because we don't want to hear his music at nighttime. How is Rudolph doing? I've heard songs about you.
Sincerely,
Madelynne Carson



Dear Santa,
Please bring Mavis a book because she always reads them a lot. She loves them. Can you get her one?
Love,
Hazel Mollberg



Dear Santa,
Please bring Bronly a toy manure tank because he has been wanting his own for a long time. How is Tippy my elf doing?
Love,
Coyer Boyenga



Dear Santa,
Please bring my mom a new pen because all of the pens she has are old and don't work out so good. She has been pretty good.
Sincerely,
Morgan McGuire



Dear Santa,
Please bring Zoey a phone, a Barbie Review set, a hoverboard, and LOL dolls. She's never had one. I like you Santa. Please bring her the toys.
Love,
Honor Petersen



Dear Santa,
Please bring Asher a gaming setup because he loves playing video games. I have some questions. How many presents do you deliver in one night? I hope this Christmas Rudolph will guide your sleigh. Merry Christmas!
Sincerely,
Elias Barron



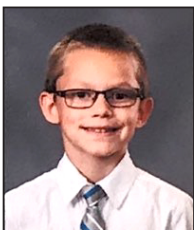
Dear Santa,
Please bring a Lego set for Cooper because he's been good this year. For my sister Lainey, please bring her a real cat. My sister really likes cats.
Sincerely,
Tucker Thone



Dear Santa,
Please bring Mollee a Barbie because she loves Barbies a lot. What is your favorite kind of cookie?
Love,
Eddie Edstrom



Dear Santa,
Please bring Payton some Airpods because she always listens to music. Do you like special cookies? How is Rudolph doing? How is Mrs. Claus?
Sincerely,
Kendyl Behr



Dear Santa,
Please bring \$1000 for Lucas, my mama, and Damion. Lucas would buy an Xbox 1. Mama would buy a new home. Damion would buy a Scooby Doo toy. How is Rudolph doing?
Love,
Cylus Nieman



Dear Santa,

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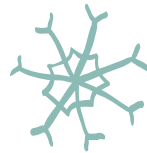




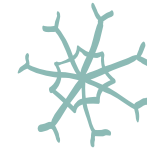
Mrs. Lori Nath's second-graders write letters to Santa



Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you? Please bring my sister some pacifiers because we need more and she likes them.
Love,
Gianna Soules



Dear Santa,
Please bring Kane a Hoverboard because he wants one. James would like a table.
Love,
David Waddington



Dear Santa,
Please bring my mom a ring and my dad a cup because they work hard. I want a OMG LOL doll.
Love,
Summer Aning



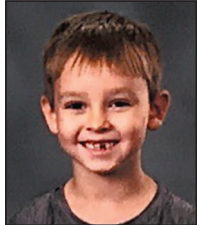
Dear Santa,
Please bring my mom a coffee cup because her favorite one broke. Santa, can you give some gifts too like a Nerf gun or Squishies.
Love,
Henry DePuper



Dear Santa,
Please bring my mom a necklace because she loves necklaces. Please bring my dad new socks.
Love,
Addisyn Lais



Dear Santa,
Please bring my mom a thick blanket because my mom gets cold a lot. And, the picture by the milk and cookies is for you.
Love,
Harrison Ainsworth



Dear Santa,
Please bring my mom a new coffee cup. Mom deserves it. I want a baby Yoda.
Love,
Aidan Reese



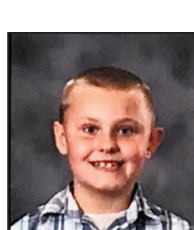
Dear Santa,
Please bring a snowglobe with two palm trees for my mom. How are you doing? I want a Hoverboard please!
Love,
Aniyah Rivas



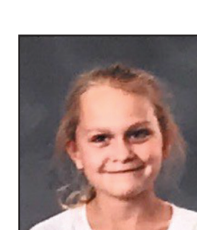
Dear Santa,
Please bring my brother a dog because he plays with me. I saw you at the mall.
Love,
Eli Hernandez



Dear Santa,
Hi, how are you doing? Please bring me a ballerina Barbie. Thanks Santa. Oh and I want a ballerina Barbie because it has a skirt. Oh and my brother wants a Paw Patrol Ryders ATV.
Love,
Riley Van Belle



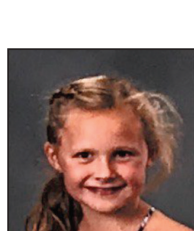
Dear Santa,
Hi Santa! My family needs a lot of stuff so can you bring a new cup for my dad. He broke his favorite cup. Can you get my mom cough drops? Can you get me a real desk? Please bring my sister a stuffed animal.
Love,
Hunter Vander Vliet



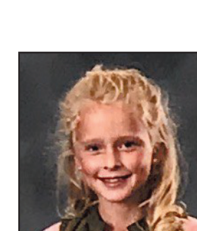
Dear Santa,
Please bring my little sister some dinosaurs. Please bring my dog a bone. I really want some books.
Love,
Ashlyn Hemme



Dear Santa,
Hola Santa! Please bring Dad a car because he has been working hard making money for presents for Christmas. I'll make cookies for you at Christmas. I know you love cookies. That's why I'm making cookies for just you. I'm going to buy carrots for your reindeer.
Love,
Amelia Lanoue



Dear Santa,
Please bring Sienna an Elf on the Shelf because she would like it. And, for something for myself, I would like a Lego set.
Love,
Alexis Wrigg



Dear Santa,
Please bring Eva a big toy because I love her!! Eva is the best dog in the world!! She loves me, and I love her too!!
Love,
Allie Johnson



Dear Santa,
Please bring Riley nine Barbies because she likes them. And we can play with them. When she has no one to play with, she can pretend.
Love,
Emersyn Roos



Dear Santa,
Can you get my friend Reese a ball gun for Christmas? He did a lot of my chores with me. Can I get a Black Widow superhero toy?
Love,
Kamdyn Chapa



Dear Santa,
Please bring Lily a bag of grain because we're getting low on grain for Mia. We need her in shape.
Love,
Seth Ehlers



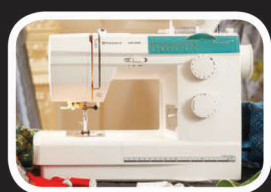
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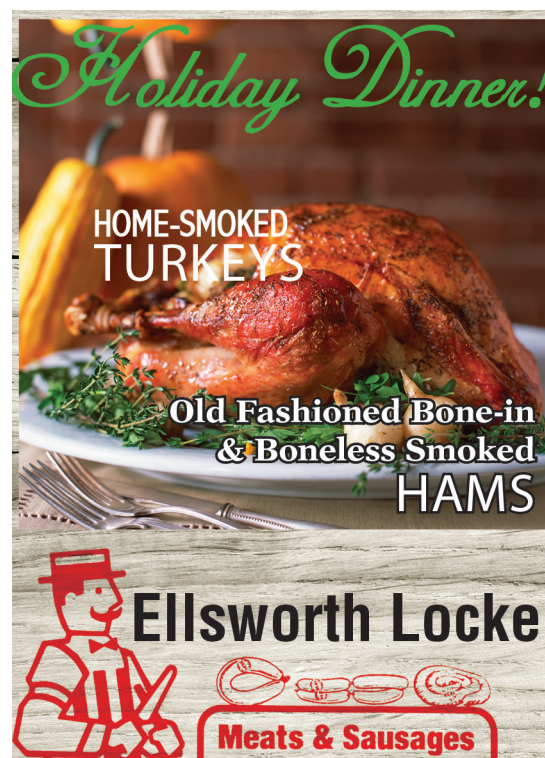
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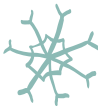
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Mrs. Kelly Bergan's second-graders write letters to Santa



Dear Santa,
I've been good this year. I helped my mom clean the basement. Santa, I really want a german shepard puppy. My mom needs a cover for her Apple watch. Merry Christmas! Santa, I will give you cookies and milk and carrots for your reindeer.
Love,
Willow Domagala



Dear Santa,
I've been good this year. I've let the dogs out many times. I would like a nerf gun. Also, could you bring a knee brace for my grandma? Have a Merry Christmas!
Love,
Breckin Gallman



Dear Santa,
I've been good this year. I helped my brother clean his bedroom. Can I have an Adopt Me? Can you bring a monster truck for my brother?
Love,
Aurora Nettifee



Dear Santa,
I've been good this year. I have cleaned my toy room and I picked my toys up. I want LED lights please and can you get my friend Romi an australian shepard? I will leave cookies and milk and carrots.
Love,
Jaeva Evans



Dear Santa,
I've been good, and I cleaned my room. I really want a hover board. Can you bring my friend Tighly some friends to play with? I will leave you some milk and cookies.
Love,
Harper Hulstein



Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl this year. I used nice words and I fed my cat. Can I please have a hamster? Can you bring a hoverboard for my sister? My family will leave something to eat on the flight and at my house too.
Love,
Mila Rensink



Dear Santa,
I've been a good boy this year. I helped my mom with the dishes and garbage. Can I have a dog? My brother wants a new bike.
Love,
Riley Hacker



Dear Santa,
I've been good this year! I played with my family. I would like a hover board. My mom wants some sunglasses because she lost hers. Have a Merry Christmas.
Love,
Jameson Drost



Dear Santa,
I've been good this year. I help my mom. I've been doing my homework, and I make my bed. Can you bring me a hoverboard? I hope you have a nice Christmas!
Love,
Emma Petersen



Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I have cleaned my laundry and did the laundry. I want an iPad and please bring my sister an American Girl doll. I will leave you milk and cookies.
Love,
Logan Kempema



Dear Santa,
I've been good this year. I have cleaned my room and I help with the laundry. I want a new watch and please give my sister a Barbie doll. I hope you like the milk and cookies.
Love,
Sydney Van Grootheest



Dear Santa,
I have been good. I cleaned the bathroom. Can you bring me a toy phone and my dad would like a Nebraska cup. Merry Christmas!
Love,
Sophia Westra



Dear Santa,
I've been a good kid this year. I helped put the dishes away. So I would like it if you could give me a phone. Could you bring a LPS wolf for my cousin? Please and thank you a lot! I will leave an apple and some cookies for you. Hope you have a good Christmas.
Love,
Boston Groff



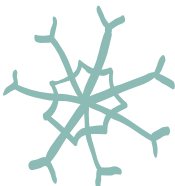
Dear Santa,
I've been nice this year. I helped my mom with the dishes. I also cleaned the living room. Could you please bring me an electric scooter for Christmas? Can you bring Mrs. Bergan and Mrs. Chapa a scented candle? I will leave you some cookies. Please don't forget about my dogs Lilly and Daisy. I hope you have a Merry Christmas!
Love,
Hadley Louwagie



Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I was picking up the house yesterday. Can you bring my friend Honor a scrunchy and I would like a Barbie dream house. Merry Christmas!
Love,
DesiRae Miller-Goettig



Dear Santa,
I have helped my grandma and I did my chores. Please bring my brother, Cash, Anti Venom and I want a Toxin. Merry Christmas.
Love,
Mason Apel



Dear Santa,
I've been a good kid this year. I do my homework, I do the dishes, and I watch my brother and my cat when there is no adult home. Can I please have an iPhone seven for Christmas and for my cat a toy with a string or a ball. I can't give you anything to eat or drink because my cat will get it. Merry Christmas!
Love,
Avery Van'tHof



Dear Santa,
I've been good this year. I have cleaned my room and I've vacuumed it. I really want a toy of Mechagodzilla. My sister wants a Lego friends waterpark set. Also, I will leave you an apple so you don't get coronavirus. I hope you like the apple. Have a Merry Christmas!
Love,
Sawyer Nath



Dear Santa,
I was good this year by listening to my mom sometimes. I help my friends at school. I want a Lego Minecraft set. I would like you to get my teacher something she will use every day.
Love,
Duane Stoel



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