



Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, December 24, 2020

Arrival of Covid-19 vaccine brings 'joy and relief' to health workers

By Lori Sorenson

The first of Rock County's COVID-19 vaccine arrived at Sanford Luverne last week, marking a pivotal moment in the community's response to the pandemic.

For many of them, the experience was emotional and celebratory.

"I cannot even express how meaningful it is," Dr. Judy Chesley said about receiving her COVID-19 vaccination. "Tears of joy. Really."

In a Dec. 18 social media post, she said she hopes the vaccine alleviates anxiety about her family and her health care family becoming seriously ill or dying from the virus.

"I've been in Luverne over 20 years, and I've never had this many people so sick for so long — young and old, healthy and unhealthy," Chesley wrote. "Nobody deserves that."

Dr. Zach Nolz was among the first Sanford Luverne staff members to receive the vaccine.

He echoed Chesley's sentiments. "There was a feeling of joy and relief



Environmental services staff member Sharon Miller is tearful as Danielle LaFleur administers the vaccine. Her husband, Tony Miller, was the first death recorded in Rock County 12 weeks ago. She encourages others to get the vaccine to prevent more painful losses like the one her family endured.

in the facility on Friday after our first round of vaccinations.

"I have seen the destruction this

virus can do first-hand, and this vaccine will help keep me and our health care team safe so we can keep taking

"I cannot even express how meaningful it is, I've been in Luverne over 20 years, and I've never had this many people so sick for so long — young and old, healthy and unhealthy,"

— Dr. Judy Chesley, Sanford Luverne

care of our patients."

He said the vaccine provides another important tool toward conquering the pandemic.

We are all so relieved that we are less likely to bring COVID home to our loved ones and that we have established another layer of protection for our most vulnerable patients."

He said he looks forward to the vaccine being available community-wide. "I would urge everyone to take it."

So far, more than 90 Sanford Luverne personnel received the vaccine since it arrived Dec. 18 and

another 75 to 80 will be immunized between now and Dec. 30.

"This is a big day for us, and a milestone moment in the fight against COVID-19," said Tammy Loosbrock, senior director at Sanford Luverne and Sanford Health Rock Rapids.

"We recognize this is only the beginning of a long process to vaccinate our community, but having a safe and effective vaccine is a huge step in the right direction to help bring the pandemic under control."

Sanford Health expects to con-

Covid-19 vaccine arrives/see 2A

Elementary students, staff look forward to return to 'normal'

By Mavis Fodness

When Luverne Elementary students and staff return to school after the holiday break Jan. 4, in-person instruction will be a welcome relief.

"We know the safest place for students is in school," said Principal Stacy Gillette. "Going to school is normal."

She said school routine provides mental and emotional comfort to kindergarten through fifth-grade students, and mask-wearing and routine hand sanitation kept the coronavirus from originating from the building.

In November, however, because the district's incident command team couldn't track the outside spread of COVID-19, instruction at Luverne Elementary switched to a hybrid model.

Hybrid at Luverne Elementary means half of each grade meets in person every other day. Instead of 550 students on a daily basis, only about 225 were in the building with staff.

When students are not in school, they complete paper assignments from home.

Teachers prepare for learning switch

With hybrid learning teachers switched young learners to an online platform that they can use when they're in school or at home.

Second-grade teachers Lori Nath and Laura Louwagie familiarized students and families with Google Classroom.

"We did introduce Google Classroom right away in the fall," Nath said.

Students and parents learned how to check daily assignments, classroom announcements, current lesson materials and complete attendance. Some elementary classrooms made the same connection using a program called Seesaw.

A routine developed before the November learning change. Students worked in Google Classroom while still meeting in person.

"We wanted to get them used to Google Classroom just in case we went to hybrid or distance learning," Louwagie said.

A common platform wasn't used

Luverne hybrid learning model/see page 3A



Photos courtesy of Rock Ranch

Mrs. Claus visits Tuff Home on horseback

Volunteers from Rock Ranch dressed as Mrs. Claus and her elves Saturday afternoon for a ride around the Tuff Memorial Home and Tuff Village Assisted Living in Hills. The coronavirus pandemic canceled the Ranch's Senior Saddles program, which encourages senior citizens to travel to the farm west of Hills to view, pet and/or ride the horses.

Ranch owner and manager Marie LaRock said one volunteer suggested taking the horses to the residents. "After that comment, we all jumped on board with what we could do and how we could do it. Lots of excitement followed!"

Pictured above, riders with Rock Ranch pose for a picture in front of the Tuff Village in Hills and included (from left) Marie LaRock, Pamela Kopp, Vickie Busswitz, Dolores Bundeson and Patti Swenson.

At right, Patti Swenson attaches a red nose to the pony named Spirit before leaving Rock Ranch for a trip to the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills.



City salaries to increase 3.25 percent

By Lori Sorenson

City of Luverne union employees are about to start the second year of a three-year contract, and at a Dec. 8 meeting, the council approved year-end resolutions that included wage increases for 2021.

The pay plan, effective Jan. 1, will be adjusted to a 3.25 percent increase for 2021, and in the third year there will be another 3.25 percent increase for 2022.

Non-union, administrative and department head salaries for 2021 will also increase 3.25 percent

for 2021.

The following increases include step and lane changes and account for additional duties where applicable.

City Administrator John Call's salary increases from \$131,730 to \$136,011.

City Clerk Jessica Mead from \$73,715 to \$77,210.

Finance Director Barb Berghorst from \$112,694 to \$117,499.

Accountant Candy Reese from \$78,749 to \$82,410.

Deputy Finance Clerk Robyn

Wessels from \$88,400 to \$92,352.

EDA Director Holly Sammons from \$72,675 to \$76,128.

Building Official Chad McClure from \$77,709 to \$81,307.

Public Works Supervisor John Stoffel from \$87,194 to \$91,104.

Water/Wastewater Supervisor Al Lais from \$95,618 to \$99,819.

Pool Manager Sam Honerman from \$73,715 to \$77,210.

Assist. Pool Manager Michelle DeKam from \$51,584 to \$54,350.

City salary increases/see page 3A

Sandbulte, Deutsch retire from school board

By Mavis Fodness

The two retiring Luverne School Board members adjourned the final meeting of 2020 and ended their service on the board.

Colleen Deutsch, who served 20 years, made the motion to close the meeting with Shelley Sandbulte (10 years) seconding the motion.

Vice chairman Eric Hartman conducted the informal tribute to each before accepting the motions. Sandbulte, who works as a clinical

psychologist, participated in the meeting via Zoom.

"Shelley: you possess a tender-hearted and sweet presence, sensitivity and compassion," he said.

"These traits guided you in all decisions in a manner to always do what is best for our students. You meticulously focus on listening at all that is said in the boardroom and, likewise, what is said in personal conversation

School board retirees/see page 2A



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Opinion
Obituaries

Page 4A
Page 7A

Sports
Public notices

3B
5B

Volume 145, Number 52

Luverne, MN 56156 USPS 468-040

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County	Total Cases	DAILY average in last 7 days	Percent Change
Rock	1002	5.1	+3.2%
Pipestone	859	3.3	+2.2%
Nobles	3,469	10.6	+1.7%
Minnehaha (SD)	24,064	125.1	+3.7%
Lyon (IA)	1,197	7.4	+4.5%

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

Date Range	11/1-11/14	11/8-11/21	11/15-11/28	11/22-12/5
Rate	184.85	261.34	249.65	199.72

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:

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

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

Sponsored by: Rock County Emergency Management

Covid-19 vaccine arrives at Sanford Luverne/continued from 1A

tinue receiving weekly shipments of vaccine, with initial doses prioritized for front-line health care workers and long-term care residents.

The guidelines for vaccination priorities are set by the CDC.

The next to be immunized will be adults over 75 and frontline workers, including teachers, police officers, fire fighters, prison officers, grocery store workers.

The next priority will be adults over 65 and adults with high-risk medical conditions. This phase will also include essential non-frontline workers, construction, waste, trucking, food service, etc.

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



Sanford Luverne photos/1224 first covid vaccinations

Dr. Zach Nolz gets a shot from clinical supervisor nurse Lana Baerenwald Friday at Sanford Luverne. He was among the first in to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 mRNA vaccine last week. “There was a feeling of joy and relief in the facility on Friday after our first round of vaccinations,” Nolz said. “I have seen the destruction this virus can do firsthand, and this vaccine will help keep me and our health care team safe so we can keep taking care of our patients.”

‘Please stop politicizing it’

Dr. Chesley meanwhile is urging the community to take the pandemic seriously. “It’s a real concern,” Chesley wrote. “It’s not

me or my family or friends sitting around watching TV, wringing our hands, and

dreaming up problems. It’s here at my doorstep.”

Chesley’s post generated more than 70 comments and 85 shares, many of them from the medical community.

“Thank you for that message,” wrote Sanford Luverne employee Sue Sandbulte.

“I had tears today, too, as I got my vaccination. What a great day! God bless all our health care workers. ... There is real hope in this vaccine backed by scientists and doctors. Praise God!”

Sanford Luverne Clinic Director Laurie Jensen replied to Chesley’s post. “Amen! I felt real joy yesterday for the first time in months,” Jensen wrote. “I pray we get to public

vaccination very soon.”

In her remarks Friday, Chesley strongly encouraged the public to avoid spreading misinformation about the pandemic.

“Please stop politicizing it. ... It diminishes the lives lost,” Chesley said. “Those lives were all precious.”

Along those same lines, she warned people to avoid disinformation about the vaccine.

“Quit spreading false crap about microchips, trackers, fetal tissue and heavy metals being in the vaccine. It’s not true,” she shared on Facebook.

“For those who are wearing masks and socially distancing, thanks and keep it up. For those of you that are not, it’s never too late to do the right thing.”



Pharmacist Sarah Wrigg reconstitutes the Pfizer vaccine just prior to Sanford Luverne staff receiving the vaccine. Pharmacists went through hours of education prior to receiving shipments in order to properly handle and reconstitute the vaccine.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wednesday frozen free meals available at Generations

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.

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

‘Read with McKenzie’ by Zoom

A work study student is available to help individual students with reading skills in 10-minute sessions on Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. The literacy program is called “Read with McKenzie.”

Contact the Rock County Library, 507-449-5040. The Zoom link is on the library facebook page.

Community input sought for digital readiness project

A pilot program through Purdue University aims to increase civic digital engagement in Rock County and a community survey will help the group develop an engagement plan. Paper copies of the survey are available at the Rock County Library, city offices and the Rock County Courthouse.

The 10-minute survey can also be completed online at <https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/RockCountyDigitalSurvey>. Surveys are accepted through Jan. 12.

Food Shelf implements cold weather procedures for patrons

The Rock County Food shelf has changed its curbside process for winter. Wait in line to park in one of the two parking spaces closest to the building.

One at a time, enter the building (masks and distancing required) to register and pick up vouchers. Be prepared for volunteers to put pre-boxed groceries in the car. As the parking spaces empty, the next cars can pull in.

The process will require patience. See the Rock County Food Shelf Facebook page for updates. Thanks-giving week schedule will be 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25.

Deutsch, Sandbulte retire from Luverne School Board/from 1A

“On behalf of myself, and I think everyone else in this room, thank you for your dedicated service to the Luverne School District, our citizens, our staff and especially to our students past, present and future.”

— Eric Hartman to Colleen Deutsch

anyone has had with you. You always looked after us with respect and concern in and out of the board meetings.”

Deutsch attended her final board meeting in person, and Hartman thanked her for her longevity and expertise.

“You’ve been that go-to person when the rest of us were looking for some experienced options or insight,” he said.

“On behalf of myself, and I think everyone else in this room, thank you for your dedicated service to the Luverne School District, our citizens, our staff and especially to our students past, present and future.”

Driver’s ed fees increase \$5, effective next session

Lisa Nath, Community Education director, asked board members to increase fees for the Student Driver’s

Education program.

The board approved the increase at their Dec. 17 meeting. Board chairman Jodi Bosch was not in attendance and did not vote.

Nath made the request in a letter to Superintendent Craig Oftedahl.

“I recommend we raise the fee to \$340 per student — \$5 higher than it was for the 2019-2020 Driver’s Education Program,” she wrote.

Nath estimated program expenses of \$29,401 includ-

ing classroom and behind-the-wheel training. With an estimated 90 eighth- and ninth-grade students enrolling in the program next year, the program would net a positive balance of \$1,591.

Fuel costs for the use of the district car for behind-the-wheel instruction remains the same at \$40.

Brian Snyder is the current classroom driver’s education instructor. Behind-the-wheel instructors are Paula Lammert, Don Plahn and Amy Labat.

In other business, board members:

- Accepted the resignation of Avery VanRoekel as junior varsity/ assistant volleyball coach, C-squad assistant girls’ basketball coach and JV assistant/assistant softball coach; Fabiana Brockberg as middle-high school paraprofessional; and Diana Erickson as Business Professionals of America adviser.
- Hired Sarah DeBeer as girls’ basketball C team coach, Katie Kopp as BPA adviser, Megan Elgersma as special services administrative assistant, Madison Crabtree as middle-high school paraprofessional, and Kaden Erickson, Lance Ripka and Makayla Sterrett as volunteers for the boys’ hockey, wrestling and girls’ hockey teams respectively.

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Nicholas Domagala,
Sheryl Staeffler



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District braces for decreased revenue next year

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne School Board members accepted the decline in the local levy for 2021 at their Dec. 17 meeting along with a larger-than-expected decline in enrollment.

Both issues could result in budget adjustments for the 2021-22 school year.

Board members set the state-determined levy at \$3.905 million for 2021, which represents a 4.4-percent decrease (\$180,000 less than this year's levy).

In 2020 the district levied \$4.084 million for the 2019-20 budget of more than \$17 million.

Business manager Marlene Mann outlined the revenue declines at the annual Truth in Taxation hearing.

The local levy makes up about 23.9 percent of the district's annual revenue.

The majority (70.9 percent) is received from state aid, which uses student enrollment and preschool census numbers to determine how much money the district will receive each year.

Federal programs (3.8 percent) and local sales tax and other sources (1.4 percent) make up the rest of the district's revenue sources.

"As I am putting the (revised) budget together, we will probably have about \$500,000 less in general education monies than we were anticipating," Mann said.

"It will be something for

us to monitor and how our enrollment turns out and how it shakes out."

Pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade enrollment for the current school year was at 1,202.

The enrollment for the upcoming school year is expected to drop to 1,149 students.

Superintendent Craig Oftedahl said the district doesn't track the exact reasons students leave the district, but this year's coronavirus pandemic had many parents leaving for other opportunities.

"We know where they (the students) go. We don't necessarily know why unless we hear that," Oftedahl said.

"At lot of times it is parent-driven because of jobs."

This year parents could also opt to enroll their students in an online academy or school from home.

Each option affects the amount of revenue the district receives annually.

The current year's general education state aid formula allows \$6,438 per student, which Mann said hasn't kept up with inflation. The per-pupil allowance increases to \$6,567 for the upcoming school year.

"There are other things tied to it as well, so by the time we get through the cycle of putting in what a student actually generates, it's a little over \$8,000," she said. "We have a negative."

The district's revised budget summary will be presented to board members in January.

City Salaries to increase/ continued from page 1A

Liquor Store Manager Kenny Rolling's salary will increase from \$71,614 to \$75,026.

Electric department salaries are paid from the city's \$600,000 contract with Missouri River Energy Services.

Those workers — Brian Remme, Mike Gangestad, Dakota Olson, Mike Buss and Jeff Bechthold — are MRES employees, and their salary information is not public.

Utility rates to increase 4.96 percent

In other business at their Dec. 8 meeting, the council set license fee rates and charges for city services.

The average city utility bill will increase 4.96 percent next year.

The council also set the \$2.3 million tax levy for 2021, agreed to distribute \$100,000 in additional pandemic relief funds for businesses, and approved plans for the \$5 million pool and fitness center project.

Community Education announces classes

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

Basketball for grades K-2 begins Jan. 9 for six sessions. Fee is \$15.

Men's Basketball meets Wednesday evenings from January through March. Fee is \$30.

Defensive Driving 4-hour refresher classes are scheduled for Jan. 21 or Feb. 11.

Distance Learning with Clay — for all ages (1-101). Pick up a chunk of clay the week of Jan. 25 and in your own home, with instructions from Jerry Deuschle, build your creation.

To then apply paint and for drying and firing, make appointment at the studio. Fee is \$20.

Register for Student Driver Education. Luverne school students grade 8 and older may register for February or June session for \$340, which includes 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of behind the wheel instruction.

The February option begins on Feb. 1 and will be virtual, so list your child's school email address when you register.



Mavis Fodness photo/1224 Luverne Hybrid Learning

Second-grade teacher Laura Louwagie explains how gifts made by her students at Luverne Elementary will be wrapped during class Dec. 14. Luverne Elementary operated under a hybrid-learning model where students attended in-person classes every other day. The lower number of students on a daily basis allowed students to be six feet away from each other.

Luverne hybrid learning model/continued from page 1A

extensively last March, when schools abruptly switched to distance learning.

This fall teachers prepared for months in case of a switch.

"We focus on more instruction in the classroom with more of the practice being done when they are at home," Nath said.

"Students are given a practice packet to do at home for their 'at-home learning day.' I feel like our day is very similar to how it is when all the students are here."

Chromebooks are issued to elementary students for use at home, if necessary.

Paper packets become norm for at-home use

However the second-grade teachers don't live-teach or record lessons for playback online like their middle- and high-school colleagues do in hybrid and distance-learning models.

At the elementary level, day care and/or work schedules often prevent parents from assisting their grade-school-aged children during the day, so teachers adapted to an age-appropriate method of take-home paper packets.

"We realize that there are a lot of parents working, so we tried to give practice work where students could be more independent," Louwagie said.

"We are covering more concepts at school because they are doing a lot of practice at home."

Safety features continue after holiday break

When in school, students and staff wear masks, keep six feet between desks and each other and use lots of hand sanitizer.

"Our staff has done an amazing job," said Principal Gillette. "They have been very diligent following the safety protocol."

She said she welcomes the new vaccine currently in use in the community and hopes it slows the positive cases and allows the elementary school to continue in-person instruction.

Until COVID-19 cases drop, the school will continue to follow health and safety recommendations inside the school.

Parent Amy Chapa is a board member of the school's booster club, Parents Partners In Education and works as a paraprofessional at the elementary school.

"I have seen that the kids are wonderful about keeping their masks on, the kids are distanced in the classroom, in the halls, at the lunch tables, classes are divided during recess so close contacts can be identified easily," Chapa said.

"Kids are required to wash their hands and are offered hand sanitizer frequently. Janitors are working extra hard to keep things extra clean right now. The change in how school now operates has been noticeable."

Learning milestones monitored for gaps

Teachers, as well as students, long for normalcy.

"I never imagined we would be teaching this way. We miss having all our students here every day," said Louwagie, who is in her 23rd year of teaching.

"We feel so grateful that we have not had to go to distance learning this year (like last spring). It would be much harder to teach new skills and individualize instruction if we weren't able to see them in person at least some of the time."

As in-person classes begin next month, each student will be assessed.

Gillette said instruction and early intervention teams watch test data and assess the mental health of students on a weekly basis.

"This was a concern when we came back this fall," she said.

Identifying potential deficiencies allows staff to intervene and, in the case of instruction, focus more practice on those areas.

"I feel like the kids seem to be doing better emotionally than they were in the spring," Louwagie said.

"At least now they get to see some of their classmates and teachers a few times a week. In the spring, they didn't see them at all except on the computer."

She said the pandemic highlighted that parental support is a critical element in education.

"When they are learning at home, it's essential to have parents checking in and making sure the students are keeping up on their work," Louwagie said.

"At this age, most students need reassurance they are doing it correctly and have followed instructions."

With the return to in-person learning, Luverne Elementary will also have new school hours. Classes will be in session from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.



Mavis Fodness photo/1224 Luverne Hybrid Learning

Students in Lori Nath's second-grade class at Luverne Elementary sign into Google Classroom before the start of in-person instruction Dec. 14. When students return from the holiday break on Jan. 4, classes will meet in person every day for all students.

With the return to in-person learning, Luverne Elementary will also have new school hours. Classes will be in session from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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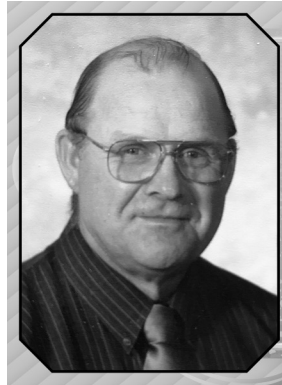
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Happy 80th Birthday

to **Avis Fick** on December 24th

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The rethinking of New Year's resolutions leads to more positive results

Instead of making a New Year's resolution for 2020, I assembled a "vision" board instead.



It proved to be a much better way to affect positive change than resolutions, which never lasted a month, much less an entire year.

Ideally, pictures from magazines are used to "visually" represent an activity or feeling one wants to focus on, but I made a list.

Among the items I wrote on my board was to complete five podcasts, to listen to or read 20 books and to volunteer somewhere in 2020.

With a list of items, I can choose to complete all of them in one month or stretch them over an entire year. Instead of instant failure after a month, the board often meant multiple successes throughout the year.

Fulfilling the volunteering occurred later in the year than I originally planned.

Rock Ranch in Hills welcomes adult volunteers to assist with its various equine programs. I never seemed to be able to dedicate time to this worthwhile program until this fall.

Because the new indoor arena allowed Marie LaRock to offer a fall option for the first time without weather worries, she was in need of a few more helping hands.

So I mapped off one day a week to help first-time riders.

Fall turned out to be a perfect time to volunteer, and I helped out over the course of six weeks.

It feels great to complete a goal while sharing a life-long hobby of horseback riding with others. Unfortunately, so many items on my vision board went unfulfilled or morphed into other activities entirely.

I envisioned 20 date nights with my hubby and hoped to visit more local restaurants and enjoy motorcycle rides to

RUMINATIONS

By Mavis Fodness, Reporter

unique destinations.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and social distancing, the 20 date nights became 20 nights of sitting at home watching television.

I also wanted to do 20 bike rides around the Luverne Loop.

Due to working from home several days a week, those 20 bike rides became 20 additional horseback rides.

All the riding meant that the family gelding named Charlie was saddled up more in the past year than he had been in the previous three years combined.

He's happier and in many ways I am, too.

Saturday, with temperatures hovering around freezing, I joined six other riders with Rock Ranch to make an appearance at Tuff Home in Hills.

Many of the residents there are familiar with the horses through the Senior Saddles program, which was also put on hold due to the pandemic.

Residents weren't able to complete their annual visit to Rock Ranch, so Rock Ranch came to them.

I dressed as one of six elves and joined Mrs. Claus as seven of the horses "visited" with residents and staff at the nursing home and assisted living apartments.

Residents waved and I enjoyed the smiles the horses evoked from everyone. I was smiling, too.

I am definitely looking forward to making more "resolutions" for 2021, especially those that morph into something special.

Happy Birthday, Jesus. Christmas is all about you

Revisit the original Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

The Star Herald this week is dated Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, so our editorial staff thought it fitting to use this space to remember the reason for the season: On Dec. 25 we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

For Christians, that little miracle baby was God's son, born to save us from our sin.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Isn't that worth celebrating? We think so.

Following is the original Christmas story as told in the Gospel of Luke in the New International Version of the Bible.

The Birth of Jesus, according to the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2, verses 1 through 20

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while [a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to

David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

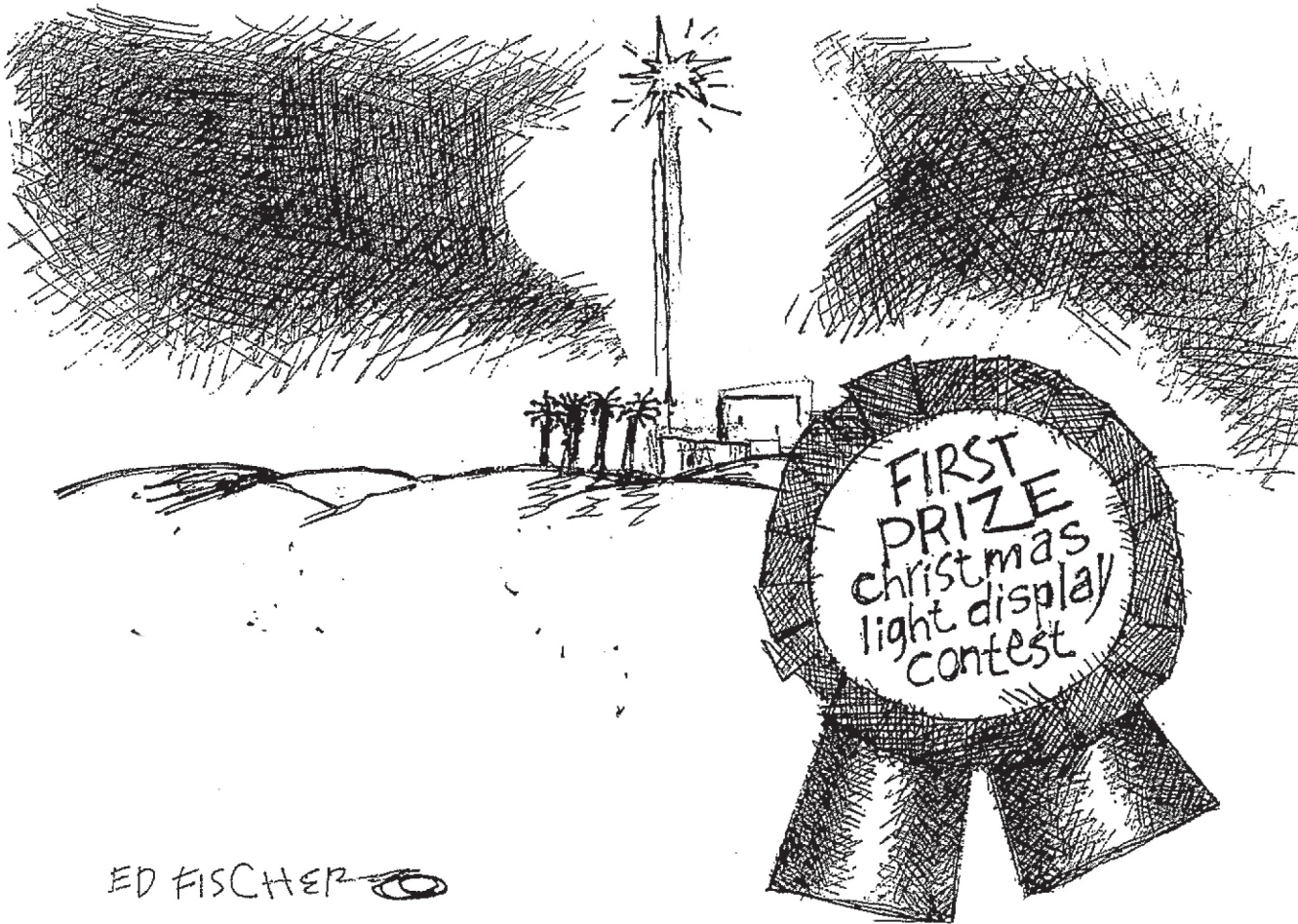
14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been



Harnack shares original poem 'Onto the new fallen snow'

To the Editor:

'Onto the new fallen snow'

A story was told to me, one day
how some birds in a blizzard, had lost their way.
It was very cold, and snowing outside,
and the birds wanted in, before they died.

A man was home alone, counting his worth.
While his family were in church, celebrating Christ's birth.
He didn't see the need, to join his children and wife,
for this was just another, normal day in his life.

You see, the man did not believe the Christmas Story,
why Christ would come down, from his place in glory,
and be born to a world, that was dark and cold,

he just couldn't understand, the way the story was told.

The man went outside, and saw the birds in the night,
then opened the barn door, and turned on the light,
so the birds could go in, and where they would be warm,
and safe from the winds, and the deadly storm.

The door was open, but the birds did not know,
they kept hitting the window, and falling into the snow.
He called them, he chased them, but the birds did not see,
the entrance to the haven, that was theirs for free.

Then he wished, if he only could become one of them,
then maybe they would follow him.
Then, he could lead them, to that open door,
where they could be safe, forever more.

It was then that the man, would understand why,
why Christ would come down to the earth, from the sky.
He dropped to his knees, to the cold ground below,
as tears rolled down his face, 'onto the new fallen snow.'

Alan Harnack
Beaver Creek

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Phone: 507-283-2333 Fax: 507-283-2335

Published Thursdays by Tollefson Enterprises
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 117 West Main, P.O. Box
837, Luverne, MN 56156. Periodicals postage paid at Luverne,
Permit #33 and at additional mailing offices.

General manager: Rick Peterson **News staff:**
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Rock County
STAR HERALD
Rock County's newspaper since 1873

(ISSN 0889-888X)
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
\$74 per year in Rock County; \$91 per year all other areas. Single copies \$1.25

Entire contents copyrighted by
Tollefson Publishing Roger Tollefson, publisher

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. 11
•Complainant on E. Luverne Street, Magnolia, reported phone scam.
•Complainant on W. Harrison Street reported a phone scam.
•Complainant on 131st Street and 150th Avenue, Luverne, reported possible poachers in the area.
Dec. 12
•Complainant on Interstate 90 SD/MN border reported an unruly driver.
•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported harassing phone calls.
•Complainant on S. Estey Street reported attempted break-in and vandalism.
•Complainant on Main Street, Steen, reported vehicle for reckless driving.
•Complainant on 60th Avenue, Hills, reported controlled burn on grass spreading quickly.
Dec. 13
•An outage was reported.
•Complainant on W. Interstate Drive reported a theft.
•A civil issue was reported on N. Cedar Street.
Dec. 14
•Complainant on 10th Avenue reported a trash complaint.
•Complainant on 211th Street, Hardwick, requested assistance.
•Complainant turned himself in for warrant.
•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported found property.
•Complainant on E. Lincoln Street reported theft.
•Complainant on County Highway 4, Beaver Creek, requested extra patrol.
Dec. 15
•Disorderly subject was reported at location on S. Church Avenue, Hills.
•Complainant on 3rd Avenue, Brookings, reported subject with Rock County warrant.
•Disorderly subject was reported at location on S. Church Avenue, Hills.
•Complainant on U.S. Highway 75, Luverne, reported someone requesting roadside assistance.
•Complainant on County Road 4 east of Luverne reported a suspicious man.

ported a suspicious man.
•Complainant on W. Mead Court reported a property dispute.
•Complainant requested alcohol test.
•Complainant on W. Mead Court requested assistance with property dispute.
•Complainant on W. Mead Court requested deputy assistance with property dispute.
•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported a disorderly.
Dec. 16
•Complainant on Country Road 7 and Highway 75, Luverne, reported an abandoned vehicle.
•Warrant information was obtained on E. Warren Street.
•Complainant on S. Fairview Drive reported suspicious phone calls.
•Complainant on 131st Street and 110th Avenue reported a pedestrian walking on road at location.
•Complainant on Highway 75 and Dodge Street reported an assault.
•Complainant on E. Main Street reported she fell in the river.
Dec. 17
•Complainant on County Road 4 and County Road 14, Luverne, reported a vehicle was left on roadside.
•Complainant on 160th Avenue and 21st Street, Luverne, requested a deer tag.
•Complainant on Highway 270 and 110th Avenue, Steen, reported a vehicle was parked on roadside at location.
•Assistance from other department was requested.
•Complainant on E. Main Street requested law enforcement at location.
•Complainant on 171st Street, Luverne, reported a break-in.

In addition, officers responded to 2 motor vehicle accidents, 1 deer accident, 7 escorts, 21 ambulance runs, 4 animal complaints, 2 fingerprint requests, 4 burn permits, 1 vehicle impound, 1 driver's license check, 1 gas drive-off, 1 alarm, 1 drug court test, 7 purchase and carry permits, 1 stalled vehicle, 11 traffic stops, 11 abandoned 911 calls, 2 tests, 3 welfare checks, 2 reports of cattle out and 1 follow-up.



Mavis Fodness photo/1224 HBC Sing Tuff 2020

'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' at Tuff

The Hills-Beaver Creek High School band and choir students spread holiday cheer Monday afternoon at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills where they sang Christmas carols to residents. Pictured at right, Lucille Gangestad (left) and Art Boeve listened through open windows as students sang recognizable carols like "Here Comes Santa Claus," "Jingle Bells," and "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

H-BC choral instructor Amy Comp said, "This is something new this year." Students donned masks due to the coronavirus pandemic and did not go inside the facility. They also dropped off holiday centerpieces made by the school's advisory groups for the nursing home's dining room. The groups spent the month of December discussing the importance of gratitude by volunteering and recognizing items for which they are grateful.



Luverne City Park vandalized again, reward remains

Vandals struck the Luverne City Park "Love the Lights" display again, this time breaking windows out of the Jaycox tractor. The Luverne Chamber office sent a message Tuesday morning encouraging members to check their displays.

"As you know, a reward has been offered for the previous vandalism but this takes it to a whole new level," wrote Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere. "This is more than something mischievous done by young kids; this is serious." She encouraged members to remove valuables, if need be. The Sheriff's Office non-emergency phone number is 507-283-5000. If anyone notices suspicious activity at the park, they're encouraged to report it.

"Things like this should not happen in our community," Lanphere said. "It will take all of us to work together to stop it."



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CELEBRATIONS

Card showers

Dean and Linda Wenzel will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Wednesday, Dec. 30. Greetings may be sent to them at 1574 U.S. Highway 75; 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.

John Klarenbeek will celebrate his 80th birthday on Saturday, Jan. 2. Greetings may be sent to him at 102b Christensen Drive; Luverne, MN 56156.

Avis Fick will celebrate her 80th birthday on Thursday, Dec. 24. Greetings may be sent to her at 1479 Co. Hwy. 4; Luverne, MN 56156.

John Brands will celebrate his 90th birthday Wednesday, Dec. 30. Greetings may be sent to him at 514 4th Ave.; Edgerton, MN 56128.

MENU

Monday, Dec. 28: BBQ chicken breast, butternut squash, Brussels sprouts, dinner roll, ice cream.

Tuesday, Dec. 29: Beef goulash, green beans, bread, emerald pear gelatin.

Half-Price Daysponsored by Grace Lutheran Parish Ministry.

Wednesday, Dec. 30: Sausage gravy and biscuit, peas and carrots, warm cinnamon apples, cookie.

Thursday, Dec. 31: Chef’s choice, vegetable, fruit, diner roll, cookie.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Rock County Board of Commissioners.

Friday, Jan. 1: Closed—Happy New Year!

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

A free frozen food dinner will be available every Wednesday until the end of December, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

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.

COLLEGE NEWS

SFC releases dean’s list

Several area students were named to the dean’s list for the Fall 2020 semester at Sioux Falls College.

Those named to the dean’s list and their major areas of study are as follows:

Luverne: Cade Ver Steeg, business administration.

Beaver Creek: Angela Martinyuk, nursing.

Hardwick: Denver Decker, criminal justice; Isabella Niemeyer, social work; Mandie Petersen, elementary education.

Hills: Grace Bundesen, business administration and accounting.

Lonneman listed on dean’s list

Mitchell Lonneman, Adrian, was named to the dean’s list for the Fall 2020 semester at Mount Marty University in Yankton, South Dakota. To be named to the list, students must earn a 3.5 GPA or higher.



Mavis Fodness photos/1224 Project Love 2020

Bags filled with food and personal hygiene items line the tables at the Hills Legion Hall Dec. 15 as volunteers fill 65 boxes for this year’s Project Love distribution in the communities of Hills, Steen and Beaver Creek.

Bundles of ‘Love’ shared in Hills area communities

By Mavis Fodness

Families in the Hills, Beaver Creek and Steen communities are enjoying gifts from donors and volunteers with Project Love.

Fresh fruits, canned vegetables, packets of ground pork and pancake mix were among the items that filled dozens of food boxes and fruit trays on Dec. 15 for delivery the following day.

Volunteers from the communities’ three churches — Bethlehem Lutheran, First Presbyterian and Reformed Church of Steen — spend three days organizing, assembling and delivering 65 boxes and 23 baskets to a list of individuals and families who could use the extra food this holiday season.

“At any time of the year there are hardships, but they are the most hard at holidays,” said Dan Fick, who oversaw the

Dec. 15 basket assembly at the Hills Legion Hall. “It’s a way for the community to give back.”

Project Love is a year-round community effort that began more than a dozen years ago.

Volunteer Bob Walraven said the three churches each had similar community food outreach programs, and they discovered some families would receive two or three boxes while others would receive none.

“Why don’t we get together and do it together,” he recalled.

Project Love has continued ever since as the churches work in unison.

With the monetary donations, Walraven keeps an eye on grocery specials and stockpiles goods in his basement until tables are set up in the Legion Hall the day before the boxes and fruit trays are assembled.

Volunteers included several families who help with assembly. This year the process was completed in under an hour.

Bruce Van Dyken and his family have assisted the effort for four years.

“It’s nice to be able to help out,” he said.

This fall the Hills-Beaver Creek High School FFA Chapter members challenged the student advisory classes to a food collection contest for Project Love and the Rock County Food Shelf.

On Dec. 14 the FFA’ers helped to move all the food items Walraven had collected to the Legion Hall for the Dec. 15 box and tray assembly and Dec. 16 distribution.

Through church and city connections for names of individuals and families who could use a little “love,” organizers assembled an annual food box distribution list.

Those who lost loved ones or are experiencing a serious health issue or just moved into one of the communities receive a fruit tray. (Pictured below).

This year Project Love also assembled and delivered 15 Thanksgiving dinners.

“We are very grateful for any donations we get throughout the year,” said Marilyn Nelson.

“We especially want to thank the FFA for their gifts and hard work.”



Zach Vis (left) and Todd Haak place a Project Love box in line with other completed boxes.



REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2010)

•Although counting has been a normal part of her job at the Rock County Courthouse for 26 years, auditor/treasurer Gloria Rolfs has not been counting down the days to her last day in the office.

Rolfs and her staff have been busy with elections, tax statements and the 2009 audit, among normal responsibilities.

She will be working right up until her last day as a county employee. In January 2011 deputy accountant Ashley Kurtz will continue in the auditor/treasurer position.

25 years ago (1995)

•It’s a new plan for a new year.

A public informational meeting on a new airport layout plan is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4, in council chambers at Luverne City Hall.

Meeting notices were printed Dec. 14 and 21 in the *Star Herald*, and affected residents will receive letters about the meeting, according to City Clerk Marianne Ouverson. The meeting was requested by the Airport Board.

The plan still allows for a 4,200-foot runway, but the new runway is proposed to be located 1,400 feet farther to the north than the previous plan approved by the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Ron Roetzel, the Bolton and Menk consultant who’s been working on the plan since September 1993, will be on hand to explain the new layout plan.

50 years ago (1970)

•In Tri-County Conference action Tuesday night, Hills-Beaver Creekswamped Jasper 83-53, and Magnolia pushed their way into a second place tie by taking first place Edgerton, 65-58.

The Magnolia win over Edgerton means that Hills-Beaver Creek remains alone in the conference top spot with a 3-0 record.

The Patriots were paced by Tony Bosch with 22 points Tuesday against Jasper with Ed Boeve recording 15 and Clair Crawford and Jeff Helgeson both hitting 12 apiece.

At Edgerton, the Magnolia Bulldogs evened their season record at 2-2 with a conference standing of 2-1, Tuesday.

Coach Steve Kollman commended Leon Bergman with 22 points and Dwight Rust with 18. Defensively, Bergman grabbed 25 rebounds and Rust took 19 for the Bulldogs.

75 years ago (1945)

•Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Aykens, who for the past 25 years have operated a store in Steen, sold their stock of goods to Mr. and Mrs. Willis Nyenhuis.

Mr. and Mrs. Nyenhuis will take possession January 1, and will hold “open house” on Saturday, January 5, at which time

they will serve refreshments to the public.

Mr. Nyenhuis, a Rock Rapids young man was discharged from the army recently. Mrs. Nyenhuis will be remembered as the former Esther Vander Haar.

100 years ago (1920)

•Five out of a total of eight birds shown by A. R. Olson and C. H. Moreaux, won prizes, including two first awards, at the 35th annual Minnesota State poultry show held at Minneapolis December 8th to 12th, according to the official report received this week.

The Luverne fanciers of standard bred poultry did not decide to enter any birds until the day before the entries closed, which prevented the customary conditioning of the birds to be shown.

Each exhibitor sent only four birds with only one entry in any single class, Mr. Olson showing a cockered and pullet in Single Combed Mottled Anconas, a similar pair in Rose Combed Anconas. Mr. Moreaux’s exhibit consisted of a Single Combed Buff Leghorn cockerel and pullet and a Single Combed White Leghorn cockerel and hen.

In selecting the winners the judges awarded Mr. Olson first prize on cockerel and third prize on pullet in Rose Combed Anconas, and third prize on pullet in Single Combed Anconas. Mr. Moreaux won first prize on pullet and third on cockerel in Single Combed Buff Leghorns.

1903: Vote to incorporate Kenneth receives approval

The following appeared in The Rose History in 1911.

Rock County Village (continued from 12-17-20 edition of the Star Herald)

The matter was brought to a conclusion at the meeting of the commissioners on January 8, 1903, when a request signed by twelve of those interested in the proposed incorporation, asking for a withdrawal of their original petition, was presented. Although no later attempt has been made to bring about the incorporation of Kenneth, there is every reason to believe that in the near future the town in Vienna township will be in a condition to successfully inaugurate such a movement.

Kenneth's growth has been slow but substantial. It experienced a setback during the years 1903 and 1904 because of the destruction, by hail and rains, to the crops in that section which finds its market in Kenneth. Since that time, however, the town has maintained its own and is still unsurpassed as a grain market and trading point.

Kenneth's school history began almost with the founding of the town. In April 1901, a petition asking for the creation of a new school district to include the town of Kenneth was favorably acted upon by the board of county commissioners. Following this action, on May 2, a meeting of the citizens of Kenneth was held and the organization of the district perfected. B. Halverson was elected director, J. L. Hogan, clerk, and George Watson, treasurer. At a meeting held later in the same month it was voted to raise \$2500 for the erection of a school building. The edifice, two stories in height, 28x40 feet, was erected by Hackett & Robinson, of Luverne, and was completed in time for the opening of the winter term on December 6, 1901. School opened on that date with Nellie Morse as teacher and with an enrollment of thirty-two pupils.

Two church organizations are maintained in Kenneth, the Catholic and Evangelical Lutheran, and



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

both possess church edifices. The Catholic church building, which formerly occupied a site in Lismore township, Nobles county, was moved to Kenneth early in 1903. The Evangelical Lutheran church was erected during the season of 1907.

The Kenneth State Bank is an outgrowth of a private institution which began business July 1, 1901, as the bank of Kenneth, with R. B. Hinkly, president, and A. D. Parker, cashier. The bank erected a building of its own during the summer of 1903. The Kenneth State Bank, following the reorganization, commenced business July 10, 1907, with capital stock of \$12,000. The incorporators were Andrew Messner, A. D. Parker, John Engebretson, John Wonderle, L. W. Johnson, Chris, Haiback, B. Halverson, Kittil Olson and L. Kreun. The first officers and board of directors consisted of Andrew Messner, president; A. D. Parker, cashier; John Engebretson, assistant cashier; Chris Haiback.

The story of the village of Steen will begin in the Dec. 31 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 manmade@iwnet.

Heesch earns Ford Motor senior master technician status



Steve Heesch (pictured left with Joel Herman) recently completed Ford Motor Company requirements to be designated as a senior master technician. Heesch completed 15 classroom courses, 57 on-line classes and at least five years of service at a Ford dealership. He has 12 years of auto mechanic experiences and was hired at Herman Motor Co. in Luverne two years ago. With the master service distinction, Heesch is certified to make Ford engine, drivetrain and chassis

BUSINESS NEWS

repairs. "It's nice in a small dealership that when there is a warranty he can do everything," said Herman Motor Co. owner Joel Herman. To maintain the master status, Heesch must complete all new required training and two electives annually.

OBITUARIES

Marie Smeins

Marie Clara Smeins, 87, Luverne, died Monday, Dec. 14, 2020, at Ava's Hospice House in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

A funeral Mass was Monday, Dec. 21, at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. Burial was at St. Catherine Cemetery in Luverne.

Marie Berning was born Nov. 21, 1933, to Henry and Louise (Farwick) Berning in rural Nobles County. She graduated from Lismore High School in 1951.

Marie married Myron Smeins on Aug. 4, 1951, at Camp Rucker in Dale County, Alabama. They lived in Alabama for a couple of years before moving to Luverne, where they lived for the rest of their lives. Marie was the mother of five children and a homemaker. When the children were grown, Marie took calls for the Rendering Company from her home. She was also a seamstress for many stores in Luverne and for her customers for 37 years. She served as custodian at St. Catherine for four years and was distribution manager for the Star-Herald newspaper.

Marie was a member of St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne, where she taught religion classes for over 20 years. She loved sports, especially watching hockey, baseball, football and basketball. She enjoyed nature, playing cards and

bingo, and going to casinos. She painted with oils and enjoyed teaching children the beauty of painting.

Marie is survived by her five children, Dan (Marie) Smeins and Dave (Tammy) Smeins, all of Luverne, Debra (Steve)

Woltjer of Grand Junction, Colorado, Duane (friend Barb Wallace) Smeins of Carbondale, Colorado, and Darin Smeins of Luverne; 11 grandchildren, Rob (friend Amanda Stevens) Woltjer, Mike Woltjer, David (Brittany) Smeins, Dana (Josh) Klay, Dustin (Dawn) Smeins, Darcy (friend Garrett Beaner) Smeins, Diana (fiancé Niic Mark) Smeins, Jessie (Skylar) McAllister, Nikki (Will) MacLeod, Dalton (Jada) Smeins and Isabel Smeins; 12 great-grandchildren; three brothers, Alvin Berning of Luverne, Ed Berning of Adrian, and Jim Berning of Owatonna; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Myron, in 1982; an infant brother, Raphael; a brother, George Berning; a sister, Lorraine Van Peursem; four sisters-in-law, Gert, Delores, Rita and Doris Berning; and a brother-in-law, Ralph Van Peursem.

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

(1224 F)

Mae Jean Oehlerts

Mae Jean Oehlerts was born on May 13, 1927, to Okke and Jane (Rose) Boomgaarden on the family farm southwest of Ellsworth, Minnesota. She was baptized and confirmed at Ellsworth Presbyterian Church. She graduated from Ellsworth High School in May

of 1945 and that summer attended Mankato State College in Mankato, Minnesota, as part of the accelerated program. She crammed four years into two by going every summer. She wanted to get done and get to work. Jean graduated from college in 1947 with a degree in Elementary Education. Her first teaching position was in Round Lake, Minnesota for the year 1946-1947. Later she taught in Heron Lake, Worthington, and Ellsworth, all in Minnesota.

On December 22, 1954, Jean was united in marriage to Walter Hans Oehlerts at Zion Presbyterian Church in Ellsworth. They farmed one year northeast of Hardwick, Minnesota, and in 1956 moved to Ellsworth where Walter became owner and operator of his welding shop. Their daughter Sara Jane was born July 6, 1972. Walter passed away on December 1, 1988. Jean spent most of her years teaching second grade in Luverne, Minnesota, where one year she was named Teacher of the Year. She retired in 1982 after 36 years of teaching. After retirement, she spent many years substitute teaching in Luverne, Ellsworth, and Adrian.

On December 17, Jean passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, at her home in Canton, South Dakota at the age of 93 years, seven months, and four days. Visitation will be held on Monday, December 21, 2020, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne, Minnesota. Visitation will continue on Tuesday, December 22, 2020, from 12:45 - 1:45 p.m. with a funeral service to follow at 2:00 p.m. Services on Tuesday will take place at Zion Presbyterian Church in Ellsworth where she was married 66 years earlier to the day. Interment will follow at Grand Prairie Cemetery in Ellsworth, Iowa. Per MN Executive Order, masks will be required and social distancing and occupancy limits are to be followed. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. Hartquist Funeral Home - Luverne

Chapel, has been entrusted with arrangements. To sign an online registry, please visit www.hartquistfuneral.com.

Jean spent most of her life in Ellsworth. Her father and brothers did a lot of threshing with their steam engines, so she was around that

her entire life as her brothers continued to thresh for family reunions. Even after they were gone, her nephews continued with threshing. Music was a large part of her family. Her brothers and then nephews had bands to which she went to many of their dances. Even at family reunions they would all play, and to just sit around and listen to them play made her very happy and proud.

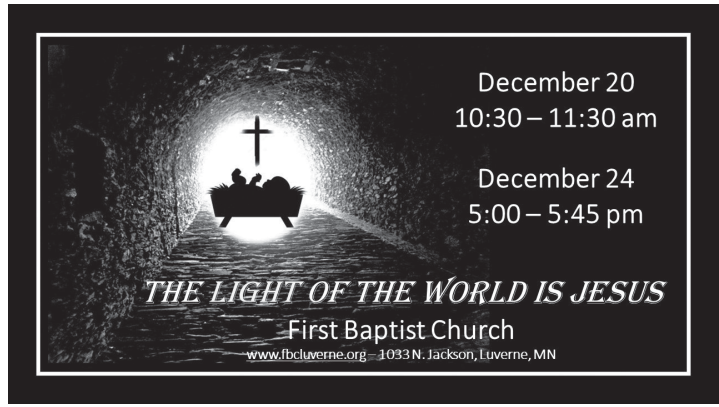
Jean was a longtime member and involved in circle and helped teach Bible School for several years at Bethany Lutheran Church in Luverne. She later became a member of Redeemer Free Lutheran Church in Canton, South Dakota. Jean was also a member for many years of Delta Kappa Gamma and the Minnesota Education Association. She was on a bowling league in Ellsworth for several years. Jean and Walter spent numerous years dancing the waltz and the polka at area dances. She loved to watch Lawrence Welk, Wheel of Fortune, Fox News, and Little House on the Prairie. She loved a good discussion on politics!

Jean was very devoted to all family members, providing help whatever the need might be. Family was everything to her! They were her greatest enjoyment. Having a clean house was a must for her. She loved to clean and work outside. Jean attended as many activities as she could to watch her grandchildren. In her last years when it became difficult to travel, she watched videotaped recordings of their programs or sporting events.

Jean is lovingly remembered by her daughter, Sara (Trevor) Lease of Canton; two grandsons, Brock and Jesse; three granddaughters, Tera, Amanda, and Gwendolyn; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter; parents, Okke and Jane; brothers, Jake, Benny, George, and Okke Boomgaarden; and sisters, Amanda Randolph and Mabel Troxel.

(1224 V)



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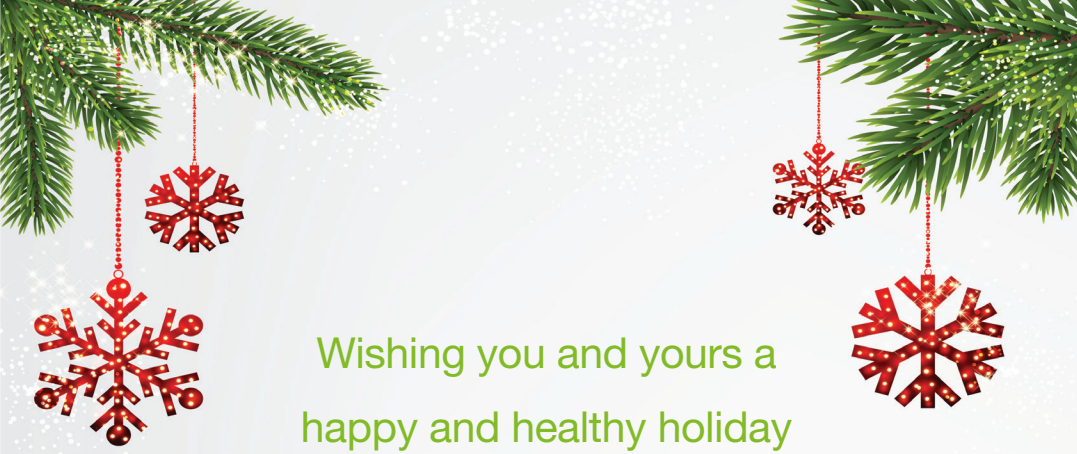
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A note from Mayor Patrick T. Baustian ***We're All in This Together***



I want to commend the local restaurants, bars, coffee shops and brewery for adhering to the Governor's mandated restrictions. We all know that these businesses have had to endure far more than their share of the economic burden caused by the COVID-19 pandemic shut downs. Thanks to the bipartisan economic relief package that was passed this week by the Minnesota Legislators, financial help is on it's way. It's also truly exciting to know that the first round of COVID-19 vaccines are due to arrive in Luverne next week. Let all continue to stay safe, mask up and stay 6 feet apart. Merry Christmas



"I 'LUV' this city! One of my favorite stops on Christmas Eve! Mask up and Merry Christmas Luverne!"

Peacetime Emergency extended through January 13, 2021



As COVID-19 deaths climb to nearly 4,500 in Minnesota, Governor Tim Walz extended the peacetime emergency that gives the state flexibility in responding to the pandemic, including safely and effectively distributing the vaccine.

"As Minnesota receives its first shipment of the vaccine, there is hope on the horizon. But we need to remain vigilant until we put the threat of COVID-19 behind us," said Governor Walz. "The Peacetime Emergency gives us the tools to keep Minnesotans healthy and deliver the vaccine in a way that is quick, equitable, and safe."

The announcement comes as hospitals continue to express concern about their capacity to treat Minnesotans with COVID-19. Forty-eight other states remain in a state of emergency.

Minnesota's peacetime emergency gives the state the tools necessary for the timely acquisition of supplies and technology to support the vaccine effort. It also supports the expansion Minnesota's testing capacity; protects Minnesotans against evictions and wage garnishment; provides expedited procurement power for personal protective equipment (PPE) and other equipment; allows Minnesota to follow the advice of public health experts in combatting the spread of COVID-19; protects workers from unsafe worker conditions; requires Minnesotans to wear a face covering in certain settings to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and provides economic relief and stability to Minnesotans and small businesses impacted by the pandemic.

"This pandemic continues to cause heartbreak and loss every day – we can't give up our efforts to save lives now," said Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. "On the day the first vaccines will be distributed across the state, I feel hopeful for our future. The end of this long winter is in sight, and the Peacetime Emergency is needed more than ever so that we can all stay safe."

\$216 Million Small Business Relief Package

Governor Tim Walz applauded the bipartisan passage of a \$216 million economic relief package that includes direct support for small businesses and a 13-week extension of unemployment benefits.

"Our small businesses have made enormous sacrifices to their own bottom lines for the good of our state. This is a critical lifeline for those businesses, and for the Minnesotans whose livelihoods depend on them," said Governor Walz. "This bipartisan bill will provide direct, targeted aid to keep our small businesses afloat, support workers struggling to get by, and help families put food on the table while we work to get the virus under control."

The bill includes \$88 million in direct payments to restaurants, bars, and gyms; \$14 million for convention centers and movie theaters; and \$114.8 million for local economically significant businesses and organizations, including non-profits, that will be distributed by counties.

STAY SAFE MN

First round of Covid vaccine arrives in Rock County

Excerpt from the 12/17 Star Herald: 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.

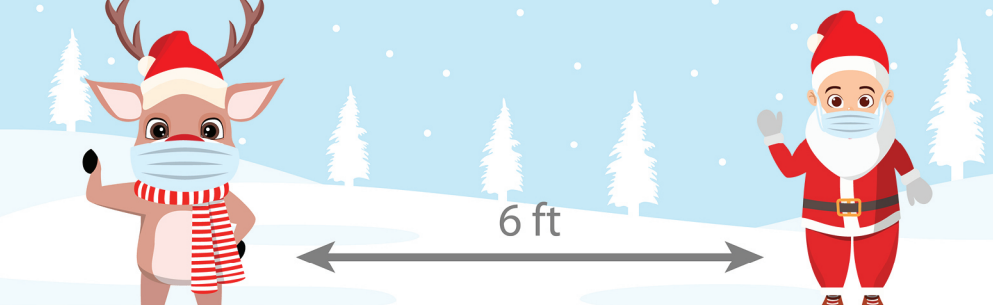
She said vaccines are prioritized for frontline health care and long term care residents until sufficient doses are available for the general population.

"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.



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

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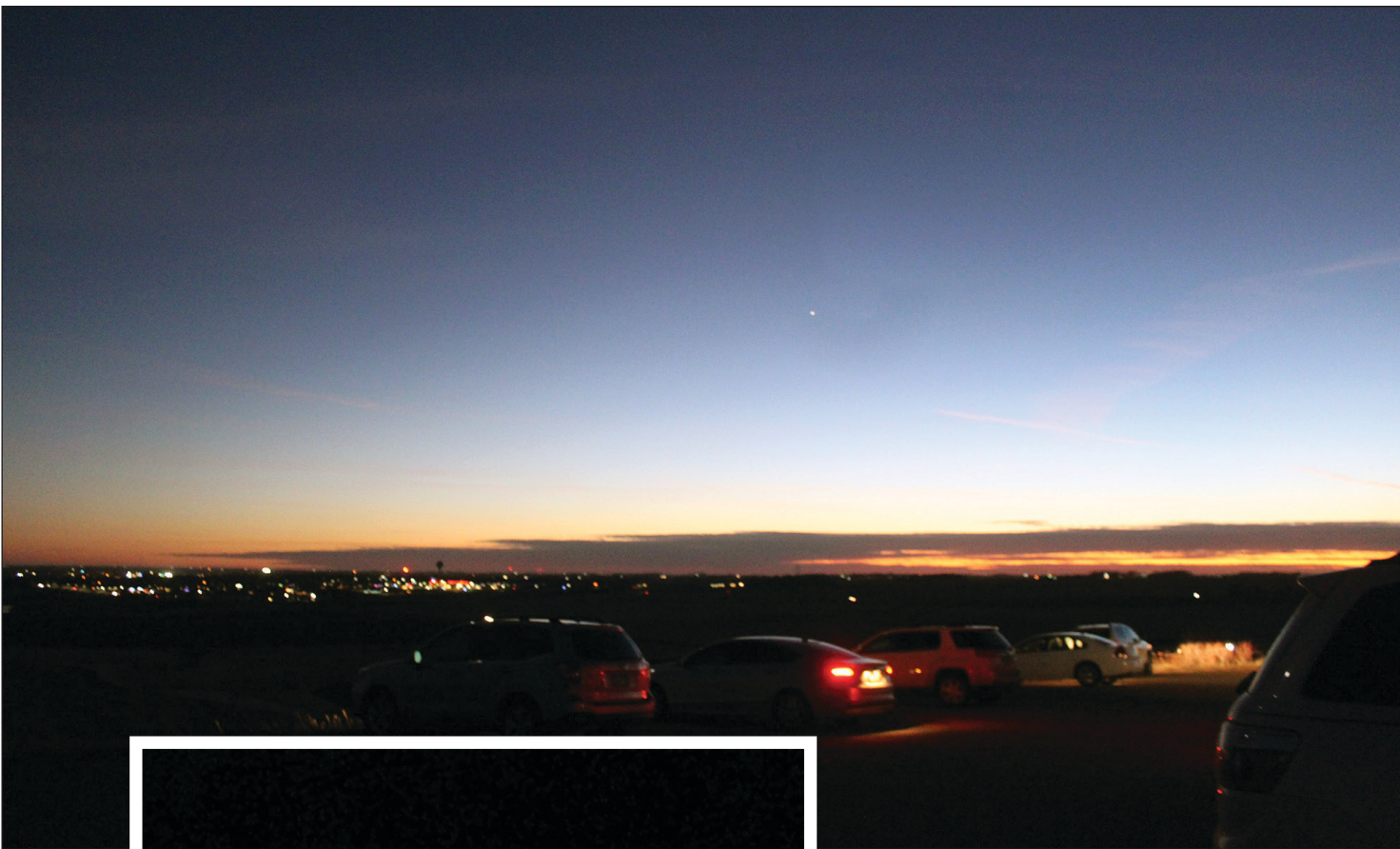
Mayor Patrick T. Baustian

Daily News Online! star-herald.com

Rock County provides good view of ‘Christmas Star’

Dozens of people drove up to the Eagle Rock Vista parking lot at the Blue Mounds State Park near Luverne Monday night for a view of the 2020 “Christmas Star,” the lining up of the planets Jupiter and Saturn in the sky beginning just after sundown.(In close-up picture, below, right). According to Astronomy.com, Monday night was the closest the two planets appeared to one another in about 800 years and could be the astronomical origin of the Star of Bethlehem that guided the wise men.

Best view in Minnesota for what was dubbed the “Christmas Star” was in Rock County. Michael Sims of Anoka researched areas without cloud cover and relatively easy to access to an elevated area to take pictures. The parking lot overlooking Luverne (pictured above, right) provided an ideal location with both local and out-of-town visitors to view the planets.



Mavis Fodness photo/1224 Christmas Star



Photo courtesy of Michael Sims



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Virtual puzzle contest promotes brain health

The Minnesota-North Dakota Alzheimer's Association is sponsoring a series of online jigsaw puzzle contests that will connect people from around the world.

Called Piece Prize, the 90-minute contests will be Dec. 26, Jan. 15 and Jan. 31.

Register at www.piece-prize.org and select a puzzle for individuals, couples and families. Participants will receive a jigsaw puzzle in the mail, and at the designated date and time, will join others for an hour and a half of fun.

Studies have shown activities like puzzling are important for brain health, which can also help reduce cognitive decline with diseases like Alzheimer's.

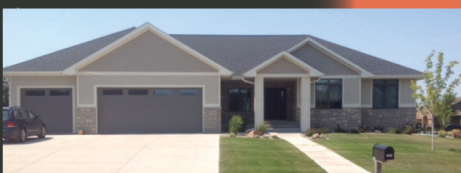
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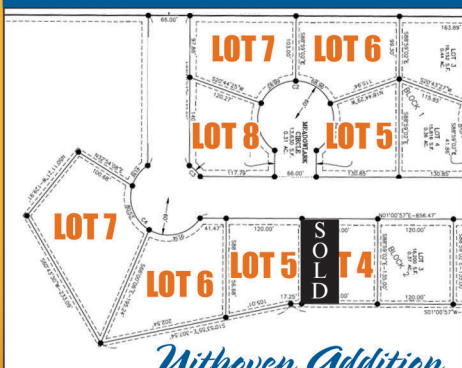
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Church youth share spirit of Christmas



Rounding out the nativity scene are (from left) Casey Sehr, Christian Jepperson, Eli Radtke, Luke Thorson, Genna Rolfs, (Angel) Christina Wagner, Connor Overgaard, Henry Hartquist, Seth Bose, Holden Jepperson, Tyler Rolfs and Macie Swenson. At right are Mary, Joseph and the Angel (Luke Thorson, Genna Rolfs, (Angel) Christina Wagner)

Grace Lutheran photos/1224 live nativity at grace



Grace Lutheran presents Live Nativity, drive-through style

Grace Lutheran Church again this year brought the Nativity to life, this time drive-through style. The community was invited to drive through the Grace parking lot in Luverne and enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas, which included live animals — including camels and donkeys, outdoor music and an indoor soup supper.

At right, Maria Rops, Kayla Bloemendaal and Ella Hoogendoorn hand out ornaments to motorists driving through the nativity.

At far right, shepherds (from left) Connor Overgaard, Henry Hartquist, Seth Bose, Holden Jepperson, Tyler Rolfs and Macie Swenson tend to the animals.



St. John Lutheran Church youth present



Feature-length film tells story of Christmas from perspective of three wise men

In the photograph above left, Jordan Hartz (from left), Karl Hartz, Koel Hartz, Sophia Remme, Allison Verhey, Abigail Verhey and Dustin Verhey play their roles in a manger scene.

At left, the Three Magi were played by Reagan Gangestad, Trevor DeBates and Marty Fick.

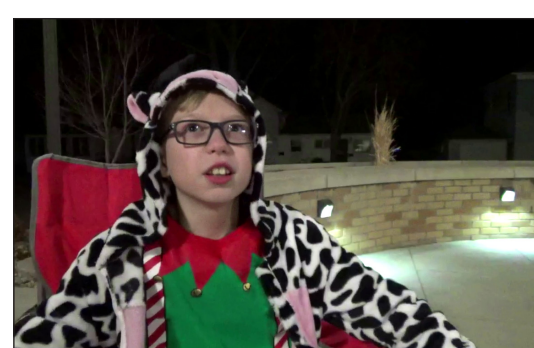
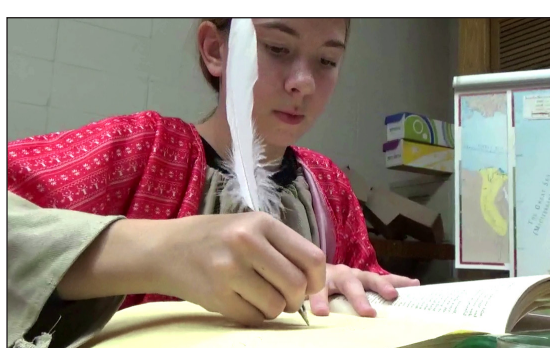
Below left, Reagan Gangestad appears as Mel. Below center, Rev. Phil Booe plays the role of King Herod. Below, Marty Fick is Baz.

St. John Lutheran Church's Sunday School Christmas program was made entirely as a video production this year.

Through Scripture, song and a bit of imaginative fun, "Three Magi and a Baby" tells the Christmas narrative from the perspective of three wise men as they research the prophecies and promises that are fulfilled by Jesus' birth.

St. John's Jessica Blocker was the producer, director, creative designer and costumer for the production.

"It was important for me that, rather than feel like this year's program was a compromise due to COVID-19 circumstances, we





12 Days of Christmas yields 180 pizzas for 15 Luverne families

Thanks to a \$1,000 donation from First Farmers & Merchants Bank in Luverne, 15 local families will enjoy 12 Days of Christmas with a free pizza each day. Fifteen families, identified through the Child Guide program at Luverne Public Schools, will each receive 12 coupons for free pizzas prepared through the Luverne Pizza Ranch.

The coronavirus pandemic has stressed budgets for both families and businesses owners, according to Luverne Public Schools social worker Stacy Schepel.

The certificates joined efforts to program’s Christmas present drive. “We don’t take this lightly that (economically) you can still do this,” she said. “We were able to give approximately 450 gifts to 150 students in pre-K through grade 12. We have already received countless notes of appreciation from families.”

Pictured (from left) are Luverne Pizza Ranch owner Lila Bauer, Luverne Public Schools counselor Amy Cook, First Farmers & Merchants Bank representatives LaDonna Van Aartsen and Ryan Wynia and Luverne Public Schools social worker Stacy Schepel.

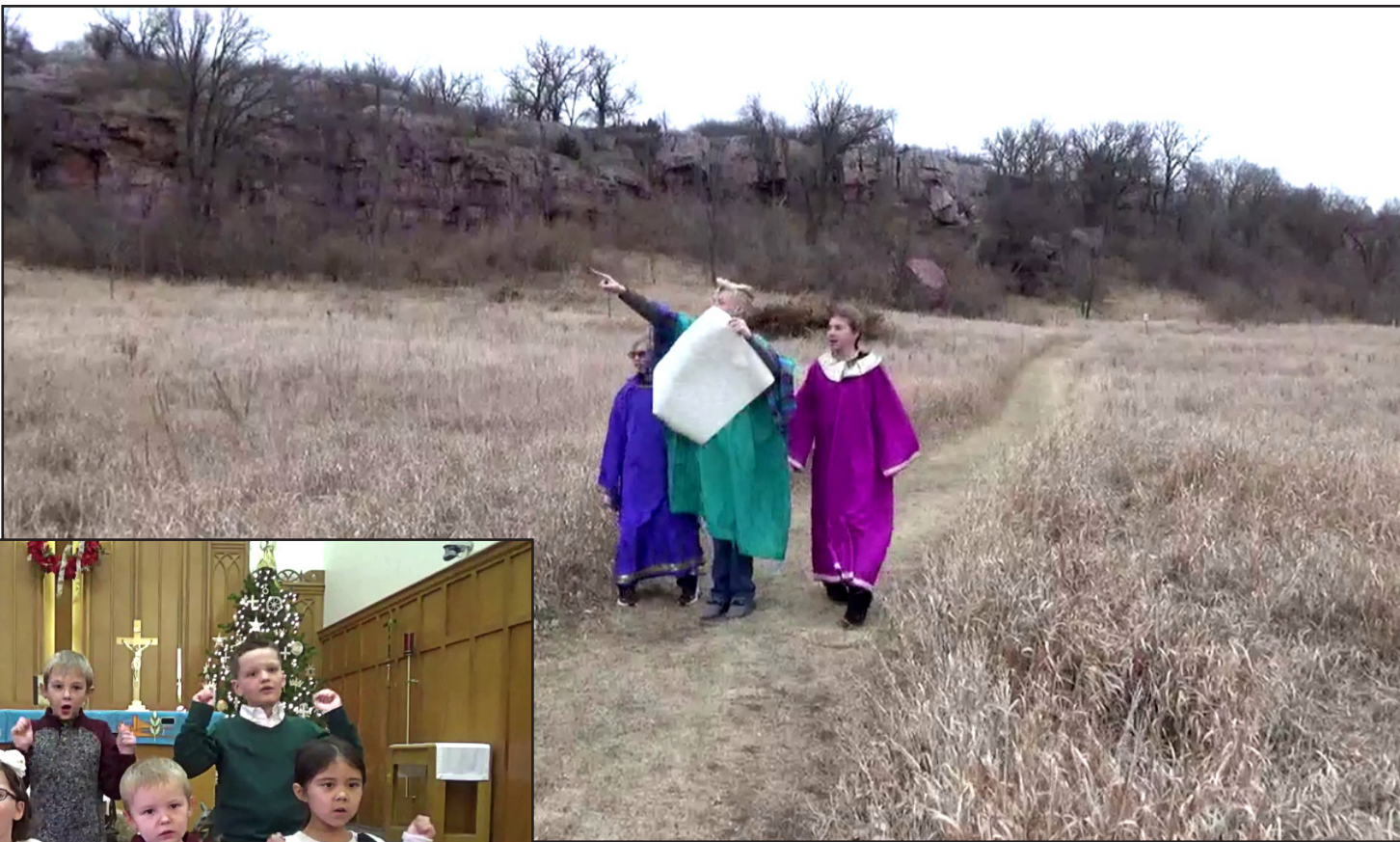
Mavis Fodness photo/1224 12 Days Christmas 2020

St. John Lutheran Church young people present ‘Three Magi and a Baby’/continued from page 1B

“I wanted our program to be unforgettable for positive reasons rather than sad ones. I think we certainly achieved that and had lots of fun along the way.”
— Jessica Blocker, St. John Lutheran

create something special, unique and high quality for our families to be a part of and enjoy,” she said.
“I wanted our program to be unforgettable for positive reasons rather than sad ones. I think we certainly achieved that and had lots of fun along the way.”
Work on this original program began as early as August, with filming and recording taking place in October, November and December.
In all, 35 children were involved in the movie, as well as some adults from the congregation.
The feature-length film can be viewed on St. John’s YouTube channel, which can be linked to

through the church website, stjohnlutheranluverne.org.
“It has been neat to hear all the feedback,” Blocker said, “and I hope the video continues to be shared and treasured for years to come.”



Above, Marty Fick (from left), Trevor DeBates and Reagan Gangestad appear as the Three Magi traveling to see Jesus.
At left, singers are (front, from left) Madison Van Santen, Veronica Loosbrock, Graham DeBoer, Alisha Hartz, (back) Ross Loosbrock, Grady DeBoer and Gavin Loosbrock.



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Van Batavia ready to help Cardinals build off 2019-20 season

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals girls' hockey team in 2020 reached state tournament play for the second time in program history.

With a strong core returning for the 2021 season, the Cardinals could be in store for another epic season on the ice.

Six seniors, Regan Feit, Shelby Kracht, Rylee Gee, Brynn Thier, Roz Oye and Sophie Holmberg, will lead the way for the Cardinals.

"With the whole Covid-19 pandemic, those seniors and their leadership are going to be important for us," Luverne head coach Tony Sandbulte said.

"They really are the foundation for this team."

The seniors will provide leadership for the Cardinals while sophomore Kamryn Van Batavia will provide the spark.

"She just brings a lot of energy all the time," Sandbulte said. "She's kind of our spark plug. She goes hard all the time."

That Energizer Bunny vigor is Van Batavia's greatest strength, Sandbulte said.

"She's always digging and plugging away," he said. "It's because of that energy she ends up finding the back of the net."

Van Batavia, daughter of David and Jessica (Christensen) Van Batavia, Luverne, started skating as soon as she learned how to walk.

"My first time on skates was when I was two years old," she said. "My dad couldn't wait to get me out to the rink. I loved it just as much as he did, and I was always excited to go out to skate. I have loved the sport for as long as I can remember. I've really been playing hockey ever since then."

For Van Batavia, the hard work doesn't seem like work. "I love hockey," she said. "I love the energy in the locker room before games and especially after a win."

Along the way, her teammates have become her friends.

"We have so many memories," she said.



John Rittenhouse photo/1224 KV

Luverne's Kamryn Van Batavia led the Cardinals in goals and points last season as a freshman. She'll look to repeat that feat this season as a sophomore.

"From team suppers, captain practices, hotel nights when we have away games, the holiday tournament, and just the times when we hang out for fun. I feel so lucky to be able to play hockey with the girls on my team. They're more than just my teammates, they're my friends."

Van Batavia has been playing on the varsity squad since she was a seventh-grader. During that first year she finished with a team-leading 23 goals and 37 points.

As an eighth-grader she led the Cardinals with 30 goals and 45 points. She followed with 42 goals and 67 points as a freshman.

With another year of experience under her belt, Sandbulte said, Van Batavia could be in store for an even bigger season as a sophomore.

"I feel like she's just starting to tap into her potential," Sandbulte said. "The sky's the limit for her. She has a true love for hockey. We only see bigger and better things for her. I'm sure not playing is taking a toll on her."

The COVID-19 pandemic has kept a lot of prep athletes from competing in the sports they love.

With winter sports expected to start on Jan. 4, Van Batavia has been focused on staying in game shape for the upcoming season.

"Covid has definitely taken a lot of opportunities away from a lot of players that love the game," Van Batavia said.

"It has just made us find other ways that we can still be active and prepare for the upcoming season. I have gotten together with teammates to rollerblade, shoot pucks, and more recently skate on a friend's outdoor rink."

During the shutdown, Van Batavia has stayed busy working out at home where her dad has helped her prepare for her sophomore season.

"My dad has a shop where I can shoot pucks and stick handle," she said. "He keeps me busy with hockey workouts in our basement, too."

For Van Batavia playing in the state tournament last season is something she's dreamed about doing since she first started skating all those years ago. It's something that she'll cherish forever.

"Making it to the state tournament last year was an incredible experience," Van

Batavia said. "Getting to play on the same ice that the Minnesota Wild play on was so cool. Having the support of our coaches, parents, the school and the community made it all very exciting. It really was an opportunity of a lifetime. Being able to experience the state tournament with my teammates was something that I'll never forget."

The Cardinals were bounced in the first round of state competition, but last season's success fueled them to come back better and stronger in 2021.

When the season eventually starts, they have one goal in mind — to get back to the state tournament and to make some noise at the Xcel Energy Center this time around.

"The goal for our team this year will be to make it back to the state tournament," Van Batavia said.

"We have the grit, determination, and the same dream to make it back there again. We know what we have to do differently, and when we can get back on the ice as a team again, we will work hard on the goals that we set."

Ready for ice fishing? Make sure your ice house is ready, too

By Scott Rall
Outdoors
columnist

A friend of mine, Gary Johansson, from Madison, Wisconsin, recently gifted me a hard-sided spearing shelter.

It was designed to be taken apart, loaded in the back of a truck and then reassembled when you reached your destination.

It was only used for spearing opportunities that were multiple days in length. With the improvement of portable shelters, the flexibility they offer makes it easier to just skip the old-style spearing house for most part-time spearkers.

I for one, when sitting on a windy lake in Minnesota, really don't enjoy the shelter flapping in the wind. Add to that, portables are almost impossible to set up in a strong wind. At least for me they are.

I spent several weeks of lunch hours and evenings converting this portable shack into a permanent one. Insulation was installed, runners attached and two coats of flat black paint were applied.

Shelters that stay out on a lake overnight need to be licensed. That license costs about \$16 for one year or \$46 for a three-year permit. In addition to the shelter license, the owner has to identify their shelter. This can be done by painting the owner's name and address on the outside.

Another method, the one that I use, is to letter and number the side of the house with your Minnesota Department of Natural Resources identification number.

This number can be found on any of your hunting or fishing licenses. This can keep your hot spots under the radar because many folks can't tell who is in the house.

Spearkers also need to



purchase a special spearing license. It only costs \$2.50 but you need one nonetheless. There has always been a little rub from spearkers in that a person who purchases an angling

license can then ice fish with that same license, but a spearer who purchases an angling license cannot then use that same license to throw a spear.

I researched this after the cost of the spearing licenses went way down several years back. I figured that is why they were not charging much; they were really using this fee to raise money.

In the end, the spearing fee of \$2.50 is really used to determine just how many individuals are actually out spearing. This number can have an important effect when setting species bag limits and special regulations because spearkers often harvest fish of a much larger size.

Minnesota has three separate zones for pike harvest. In southwest Minnesota you can harvest only two fish over 24 inches in length per day.

Up in the northern reaches of the state, you can harvest many more, but they are required to almost all be slammer fish. This is because the lake management is trying to reduce the number of hammer handles where they exist in too large a number.

So, with a second hard-sided spearing house ready to go, I now have to position my stuff very tightly in order to get it all in my now oh too small shed.

Looks like we are going to have late ice again this year. Water levels are very low in some portions of the state, and a winter kill on some of these smaller water bodies is quite likely.

Until it is safe to travel in hard water, I will just keep chasing roosters until I can put a giant pike back in my spear's cross hairs.

H-BC's Wysong and Metzger recognized by Minnesota Vikings

By Brennen Rupp

The perfect season that Hills-Beaver Creek put together this fall has not gone unnoticed.

The 7-0 Patriots were named the Associated Press Nine-Man State Champions, and now they have another prestigious award for their trophy case.

On Tuesday, Dec. 15, the Minnesota Vikings released the Vikings All-State Team for 2020, and two H-BC names grace the list.

H-BC's Rex Metzger was named Coach of the Year, and quarterback Gavin Wysong was one of 32 seniors named to the all-state list.

"What an honor to be named Coach of the Year for the Vikings All-State Team," Metzger said. "I'm humbled by this award, but it's really Staff of the Year. It's a lot of people doing a lot of work. It's definitely a great honor for our school."

"The kids at H-BC love playing the game of football and it makes things pretty easy as a coach when they commit to all the off-season programs. We had a great group of guys this year and it's pretty special to see one of your players get chosen to the team."

Wysong finished



Photo Courtesy of H-BC/1224 All-State

The Minnesota Vikings announced their 2020 All-State team. Hills-Beaver Creek's Rex Metzger was named Coach of the Year and senior Gavin Wysong was named to the all-state team.

the shortened 2020 season with 1,068 rushing yards and 17 rushing touchdowns. He averaged 12.6 yards per carry.

Through the air, Wysong passed for 505 yards and seven touchdowns.

On the defensive side of the ball he recorded 36 tackles, two tackles for loss and one interception.

The Vikings All-State Team is comprised of senior student

athletes from all classes of football in the state. It is selected by the Vikings in conjunction with a committee of sportswriters, broadcasters, Vikings staff and the Minnesota Football Coaches Association.

A team has been named each year since 2002.

Coaches are chosen based on their contribution on the football field, but more importantly on the impact they make within their community and for their student athletes.

Winter sports get new start date

By Brennen Rupp

The four-week pause that Gov. Tim Walz put in place for youth sports on Nov. 21 has been extended another two weeks.

The four-week pause was originally set to end on Dec. 18. With the extension, youth sports are expected to pick back up again on Jan. 4.

That means Luverne basketball, hockey, wrestling and gymnastics, along with the basketball teams for Hills-Beaver Creek will have to continue to prepare for the season virtually.

"I'm not going to lie; trying to keep in touch virtually with your team is not proving to be easy," Luverne gymnastics coach, Phoebe Flom said.

"We have started a Google Classroom and have shared some conditioning workouts, but are just in the beginning stages of this. Many of our gymnasts are taking classes in Sioux Falls to stay in shape."

Steve Wiertzema, the H-BC athletic director and boys basketball coach, said he hopes the shortened season will be able to finish without further interruptions.

"We are excited to get started," Wiertzema said. "I hope the season progresses as scheduled."

TJ Newgard, Luverne girls basketball coach, said all of the uncertainty is starting to take a toll.

"While we were obviously disappointed with the Governor's decision to shorten our season again, we are happy to have a date," Newgard said.

"The uncertainty of a start



John Rittenhouse file photo/1224 Winter Sports

Luverne's Gannon Ahrendt goes up for a layup during a game against H-BC last season. Ahrendt is one of the many prep athletes dealing with the delay to the start of the winter season.

date and playing the waiting game takes a toll on everyone. I know the kids and coaches are excited to get to work on the fourth. If there is one lesson this has provided it's to not take anything for granted."

Cale Wiertzema, the H-BC girl's basketball coach said he's looking forward to having his team together again.

"Having short conversations within the halls between class periods doesn't compare to being together in the gym," Wiertzema said.

With the Jan. 4, start date teams are expected to have up to 10 days to practice.

As of press time Tuesday, there was not a start date for competitions.

Star Herald CHURCH

Page 4B December 24, 2020

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/stcluverne/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.luverncrc.com — office@luverncrc.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

Thursday, Dec. 24: Office is closed. 3:30 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight service with Communion. Friday, Dec. 25: Office is closed. 10 a.m. Christmas Day worship with Communion. Saturday, Dec. 26: 5:30 p.m. Worship service. In-person worship service in Sanctuary. Sunday, Dec. 27: 9 a.m. Worship service. NO Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. NO Adult Bible Study. Tuesday, Dec. 29: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. 9 a.m. Grace Notes mailing. Wednesday, Dec 30: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. NO Confirmation. 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. 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. Friday, Dec. 25: Merry Christmas! Office is closed. Saturday, Dec. 26: AA Meeting. Sunday Dec. 27: 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. 28: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Tuesday, Dec. 29: 9:30 a.m. Folding Team. Wednesday, Dec. 30: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Thursday, Dec. 31: 1-3 p.m. Food Shelf curbside.

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

Jason Cunningham, Pastor

Worship services in-person and through Facebook Live Sunday 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: newlifeceleration@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., Garrettsen, 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. 27: 10 a.m. Worship service at Bethlehem. No Sunday school. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website blchills.org. Tuesday, Dec. 29: No Bible study at Tuff Home and Village.

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

Wonder at the wonder!

"And [the angel Gabriel] came to [Mary] and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' " Luke 1:28

This week I was reminded several times of this: to wonder at the wonder of the familiar Christmas story. For example, like when the archangel Gabriel (who first appears several hundred years earlier to the prophet Daniel) breaks into Mary's ordinary day with, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you," filling her ears and heart with wonder.

Through the angel, God is choosing Mary, not because she is perfect or for the work she has done, or her loveliness, or even her pure heart. Indeed, Mary identifies herself as lowly and poor and she likely was NOT one who was favored in Nazareth, but O, how God loves her!

"Rejoice, highly favored one!" the literal translation, is God playing favorites, God choosing her, simply because it is God's good pleasure to do so. It is God's choosing that Mary would, through the power of the Holy Spirit, set into motion God's perfect plan of salvation for all people.

Mary is a virgin, yet she will conceive and bear a son who is to be named Jesus, who will be the Son of God. And that is the "easy part" of the story. For we read that with God, nothing is impossible. God speaks and creation happens!

As Martin Luther saw it, the great wonder or the "hard part" of the story is this: Mary BELIEVES the word that Gabriel speaks to her. She believes it! Against all odds, this young girl takes God at his word and dares to believe that this glorious thing will happen — for her and for all the earth.

She did not allow herself to wallow in "what-ifs": what if I bring shame upon Joseph? What if this goes horribly wrong? What if Joseph

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Laura Phillips
First Palisade Lutheran Church

God looks upon YOU, favored one, and loves you completely as you are.

leaves me? What if my village punishes me for this pregnancy?

There are NO what-ifs. Wonder of wonders, Mary is willing and pleased to be part of God's wonderful plan. "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38).

It is hard, isn't it, to believe that God so favors his children? That what God says, God indeed does do? Child of God, these are promises for you to cling to, as Mary did, that God, who calls himself EMMANUEL, GOD WITH US, is truly with YOU—simply because God says so. That Jesus, whose name means SAVIOR, saves YOU, his beloved child, from sin and from death and from all evil — simply because God says so. That you are a highly favored one (Ephesians 1:6), chosen by him (John 15:16-17) — simply because God says so.

God is playing favorites still — and you, child of God, are one of them. Have you considered that Almighty God gazes upon you with FAVOR, with GRACE? God does. God looks upon Mary and loves her completely as she is. God looks upon YOU, favored one, and loves you completely as you are.

Wonder at the wonder!

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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Public Information Meeting re: Walleye Wind, LLC set for Jan. 5

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SCOPING MEETING

Issued: December 18, 2020

In the Matter of the Applications of Walleye Wind, LLC
for a Certificate of Need and Site Permit for the Walleye Wind Project
and Associated Facilities in Rock County

PUC Docket Numbers: IP7026/CN-20-269 (Certificate of Need)
and IP7026/WS-20-384 (Site Permit)

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) and Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) will hold a remote-access public information and environmental report scoping meeting on the applications of Walleye Wind, LLC (Walleye Wind) for its proposed 109.2 megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system and associated facilities in Rock County.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed project and the State's permitting processes for a Certificate of Need and Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit. The meeting is also an opportunity for members of the public to participate in the development of the scope of the environmental report and the sample draft site permit by providing comments on the human and environmental impacts associated with the project, potential mitigation measures for those impacts, and possible conditions to be placed on the project's construction and operation.

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the remote-access meeting will replace the standard in-person meeting, as directed by the Governor's executive orders. Similar to an in-person meeting, the remote-access meeting will continue to provide interested persons the opportunity to: (1) learn about the state permitting process and the proposed project; and (2) ask questions and provide comments on potential issues and alternatives to be considered for analysis in the Environmental Report (ER) or included as a condition in a draft site permit. The remote-access public meeting will be held at the following date and time:

Date: Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Remote-Access Meeting (telephone and/or internet)

Written comments may be submitted through January 26, 2021 using the methods described in this notice.

To find out if the meeting is canceled call 1-855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc. You can participate in the meeting in multiple ways:

- To listen to the meeting and provide verbal comments, follow the directions below to access the hearing over the telephone. You must join the meeting by telephone if you are interested in listening or providing verbal comments.
- To view the speaker presentations, follow the directions below to access the hearing over the internet. You must join the hearing over the internet if you are interested in viewing the speaker presentations.
- If you wish to listen to the hearing and watch the presentations, you must join the hearing by both telephone and internet.

Join the meeting by telephone (audio only)	Join the meeting by internet (video only – no audio)
Phone: 1-866-609-6127 or 1-800-374-0221 Conference ID: 2160516 An operator will assist you	https://tinyurl.com/ycboh26 or https://minnesota.webex.com Event Number: 146 328 6493 Event Password: Walleye2021

Please contact Charley Bruce, Public Advisor (charles.bruce@state.mn.us or 651-201-2251) if you have questions on how to participate or have trouble accessing the meeting.

Please Note. Prior to the meeting, presentation materials and handouts will be available on the Department's project website: <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/13893/>. If you do not have adequate access to the internet and want to review the materials being presented, contact Suzanne Steinhauer (suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us or 651-587-1843) to receive printed copies via U.S. Mail.

Meeting Information

- The meeting starts on time and ends when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded.
 - State agency staff members run the meeting.
 - After a brief presentation, the meeting will be open for questions and comments.
- You must join the meeting by telephone in order to participate in the question and comment portion of the meeting.** To submit a question in advance of the meeting, please mail or email your question to suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us with "Meeting Question" in the subject line. There will be time set aside during the meeting to answer these questions.
- Representatives from the Commission, Department, and Walleye Wind will be available to answer questions about the permitting process and the project.
 - You may add verbal comments, written comments, or both into the record.

Meeting Record. A record of the meeting, including all public comments, will be available for review after the meeting date. Links to the meeting record will be available on the Department's website and on the Commission's electronic docketing system (eDockets).

Written Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted through **January 26, 2021**. Please include the docket numbers (20-269, or 20-384) in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered.

Please focus your comments on information that will help answer the following questions:

- What potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project should be considered in the ER and the draft site permit?
- What are possible methods to minimize, mitigate, or avoid potential impacts of the proposed project that should be considered in the ER and the draft site permit?
- Are there any unique characteristics of the proposed site or the project that should be considered?
- Are there other ways to meet the stated need for the project, for example, a different size project or a different type of facility? If so, what alternatives to the project should be studied in the ER?
- Are there any items missing or mischaracterized in any of the applications, or issues that need further development?

Comments may be submitted:

Online: <https://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#comment>

Email: suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

U.S. Mail: Suzanne Steinhauer, Environmental Review Manager Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul MN 55101

Fax: 651-539-0109

Important. Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Project Description

Walleye Wind, LLC has proposed the construction of an up to 109.2-megawatt (MW) Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Rock County. The project would include construction of between 40 and 44 wind turbines with nameplate capacities between 2.32 and 2.82 MW each. Associated facilities would include collection lines, a collector substation, an operations and maintenance facility, a construction laydown yard, crane paths, gravel access roads, a meteorological tower, and a generation tie line of less than 500 feet connecting the collector substation to the existing Rock County Substation.

Process Information

Before the project can be built the Commission must approve a certificate of need and site permit. The Commission accepted Walleye Wind's certificate of need and site permit applications as complete in its order filed October 20, 2020. This means the company submitted all the information required to begin the review process. The Commission's decision-making process takes about 12 months.

The Department's Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff will prepare an environmental report (ER) on this project. The ER analyzes the potential human and environmental impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, as well as ways to address those impacts.

After the ER is issued, an Administrative Law Judge will hold a public hearing. You may speak at the hearing, ask questions, and submit written comments about the project.

After the public hearing and the subsequent written comment period, the Commission reviews all the information in the record, including all public comments received. The Commission's final decision on the certificate of need and site permit for this project is expected in 2021.

How to Learn More

Department of Commerce Project Website: <https://mn.gov/eera/web/project/13893/>

Project Mailing List: Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate (meetings, comment periods, etc.).

Contact docketing.puc@state.mn.us or 651-201-2204 with the docket numbers (20-269 for the certificate of need and 20-384 for the site permit), Leesa Norton, 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55164 and leesa.norton@state.mn.us.

Full Case Record: See all documents filed in this docket via the Commission's website - mn.gov/puc, select Search eDockets, enter the year (20) and the docket number (269 or 384), select Search.

Subscribe to receive email notification when new documents are filed.

1. mn.gov/puc
2. Select Subscribe
3. Type your email address
4. For Type of Subscription, select Docket Number
5. For Docket Number, select 20 in the first box, type "269" for the certificate of need or "384" for the site permit in the second box
6. Select Add to List
7. Select Save

*Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

Community Locations: The certificate of need and site permit applications are available at these locations:

- Rock County Community Library: 201 W Main St, Luverne, MN 56156

Minnesota Statutes and Rules: The certificate of need for the project is reviewed under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 216B. The rules for review of the certificate of need are Minnesota Rules Chapter 7849. The site permit for the project is reviewed under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F. The rules for review of the site permit are Minnesota Rules Chapter 7854. These statutes and rules are available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

Project Contacts

Public Utilities Commission Public Advisor

Contact Charley Bruce, charley.bruce@state.mn.us or 651-201-2251

Public Utilities Commission Energy Facilities Permitting Planner

Michael Kaluzniak, mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us or 651-201-2257

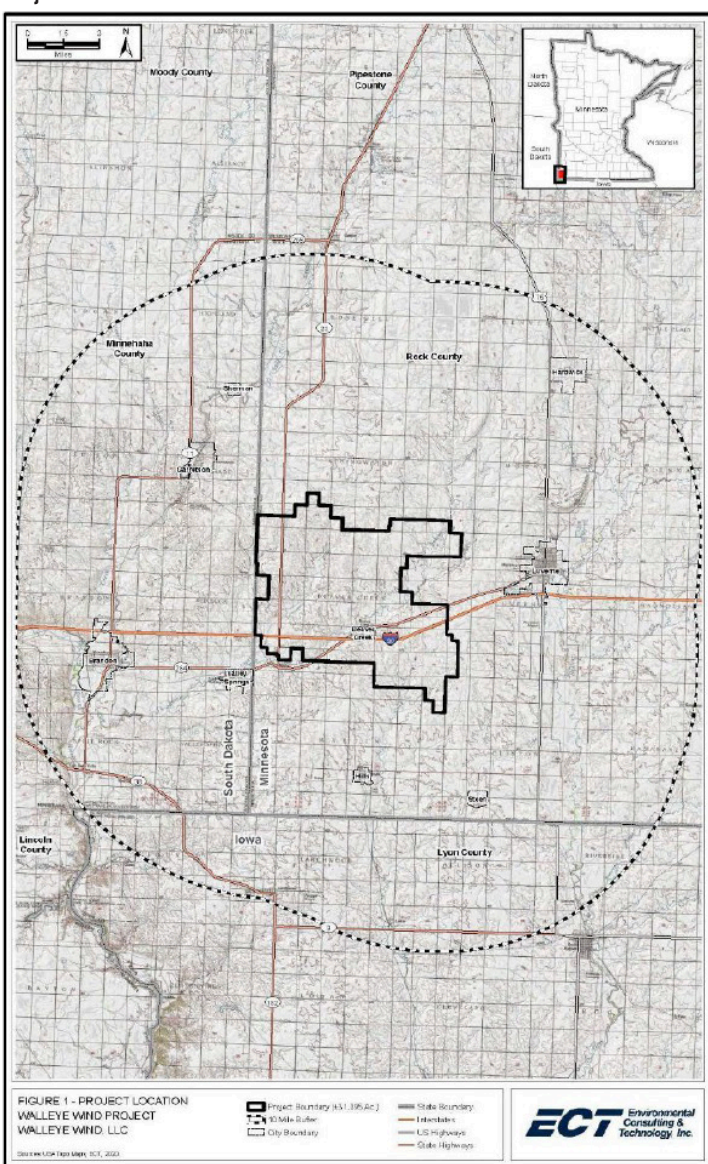
Department of Commerce Environmental Review Manager

Suzanne Steinhauer, suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us, 651-539-1843 or 1-800-657-3794

Walleye Wind Project Contact

Mike Weich, mike.weich@nexteraenergy.com or 561-281-0373

Project Location



If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these meetings (e.g., sign language, foreign language interpreter, large print materials), please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the meeting.

To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651.296.0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.

(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 complete construction 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 & 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.

No bidder may withdraw a bid for 30 days following the bid opening without a written request explaining the cause of the withdrawal and without 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)

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 Courthouse, 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

Court Administrator

Eisma and Eisma

130 East Main

Luverne, MN 56156

(507) 283-4828

I. D. #297550

(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)

H-BC School Board meets Nov. 23

Hills-Beaver Creek Dist. 671
Minutes
November 23, 2020

The Hills-Beaver Creek School Board met for its semi-monthly meeting at 7:01 p.m. in the H-BC Secondary School Media Center/via Zoom Mtg for Guest attendees – based on MN Statute 13D.021.

Board members present were Bosch, Gehrke, Knobloch, Rauk, Rozeboom and Wysong. Superintendent Holthaus, Principal Kellenberger and Business Manager Rozeboom were also in attendance. Board member LaRock was absent.

Motion by Bosch, second by Rozeboom, and carried to approve the agenda. Visitor to the meeting was Mavis Fodness of the Star Herald.

PATRIOT PRIDE:

- Football Team on their undefeated regular season
- Football Team Section Champs
- Rex Metzger as Vikings and WCCO TV Coach of the Week
- FFA Food Drive
- Successful Parent Nights for Football and Volleyball
- End of Fall Sport Seasons
- American Education Week- Recognition of all those that make H-BC Great

Motion by Wysong, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve Consent Agenda:
-Minutes 11/12/2020.

-Bills.

-Donation: Streen Reformed Church - \$350.00, to be used for those in need at the discretion of administration.

-Hills-Beaver Creek Teaching Staff Seniority List.

-Hills-Beaver Creek ECPE Staff Seniority List.

Motion by Rozeboom, second by Bosch, and carried to approve Hearing of the facts regarding the request for Ron and Cheryl Hup's application to abate district taxes for the next five years beginning in 2021 as a part of the District's Tax Abatement program for new construction of homes.

Motion by Knobloch, second by Wysong, and carried to approve School District Tax Abatement Request from Ron and Cheryl Hup for five years beginning with fiscal year 2021 as a part of the District's approved Tax Abatement program in relation to new construction of homes in the district.

DISTRICT NON-ACTION ITEMS:

- Secondary Principal Report
- Superintendent/Elementary Principal Report
- Committee Meetings: None

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING:

-Levy Certification

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Regular Board Meeting, Monday, December 14
- Regular Board Meeting, Monday, December 28

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Tamara Rauk, Clerk

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)

ISD #2184 School Board meets Nov. 24

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2184,
ROCK COUNTY, LUVERNE, MINNESOTA.

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, ISD #2184, was held in the District Office and also via Zoom on November 24, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Katie Baustian, Jodi Bosch, Colleen Deutsch, Eric Hartman, Tim Jarchow, Shelley Sandbulte, and Reva Sehr. Also present: Craig Oftedahl, Marlene Mann, Jason Phelps, Becky Rahm, Angie Janiszkeski, Lloyd Hemme, Lauren VerSteeg, Jason Berghorst, David Wrigg, and Mavis Fodness – Rock County Star Herald.

Chairperson Jodi Bosch called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. It was noted that there is an addendum to the agenda. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Baustian, to approve the agenda with the addendum. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrative reports were given.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Hartman, to approve the October 22, November 6, and November 12, 2020, School Board minutes as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent Oftedahl gave a brief building project update.

Business Manager Marlene Mann reviewed the district bills with the School Board. Motion made by Baustian, second by Deutsch, to approve payment of the district bills in the amount of \$1,561,630.48 including payroll; student activity fund

bills in the amount of \$3,951.19; and, construction project bills in the amount of \$1,662,466.65. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Sehr, to receive the Student Activity report showing the balances as of October 31, 2020. Motion unanimously carried. Business Manager Marlene Mann reviewed the annual District Revenues and Expenditures Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and FY 2021. She noted the 2020 Operating Cost per ADM is \$12,058.57. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Jarchow, to approve the report as presented. It will be posted on the School District website. Motion unanimously carried.

Member Hartman introduced the following:

RESOLUTION OF SCHOOL BOARD SUPPORTING

FORM A APPLICATION TO MN STATE HS LEAGUE FOUNDATION

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State High School League Foundation was formed to provide support for Minnesota's high school youth to participate in athletics and fine arts;

WHEREAS, the District 2184 School Board recognizes the value of student participation in extracurricular activities; and

WHEREAS, the MSHSL Foundation is offering grants and funding to assist school districts in recognizing, promoting and funding extracurricular participation by high school students in athletic and fine arts programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Luverne School Board supports the District's application to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation for a Form A grant to offset student activity fees.

The motion was duly seconded by member Sandbulte. Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent Oftedahl provided information on the additional MN State High School League membership dues for this school year. The additional fees are as the result of a MSHSL deficit due to no State tournaments being held last Spring or so far this year due to Covid-19. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Baustian, to pay the final two installments of the membership fee in the total amount of \$6,044.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Jarchow, to accept the resignation of Michelle Curtis, Special Services Administrative Assistant effective December 18, 2020. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Sandbulte, to approve the hiring of Lisa Remme as Middle/High School Paraprofessional beginning January 4, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

There were no committee reports. The upcoming meeting dates were reviewed. It was noted that several board members felt a work session needs to be held in December. Superintendent Oftedahl will send out some possible dates.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Baustian, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Dated: November 24, 2020

Tim Jarchow, Clerk
(12-24)

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)

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)

Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

MISCELLANEOUS

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

CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you for the cards, calls, emails and messages for my 80th Birthday!

Kermit Limesand

(12.24-12.26)

RENTALS

Apartment for rent: One-bedroom, ground floor apartment with garage. No pets; no smoking. 507-283-9720. (tc)

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)

START THE NEW YEAR
IN A NEW HOME!

**CENTENNIAL
APARTMENTS**
1 Bedroom

For those 50+ or Disabled

Includes ALL Utilities!

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Equal Housing Opportunity

LloydManagementInc.com

EMPLOYMENT

Ellsworth Public School is accepting applications for a Paraprofessional. Applications can be found online at <https://www.ellsworth.mntm.org/district/district-vacancies.cfm> or by calling the school office at 507-967-2242. (12.19-1.7)

First Presbyterian Church is hiring an Administrative Assistant/Financial Secretary. This role provides administrative support to the Pastor, maintains Church management software, processes accounts payable, and welcomes guests. The ideal candidate will have a strong Christian faith, exhibit high standards, have excellent communication skills, initiative, and the ability to prioritize daily tasks. **Qualifications:**
•Computer proficiency, experience with MS Office, and an aptitude to learn the Church Management Software
•Accounting/Financial experience with Accounts Payable, Payroll, Financial Statements, and overseeing the church's investments
•A warm, welcoming personality for answering phone calls and greeting visitors who come to the church office
Full job description is available upon request. Please submit Cover Letter and Resume to Pastor Jason at pastorjasonc2@yahoo.com to apply. (12.19-1.7)

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED: Looking for a fun and rewarding job? Palisades State Park and Big Sioux Recreation Area are accepting applications for summer seasonal positions and Internships. Several positions available, salaries start at \$10.17/hr, and 40 hour work week (part-time could be considered). For job information and application please visit <https://bhr.sd.gov/job-seekers/seasonal/>. Applicants must be age 17 by date of hire. Interviews will begin in March, so get your application in quickly as possible. For questions, email palisadespark@state.sd.us or call 605-594-3824. EOE (12.19-1.14)

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)

Interested in
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Call
283-2333

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

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:

- Insurance benefits
- Paid vacation, sick leave and holidays
- Retirement plan

On-call (PRN): Multiple positions available to substitute on both day and evening shifts.

**View complete
job announcements and
Apply online at**

<https://mn.gov/mmb/careers>.

For more information call 507-920-0000.

EEO/AAO



FIRE APPARATUS PLUMBING ASSEMBLER



MIDWEST FIRE

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.

Midwest Fire was named one of the 50 Best Places to Work by Prairie Business Magazine in 2015-2016 & 2019-2020.

Duties: Assembling plumbing & electrical subcomponents, assist in implementation and sustainment of 5S 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

www.Star-Herald.com

Merry Christmas!

City of Luverne Departments will close at Noon on Thursday, December 24 and will be closed on Friday, December 25.

Friday's Recycling Route (North of Dodge) will be picked up on Monday, December 28.

Luverne

MINNESOTA

Love the life!

Wishing you & yours a Merry Christmas

Blue Mound Auto Glass

BRIAN BOLL, OWNER
1481 ROWE DR, LUVERNE • 507-920-7051

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Thank you for your patronage in 2020. We are looking forward to working with you in 2021.

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May the Magic and Wonder of the Season Fill your Heart and Home.

Country Cupboards

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Remember as we celebrate this Christmas

For some families in our community, this year has been especially difficult. We know the first holidays following the death of a loved one are milestones that often bring grief to the surface once more as celebrations and traditions are just not the same.

The names below are the loved ones of families served by our funeral home during this past year. With Christmas upon us, please consider sending the gift of love to these families through a few moments of your time to show concern for them and their grief.

Ardell Bowman	Lorna Brooks	Alvina Hup
Bryan Boelman	Marvin Kroontje	Kade Nistler
Marvin Hawes	Helen Krogmann	Mary Grace Miller
Doreen Anderson	Jim Kitchenmaster	Kleinjan Baby
Henrietta Elbers	Frederick "Fred" Augustad	William "Bill" Butzer
Bernice Aukes	Elden Reyelts	David Groen
Charlotte Korthals	Cecilia "Butch" Galagan	Donald "Baily" Halverson
Larry Tweet	Shirley Christianson	Gary Petersen
Linda Jordan	Jackson Facile	Albertus "Bert" Van Westen
Esther Olson	Jerry Van't Hul	Arnold "Arnie" Callsen
Michael Bonnema	Erling Severtson	Alberta Kremin
Eva Lu Hemme	Maxine Brown	Matthew Franken
Mary Duncan	Paul Buss	Pamela Jo Abell
Anna Tilstra	David Hansen	Norma Schneekloth
Deanene Greer	Larry Griffin	Joyce Wessels
Jeanette Vos	Delores Dressen	Kimber Siebenahler
Henry Petersen	Robyn Hemme	Taylor Kelly
Eldon Walker	William Kannenberg	Lorraine Van Nieuwenhuizen
Pearl Kephart	Raymond Dorn	Joyce Fick
John Kroontje	Nancy Vance	Gilbert "Gib" Elbers
Joan Goebel	Patricia Dreesen	Ethel Ossefoort
Dwight Lafrenz	Alyce McClure	Phyllis "Pat" Bentson
Jerome Wieneke	Anthony "Tony" Miller	Jerry Benson
Jimmie Lafrenz	Michelle McMurrey	Dwight Gangestad
Judith Binford	Dallas Marr	Viola Uithoven
JoAnn Ransom	Curtis Thorson	Mary Ann Ackerman
Delores Hendricksen	Generose Bush	Jolene Hunt
Bonnie Muller	June Webster	Shannon Walgrave
Herman Buys	Michael Vance	Jacquelyn Reverts
Darlene Blank	Lois Tecken	Jolene Schneiderman
Jim Van Santen	Charles "Chuck" Feikema	Dorothy Kraayenhof
	Marcus Emery	

May each family find peace and comfort in the promise of Christmas this season.

The Saviour is born!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Wishing you safe & happy holidays from your friends at Minnwest Bank

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»www.minnwestbank.com

116 E Main St | Luverne, MN 507-283-2366

800 S Kniss Ave | Luverne, MN 507-283-9131

*Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
goodwill toward men* - Luke 2:14

The office will be closed
Dec. 24 & 25 to spend
time with family



Main Street
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507-283-9590 or 1-800-260-1014
www.mainstreetfinancial.net





Edna Buys, Marilyn VanSanten, Nancy VanDeBerg, Lynette Jassefort, Amy Sandbulte, Teresa Hup, Christina Koedam and David Riphagen

Securities offered through Registered Representatives of Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a broker-dealer member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services through Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor. Cambridge and Main Street Financial Services, Inc., are not affiliated.



Hills
Back row (left to right): Jessica Taubert, Marissa Leuthold, Amanda Metzger, Trista Bosch, Kathy Fick, Kyla Jellema, Heidi Van Wyhe
Front row (left to right): Caleb Ellingson and Aaron Erickson
Not pictured: Marlys Rauk



Luverne
Back Row (left to right): Knute Oldre, Ashley Tilstra, Dani Klooster, Don Bryan, Tyler Bush
Front Row (left to right): Carol Nelson, Ryan DeBates, Sheryl Klaassen
Not pictured: Amber Bos

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Holiday Hours:
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24: CLOSING AT NOON
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25: CLOSED
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31: CLOSING AT 4 PM
FRIDAY, JANUARY 1: CLOSED
Posting for 2020 will end at 3 pm on December 31.
All business after 3 pm will be posted in 2021



**SECURITY
SAVINGS BANK**



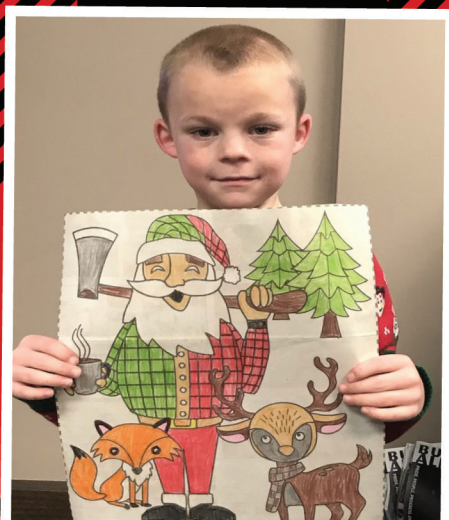
Ellsworth
Back row (left to right): Laurie Deutsch, Kelly Kramer, Dorene Chapa, Jennifer DeBeer
Front row (left to right): Nicie Bosch, Chelle DeGroot

Member
FDIC

**CHRISTMAS COLORING CONTEST
AND THE WINNERS ARE...**



**AGES FOUR & FIVE
KALLISTA VANGROOTHEEST**



**AGES SIX & SEVEN
JAXON BOSMA**



**AGES EIGHT & NINE
MALLORIE EDSTROM**



**AGES TEN - THIRTEEN
HAVEN KERKHOVE-BRANDT**



**AGES FOURTEEN - SEVENTEEN
GRACIE NATH**



**18 - ADULTS
AMY CHAPA**

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR COLORING CONTEST
WINNERS AND
THANK YOU
TO THE 181 CHILDREN & ADULTS
WHO ENTERED!**

