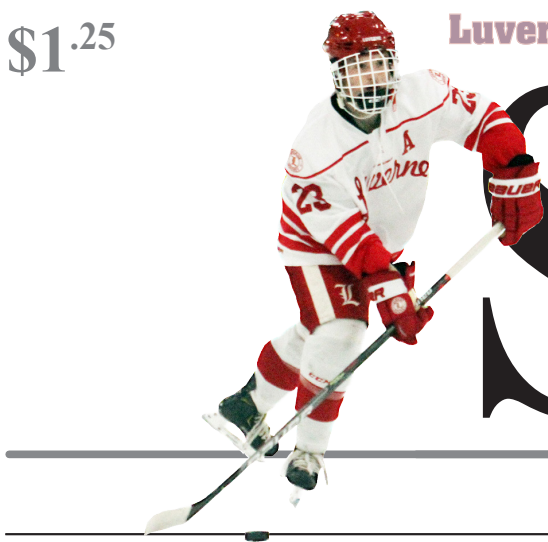




Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, December 26, 2019

City tallies benefits of buying and demolishing blighted lots

*Q. Why spend taxpayer money buying real estate?
A. Improving blighted properties improves tax base and curb appeal*

By Lori Sorenson

Several properties were demolished in recent weeks as part of Luverne's continued effort to remove blight and encourage redevelopment.

The city purchased three properties this summer — two on Maple Street and one on South Highway 75 — and they were razed in the past couple of weeks.

Purchase prices of the three properties totaled \$65,000 and demolition costs averaged \$5,000 per structure.

They join more than 20 properties in town — 12 of them residential and eight commercial — that were similarly purchased over the past decade.

The program required an upfront investment of \$350,000 in purchase and demolition costs over the past 10 years, but Call said increased property taxes on the improved lots more than pay for the costs.

"Yes, it does cost money to buy properties and demolish structures," Call said.

"But when you balance that with increased tax base over the next 50 years, the rate of return is worth the investment."

Commercial redevelopment sees \$2 million of new tax base

History backs up this claim. Call named 10 properties along the Highway 75 corridor through Luverne that were improved in recent years after the city bought blighted lots and prepared them for redevelopment.

For example, the city purchased the old turkey barns south of I-90 and demolished the blighted structures.

Blighted property analysis/see p. 5



Mavis Fodness photo/1212 Frosty Scene

Nature's frosty beauty decorates landscape

The tracks of the Buffalo Ridge Railroad west of Luverne form stark lines against the bright white crystals of frost on the surrounding vegetation during a recent December morning. On the western horizon an Ellis & Eastern train engine brings cars down the rail line. Weather conditions have been perfect in rural Rock County for hoarfrost to form on trees and other vegetation, resulting in art-like scenery.

Asbestos costs add \$200,000 to district levy

Luverne School levy to rise 5.94 percent for taxes in 2020

By Mavis Fodness

State officials approved a request by Luverne School officials to increase the local 2020 levy an additional \$200,000.

The increase brings the total amount from local property owners payable in 2020 to \$4.08 million, up from the preliminary levy of \$3.8 million approved in October.

Business manager Marlene Mann outlined the 2020 budget at the district's Truth In Taxation hearing Dec. 19.

The district set its preliminary levy this fall to increase by \$29,000 — a .75 percent increase over the 2019 levy, which was the maximum allowed by the state.

However the Luverne district incurred unforeseen costs with a \$200,000 asbestos removal bill as part of the school construction project, and Mann said she appealed to the state to have that bill included in the levy.

The request was approved as a health and safety budget item and won't be paid as part of the district's \$30 million building remodeling project.

Luverne School Board members approved the new district levy at \$229,000.

Until June 2020, the district anticipates \$18.8 million in revenues, most of it (\$13.3 million) from the state.

Expenditures are estimated at \$20.9 million, including \$2.7 million for the building project.

The largest expenditure is for salary and wages with a budget of \$9.2 million with an additional \$2.5 million set aside for employee benefits.

The district and the Luverne Teachers Association are currently negotiating for the next two-year contract, which technically began July 1 of this year.

No settlement had been reached at the time of last week's school board meeting.



Mavis Fodness photo/1226 Ally Therapy Dog

Kindergartner Sophia Swenson peeks at Luverne Elementary School's first therapy dog as counselor Marie Atkinson-Smeins talks about expressing feelings on Dec. 18. Teacher Jill Wagner said her students were more relaxed and comforted by Ally's visit to her classroom.

Therapy dog starts in Luverne Elementary School

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne Elementary's 517 students are learning some obedience skills this month through a special instructor.

Ally is a 7-year-old golden retriever/Labrador mix and is an ap-

proved therapy dog for the school.

Her owner, elementary counselor Marie Atkinson-Smeins, spent months certifying her through the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, based in

Ally the therapy dog/see page 14

Anatomy of a theater organ

Palace pipes come singing back to life with professional restoration work

By Lori Sorenson

Art Aadland, Valley Springs, South Dakota, travels the country building and repairing organs, and one of his projects this year has been to service and repair the Palace Theatre organ.

The 1926 Smith-Geneva is the oldest working theater organ of its make and model in the United States, and Aadland is determined to improve its sound while protecting its historic integrity.

The instrument's system of more than 400 pipes on five ranks, two manuals and a full set of percussion puts out a giant sound from a tiny crawlspace backstage in Luverne's historic theater.

A small door in the southwest corner of the auditorium opens to a secret chamber that houses vertical ranks of pipes ranging in size from smaller than a pencil to roughly 9 feet tall.

The setup includes a full-size base drum, cymbals, chimes, xylophone and other percussion specialties.

Aadland has a senior apprentice to hand him tools, but he said space requires the work to be a one-man job.

Palace Theatre organ repair/see p. 3



Lori Sorenson photo/1226 palace organ repair

A small door in the southwest corner of the Palace Theatre auditorium opens to a secret chamber that houses vertical ranks of pipes ranging in size from smaller than a pencil to roughly 9 feet tall. Professional organ specialist Art Aadland, Valley Springs, works in the cramped space to repair the organ's inner workings. The public will have a chance to hear the improved pipes during short recitals about 25 minutes prior to the 7 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Sunday movies.



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How to reach us

507-283-2333 PO Box 837
editor@star-herald.com Luverne, MN 56156

www.star-herald.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Generations meeting will be at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, in the Generations building. Agenda items include election of board members and approval of revised by-laws.

Women’s Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. Mondays in the United Methodist Church.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays in the United Methodist Church, Luverne. Call 605-321-4324.

Alanon will meet from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Nov. 7 and 21, in Sanford Luverne Blue Mound Room and then will go back to meeting the second and fourth Thursdays. Call 507-449-1246 with questions.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 8 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday in Runals Memorial Hall, Edgerton. Call Naomi, 507-215-2956.

Holiday bus schedule

Community Transit buses operate on a different schedule through the holidays. County-wide services run from 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. Within the city of Luverne, service is from 8 a.m. to noon on Sundays. No service is offered New Year’s Day. Call 507-537-3861 with questions.

Food shelf holiday schedule

Holiday hours at the Rock County Emergency Food Shelf are from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 26. The Food Shelf is located in the lower level of the United Methodist Church, Luverne.

Winter Community Ed brochure

The new Winter Community Education brochure will be included in the Jan. 5 edition of the Luverne Announcer. It is also on the Community Education page of the school website.

The Community Ed office is closed until Jan. 2.

Dental clinics set for Jan. 8 and Feb. 5

Two dental health clinics for ages 0-26 will be at Rock County Health and Human Services at 2 Roundwind Road in Luverne on Wednesday, Jan. 8, and Tuesday, Feb. 5. Call 612-746-1530 to schedule an appointment, or stop at Rock County Health and Human Services for assistance in scheduling. Exams, X-rays, cleanings and more will be provided. All forms of insurance are accepted.

Rock County Library activities

Contact the library at rocklibrarystaff@gmail.com or call 507-449-5040 to register for events.

Mah Jongg is from 1 to 3 p.m. Thursdays.

Trivia Night, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 2, Take 16.

Evening Story Time, 6:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 21 to March 31.

Winter Story Time, 10:30 a.m. Fridays, Jan. 24 to April 10.

DIY Egg Carton Flowers, 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30.

Book Versus Movie: A Winter Book/Film Club, “Wonder” 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23; “The Outsiders” 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20; and “Everything Everything” 6 p.m., March 19.

Trivia Night, 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, Take 16.

DIY Flower Boxes, 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Trivia Night, 7 p.m. Thursday, March 5, Take 16.

iPhone and iPad 101 Class, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tuesday, March 17. Call Community Ed, 507-283-4724, to register.

DIY Cassette Pencil Holder, 6 p.m. Thursday, March 26.

Trivia Night, 7 p.m. Thursday, April 2, Take 16.

Closing at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 31. Closed Wednesday, Jan. 1, 2020.

Library hours are Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Community Ed

Register by e-mailing C.Arends@isd2184.net or calling 507-283-4724.

Cabin Fever Reliever for ages 0 to 5 and a parent will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Jan. 2.

A new 10-week session of **ECFE classes** begins the week of Jan. 6.

#LuvItLuvAll mental health focus group will meet Monday, Jan. 6, at 7 p.m. in the CE Room 802 for **Mental Health Medication Information**. Registration is required for this free class, and continuing ed credit forms are available.



Lori Sorenson photos/1226 marlene and darlene

The Generations board conducts a meeting as part of the script of “Marlene and Darlene Perform the Nutcracker” Sunday night during the second performance that raised money for the Generations building project. From left are Casey McKenzie as Norvin, Betty Mann playing herself, George Bonnema playing himself, Brenda Winter as Marlene and DJ as Darlene.

‘Marlene and Darlene perform The Nutcracker’ raises money for Generations building project

By Lori Sorenson

Brenda Winter and DJ Luethje took their popular “Marlene and Darlene” act to the Palace Theatre stage Sunday as a fundraiser for the Generations building project.

The two comedy shows, one at 2 and one at 7, attracted a total of more than 450 people and donations are still coming in after the show for the new Generations meeting space and dining center to be built west of the current facility.

Winter and Luethje co-starred with Generations President George Bonnema and Historical Society President Betty Mann for the script that brings local seniors together for a home-made “Nutcracker” performance.

The point was to call attention to the Generations group and its local com-



Brenda Winter (Marlene) rants about wasting the fundraiser because there was a typo in “Save Are Generations.”

munity goals and to raise money for the new building.

The new \$3 million Generations facility will have 9,953 square feet of

functional space, including seating for 112 in the main dining room with an overflow room that could accommodate an additional

56. The new kitchen layout will have more food prep and serving space and will include a walk-in freezer and walk-in cooler.

The plan includes three multipurpose rooms that will be available for social, physical and educational activities to benefit members. These rooms will also be available for community and private events.

It will be built directly west of the current Generations dining room on a 100-by-135-foot lot purchased from Terry and Mary Thone, who will move their house and two garages to a different location.

When the new building is completed, the current dining room and Lincoln House will be demolished, and that entire property will be converted to 48 parking spaces.

H-BC School District approves lower levy for 2020

By Mavis Fodness

Debt refinancing is saving property owners in the Hills-Beaver Creek School District more than \$110,000 in 2020 prompting a 7.8 percent decrease in the levy.

The district will collect \$1.352 million from taxpayers next year, down from \$1.462 in 2019.

The savings is a result of the Sept. 30 bond-refinancing sale that lowered interest rates from 4 percent to 2.1 for the next 16 years.

“The board wanted to make sure this financing goes through — to save tax dollars for our residents,” said Superintendent Todd Holthaus.

With interest at almost half of its original rate, district taxpayers will save a total of \$1.5 million under the new bond repayment schedule. The bond matures in 2036.

However, the district is expected to overspend its 2020 budget, according to information released at the district’s Dec. 9 Truth in

Taxation hearing that didn’t attract public attendees.

In a summary of its upcoming fiscal year 2020 budget, the district projects spending \$4.9 million, \$476,000 more than in fiscal year 2019.

The increase comes from a \$360,000 roof project completed this spring at the elementary school in addition to the scheduled salary increases and the addition of a half-time position in the district this school year.

Holthaus said the roofing project was part of the district’s long-term facility maintenance plan and will be repaid using future levy dollars.

“In essence we borrowed the money from ourselves,” he said, adding that it will save interest costs.

The district’s 2020 budget is \$4.9 million.

Auditors presented the fiscal year 2019 audit at the district’s Monday night meeting.



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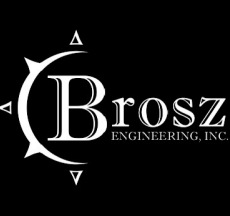
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Art Aadlad takes a seat at the Palace Theatre's 1926 Smith-Geneva organ.

Palace Theater organ repair/ continued from page 1

"It's so cramped in there you really only have room for one person," he said, carefully maneuvering himself between the fragile parts.

Full access

His first order of business was to build a new support system and service access in order to more safely work on the wind chests and delicate organ mechanisms.

"That structural piece really has to be done right, so it doesn't compromise service access," Aadland said. "Without it, I'd have to lie on my back on a very delicate conduit, sandwiched between parts."

The new construction needed to hold up nearly 1,000 pounds of wind chests and pipes, and it now includes a new ladder system and safer scaffolding for future service calls.

Anatomy of an organ

To observe Aadland at work is a lesson in organ anatomy.

He explains that the Palace organ has two ranks of wooden pipes and three ranks of metal pipes. Each pipe represents a note.

The metal pipes are arranged on three ranks with 73 pipes per rank.

Of the wooden set, there are two ranks, one with 85 wooden pipes and the other with 97 — including 12 low bass 9-foot-tall wooden pipes that carry 16 pitches.

Wooden pipes produce sounds like a flute, saxophone or other "woodwind" instruments.

"There are quite a few dead notes," Aadland said about the Palace organ. "I'm repairing all the ones that aren't functioning."

He explains the sprawling wiring system under the Palace stage triggers the valves that open the pipes, which are metal or wood.

"There are numerous electrical repairs that are needed," Aadland said. "It's meant cleaning connections, and contacts and resoldering them."

Some of his work involves straightening bent pipes and repairing broken valve linkages and the channeled air passages that deliver sound from the



Art Aadland's first order of business was to build a new support system and service access in order to more safely work on the wind chests and delicate organ mechanisms (in the photo at right). "That structural piece really has to be done right, so it doesn't compromise service access," Aadland said. "Without it, I'd have to lie on my back on a very delicate conduit, sandwiched between parts." At left are the percussion instruments.



Ryan Hardy, president of the Red River Theater Organ Society, will perform short preludes to the movie, "Frozen II," at 7 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Sunday. They will start about 25 minutes prior to show times.

pipes.

He explained there are ruptures in some of the pneumatic pouches that house valves that carry messages from the keyboard to the mechanism that delivers wind to the pipes.

The material is made of paper-thin leather and sometimes a rubbery fabric, both of which become brittle with age.

Aadland said he re-leathers and re-fabrics them where necessary. "Some of these are over 70 years old," he said. "I'm trying to keep everything as historically accurate as possible."

Dividing time

The Blue Mound Area The-

atre Board received a \$10,000 grant from the Luverne Area Community Foundation to renovate the historic organ.

Their obvious choice for the work was Aadland Pipe Organ Co. in Valley Springs, operated by Art and Ellen Aadland since 1971.

In addition to building and repairing organs, the company is known for engineering climate stability and service access to organs.

Aadland started working on the Palace organ this spring and is about halfway through the necessary work, with the lower manual (keyboard) nearly finished.

"It's almost 100 percent fully functional, and that hasn't happened in quite awhile," he said. "The upper manual still has a few dead notes."

Aadland is dividing his time between the Palace in Luverne and Our Father's Lutheran Church near Littleton, Colorado, where he's building an organ from the ground up.

So, a few days a month, a few days at a time, Aadland chips away at restoring the Palace organ to its optimal sound.

"It's satisfying to see it come to life to the extent that it hasn't in many years," he said.

Pipes to sing Dec. 27 and 29

Palace Theatre patrons will have a chance to hear the improved sound this weekend during two organ recitals ahead of the Friday night and Sunday afternoon movie showing.

Ryan Hardy, president of the Red River Theater Organ Society, will perform short preludes to the movie, "Frozen II," at 7 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Sunday. They will start about 25 minutes prior to show times. (See the related story.)

Organ recitals set for this weekend

Recitals 25 minutes prior to the 7 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Sunday movie

By Lori Sorenson

Fewer than 200 theater organs exist in the world and only a small number of those are in working order.

The Palace Theatre's 1920 Smith-Geneva organ is a rare gem, according to Ryan Hardy, president of the Red River Theater Organ Society.

"It's significant in that it's an all-original instrument still in operation in its original venue," Hardy said. "That's extremely rare. It's probably the only one — or one of the only ones — of its kind."

Hardy, of Fargo, North Dakota, will perform short organ recitals this weekend at the Palace ahead of the movie, "Frozen II," at 7 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

The organ prelude will start about 25 minutes prior to show times.

"I enjoy showcasing and playing the organ for an audience... to share an appreciation for the instrument," he said. "I get the impression it doesn't get played often."

When theaters began using organs in the 1920s, they were essential for silent films and live entertainment of the era.

But over the past century, movies began using their own sound, and theater organs were no longer needed.

Most disappeared when theaters themselves were demolished, and many that survived with their buildings were not maintained and fell into disrepair.

Hardy said he enjoys playing theater organs like the one at the Palace to offer others a glimpse at what the instruments are capable of.

"When a lot of people think about pipe organs, they think church organs and hymns," Hardy said.

"These organs were meant to be played for entertainment."

For example they have varying sizes and numbers of manuals and of pipes and most are fully acoustic — built with percussion instruments like drums, chimes and xylophones.

This weekend's recitals in Luverne will offer opportunities for Palace patrons to hear the local organ after its yearlong repair and renovation. (See the companion story)

Hardy is a fourth-year student at North Dakota State University in Fargo where he's studying music and music education.

His parents live in Sioux Falls, and he said he enjoys playing the Palace organ when traveling through the area. Mostly, he said he hopes to call attention to musical and theatrical gifts in the community.

"They shouldn't take their Palace Theatre for granted or the organ, for that matter," Hardy said.

"To see one operating with success in such a small town is really impressive, and they should always support it."

Grants will support people with dementia, those who care

By Lori Sorenson

The Minnesota Board on Aging recently awarded a \$72,900 grant to A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota to support its ongoing efforts to educate the public about dementia in its seven county service area.

Linda Wenzel coordinates Rock County aging and volunteer services for A.C.E. and said the money will support the recently launched Dementia Network in Rock County.

"We need to work together as a community to collaborate and get more accomplished," Wenzel said. "I just feel like we are really blessed to have this opportunity."

Specifically, the grant funds will support ongoing training, virtual aging and dementia experience trainings and dementia-specific educational plays in southwest Minnesota.

The point, Wenzel said, is to increase public awareness

of dementia, promote benefits of early detection and connect care partners with services.

According to the Minnesota Board on Aging, Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia affect a large and growing number of Minnesotans, and the grant funds are targeted for programs that help.

A.C.E. is one of 11 organizations that received \$750,000 in grants to help meet the needs of both individuals with dementia and those who care for them.

The funds were appropriated by the Legislature and

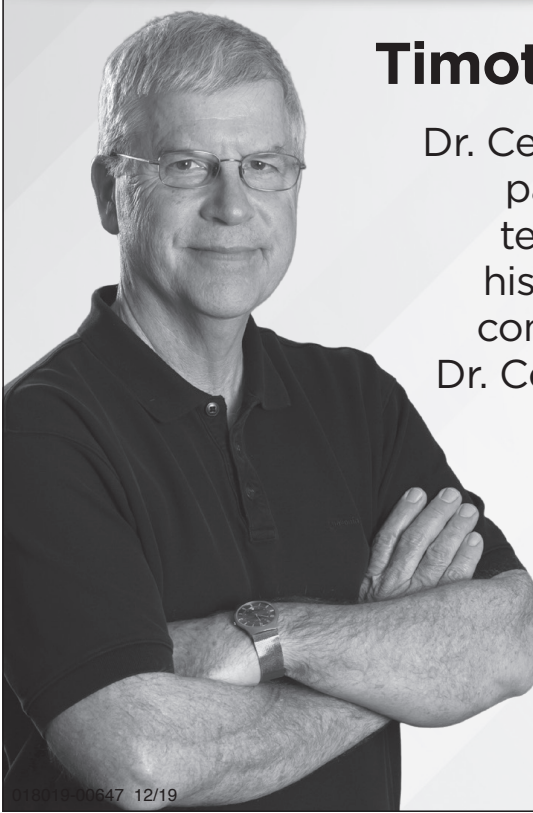
awarded by the Minnesota Board on Aging.

"These funds support not only people with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia but their family and friends, who play such a critical role in caregiving," said Kari Benson, executive director of the Minnesota Board on Aging.

"Alzheimer's alone impacts some 91,000 Minnesotans over age 65, a number that continues to grow, and more than 254,000 people who provide care informally."

Wenzel can be reached at the ACE, 507-283-5064 or ace.rock@co.rock.mn.us

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How would you define a good sport?

We have a suggestion

From now on, if anyone asks me for the definition of a good sport, I'm going to answer "Betty Mann."



THE NORTHVIEW

By Brenda Winter, Columnist

From now on, if anyone asks me for the definition of a good sport, I'm going to answer "Betty Mann."

Betty was willing to portray herself in the "Marlene and Darlene Present the Nutcracker" show at the Palace Theatre on Dec. 22 even though the storyline poked fun at nutcrackers and people like Betty who collect them.

Betty brought down the house with her line, "It's beautiful," while admiring the ugliest clown nutcracker ever created. We cracked up again as she showed Norvin the delivery man (Casey McKenzie) the intricate differences between nutcrackers which often go unnoticed by many people.

In real life during the lead-up to the show, Betty got sick, spent time in bed, lost her voice and developed a terrible cough. But she still showed up — script in hand and cough drops in her pocket — ready to practice.

Also during this time, she worked her shifts at the History Center, hosted the History Center children's Christmas party, sang in the community Christmas choir, played piano at a community memorial service, and had her annual family Christmas gathering.

Did I mention she's almost 90?

It's because of Betty that nutcrackers have become a thing in Luverne. A tourism consultant keenly observed that every community needs a "hook" to pull in visitors and for Luverne, the hook could be Betty's nutcracker display at the History Center.

After hearing the consultant's suggestion, community members promptly divided

into pro- and anti-nutcracker camps. The discussion included nasty conversations about "crazy old ladies" and "ugly nutcrackers."

Some of the attacks were personal, and, of course, Betty heard them.

But because Betty is kind and gracious and from a generation of people who keep their chins up and their mouths shut, she said nothing.

She didn't say, "I told you so," when nearly 3,000 people visited the History Center this year, many in search of the 4,200-piece (nation's second largest) nutcracker collection.

She also didn't say anything Sunday as hundreds of people came to enjoy a community theater spoofing nutcrackers.

She just smiled and was, of course, a really good sport.

Let's make 2020 the year of the community

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

If you looked only at the big picture, you'd have to say our nation lives in deeply troubled times.

It seems we've never been more polarized. Political discourse feels more like a war zone than a thoughtful national conversation.

But what happens when you zoom in more closely? After all, real life doesn't happen nationally. It happens locally.

At the community level, we see people partnering with their neighbors to solve problems, working hard and playing hard, listening and compromising, and — quite often — making sacrifices for the good of others.

Locally is where we're at our very best. It's where we can use our influence and our gifts to make our communities strong and to make life better for everyone.

This was demonstrated earlier this month when a young widow wanted to keep the family acreage so her children can have the future opportunity to resume their late father's farming career.

People opened their hearts (and their checkbooks) to the mother of five and gave her \$38,000 to pay the mortgage and stave off any sudden discussions to move off the farm.

That's who we are in Rock County.

The chaos and uncertainty of the past few decades have made us crave personal connections with our family and friends.

We want our children and grand-

children nearby, with good jobs to keep them here.

Months ago the city of Beaver Creek adopted a five-year abatement policy on new housing construction in their city. Their decision propelled Rock County to offer the same option for families building new homes in the county.

So far, three households have indicated they want to construct new homes in our communities.

In the past decade people have indicated they want lively downtowns with great restaurants, unique stores, trendy living places and plenty of fun things to do.

Luverne is putting out the welcome mat by getting rid of dilapidated buildings, offering incentives to build new homes and setting the tone for our existing and future residents to do business in town rather than drive elsewhere on the interstate.

Rock County just formed an economic development authority to work with interested companies to move their businesses to Minnesota.

2020 will be the first year this newly organized group we hope will successfully put out the welcome mat

for continued local industrial growth.

Closer to home, Hardwick is the first Rock County community to work together and create a duo tax district within their city limits, lessening the burden of our ag landowners funding city services.

We challenge everyone to join in making 2020 the Year of the Community.

We need to reach out to neighbors to connect with them, to help them, engage them in the work of making things better.

We should shop local.

We should partner with government the right way.

We should smooth the way for entrepreneurs.

We should galvanize our small business communities to give positive change.

We need to become ambassadors for our small communities so that others will want to invest, live, work and play here, too.

Celebrating all the good in our communities and working together to make them stronger will make for a 2020 in our little part of the world better in the years to come.



Preuss: How good are you at Christmas-themed questions?

To the Editor:

(How good are you at Christmas trivia? Bill Preuss, Luverne, submitted these questions.)

Christmas Trivia

1. Mary and Joseph left what city to go to Bethlehem?

Jerusalem
Nazareth
Tel Aviv
Kananranzi

2. What were the names of the three wise men?

Shadrach,
Meschach, Abednego
Gaspar, Balthasar,
Melchior

Abdul, Obadiah, Jeremiah
Larry, Curly, Moe

3. How many miles did Mary and Joseph walk to get to Bethle-

hem?

24
69
90
125

4. What belief did the three wise men follow?

Zoroastrianism
Jewish
Catholicism
Capitalism

5. Who was the king at the time of Jesus' birth?

Herod
David
Abraham
Elvis

6. How long did it take Mary and Joseph to walk to Bethlehem?

Less than a week
About 2 weeks
Between 15-20 days
Many moons

7. The city of Santa Claus is in which state?

Ohio
Indiana
New Mexico
Florida

8. Bells Nicholls is?
The name of Santa's sleigh
His brother
An elf's name
A new nutcracker

9. What is the name of Mrs. Claus?

Gertie
Jessica
Hilda
Buster

10. What is your least favorite Christmas song of the following?

All I want for Christmas is a hippopotamus
Grandma got run over by a reindeer

All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth
The twelve days of Christmas

11. What is your favorite song of the following?

Last Christmas
O Holy Night
Santa Baby
Jingle Bell Rock

Answers:

1. Nazareth
2. Gaspar, Balthasar, Melchior
3. 90 miles
4. Zoroastrianism
5. Herod
6. Less than a week
7. Indiana
8. Santa's brother
9. Jessica

E-mail: editor@star-herald.com Web site: star-herald.com
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Office assistant: Jennifer Nelson

Advertising: Chantel Connell

Production: Heather Johnson

Production: Danae Meinerts

News staff:

Lori Sorenson, editor

Mavis Fodness, reporter

John Rittenhouse, sports editor

Esther Frakes, copy editor

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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. 13
•Complainant on E. Main Street reported a lost wallet.
•Complainant reported an accident on N. Kniss Avenue with no injuries.
•Complainant on S. West Park Street requested information on getting a motorcycle from location.
•Complainant on S. West Park Street is locked out of house.
Dec. 14
•Complainant reported suspicious activity on 31st Street near Hills.
•Complainant reported a lot of noise from location on N. Freeman Avenue.
Dec. 15
•Nobles County requested LEC make contact with parents on S. West Park Street.
•Complainant reported possible gas leak at S. Church Street in Hills.
•Complainant reported a lost cell phone.
•Complainant reported damage to property.
•Complainant on E. Fletcher and Freeman reported suspicious items at location.
•Assistance from another department was needed eastbound on Interstate I-90, mile marker 18, Magnolia.
•Report of a possible drunk driver at location southbound on Highway 75 from Holiday.

Dec. 16
•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported an accident.
•Complainant on Adams Street and Freeman Avenue reported an accident.
•Complainant on E. Christensen Drive reported theft.
•Complainant on S. West Part Street reported a civil issue.
•A civil issue was reported at location on S. Kniss Avenue.
Dec. 17
•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a fire.
•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported property damage.
•Complainant on S. Steen Street in Steen reported possible theft.
•Complainant at Blue Mound Imperative Center turned in found property.
•Complainant turned in found property.
•Complainant reported a scam.
•Complainant on Blue Ridge Drive reported suspicious activity.
•Complainant on S. West Park Street reported an old roommate stole his cat.

Dec. 18
•Complainant on N. Cedar Street reported she smells gas.
•Complainant on Kniss Avenue reported train blocking the roadway.
•Complainant on E. Lincoln Street reported an accident.
•Complainant requested to be alcohol tested for DOT.
•Complainant on 200th Avenue, Magnolia, reported garbage dumped in ditch.
•Complainant west of Highway 23 on County Road 5, reported a pickup in the field.
Dec. 19
•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 11, reported a pickup hit the guardrail.
•Complainant brought in a lost license plate.
•Complainant on N. Cedar Street reported an assault.
•An erratic driver was reported at location southbound on highway at mile marker 4 near Beaver Creek.

Dec. 20
•Harassing communications was reported at location on E. Fletcher Street.
•Complainant on N. 2nd Street, Hills, reported a car on fire.
•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue and W. Main Street reported a possible drunk walking toward Main Street.
In addition, officers responded to 6 escorts, 17 ambulance runs, 2 paper services, 6 animal complaints, 2 fingerprint requests, 3 purchase and carry permits, 2 log/alarm sheets, 10 traffic stops, 3 abandoned 911 calls, 1 welfare check, 1 report of cattle out and 2 background checks.



Mavis Fodness photo/1226 Gevo Project Update

A truck from Anderson Truck Service of St. Cloud transports a 180-foot-long wind turbine blade down Luverne’s Main Street Dec. 18. It was the last of six blades delivered for Gevo to the Rock County Wind Fuel project currently under construction west of Luverne.

Blades arrive for Gevo wind energy project

By Mavis Fodness
The last of six wind turbine blades were escorted through Luverne Dec. 23 on their way to the Rock County Wind Fuel project west of town.
The blades, 180 feet in length, were transported by a semitrailer with special blade holding apparatus to the site 2 1/2 miles west of Luverne on County Road 4.
The wind fuel project is a joint effort between Gevo Inc. and Juhl Energy Development of Chanhausen.
Construction of the two 2.4-megawatt wind turbines is intended to lower Gevo’s reliance on coal-generated electricity at its exist-

ing ethanol-isobutanol production plant west of Luverne. Gevo also manufactures jet fuel and isooctane from corn.
Currently Gevo spends \$1.8 million annually purchasing electricity made from carbon sources.
Once operational, the two wind turbines will provide electricity directly to the Luverne plant and will meet its current electrical needs.
Since the project was granted a conditional use permit in September, the underground electrical collection system, access roads, excavation and construction of the two turbine foundations has been

completed.
The assembly of the towers, nacelles and blades are expected to take place next month.
The turbines will be 450 feet tall from blade tip to the ground.
If construction conditions are favorable, the turbines could be operational in March 2020.
“Depending on weather conditions and wind during the crane work, those dates may move,” said Mike Powers with Juhl Energy.
The Rock County Wind Fuel project is the first wind production project permitted under the

county’s updated Renewable Energy Ordinance adopted in 2018.
The new ordinance outlined permit conditions for wind farms producing less than 5 megawatts of electricity. Wind production farms with output greater than 5 megawatts are permitted through the state.
Once operational, the Gevo plant in Luverne will have the lowest carbon intensity rating in the U.S.
CI ratings are based on how the fuel is made and how much carbon is used in the generation of the fuel.

Blighted property acquisition and improvements/continued from page 1

The improved lot was later purchased by Crossroads Trailer Sales.
Similarly, the city purchased and demolished three blighted structures on the west side of Highway 75 where the new Ford dealership is now located.
Further north, the new Computer Clinic business is located on property that the city purchased from Ray Hooegeven, removed the house and prepared the lot for development.
Crossroads, the Ford dealership and Computer Clinic are now generating \$45,000 in new annual tax revenue.
This doesn’t count future revenue from the 27-unit mixed-use apartment complex planned for the Sharkee’s-Mert’s-China Inn property.
The city demolished those structures and prepared the combined lot to form a tax increment financing district. (Mert’s Welding moved to a new lot in Luverne’s industrial park.)
Other improved lots along Highway 75 include the historic but dilapidated yellow house north of W-2 Quality Meats and the recently demolished Vander Poel house near the Cozy Rest Hotel.

Residential redevelopment yields \$3 million in new tax base
In terms of residential development, Call points to Barck Street projects as shining examples of blight turned to tax revenue.
On East Barck Street near the Blue Mound Avenue intersection, five blighted structures were purchased by the city and demolished to make way for new twin homes that are now generating tax revenue.
On West Barck Street toward the school, two older houses were demolished to make way for a four-plex that is currently under construction.
The Barck Street housing development alone will be worth over \$30,000 in new tax revenue once the four-plex comes online next year.
The combined property taxes generated by the blighted lots previously amounted to roughly \$3,000



Demolition crews remove blighted property on Maple Street (above) this fall and on South Kniss (below).

per year.
“The new tax revenue is about 10 times more than it was before,” Call said.
Plus, he said, improved curb appeal in neighborhoods around town has a value all its own.
“The aesthetic value of safe and decent housing is something for the community to be proud of for generations to come,” Call said.

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H-BC second-grader earns pizza party, shares with enthusiastic classmates

By Mavis Fodness

Kinley Leuthold wore a bright blue sweatshirt Thursday, Dec. 19, with the phrase “Winning is my Business” written across the front.

Ironically it was her second-grade classmates who were “winning” when Leuthold shared Rauk’s pizza with her 26 classmates at Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary in Beaver Creek.

In three months Leuthold accumulated 300 Patriot PRIDE points, which are awarded for positive behavior and character traits: Positive, Respect, Integrity, Determination and Excellence.

Her goal was to earn a pizza party. “She didn’t think she’d be able to do it,” said her teacher Diane Vanden-Hoek. “But she had enough for that and some left over.”

The 154 kindergarten- through fifth-grade students are awarded points for exhibiting the PRIDE behaviors, which can be earned individually or as a group.

“Classes and students can get points anywhere, anytime during the day, even in the lunchroom if showing one of the five behaviors,” Vanden-Hoek said.

Students can cash in their points for various prizes such as books, T-shirts or pencils, or paper coupons. Among the rewards was the class pizza party, which requires the most work, 300 points.

“Kinley decided at the beginning of the year that she wanted to accumulate hers to get the class pizza party,” VandenHoek said.

“I wasn’t surprised she chose to do this because she is a very kind and thoughtful young girl.”

Never boasting about the number of points she accumulated each month (about 100 each month), Leuthold quietly selected the day for the party with the request that teachers be invited, too.

Principal Todd Holthaus arranged for the pizzas from



Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary second-grader Kinley Leuthold (standing) earned 300 points exhibiting positive behavior and character traits. She shared her pizza party rewards with her classmates Dec. 19, the day before the holiday break at the school. Submitted photo

thold quietly selected the day for the party with the request that teachers be invited, too.

Principal Todd Holthaus arranged for the pizzas from

Rauk’s Hilltop Stop in Beaver Creek and helped serve the students and staff.

“Serving the second-grade students their pizza for the Pizza Pride

Point Party was a neat experience,” he said. “The students’ excitement was contagious.”

As the Patriot PRIDE program is intended to teach, the students

demonstrated proper meal manners and waited patiently as the pizza was cut and served.

“I had a grand time,” Holthaus said.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2009)

•One approach to cleaning the Rock River focuses on livestock manure, and now there’s grant money for greener manure management.

The Rock County Land Management Office has been approved for a grant through the EPA Section 310 from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The 319 Grant, as it’s called, will provide nearly \$150,000 for the “Rock River Watershed Management Project.” ...

A 2007 environmental assessment found the Rock River to be impaired for both fecal coliform and turbidity.

Common sources of fecal coliform include failing septic systems, manure runoff, urban storm water runoff and wildlife.

Turbidity (cloudy dirty water) is commonly caused by field erosion, stream bank erosion and urban storm water runoff, among other things. ...

While there are many contributing factors to dirty water, livestock manure can be a major source.

25 years ago (1994)

•Joining the statewide trend of smaller schools cooperating and combining with larger neighboring schools, Magnolia Elementary graduated its last sixth-grade class and closed its doors for good.

Taking advantage of state incentives to combine smaller schools with larger ones, the district painfully exchanged the heart and soul of its community for a ticket out of what would have been a huge financial burden for its taxpayers.

Magnolia high school students have been attending class in Luverne since the fall of 1982.

50 years ago (1969)

•Most everyone has some type of escape to “get-away-from-it-all.” Four Luverne men, Phil Anderson, Arland Johnson, Otto Ermler and Dr. William Bollinger, have their own “thing,” being model trains.

All four men have individual model train layouts in their homes. Almost everything is built from scratch including tracks, cars, locomotives, buildings, bridges, etc.

“Anything to do with railroads can be bought including turntables, round-houses, depots, hundreds of signs and hundreds of small pieces of furniture to go inside the cars or inside the depot,” Arland Johnson said.

It’ll take a good 10 hours to assemble a locomotive and a good 4-6 hours to assemble a freight or passenger car. Most trains will run on 12-volt direct current.

Besides the four Luverne men, about 100,000 individuals in the United States spend hundreds of hours a year on the model

train hobby.

75 years ago (1944)

•The Christmas tree trade has progressed from the stage when the householder cut his own tree to a well-organized million-dollar industry.

The most popular species of tree for Christmas use is the Balsam fir, which ordinarily accounts for about 60 percent of the total Yuletide demand; spruce accounts for about 25 per cent and Douglas fir 10 per cent.

New England and New York State shippers market their trees in New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington and other important eastern cities. Trees cut in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota are sold in Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis and other large cities of the Middle and other large cities of the Middle West. Oregon, Washington and California ship their trees (Douglas fir) to points on the Pacific coast and as far south as Tucson, Ariz., and Austin, Texas. In recent years an appreciable number of Douglas fir trees have been sold in Chicago and even in eastern markets.

100 years ago (1919)

•Contract for the remodeling of the Luverne opera house,

Remember When/ continued on page 7

1931: Rock County’s population grows to 10,962, Luverne at 2,644

The following appeared in The Rock County Herald on December 18, 1931.

Rock County’s Total Population is 10,962

Second Census Bulletin Gives Detailed Report of 1930 Enumeration; Luverne Has Population of 2,644

Rock County’s total population is given as 10,962 in the second series population bulletin of Minnesota for 1930, in the 15th census of the United States. The report embodies a detailed tabulation of the number of persons in every city, village and township, segregating the farm from the urban population, and lists the population in every place.

According to the table, there are 6,738 persons residing in the rural districts of the county, this figure representing slightly more than half of the total figure. There are 5,773 of the male sex, 5,189 of the female sex, and 6,219 of the age of twenty-one years and over. The divisions of the county follow:

Battle Plain — Total-504; Male-283; Female-221. Beaver Creek — Total-751; Male-401; Female-350. Beaver Creek Vil-



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

lage — Total-224; Male-110; Female-114. Clinton — Total-730; Male-399; Female-331. Denver — Total-475; Male-257; Female-218. Hardwick — Total-247; Male-140; Female-107. Hills — Total-407; Male-195; Female-212. Jasper (Rock Co.) — Total-100; Male-49; Female-51. Jasper (total) — Total-769; Male-386; Female-383. Kanaranzi — Total-558; Male-306; Female-252. Luverne city — Total- 2,644;

Male-1,284; Female-1,360. Luverne twp. — Total-503; Male-282; Female-221. Magnolia — Total-416; Male-232; Female-184. Magnolia vil. — Total-240; Male-120; Female-120. Martin — Total-875; Male-481; Female-394. Mound — Total-463; Male-258; Female-205. Rose Dell — Total-644; Male-344; Female-300. Springwater — Total-634; Male-339; Female-295. Vienna — Total-547; Male-293; Female-254.

Nobles county has a total population of 18,618, 10,644 persons being listed among the farm population; Murray county has 13,902, with 10,236 on farms and Pipestone county has 12,238, of which 6,230 are on farms. The city of Worthington shows a figure of 3,878, Slayton, 1,102 and Pipestone 3,489.

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@iwi.net.



Mavis Fodness photo/1226 Book Reveal 2019

First-time authors complete group book project

Luverne Elementary School fifth-graders and their parents celebrated a book reveal Wednesday, Dec. 18, in the school commons. The 80 students worked for a month on four books collaboratively with reading teachers Amy VonHoltum and Travis Bullerman. They chose a theme, wrote individual stories based on the theme, edited the writing and added illustrations to form a book.

Interested students could submit a cover design. Cover design winners, their classes’ book titles and their homeroom teachers are (from left) Colton Haubrich’s “Luverne Love the Life!” in Amy VonHoltum’s class; Ben Hartquist’s “The Best Part About Getting Older Is ...” in Chelsie Wermager’s class; Kelby Schomacker’s “Goodnight, Goodnight, Luverne School Construction Site” in Gordie Hansen’s class; and Izzy Steensma’s “If I Could Go Anywhere in the World, I Would Go ...” in Travis Bullerman’s class.

COLLEGE NEWS

Students named to USF dean's list

The University of Sioux Falls has released the Fall 2019 dean's list. The following area students qualified with a 3.5 or higher on a scale of 4.0:

Grace Bundesen, Hills, is majoring in professional accounting and business administration.

Angela Martinyuk of Beaver Creek is majoring in pre-nursing.

Kourtney Rozeboom of Hills is majoring in art education.

Dakota Wesleyan releases dean's list

Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, South Dakota, recently released the Fall 2019 dean's list. Named to the list were Miah Kunkel of Adrian and Ashley Bostic of Hardwick.

To qualify, students must earn at least a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and complete at least 12 hours of academic work.

Dakota Wesleyan honors graduates

The Dakota Wesleyan University Arlene Gates Department of Nursing celebrated the completion of the LPN-Bachelor of Science in nursing class of 2019 with a special pinning ceremony in Sioux Falls Friday, Dec. 13.

Area members of the 2019 class include Jenni Manigold of Adrian and Krista Stenger of Luverne. The LPN-B.S. in nursing is a 28-month program through DWU.

MSU Mankato awards degrees

Minnesota State University Mankato awarded degrees to several area students on Saturday, Dec. 14, following the Fall 2019 semester.

Those receiving degrees and their area of specialty are as follows:

Brianna Jonason, summa cum laude, Bachelor of Science degrees in alcohol and drug studies and in social work. Mitchell Muller, Bachelor of Science in finance.

Thomas Vajrt, Bachelor of Science in health and physical education.

Kaitlyn Van Meeteren, Bachelor of Science, RN baccalaureate completion.

Cole Walgrave, Bachelor of Science, recreation, parks and leisure services.



Submitted photo

Katlyn Petronek (left), Rylee Gee and Genna Rolfs completed their fall art coursework with Jerry Deuschle for fall semester. The three Luverne High School juniors showed off their work Friday night at Deuschle Studio north of Luverne.

Students take over art studio

Three LHS juniors complete independent study

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne artist Jerry Deuschle hosted an informal artist reception Friday night at his studio for three of his students to showcase their work from the semester.

Genna Rolfs, Katlyn Petronek and Rylee Gee completed an independent study course through Minnesota West Community College as a post-secondary education option. Deuschle teaches art

for Minnesota West at the Jackson campus, but since the coursework was independent study, the students — all Luverne High School juniors — were able to complete the three fall credits in Deuschle's studio north of Luverne.

The coursework dealt with clay — slab rolling, pinch and coil methods, and Deuschle spent four hours a week instructing students on the methods. They completed their

work as their schedules allowed.

"I basically turned the studio over to them," Deuschle said.

"But they're giving back to me by putting me back in touch with youth. ... They get excited about things, so I get excited about things."

The students are already registered for another three credits with Deuschle starting in January.

CELEBRATIONS

Open houses

Carrole Horn will celebrate her 80th birthday with an open house from 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 28, at Palisade Lutheran Church in rural Rock County. Greetings may be sent to her at 803 E. Dodge Street Apt. 104, Luverne, MN 56156.

MENU

Monday, Dec. 30: Barbecue pork, scalloped potatoes, three-bean salad, bun, applesauce. Program: 8:30 a.m. Quilting; 9 a.m. Bone Builders. 1 p.m. Pinochle.

Tuesday, Dec. 31: Chicken with marinara sauce, noodles, broccoli, fruit cocktail, pudding. Program: Half-Price Day sponsored by FF&M Bank. 10 a.m. Bingo: Bring a wrapped "White Elephant" gift as a prize.

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

Thursday, Jan. 2: Roast turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli florets, dinner roll, cookie.

Friday, Jan. 3: Hamburger on a bun, mixed greens salad, sweet potato fries, ice cream. Program: 9 a.m. Bone Builders. Half-Price Day sponsored by Luverne Rotary.

LSS Dining offers well-balanced and affordable meals.

Call Lynette Hoiland at 283-9846 to make dining reservations or for home-delivered meals. Gift certificates are available at the meal site or online at www.lssmn.org/nutrition.

OBITUARIES

Alvina Hup

Alvina Mae Hup, 87, Luverne, died Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019, at the Good Samaritan Communities of Luverne.

A funeral service was Monday, Dec. 23, at the American Reformed Church in Luverne. Burial followed at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Alvina Hooegeven was born to Albert and Jennie (Korthals) Hooegeven on Dec. 12, 1932, in Steen. She was baptized at the Steen Reformed Church. Alvina attended school in Steen and graduated from Hills High School in Hills in 1950.

On Dec. 3, 1952, Alvina married John Hup Jr. at the

Steen Reformed Church. The couple made their first home in Steen, where Alvina lived when John left for the Army just five months later. Upon his return from the Korean War two years later, the couple settled into a busy life on the farm. Together they worked the land and raised their three boys, Steve, Ken and Dave.

In 1982 the couple moved to Luverne. Alvina was a homemaker, an active farm wife and also worked at the Luverne Community Hospital, first in house cleaning and later in the purchasing department. In addition, Alvina was a seamstress and made custom

suits for Cook's Clothing. She later worked at Papik Motors in Luverne with filing and delivering vehicles.

Alvina was a longtime member of the Steen Reformed Church, where she had been active in Ladies Circle and taught Sunday School. After their move to Luverne, the couple joined the American Reformed Church. Alvina enjoyed spending time with and attending the many activities of her children and grandchildren. She also enjoyed sewing, quilting and fishing.

Alvina is survived by her husband, John, of Luverne; two sons, Kenneth (Susan) Hup and David (Teresa) Hup, all of Luverne; eight grandchildren, Andrea (Dusty) Kovarna, Lindsay (Steve) Ruda, Mitch

(Sara) Hup, Breanne (Jesse) Haller, Matthew Hup (friend Cori Nath), Daniel (Maria) Hup, Michael Hup, and Bethany (Cory) Tilstra; eight great-grandchildren; three brothers, Alvin (Shirley) Hooegeven, Art (Carol) Hooegeven, and Raymond (Joann) Hooegeven; daughter-in-law Debbie Hup Larson of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and two sisters-in-law, Gert Hup of Hills and Inez Hooegeven of Le Mars, Iowa.

Alvina was preceded in death by her son, Steven Hup; her parents; a brother, Donald Hooegeven; and a brother-in-law, Dick Hup.

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

(1226 F)

Lyle Graff

Lyle Robert Graff, age 95, peacefully went home to Jesus on Sunday, December 15, 2019, at the Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne.

Lyle was born on October 18, 1924, to Raymond Chester and Ida (Hanson) Graff in Bancroft, Nebraska, where he grew up on the family farm.

On May 14, 1950, Lyle was united in marriage to Shirley A. Kimball at Randolph Presbyterian Church, Randolph, Nebraska. After spending some time farming and raising cattle, Lyle was called to ministry and pursued a divinity degree. In June 1960, he was ordained in the United Presbyterian Church. He pastored churches in Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota, while he and Shirley raised a family of seven children. The final seventeen years of his career, he served as a hospital chaplain at the Sioux Falls, South Dakota Veterans Administration hospital.

Upon retirement, Lyle and Shirley settled in Luverne. They celebrated 60 years of marriage before Shirley passed away on August 18, 2010.

Lyle was united in marriage to Camilla Gundersen at Living Rock Church, Luverne, on October 20, 2012.

Lyle's interests included vehicles; he enjoyed his cars and motor homes. He maintained an active interest in farming throughout his life. He loved growing flowers, vegetables and fruit trees and sharing the produce with friends and family.

Lyle's true passions, though, were his family and his faith. His seven children, their spouses, 22 grandchildren (and now many of their spouses) and 30 great-grandchildren were the apple of his eye. In recent years, Camilla's family, including her sister, three brothers, their spouses, many nieces and nephews and grand-nieces and neph-

ews also became dearly loved family members. Nothing brought a twinkle to Lyle's eyes like holding a conversation with a little child seated on his lap.

Lyle shared his strong faith in Jesus Christ as his Savior with those around him, whether ministering formally, in his profession, or informally, in how he lived his life. He will be greatly missed by family and friends and fondly remembered as a loving, generous, praying man who loved to sing old hymns with his beautiful baritone voice. He was active in Living Rock Church and First Baptist Church, both in Luverne.

Lyle was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Shirley, and his three siblings; Orin (Delores), Curt (Evelyn), Marian (Jim) Macklin.

Lyle is survived by his second wife, Camilla; three sons; Norman (Susan) Graff of Carroll, Iowa; Russell (Jane) Graff of Stony Plain, Alberta, Canada; Roger (Theresa) Graff of Luverne; four daughters; Carol (David) Aslesen of

Reedsburg, Wisconsin; Linda (Steve) Lovrien of Alexandria; Ronda (Randy) Sawatzky of Mt. Lake; and Lori (Jeff) Petersen of Watertown, South Dakota; 22 grandchildren, and 30 great-grandchildren.

John 14:1-2 (NIV) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me. My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?"

A memorial service for Lyle R. Graff will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 20, 2019, at Living Rock Church, Luverne with the Reverend Russell Graff officiating. Special thanks to the staff of Mary Jane Brown Home, Sanford Luverne Hospice and Sanford Luverne Medical Center for the wonderful care given to Lyle.

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

(1226 V)

DEATH NOTICES

Norma Wing

Norma Wing, 80, Pipestone, died Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

A funeral service was Monday, Dec. 23, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pipestone. Interment was at New Woodlawn Cemetery in Pipestone.

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

(1226 DN)

Dick Van Hofwegen

Dick Van Hofwegen, 91, Hardwick, formerly of Pipestone, died Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019, at the Edgebrook Care Center in Edgerton.

A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at the Christian Reformed Church in Pipestone. Interment will follow at Hillside Cemetery in Edgerton. Visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 26, at the Christian Reformed Church in Pipestone.

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

(1226 DN)

Remember When/from page 6

which is to be occupied after March 1 by the Luverne postoffice, has been awarded to Elmer Cummings, and work thereon will be started immediately after January 1st.

The plans call for installation of brick and plate glass front, designed for the division of the building into two business places. The other walls of the building will be covered with stucco and new windows of suitable design will be put in. The interior will be divided lengthwise, so as to give the postoffice a room approximately 22x110 feet on the south side. This will leave another room or approximately the same size, which will be rented for a store or other business. A basement of suitable size will also be put in, and heat from the municipal plant installed.

The building was purchased some months ago by fifteen business men and leased to the government for a postoffice for a period of ten years, beginning on the 6th day of next March.



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Dec. 27 7 p.m. Dec. 29 2 p.m.		Movie - "Frozen II" We invite you to come early and enjoy the sounds of the historic, 1926 Smith-Genève organ! (Dec. 27 & 29)
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Jan. 10 & 11 7:00 p.m. Jan. 2:00 p.m.		Movie "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood"
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Luverne sophomore defenseman Reghan Bork registered three assists during a 5-2 home win over Windom Dec. 17.

Girls extend streak to eight consecutive hockey victories

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne girls' hockey team posted a pair of Big South Conference wins last week. Luverne saddled Windom with a three-goal setback Dec. 17 in Luverne before posting a three-goal win in Waseca. The 11-2 Cardinals take an eight-game winning streak into the Herb Brooks Holiday Classic in Blaine Dec. 30-Jan. 1.

LHS 6, Waseca 3

The Cardinals had to overcome a pair of deficits in order to extend their winning streak to eight consecutive games Friday in Waseca. The Blue Jays sported 2-0 and 3-2 leads in the second period, but the Cardinals scored the final four goals of the contest to secure a three-goal victory. The teams nearly played to a scoreless draw in the first period, but Waseca's Jayde Pederson produced the game's first goal with 27 seconds left



John Rittenhouse photo/1226 lgh 3
Luverne junior Regan Feit advances the puck out of the defensive zone during a 5-2 home victory over the Windom Eagles Dec. 17.

in the stanza. Waseca led 2-0 when Jacklyn Jevnings scored 13 seconds into the second period, but Luverne knotted the score at two with 10:50 remaining in

the stanza after Kamryn Van Batavia and Claire Baustian scored goals 32 seconds apart. The Blue Jays regained the lead at 3-2 when Pederson netted her second goal of the contest with 10:13 remaining in the second period. Luverne, however, settled the issue before the second stanza was complete. Van Batavia, Billi Connell and Reghan Bork registered one power-play goal each in a span of 7:14 to give the Cards a 5-3 lead they would take into the third period. Van Batavia completed a hat trick 4:42 into the third period to cap the scoring in the game. Mallory Von Tersch recorded 15 saves in goal for an LHS squad that outshot the Blue Jays 24-15 in the game. Bork, Rylee Gee and Shelby Kracht charted two assists each for LHS, while Rozilyn Oye and Brynn Thier added one assist each to the cause.

Luverne 5, Windom 2

The Cardinals completed a sweep of their annual season series with the Eagles when the teams squared off at the Blue Mound Ice Arena Dec. 17. After drubbing the Eagles by 10 goals in Windom Nov. 21, the Cardinals found themselves being challenged when Windom battled LHS to a draw at one in the first period of the rematch. Luverne, however, scored the next four goals of the game before posting a three-goal victory at game's end. The Cardinals led 1-0 when Gee scored 1:45 into the contest, but Windom's Abby Ignaszewski tied the game at one with a goal that came with 11:17 remaining in the opening stanza. The score remained deadlocked until late in the second period, when LHS scored

Streak/continued on page 10



John Rittenhouse photo/1224 lhb 4
Senior defenseman Jacob Von Tersch netted a pair of goals during Luverne's 5-3 home win over Worthington Thursday.

Luverne takes two of three games on ice

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne boys' hockey team compiled a 2-1 record during a span of playing three games in four days last week. The Cardinals edged Windom by one goal at the Blue Mound Ice Arena Dec. 17 before topping Worthington by two goals in Luverne Thursday. LHS couldn't keep the momentum going Friday in Benson, where they came up on the short end of a one-goal deci-

sion against Morris-Benson. Luverne, 5-3 overall, plays at the Herb Brooks Holiday Classic in Blaine Dec. 26-28.

M-B 4, Luverne 3

A run of three consecutive wins came to an end when the Cardinals came up on the short end of a one-goal decision against the Storm Friday

Ice/continued on page 9

Cards fall in double overtime Friday

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne girls' basketball team split a pair of home games last week. The Cardinals registered a 16-point win over Tracy-Milroy-Balaton Dec. 17 before falling by two points in double overtime to Redwood Valley Friday. Luverne, 4-4 overall, plays Harrisburg, South Dakota, Saturday in Sioux Falls.

RWV 53, Luverne 51

The Cardinals came up on the short end of a two-point decision during a double-overtime loss to RWV Friday. LHS led by as many as 11 points in the first half and sported a 25-19 lead at the intermission, but the Cards simply couldn't put away RWV. The visitors sported a number of one-point advantages during the second half and led by two points (47-45) with less than 20 seconds remaining in regulation, but Luverne senior Mallory Thorson forced the game to go to overtime when she converted a layup with 14 seconds remaining. RWV led 49-47 late in the first overtime period before Luverne's Elizabeth Wagner drained a pair of charity shots with 25 seconds left to knot the score at 49 and force a second overtime session.

Thorson gave the Cards a 51-49 lead when she turned a steal into a layup with 1:27 left in the second overtime period, but RWV scored the next four points to pull out a two-point victory. LHS played its best basketball of the night in the first half. The score was tied at two when LHS scored six consecutive points as a part of a 10-1 run ending with Averill Sehr converting a field goal to give



John Rittenhouse photo/1226 lgb 5
Luverne's Mallory Thorson tossed in a team-high 19 points during Friday's double-overtime loss to RWV Friday in Luverne. Thorson also grabbed eight rebounds and charted five steals.

the Cards a 12-3 cushion at the 11:14 mark of the opening stanza. Sehr buried a three-point shot to give the Cards a 15-5

lead with 9:49 remaining in the half before RWV put together a 9-4 surge to trim the difference to five points (19-14). A 6-0 run capped by a field

goal from Brooklynn Ver Steeg gave the Cards a 25-14 advantage with 3:13 left, but RWV

Cards/continued on page 9

Big first half lifts Luverne boys to win in Hills Dec. 17

By John Rittenhouse

Situations changed at the end of the annual battle between Rock County basketball teams Dec. 17 in Hills. The Luverne Cardinals took the floor after losing a pair of games entering the clash, while the Hills-Beaver Patriots took a 2-0 record into the contest. The fortunes of both teams reversed when the Cardinals came out on the winning end of a 76-65 decision. With Isaiah Bartels scoring 15 of his game-high 33 points in the first 18 minutes of play, LHS sported a 38-29 lead at the intermission. LHS used a 38-36 scoring edge in the second half to prevail by 11 points at game's end.

Nick Feit and Matthew Sehr chipped in 13 and 10 points respectively to the winning cause. Zander Wysong and Jax Wysong turned in respective 24- and 22-point performances for the Patriots.

Box score
Luverne
McLaughlin 1 0 0-0 2, Cowell 1 2 0-0 8, DeBates 0 0 0-0 0, Sehr 3 1 1-2 10, Bartels 11 3 2-4 33, Ahrendt 4 0 0-0 8, Feit 5 1 0-0 13, Beyer 0 0 0-1 0, Cole-Kraty 0 0 0-0 0, Rops 0 0 2-2 2.
H-BC
G. Wysong 1 0 0-0 2, Harnack 3 0 0-0 6, Deelstra 0 1 2-2 5, Baker 1 0 0-0 2, Z. Wysong 1 7 1-2 24, J. Wysong 11 0 0-2 22, Kueter 2 0 0-1 4.
Team statistics
Luverne: 31 of 58 field goals (53 percent), five of nine free throws (56 percent).
H-BC: 27 field goals made, three of nine free throws (33 percent).

First A-E boys' team is playing well

The initial season of Adrian-Ellsworth boys' basketball is off to a strong start.



The Dragons ended their pre-Christmas schedule with a 4-2 record, and two of the victories were impressive ones.

Overcoming a 12-point halftime deficit to defeat Red Rock Central in the third-place game of the Russell-Tyler-Ruthton game on Saturday was a confidence-builder.

A double-overtime victory over defending Section 3A champion Westbrook-Walnut Grove on Dec. 13 is a signature victory.

With 19 games remaining on the schedule, including a key game against Southwest Christian in Adrian Monday, there's no doubt A-E still has a long road to haul.

As of right now, Dragon coach Blake Miller is pleased with the early returns.

"I'm very happy we are at 4-2 right now," he said.

"We've played six games and most of them were very close. Our only losses came against a good Luverne team and a very good Mountain Lake team."

All things considered, I believe the 4-2 Dragons have accomplished quite a bit.

For a group of players that have never played together, A-E has overcome the odds to produce success on the court.

That fact isn't lost on coach Miller, who didn't know what the ground-breaking season would bring to the Dragons back in November.

"Whenever two schools come together for the first

FROM THE SIDELINES

By John Rittenhouse, sports editor

time to field a basketball team, there are going to be some challenges," he admitted.

"The biggest thing is getting the kids to play together and trust each other. I think the kids are still learning how to play together, and the coaching staff is still learning how to put all of the pieces together. That's a part of the process, but I think everyone is handling this new situation very well."

To be honest, I don't believe Miller is too concerned with what A-E's record will be when the season is complete.

He is looking at the big picture, which includes building a quality basketball program both communities involved can be proud of.

"Our focus is getting the kids to believe in Dragon basketball and getting everyone involved to buy into it," Miller stated.

"We are one team now, and I think the kids are buying into that. That's important because these guys can be looked at like they are trailblazers. How they handle this first season is important. We have a lot of little kids coming to our games, and we want our guys to handle themselves and play well together on the court. That will set a positive tone for the kids we will have in the future."

Based on the way things have transpired through six games, I have to believe A-E basketball has a very bright future.



John Rittenhouse photo/1226 lbh 6

Luverne senior Mason Steensma scored his team's first goal during a 3-2 win over Windom at the Blue Mound Ice Arena Dec. 17.

Ice/continued from page 8

in Benson.

After falling behind 3-0 in the first period, LHS rallied to knot the score with a three-goal second period.

The comeback was spoiled with 7:14 remaining in the third period, when M-B's Zach Bruns netted his second goal of the contest to cap the scoring in the game.

M-B's Kaleb Breuer and Bruns scored goals 12 seconds apart to give the Storm a 2-0 lead with 6:12 remaining in the first period.

M-B's Jack Riley added another first-period goal with 4:46 remaining in the stanza to make it 3-0.

The second period belonged to LHS, which netted three goals in 9:58 to knot the score at three.

Nathan Nekali ignited the rally when he netted an unassisted goal 4:15 into the period.

Colby Crabtree scored after being set up by Tyler Roberts with 6:20 remaining in the period before Easton Braun tied the score at three with 2:57

remaining in the stanza.

Cooper Arends received an assist for the tying goal.

The Storm sported a 31-29 edge in shots on goal during the game.

Colton Schutz made 27 saves in net for the Cards.

LHS 5, Worthington 3

The Cardinals upped their Big South Conference to 4-1 with Thursday's two-goal victory over the visiting Trojans.

LHS senior Jacob Von Tersch scored the first two goals of the game, and the Cardinals never lost the lead the rest of the contest.

Von Tersch found the net twice in a span of 1:46 late in the first period to give the Cards a 2-0 advantage they would take into the second period.

The teams proceeded to exchange goals in a second period that ended with LHS sporting a 4-2 cushion.

Braun scored for the Cards with 5:15 remaining in the stanza and Tyler Roberts

added a short-handed tally with 1:14 left in the period.

Blake Ahrenstorff netted second-period goals at the 7:38 and 2:27 for Worthington.

The Trojans trimmed the difference to one goal (4-3) when Kipton Jensen scored 1:43 into the third period.

LHS iced the win when Crabtree capped the scoring with a power-play tally at 9:19 of the final period.

Luverne, which sported a 40-19 advantage in shots on goal in the game, received a 16-save effort in goal by Shaid Sherer.

Austin Watts-Boll led the Cards with two assists, while Cade Wenninger and Ethan Langseth charted one assist each.

Luverne 3, Windom 2

A late goal by Brock Behrend gave the Cardinals a one-goal win over the Eagles at the Blue Mound Ice Arena Dec. 17.

Luverne sported a 2-0 lead 17:28 into the game, but Win-

dom rallied to knot the score at two with a pair of power-play tallies.

LHS settled the issue with 1:42 remaining in the third period, when Behrend scored after being set up by Easton Braun.

Luverne took a 1-0 lead in the first period when Mason Steensma scored at the 7:39 mark with an assist going to Marshal Dammann.

The score was 2-0 when Wenninger registered a goal after being set up by Roberts 28 seconds into the second period, but it was an advantage that wouldn't last.

Windom's Austin Fredin made it a one-goal game (2-1) with 8:41 left in the second stanza.

Zach Espenson tied the score at two for the Eagles with 2:17 left in the third period, but Behrend netted the game-winner 35 seconds later.

Schutz made 22 saves for LHS, which sported a 36-24 advantage in shots on goal.

Cards/continued from page 8

scored the next five points to make it a 25-19 game at the intermission.

Thorson (19 points, eight rebounds and five steals), Ver Steeg (16 points) and Sehr (11 points) led LHS offensively.

Elizabeth Wagner grabbed seven rebounds for the Cardinals.

Box score
C. Wagner 0 0 1-2 1, Beyer 0 0 0-0 0, Ver Steeg 5 1 3-5 16, Sehr 3 1 2-3 11, Thorson 8 1 0-0 19, Hart 0 0 0-0 0, Ferrell 2 0 0-1 4.

Team statistics
Luverne 21 of 56 field goals (38 percent), six of 11 free throws (55 percent), 23 rebounds, 12 turnovers.

Luverne 58, T-M-B 42

The Cardinal girls locked up their fourth win of the season when they entertained the Panthers for a non-conference contest Dec. 17.



John Rittenhouse photo/0912 afb 4

Luverne's Elizabeth Wagner collected seven rebounds and hit two key free throws during Friday's home game against RWV.

With Luverne connecting on 50 percent of its field goals to

lead the charge, the Cardinals collected a 16-point victory.

Luverne played well early to open a 37-18 cushion at the intermission.

T-M-B sported a 24-21 scoring edge in the second half to make it a 16-point difference at game's end.

Ver Steeg (24 points and eight rebounds) and Thorson (20 points, nine rebounds and three steals) played key roles in the win.

Jocelyn Hart added eight rebounds to the winning cause.

Box score
C. Wagner 2 0 1-1 5, Beyer 0 0 0-0 0, Ver Steeg 9 0 6-8 24, Sehr 1 0 2-2 4, E. Wagner 1 0 0-0 2, Thorson 7 1 3-6 20, Hart 0 0 0-0 0, Ferrell 0 1 0-3 3.

Team statistics
Luverne: 22 of 44 field goals (50 percent), 12 of 20 free throws (60 percent), 36 rebounds, eight turnovers.
T-M-B: 13 of 33 field goals (39 percent), 13 of 27 free throws (48 percent).

Ripka leads LHS at weekend tournament in Redwood Falls

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne Cardinals completed the 2019 portion of their wrestling schedule by participating at the Redwood River Riot Friday and Saturday in Redwood Falls.

The individual tournament attracted a total of 36 teams.

Three Cardinals competed at the varsity level during the tournament, where they compiled 12 points to help LHS place 33rd.

Fairmont-Martin County West claimed the team title

with 237.5 points.

Sophomore Braydon Ripka turned in the top effort for LHS over the weekend.

Competing at 132 pounds, Ripka went 2-2 without placing.

Junior Riley Cowell wrestled at 120 pounds, where he went 1-2 without placing.

Sophomore Chris Rosin dropped both of his matches at 170 pounds.

The Cardinals wrestle at a tournament in Webster, South Dakota, Jan. 4.



Ripka



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John Rittenhouse photo/1226 lgh 7

Luverne freshman Kamryn Van Batavia recorded a hat trick during Friday's 6-3 hockey victory in Waseca.

Streak/continued from page 8

twice in a span of 43 seconds to gain a 3-1 advantage.

Van Batavia snapped the deadlock with a power-play tally at the 4:12 mark of the second stanza, and Baustian made it a two-goal difference at 3:29.

LHSiced the win when Connell (14:27) and Van Batavia (7:21) netted goals in the first 9:39 of the third period to make

it a 5-1 game.

Windom's Miranda Cory registered the final goal of the contest with 2:59 left to play.

Luverne, which sported a 44-11 advantage in shots on goal, received a nine-save effort from Cheyenne Schutz.

Bork and Van Batavia recorded three and two assists respectively, while Gee and Thier notched one assist each.

A-E girls notch win

By John Rittenhouse

The Adrian-Ellsworth girls won the first Red Rock Conference basketball game of the season Friday in Adrian.

The Dragons entertained Heron Lake-Okabena-Fulda for a league contest.

The night belonged to A-E, which outscored the Coyotes in both halves of a 70-23 victory.

A-E gained control of the game by opening a 42-12 advantage in the first half.

When the Dragons outscored HL-O-F 28-11 in the second half, their 47-point rout was complete.

Jayden Zebe (16 points and four steals), Ashlyn Meester (16 points) and Bai-

ley Lonneman (14 points and eight rebounds) paced A-E offensively.

Kallie Chapa nabbed six rebounds and Moriah Bullerman dished out five assists for the winners.

The 2-6 Dragons play in Lakeview Monday.

Box score
Zebe 5 2 0-0 16, Dreesen 2 0 0-1 4, Chapa 2 0 2-2 6, Meester 5 2 0-1 16, Rops 0 1 0-0 3, M.Bullerman 2 0 0-0 4, J.Lonneman 1 0 0-0 2, Preuss 1 0 0-0 2, Lonneman 5 1 1-2 14, Cauwels 0 0 1-2 1, Lehnhoff 1 0 0-0 2.

Team statistics
A-E: 30 of 58 field goals (52 percent), four of eight free throws (50 percent), 31 rebounds, 10 turnovers.
HL-O-F: seven of 38 field goals (18 percent), six of 19 free throws (32 percent), 12 rebounds, 19 turnovers.

Eagles pull away from H-BC Thursday

By John Rittenhouse

Two longtime rivals met on the basketball court Thursday in Hills.

The Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots entertained Southwest Christian for a Red Rock Conference clash.

The game was a competitive one for 13 minutes, but the visiting Eagles outscored H-BC 58-37 over the final 23 minutes to post an 84-61 victory.

SWC, which never trailed in the contest, scored the first four points of the night as a part of a 16-7 run in the first 5:38 of play.

H-BC fought back with a 7-0 surge ending with Jax Wysong turning an offensive rebound into a field goal at the 11:14 mark of the first half to make it a 16-14 game.

H-BC trailed by two (26-24) when Kyle Kueter registered a field goal at the 5:02 mark of the stanza, but SWC took over the game after that.

SWC scored the next seven points to open a 33-24 lead with 4:03 remaining and remained in front by nine (39-30) when the game reached halftime.

The Eagles went on a 26-8 run to open a commanding 64-38 cushion in the first 9:22 of the second half.

H-BC closed the gap to 19 points (70-51) when Kueter turned an offensive rebound into a field goal with 6:07 left to play, but the Eagles bounced back to lead by as many as 27 points (84-57) in the final minutes of the game before settling with a 23-point victory.

Oliver Deelstra (21 points), Wysong (15 points) and Kueter (10 points, seven rebounds and three blocked shots) led H-BC statistically.

Cole Baker pulled down seven rebounds for the 2-2 Patriots, who play Lakeview at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall Friday.

Box score
G.Wysong 0 0 0-0 0, Harnack 0 0 1-2 1, Bennett 0 0 0-0 0, Gehrke 0 0 0-0 0, Deelstra 4 2 7-9 21, Baker 3 0 0-0 6, Z.Wysong 1 1 3-4 8, J.Wysong 6 1 0-0 15, Kueter 5 0 0-2 10.

Team statistics
H-BC: 23 of 62 field goals (37 percent), 11 of 17 free throws (65 percent), 27 rebounds, 19 turnovers.
SWC: 34 of 74 field goals (46 percent), 11 of 18 free throws (61 percent).



John Rittenhouse photo/1226 hbb 10

Hills-Beaver Creek senior forward Jax Wysong scored 15 points during Thursday's 84-61 home loss to the Southwest Christian Eagles. The loss leaves H-BC with a 2-2 record.

Dragon wrestlers win triangular, place 16th at weekend tournament

By John Rittenhouse

The Adrian-Ellsworth wrestlers finished competition in 2019 by participating in two events.

The Dragons swept the teams during a home triangular Dec. 17 before placing 16th as a team at the Redwood River Riot Friday and Saturday in Redwood Falls.

A-E, 3-1 overall, returns to action Jan. 4 at the Tri-City United Invitational Tourna-

ment in Montgomery.

RWV tourney

Two individuals placed second and the Dragons finished 16th as a team to highlight their appearance at the Redwood River Riot Friday and Saturday.

Ten A-E athletes wrestled at the varsity level, where they posted a score of 68 points.

Fairmont-Martin County West claimed the team title in the 36-squad field with 237.5

points.

Seniors Logan Taylor and Scot Edwards went 4-1 to place second individually at 145 and heavyweight respectively.

Taylor advanced to the finals by winning by technical fall over Windom-Mountain Lake Area's Trenton Ringquist, pinning Tracy-Milroy-Balaton's Blaine Petersen in 3:05 and posting a 12-0 win over Sartell-St. Stephen's Caden O'Malley. St. Peter's Michael Connor

handed Taylor an 8-1 setback in the title match.

Edwards moved into the finals by notching an 11-7 win over Canby's Denver Noyes and pinning Mankato West's Matt Pipes (26 seconds), Sauk Rapids-Rice's Hunter Farnick (no time was available for the pin) and New Ulm's Colby Wenninger (1:16).

Redwood-River Valley's Kaleb Haase notched a 5-0 victory over Edwards in the

championship match.

A-E's Breyer Hieronimus, Logan Sherer and Preston Nelson went 2-2 without placing at 126, 138 and 182 respectively, while Quentin Wolf went 1-2 at 160.

Axel Martinez (152), Cameron Wieneke (170), Jaren Winselman (195) and Max Lehmann (220) went 0-2.

A-E triangular

The Dragons posted a pair of

wins during the A-E Triangular Dec. 17 in Adrian.

The hosts topped Springfield by a 63-17 tally and secured a 55-21 win over St. James.

Six Dragons compiled 2-0 records during the triangular led by Taylor and Wolf, who pinned both of their opponents at 145 and 160 respectively.

Wrestle/continued on page 11

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John Rittenhouse photo/1227 lbb 7

Luverne junior Kaden DeSollar came off the bench to score ten points during Friday's home loss to Redwood Valley.

Marshall, Redwood Valley rough up Luverne boys

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne boys' basketball team took a pair of lumps from Big South Conference opponents late last week.

The Cardinals lost a 51-point home game to Marshall Thursday before falling by 27 points to Redwood Valley Friday in Luverne.

Luverne, 3-4 overall, hosts Worthington Jan. 3.

RWV 85, Luverne 58

Strong play by visiting Redwood Valley in the final 12 minutes of the game turned a competitive contest into a convincing victory for the visitors Friday in Luverne.

The Cardinals fought hard to trail by six points at the intermission, and they trimmed the difference to one point at four different occasions in the second half.

RWV, however, dominated play late in the game.

The visitors went on a 33-7 run in the final 12:47 of the game to secure a 27-point win.

Trailing 36-30 after 18 minutes of play, Luverne scored the first five points of the second half to make it a 36-35 game when Gannon Ahrendt converted a field goal 37 seconds into the stanza.

LHS trailed by one (52-51) when Ahrendt canned a three-point shot at the 12:47 mark of the half, but RWV took the game over at that point.

A 25-2 run gave the visitors a commanding 77-53 advantage with 5:17 remaining in the contest.

RWV's lead swelled to 30 points (85-55) with 1:39 remaining before LHS registered the final three points of the contest.

RWV scored the first four points of the first half on the way to building a 10-4 lead 5:41 into the game.

Luverne countered with a 7-0 surge capped by a field goal from Bailey Cowell to move in front 11-10.

RWV responded by outscoring LHS 18-7 over the next eight minutes to gain a 28-18 cushion, but the Cards responded to the challenge in the final four minutes of the stanza.

An 11-4 surge ending with Kaden DeSollar sinking one free throw made it a three-point game (32-29) before RWV scored four of the final five points of the half to make it a 36-30 difference at the break.

Ahrendt tossed in 15 points to lead the Cards in scoring.

Cowell and Nick Feit netted 12 points each, while DeSollar chipped in 10.

Box score
Cowell 3 2 0-2 12, DeBates 0 0 0-0 0, Sehr 1 0 0-0 2, Ahrendt 2 2 5-8 15, Feit 2 2 2-6 12, DeSollar 0 2 4-5 10, Cole-Kraty 0 0 0-0 0, Beyer 0 0 0-0 0, Smith 1 0 0-1 2, Jarchow 0 0 0-0 0, Rogers 0 0 0-0 0, Rops 1 0 0-0 2, Dohlmann 0 1 0-0 3.

Team statistics
Luverne: 19 field goals made, 11 of 24 free throws (46 percent),
RWV: 34 field goals made, 11 of 13 free throws (85 percent).

Marshall 92, LHS 41

The Cardinals ran into a buzz saw when they squared off against the Tigers Thursday in Luverne.

High-flying Marshall outscored LHS in convincing fashion in both halves of a 51-point victory.

The Tigers rolled to a 52-22 lead in the first half before using a 40-19 scoring advantage in the second half to complete a dominating performance.

LHS senior Feit tossed in 15 points to lead the Cardinals in scoring.

Box score
McLaughlin 0 0 0-2 0, Cowell 2 1 0-0 7, DeBates 0 0 0-0 0, M. Sehr 2 0 0-0 4, Ahrendt 2 1 0-0 7, Feit 4 2 1-2 15, Beyer 0 0 0-0 0, Cole-Kraty 0 0 0-0 0, Radtke 0 0 0-0 0, Smith 1 0 0-0 2, Jarchow 0 0 0-0 0, C. Sehr 0 0 0-0 0, Rogers 0 0 0-0 0, Rops 3 0 0-0 6, Dohlmann 0 0 0-0 0.

Team statistics
Luverne: 18 field goals made, one of four free throws (25 percent),
Marshall: 38 field goals made, nine of 11 free throws (82 percent).

Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools

I.S.D. #671

Open Enrollment Deadline: January 15th

January 15th is the deadline for nonresident students to apply for open enrollment to the Elementary School in Beaver Creek, District Office or online at www.hbcpatriots.com. Open enrollment forms may be picked up in the district office of the Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.



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Patriots complete perfect 2019 slate

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team completed play in 2019 with an 8-0 record after posting a pair of wins last week.

The Patriots rolled to a 49-point victory over Heron Lake-Okabena-Fulda in Okabena Dec. 17 before besting Edgerton by 50 points Friday in Hills.

H-BC returns to the court Jan. 3, when the Patriots travel to Slayton to take on Murray County Central.

H-BC 76, Edgerton 26

The Patriots finished play in December by rolling to a 50-point home win over the Flying Dutchmen.

The Patriots canned 53 percent of their field goals and outscored Edgerton by decisive margins in both halves of the lopsided contest.

H-BC led 41-9 after 18 minutes of play and used a 35-17 scoring cushion in the second half to complete resounding victory.

Kenadie Fick (19 points and six steals), Abby Knobloch (19 points), Taryn Rauk (16 points, five rebounds and four steals) and Whitney Elbers (seven rebounds) paced H-BC offensively.

Sam Moser added six rebounds to the winning effort.

Box score
Fick 5 3 0-0 19, Rauk 7 0 2-3 16, Birger 0 0 0-0 0, Voss 1 0 0-0 2, Bos 0 0 0-0 0,

Knobloch 5 2 3-4 19, Tatge 0 0 0-0 0, Van Maanen 0 0 0-0 0, Bork 0 0 0-0 0, Moser 2 0 0-0 4, LaRock 1 0 0-0 2, Elbers 6 0 2-3 14.

Team statistics
H-BC: 36 of 60 field goals (60 percent), seven of 10 free throws (70 percent), 29 rebounds, 13 turnovers. Edgerton: eight of 35 field goals (23 percent), eight of 11 free throws (73 percent), 20 rebounds, 26 turnovers.

H-BC 66, HL-O-F 17

The Patriots racked up their seventh consecutive victory when they routed the Coyotes in Okabena Dec. 17.

H-BC canned 52 percent of its field goals and outscored the hosts in both halves of a 49-point conquest.

The Patriots rolled to a

Dragons place third at R-T-R Tournament

By John Rittenhouse

The Adrian-Ellsworth boys' basketball team went 1-1 and placed third at the Russell-Tyler-Ruthon Tournament in Tyler Thursday and Saturday.

Mountain Lake Area saddled the Dragons with an eight-point loss Thursday, but A-E pulled out a two-point win over Red Rock Central in the third-place game.

The 4-2 Dragons play Southwest Christian in Adrian Dec. 30.

A-E 58, RRC 56

The Dragons staged a remarkable comeback that included a fantastic finish when they squared off against RRC in Saturday's third-place game in Tyler.

The Falcons sported a 36-

24 halftime lead and led by as many as 15 points in the second half before A-E accomplished the improbable.

The Dragons chipped away at RRC's lead as the second half progressed before knotting the score at 56 late in the contest.

A-E drew a foul with five seconds left, but the Dragons missed the front end of a bonus situation at the free-throw line.

RRC collected the rebound, but A-E's Peyton Lewis picked off a pass, took one dribble and put up a 13-foot shot that was true to give the Dragons the win as time expired.

Ian Stamer (22 points, six rebounds and six steals) played a strong game for A-E, while Lewis charted five rebounds

and four assists.

Noah Reyne added seven rebounds to the winning cause.

Box score
Rahe 0 0 0-0 0, Reyne 1 0 5-7 7, Vortherms 0 0 0-0 0, Wolford 0 0 0-0 0, Stamer 4 4 2-4 22, Lewis 2 0 2-2 6, Jansma 2 1 2-4 9, Lenz 0 0 0-0 0, Schnoor 2 0 2-3 6, Luettel 4 0 0-0 8, Nave 0 0 0-0 0.

Team statistics
A-E: 20 of 52 field goals (38 percent), 13 of 20 free throws (65 percent), 27 rebounds, 13 turnovers. RRC: 19 of 42 field goals (45 percent), 12 of 16 free throws (75 percent), 28 rebounds, 17 turnovers.

MLA 66, A-E 58

A three-game run of wins came to an end for the Dragons when they opened the tournament in Tyler Thursday.

Mountain Lake Area

Gymnasts break through in BSC competition

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne gymnastics team picked up its first Big South Conference win of the season Thursday in Pipestone.

After dropping their first two league meets, LHS turned things around during a 123.8-119.975 victory over the home-standing Arrows.

Luverne athletes won all four individual event titles and fielded the meet's all-around

champion.

Ella Reisdorfer, who placed third on the bars (7.575) and beam (7.95) and fourth on the vault (8.575), claimed the floor and all-around championships with respective 8.55 and 32.6 tallies.

The night was a good one for LHS senior Meghan Witte as well.

Witte secured the vault and bars titles with 8.725 and 8.7

scores.

Senior Anna Huisman joined the list of event winners by taking top honors on the beam with an 8.7.

Luverne's Meghan Mollberg helped the cause by placing second on the vault and fourth on the floor with 8.7 and 7.75 scores.

Luverne, which ends competition in 2019 with a 5-3 record, returns to action

36-7 lead in the first half before using a 30-10 cushion in the second half to win handily.

Knobloch (14 points, seven rebounds, four assists and three steals), Fick (13 points and four steals), Moser (12 points) and Elbers (10 points) led the Patriots offensively.

Rauk added five assists to H-BC's cause.

Box score
K. Fick 2 3 0-0 13, Rauk 3 0 2-3 8, Birger 0 1 0-0 3, Voss 2 0 0-0 4, Bos 1 0 0-0 2, Knobloch 3 1 5-6 14, Durst 0 0 0-0 0, Tatge 0 0 0-0 0, Van Maanen 0 0 0-0 0, Moser 5 0 2-2 12, LaRock 0 0 0-0 0, Elbers 5 0 0-0 10.

Team statistics
H-BC: 26 of 50 field goals (52 percent), nine of 11 free throws (82 percent), 24 rebounds, seven turnovers. HL-O-F: seven of 27 field goals (26 percent), two of 11 free throws (18 percent), 13 rebounds, 22 turnovers.

played a strong first half and that proved to be the difference in the non-conference game between two Red Rock Conference squads.

The Wolverines opened a 37-29 lead in the game's first half.

Both teams scored 29 points in the second half, leaving MLA with an eight-point victory.

Stamer (18 points, four steals and three assists), Reyne (14 points) and Lewis (11 points) played solid games for A-E.

Box score
Rahe 1 0 0-0 2, Reyne 7 0 0-2 14, Vortherms 0 0 1-2 1, Stamer 3 3 3-11 18, Lewis 2 1 4-4 11, Schnoor 1 0 0-0 2, Luettel 3 0 1-2 7, Jansma 0 1 0-0 3.

Team statistics
A-E: 22 of 49 field goals (45 percent), nine of 21 free throws (43 percent), 12 rebounds, eight turnovers. MLA: 24 of 49 field goals (49 percent), 14 of 21 free throws (67 percent), 30 rebounds, 11 turnovers.

Jan. 3 with a home meet against a solid Fairmont-Martin County West squad.

Individual scores
Vault: Witte, 8.725; Mollberg, 8-7, Reisdorfer, 8.525; Tiana Lais, 8.35; Amira Cowell, 8.075.

Bars: Witte, 7.8; Reisdorfer, 7.575; Cowell, 6.725; Huisman, 6.525; Madigan Flom, 6.35; Beam: Huisman, 8.7; Reisdorfer, 7.9; Witte, 7.0; Cowell, 6.45; Flom, 6-4. Floor: Reisdorfer, 8.55; Mollberg, 7.75; Witte, 7.65; Flom, 6.775; Huisman, 6.7.

DON'T PLACE SNOW ON PUBLIC ROADWAYS

Luverne, MN – The Rock County Highway Department would like to remind everyone, especially rural residents, that it is against the law to deposit snow, in any fashion, on or next to a public highway or street.

Minnesota State law and many local ordinances prohibit the plowing, blowing, shoveling or otherwise placing of snow onto public roadways. This provision also includes the ditch and right of way area.

Violations are considered a misdemeanor, but civil penalties can also apply if the placement of snow creates a hazard such as slipper area, frozen rut or bump, which contributes to a motor vehicle or pedestrian accident. The civil liability can extend to both the property owner and the person who placed the snow.

Other hazards created by improper placement of snow on or near a public roadway include drainage problems, drifting, sight obstruction, and safe accessibility. Special attention should be made to keep crosswalks, intersections, entrances and exits clean and unobstructed.

To determine the proper placement of snow for a specific location along the county highway stem, you can contact the Rock County Highway Department at 283-5010.

Mark R. Sehr, PE
Rock County Highway Engineer

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

St. Catherine Ph. 283-8502; www.stscl.org

Friday, Dec. 27: 10 a.m. Mass at Poplar Creek and Oaks. Saturday, Dec. 28: 5 p.m. Mass at St. Catherine. Sunday, Dec. 29: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Catherine; Children's Liturgy. 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Leo. 1 p.m. Bilingual Mass at St. Leo. 3 p.m. RCIA. Tuesday, Dec. 31: Office closes at noon. 1-4 p.m. Mission Sewing. Wednesday, Jan. 1: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Catherine. 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Leo. Office closed.

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

Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982
www.luvernecrc.com — office@luvernecrc.com

Roger Sparks, Pastor

Sunday, Dec. 29: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 6:30 p.m. Worship Service. Monday, Dec. 30: 9 a.m. Perk-Up at Pizza Ranch. Wednesday, Jan. 1: 9:30 a.m. New Year's Day Service.

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

Thursday, Dec. 26: 8 p.m. Worship Service on Channel 3. Sunday, Dec. 29: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. 1:30 p.m. Mary Jane Brown Home service. 2:15 p.m. Poplar Creek Estates service. 6 p.m. Evening service. Wednesday, Jan. 1: No Awana. Thursday, Jan. 2: 6 a.m. Men's Bible study. 1 p.m. Roll bandages for hospital in Zambia. 8 p.m. Worship Service on Channel 3.

Grace Lutheran Church

500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-4431; www.graceluverne.org — graceluverne@iw.net

Ron Nichols, Pastor / Ann Zastrow, Associate Pastor

Thursday, Dec. 26: 3:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Friday, Dec. 27: 6:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Saturday, Dec. 28: 5:30 p.m. Worship Service. Sunday, Dec. 29: 8:15 a.m. KQAD Radio Broadcast. 9 a.m. Worship Service. 10:15 a.m. Adult Study. Monday, Dec. 30: 9 a.m. Grace Notes assembly. 4:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Tuesday, Dec. 31: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 1: Office closed; no activities. Thursday, Jan. 2: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action.

Bethany Lutheran Church

720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-4571 or 507-449-0291 or 605-215-9834
pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com

Sunday, Dec. 29: 9 a.m. No Sunday School or Bible Class. 10:15 a.m. Worship Service.

American Reformed Church

304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne

Ph. 283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org
Mike Altena, Pastor

Thursday, Dec. 26: 5:30 p.m. Tumbling Tikes. Friday, Dec. 27: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. 8 a.m. Justice For All. 4:30 p.m. REFIT Fitness. Saturday, Dec. 28: Noon Commons reserved. Sunday, Dec. 29: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion. 10:50 a.m. Family Education. Tuesday, Dec. 31: Noon Staff meeting.

First Assembly of God Church

1075 110th Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4

Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School. 10 a.m. Morning Worship. 6:30 p.m. School of the Holy Spirit. Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Kids Connection; Men's Bible Study with Pastor Ken; Women's Bible Study with Pastor Gloria.

United Methodist Church

109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne

Ph. 283-4529; email: luverneumc@iw.net

Thursday, Dec. 26: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf. Saturday, Dec. 28: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Sunday, Dec. 29: 9 a.m. Coffee Hour and Adult Sunday School. 10 a.m. Worship Service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible Study. NO ALIVE Youth Group. Monday, Dec. 30: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Tuesday, Dec. 31: 9:30 a.m. Folding team. Wednesday, Jan. 1: Office is closed. No FUEL of Confirmation. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Thursday, Jan. 2: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf.

First Presbyterian Church

201 S. 3rd St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek

Ph. 507-935-5025

email: lori.firstpres@gmail.com

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship.

First Presbyterian Church

302 Central Lane, Luverne

Ph. 283-4787; email: Firstpc@iw.net — www.fpcluverne.com

Thursday, Dec. 26: 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Sunday, Dec. 29: 10:15 a.m. Worship Service. 11:15 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship. Tuesday, Dec. 31: 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Thursday, Jan. 2: 10 a.m. Worship on Channel 3.

St. John Lutheran Church

803 N. Cedar St., Luverne

Ph. 283-2316; email: stjohn@iw.net

www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org

Thursday, Dec. 26: 11:30 a.m. DCE Jessica devotions at Mary Jane Brown Home. Saturday, Dec. 28: 5:30 p.m. Worship Service. Sunday, Dec. 29: 9 a.m. Worship Service. No Sunday School. 10:20 a.m. Adult Bible Study. Tuesday, Dec. 31: 6:30 p.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion. Wednesday, Jan. 1: Church office is closed. No Wednesday activities. Thursday, Jan. 2: 2 p.m. Women's Society.

Living Rock Church

500 E. Main St., Luverne

Ph. 449-0057; www.livingrockswmn.org

Billy Skaggs, Pastor

Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship; Kids Rock Children's Ministry. 6 p.m. Youth Ministry. Life groups meet throughout the week.

New Life Celebration Church

110 N. Oakley, Luverne

Ph. 449-6522; email: newlifecelibration@gmail.com

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service at 110 N. Oakley. Every third Thursday: 4:30 p.m. Food give-away at Generations Building. Bible Study groups meet at various times and days.

Ben Clare United Methodist Church

26762 Ben Clare Ave., Valley Springs, S.D.

igtwlb@WOW.net

Bill Bates, Pastor

Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages.

First Lutheran Church

300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.

Ph. (605) 757-6662

Laura Phillips, Pastor

Sunday, Dec. 29: 10 a.m. Worship at First Lutheran Church.

Palisade Lutheran Church

211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.

Ph. (507) 597-6257 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net

Laura Phillips, Pastor

Sunday, Dec. 29: 10 a.m. Worship at First Lutheran Church.

Magnolia United Methodist Church

501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia

Pastor Nancy Manning

Ph. 605-215-3429

email: magnoliamnumc@gmail.com

Sundays: 9 a.m. Magnolia Worship Service. 10:30 a.m. Bible study.

Steen Reformed Church

112 W. Church Ave., Steen

Ph. 855-2336

Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship; service broadcast on KQAD. 10:45 a.m. Sunday School. 6 p.m. Youth Group. Evening worship at 6 p.m. first and third Sundays. Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Midweek.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pastor Maggie Berndt-Dreyer

112 N. Main St., Hills

Ph. 962-3270

Sunday, Dec. 29: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 9:30 a.m. No Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion at Bethlehem.

Hills United Reformed Church

410 S. Central Ave., Hills

Office Ph. 962-3254

hillsurc@alliancecom.net

Alan Camarigg, Pastor

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship Services.

God's Light of Faith, Hope and Peace

"We also have the completely reliable prophetic word. You do well to pay attention to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the Morning Star rises in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19

The darkness of winter has set in. Have you felt it affecting you? In the north, you can expect fewer than nine hours of light each day this month. Southern states aren't even that much better. Eventually the darkness can drag you down. You can feel lethargic, lonely and disheartened.

But even in this darkest month of the year, there is a sliver of hope. On Dec. 23 the days start getting longer. Now, it's only a few more seconds of daylight than the day before, but it is indeed more. The next day a few more seconds are added and very slowly, the days begin to lengthen. It's such a small change that you might not even notice it, but even small things can make all the difference.

On Dec. 25 we celebrate another event that brought much needed light into our world. It was such a small change that not many people noticed it then either. It seemed so simple, so ordinary at the time, but we know that this thing that seemed so small has made all the difference. A baby has been born to you. He is Christ, the Lord.

The joy over this birth is so much more than the normal joy when a baby is born. This baby had been expected for a very long time. God's prophets had given hope to generations before His birth by telling everyone who this baby would be and what He

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Andrew Palmquist, Bethany Lutheran Church, Luverne

would accomplish. This baby would carry the darkness of their sin on Himself and atone for it. He would be their Savior and Messiah.

God led the Wise Men to this Savior by a light in the sky, and He leads us to that same Savior through His Word. Our light doesn't stop above Bethlehem; it leads us to Nazareth, to Cana, to Capernaum, and ultimately, to Golgotha. It leads us to the foot of the cross where Jesus suffered and died innocently. It leads us to the open tomb where our triumphant Savior rose from the dead.

It leads us to point our eyes above. To spend our life standing in the light, waiting with hopeful, confident hearts. Longing for the time when we see the day dawning, and the morning star rising -- when we see that same Savior Jesus returning in the brightness of His glory.

This Christmas we give thanks to God who has called us out of the darkness and into His wonderful light, the light of faith, the light of hope, the light of peace! Such a small difference, the birth of a single child, has made all the difference in the world. Join us at God's House to witness His light! To hear of Jesus and his great love for you!

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

305 E. 2nd St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick

Ph. (507) 669-2855; zionoffice@alliancecom.net

Jesse Baker, Pastor

Thursday, Dec. 26: 3:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Church office is closed. Friday, Dec. 27: 3:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Sunday, Dec. 29: 9 a.m. Worship Service. 10:10 a.m. Mentor program. 10:30 a.m. Sunday School; Adult Bible Study. Monday, Dec. 30: 1 p.m. Quilting. Tuesday, Dec. 31: No New Year's Eve worship. Wednesday, Jan. 1: Office is closed. Thursday, Jan. 2: 3:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3.

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Mortgage foreclosure sale set for Feb. 6

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 21, 2010
MORTGAGOR: Bradley G Moss and Dawn M Moss, husband and wife as joint tenants.

MORTGAGEE: Heritage Bank N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded April 26, 2010 Rock County Recorder, Document No. 173571.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Central Mortgage Company, Dated April 21, 2010 Recorded April 26, 2010, as Document No. 173572. And thereafter assigned to: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. Dated October 19, 2015 Recorded October 26, 2015, as Document No. 187187. And thereafter assigned to: Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC. Dated August 29, 2019 Recorded August 30, 2019, as Document No. 195483.

TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: Heritage Bank N.A.

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC
MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 744 171st Street, Luverne, MN 56156
TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 110034000
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

A tract of land in the NW 1/4 of Section 14, Township 103 North, Range 46 West of the 5th P.M. Rock County, Minnesota, described as follows:

Commencing at the Northwest Corner or the NW 1/4, then east along the North Line of said Section a distance of 2,345 feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing east along the North Line of said NW 1/4 a distance of 295 feet; thence south and parallel to the West Line of said Section a distance of 375 feet; thence west and parallel to the North Line of said Section a distance of 295 feet; thence north and parallel to the West Line of said Section a distance of 375 feet to the point of beginning.

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$180,000.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$175,549.36

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

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

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 6, 2020 at 10:00 AM

PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Office, Main Entrance, Law Enforcement Center, 1000 North Blue Mound Avenue, Luverne, MN to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied,

single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on August 6, 2020, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None
"THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: December 4, 2019

Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
137 - 19-008829 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
(12-12, 12-19, 12-26, 1-2, 1-9, 1-16)

Mortgage foreclosure sale set for Feb. 6

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: December 15, 2010
MORTGAGOR: Chad M. Gruis, single.

MORTGAGEE: First Farmers & Merchants National Bank.
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded December 16, 2010 Rock County Recorder, Document No. 175211.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association. Dated December 15, 2010 Recorded December 16, 2010, as Document No. 175212.

TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: NONE

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: First Farmers & Merchants National Bank

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association

MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 811 North Spring Street, Luverne, MN 56156

TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 20-0286-000
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

The S. 7 feet of Lot 2 and the N. 65 feet of Lot 4 in Block 6 in Barck, Adams & Howe's Addition to the Village (now City) of Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota.

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$78,963.00

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$67,615.70

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

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Dated: December 5, 2019

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
30 - 19-009130 FC

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
(12-19, 12-26, 01-02, 01-09, 01-16, 01-23)

Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

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Bayview Loan Servicing, LLC
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

CARDS OF THANKS

We would like to say THANK YOU to all the people who helped get our crops out when Norm was in the hospital. Thanks go out to Mike and Trevor Vis, Alan Fransman, Dave Fick, ALL of the Sjaarda men, John Den Besten, Bruce Van Dyken, Shorty Leenders, Dave Kolsrud, Jason Blum, and a special Thank You to Howie Vis and Trudy for supplying so many eats—good food. We cannot say enough for what you all did. It was truly appreciated.
Norm and Judy Vis
(12.22-12.26)

SEEKING

Seeking: One-bedroom apartment. Non-smoking. Contact: 314 E. Main Street - Apt. 1, Pipestone, MN 56164.
(12.15-1.2)

FOR SALE

Items for sale: Brown lift chair; used very little. Three Carhart coats — 1- 2XL, 2 - 3XL. Call 612-730-3698.
(12.19-1.4)

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)

RENTALS

Rental: Top Hat Luxury unit - 301 E. Crawford and 307 E. Crawford two-bedroom, one-bath; all electric with garage; all appliances included with water softener and RR drinking water; gardening and snow removal done for you. Very upscale and classy. \$695.00/year lease; 507-920-5595.
(tc)

For Rent: Two-bedroom house for rent January 1. No cats. No smoking. Call 507-215-2619.
(tc)

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted: Klarenbeek & Son Rendering, Corp. is in need of a daily route driver. Class B CDL with air brake. Clean driving record; paid holidays and vacation. Call Alan 507-220-5669.
(tc)

Client Community Services, Inc. is hiring Caregivers in Luverne! Caregivers assist individuals with developmental and/or physical disabilities with daily living skills, house-keeping tasks and more. We have PT, FT, Fill-in and overnight positons available. We offer paid training, benefits and a NEW STARTING WAGE! For more information on specific openings and hours available, please contact Linette at (507)283-2062 or 283-4170. Job postings are available on our website at www.clientcommunityservices.org. CCSI is an EEO/AA Employer.
(11.28-1.4)

RENTALS

NOW LEASING CENTENNIAL APARTMENTS
1 Bedroom
For those 62+ or Disabled
Includes ALL utilities!
507-283-2652
Equal Housing Opportunity
LloydManagementInc.com

FOR RENT
2 & 3 Bedroom Townhome
* Available Immediately
* One-stall Garage
* Updated Amenities
* Quiet Neighborhood
* \$750 (2 bed)/\$825 (3 bed) /month. Utilities OYO
Call Schomacker's
507-227-2183 for showings.

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/>. 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
(12.19-1.4)

HELP WANTED
Service Technician
\$20 - \$30 an hour.
Call Stewart at 507-442-4341 or email resume to info@deboerchev.com.
DEBOER EDGERTON
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

TUFF MEMORIAL HOME
A HOME WITH A HEART!
The Tuff Memorial Home is currently hiring an overnight **RN/LPN** and a full time evening **C.N.A.**
The Tuff Village assisted living is hiring a **Director of Nursing**. Flexible schedule with 32 hour weeks and no weekends, on-call, qualifies for health insurance and other benefits.
If interested, contact Eli Ripley at 507-962-3275 or email eripley@tuffmemorialhome.com
Competitive Wage | Full Benefits
Pension Plan | Friendly Atmosphere

EMPLOYMENT

Adrian Public School is seeking applications for classroom/special education paraprofessional at the High School. Candidates will work with teachers providing academic and behavioral support to students. Candidates should hold an associates degree, or have certification via the Para Pro assessment. If interested, please submit a letter of application, resume, current letters of reference, and a completed district application found at www.isd511.net. Send application materials to: Adrian Public School, PO Box 40, Adrian, MN 56110. For additional information, please contact Cate Koehne at c.koehne@isd511.net. Position open until filled.
(12.22-1.9)

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(12.22-1.9)

HELP WANTED
Luverne Law Office is seeking an Administrative Assistant.
Hours are flexible.
Position requirements include:
Receptionist - phone skills - copying/scanning - email communications
Desired skills but not required:
Bookkeeping - Quickbooks - Excel Spreadsheets
Send letter of application and resume to: Douglas Eisma, 130 East Main St., Luverne, MN or doug@eismalaw.com

SFI
Schwartz Farms
Where you will be more than just a member of the team...
You will be a member of our family!
Join a progressive, family-oriented company! Schwartz Farms is a premier pork producer and employs 300+ individuals. SFI is seeking applicants for the following positions in the **NW Iowa area:**
WEAN FINISH SUPERVISOR
This position is responsible for providing direction and counsel to contract growers in the raising and care of pigs. Duties include optimizing production & facilities, record keeping, and building positive relationships with independent contractors through strong communication, trust, and collaboration.
Must be highly dependable and able to lift 50 pounds. Must have clean driving record. Rate dependent upon experience. Benefits include:
* Medical * Sick *401K *Dental
* Vacation * Cafeteria * Life *STD/LTD
For more information, call us at 507.794.5779. For an application, visit our website www.schwartzfarms.com. Applications can be faxed to 507.794.5572 or mailed to 32296 190th St., Sleepy Eye MN 56085. EEO.

USDA opens sign-up for Conservation Reserve Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently opened sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) through Feb. 28, 2020, while sign-up for continuous CRP is ongoing.

Farmers and ranchers who enroll in CRP receive a yearly rental payment for voluntarily establishing long-term, resource-conserving covers, such as approved grasses or trees.

The practice helps to control soil erosion, improve water quality and develop wildlife habitat on marginally productive agricultural lands.

There are several CRP sign-up options:

CRP general sign-up will be held annually. The competitive general sign-up will now include increased opportunities for enrollment of wildlife habitat through the State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative.

Continuous sign-up will focus primarily on water quality within the Clean Lakes, Estuaries, and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative, while some practices under SAFE will remain available through continuous sign-up. The 2018 Farm Bill prioritizes water quality practices such as contour grass strips, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetlands and a new prairie strip.

USDA will also be working with Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) partners to relaunch CREP continuous options in each state under new statutory provisions. CRP Grasslands sign-up helps landowners and operators protect grassland, including rangeland, and pastureland and certain other lands while maintaining the areas as grazing lands. A separate CRP Grasslands sign-up will be offered each year following general sign-up.

The sign-up period for CRP Grasslands runs from March 16, 2020 to May 15, 2020.

CRP pilot programs will be rolled out later in 2020. CLEAR 30, which allows contracts expiring with CLEAR practices to be reenrolled in 30-year contracts and in the Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) in the prairie pothole region.

CRP Transition Incentives Program (TIP) is an option for producers interested in transitioning land to a beginning farmer or rancher or a member of a socially disadvantaged group to return land to production for sustainable grazing or crop production.

CRP contract holders no longer need to be a retired or retiring owner or operator to transition their land. TIP participants may have a lease less than five years with an option to purchase, and they have two years before the end of the CRP contract to make conservation and land improvements.

Previously expired land enrolled in CRP under a 15-year contract that expired in Sept. 2017, 2018 or 2019, may be eligible for enrollment if there was no opportunity for re-enrollment and the practice under the expired contract has been maintained.

CRP rates and payments are posted on the CRP statistics webpage. Soil rental rates are statutorily prorated at 90 percent for continuous sign-up and 85 percent for general sign-up. The rental rates will be reviewed annually. Under continuous sign-up, producers also receive incentives, including a sign-up incentive payment and a practice incentive payment.

To enroll in CRP, call the Rock County FSA office, 507-283-2369 or visit fsa.usda.gov/crp.



Mavis Fodness photos/1226 Ally Therapy Dog

Luverne Elementary School counselor Marie Atkinson-Smeins introduces Ally, a 7-year-old golden retriever/Labrador mix, to Jill Wagner's kindergarten students Dec. 18. Ally is the first therapy dog in the district.

Ally, the therapy dog/continued from page 1

Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Ally officially joined the staff this month, and Smeins has introduced the therapy dog to each of the elementary classrooms.

On Dec. 18 Ally received a warm welcome from Jill Wagner's kindergarten students.

"My students were very excited to meet Ally," Wagner said. "Before she came, we had a discussion about self control and how our behavior would affect the dog's behavior and comfort level in our classroom."

Smeins added to the introduction by explaining the differences between therapy and service dogs, how to approach the animal and why she will be working at the school.

"To me she's a tool to use in my job," Smeins said.

Ally will be used in one-on-one counseling sessions.

Smeins said some children have a hard time talking about their feelings, and a dog brings comfort, provides a distraction and, through petting the animal, students begin opening up about their feelings.

Therapy dogs are in use by many school counselors across the state and the U.S.

Rebel, a 2-year-old Charles King spaniel, has



Above: Each of the 517 students at Luverne Elementary School learned to greet the school's new therapy dog. Kindergartner Hattie Breyfogle gives Ally a pet on the head.

Right: A tag hangs from Marie Atkinson-Smeins's therapy dog, Ally, indicating she passed behavior and personality tests conducted by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs, a nonprofit organization based in Cheyenne, Wyoming.



been a therapy dog at the Murray County Central High School in Slayton since 2018.

Her owner is counselor Mary Beech, and the positive experience of Rebel's interaction with the students prompted Smeins to look at her own family dog as a counseling tool.

In the three weeks Ally has worked at Luverne

Elementary, Wagner has already seen an improvement among students.

"Having Ally in our school has provided an amazing opportunity for students to practice self control and see how each student's

actions may affect Ally's reaction," she said.

"We have talked about how this also is true with people, how our actions affect other people."

Wagner's students were left with feelings of calm and comfort after Ally's visit last week.

Ally's training more than a year ago included basic obedience along with completion of a certification process through the Alliance, a national nonprofit organization.

As the family dog, Ally is used to meeting strangers and is obedient to Smeins' commands.

"I am pleasantly surprised at her behavior," she said. "Therapy dogs have to have a good personality."

Therapy dogs are meant to provide comfort, affection and love for people, unlike service dogs that help humans complete physical tasks.

Ally's certification as a therapy dog means she has been tested and she passed the "calm, obedient and friendly" test.

Ally won't be used full time at the elementary school. "My goal is to bring her to the school two or three half days a week," Smeins said.

The district adopted a Therapy Dogs in School policy this fall. The policy recognizes the educational use of comfort dogs in school and the necessary limitations to the dog's use to ensure the well-being of the students and staff as well as that of the dog.

Colleen Deutsch was among the school board members who unanimously supported a therapy dog working at the elementary school.

She pointed to research into mental health and the benefits of relaxation, comfort and emotional brightening the simple act of petting a dog releases in people.

"You see a lot of kids coming to school that need that calming," she said. "I see it as a treatment tool ... and a win-win benefit for students and staff."

24/7 ... Rain or Shine ...

Your local, independent agent will be there.

Working for you-meeting your needs.

South Hwy. 75, Luverne, MN • Ph. 507-283-2381

Marilyn Bloemendaal, CPCU

Cory Bloemendaal, CIC

Steve Stuehmel, CIC

Buffalo Ridge INSURANCE

Auto-Owners INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

The Bluestem

CASUAL • FRESH • LOCAL

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Nightly Specials

Tuesday

Steak Special \$15.15

Add ons: grilled shrimp, coconut shrimp, garlic herb & cream crab meat, or sea scallops

Thursday

Bluestem Bayou Boil

(\$ based on market price)

Red potatoes, corn on the cob, sausage, 3-4 different types of seafood. Bib and all!

Happy Hour all Night

Saturday

Chef's Choice

Food Special

Bartender's Choice

Drink Special

Closed December 24-25 and January 1.

Find us on Facebook

Watch Facebook for specials listed daily.

Open New Year's Eve!

1202 S Kniss, Luverne, MN
www.the-bluestem.com
507-449-2583

Nothing says Christmas like a card from home...

Look for our display at Love the Light Christmas in the Park!

SEND A CARD TO A SERVICE MEMBER!

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

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

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

Do you have a loved one serving in the military?

If you'd like cards sent specifically to your service member, please contact The Star Herald office with their address and we will make sure some of the cards get sent to them!

Rock County STAR HERALD

Happy New Year!

Thank you for your patronage in 2019.

Looking forward to serving you in 2020!

S&S Car Wash

S. Kniss Ave.

Al, Barb and Dave Spartz