

Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, December 29, 2022

Star Herald recaps top stories in Rock County during 2022

By Lori Sorenson

Rock County's biggest news in 2022 generally follows the 2021 theme of progress and growth, with ribbon-cuttings and grand openings after last year's big announcements and ground-breaking ceremonies.

A well-attended Luverne

All-School Reunion and 150th anniversary in July highlighted recently completed construction at the school, but also celebrated many of the good things going for the community.

Many are among the highlights we review for the Star Herald's 2022 year in review.

More housing

For example, a 2021 ground-breaking set the wheels in motion for the 2022 grand opening of PrairiE Loft I and II apartments.

In October residents began moving into the long-awaited \$8 million project (on the former Sharkee's and Mert's Repair

lots) named with a capital E for "environmental sustainability and smart building practices."

The two buildings each have 27 one- and two-bedroom market-rate rental units on three floors with elevators and off-street parking.

The units have varying sizes

and amenities with rents ranging from \$900 to \$1,450 per month.

By year's end, the first 27 PrairiE Loft apartments were rented, and the second building was on its way to being filled, a testament to the need for housing

Top stories of 2022/see page 3

Back to the drawing board

FEMA maps may have overlooked flood mitigation efforts in Luverne

By Mavis Fodness

Preliminary flood insurance rate maps may be incorrect due to several key omissions.

Local municipality and county leaders reviewed the preliminary flood maps earlier this month.

The public may view the maps online at <https://hazards.fema.gov/femaportal/prelim-download/>.

Local leaders noticed the flood plain areas through the city of Luverne were not significantly decreased, even after the completion of several flood mitigation projects almost 20 years ago.

Chad McClure, Luverne's building inspector, pointed out the possible discrepancies in the flood plain surrounding Poplar Creek to the FEMA representatives hosting the meeting at the Rock County Courthouse.

"I am thinking, in reality, the plain should be smaller than what is shown on the (preliminary) map — from the north side of town down to Highway 75," he said.

The preliminary map updates maps developed in 1980.

FEMA representatives first met with municipal and county officials in 2016, when local officials first pointed out the mitigation improvements.

The city of Luverne worked with FEMA after the 1993 flooding event to construct two water retention basins, said County Administrator Kyle Oldre.

One basin is located near Maplewood Cemetery and the other is located northwest of the school. The projects were finished in 1996.

Since then, several smaller flood mitigation projects have taken place in Luverne to increase water flow under the Buffalo Ridge Railroad and under South Highway 75.

"There were vast improvements to control those floodwaters and improve what happens when it does rain," McClure said.

As a result of the retention efforts, damage from the 2014 flood event was limited.

"It (water) stays within the (Poplar Creek) banks is how they were designed," Oldre added.

McClure noticed between 30 and 40 additional homes now appear in the flood plain area. These homeowners may be required to purchase flood insurance and would be notified about the new stipulation if the preliminary maps are finalized and no appeal with FEMA is filed.

Ceil Strauss is the State National Flood Plain Insurance

FEMA flood maps/see page 2



Lori Sorenson photo/1229 sun dogs

Sun dogs graced the morning and evening horizons in Rock County for several days in a row, indicating extreme cold as ice crystals refracted light.

Blizzard delivers snow, sub-zero temps

By Lori Sorenson

Winter weather affected Christmas plans for millions of Midwest families, including those in Rock County where roads were closed Thursday afternoon, Dec. 22, through Christmas Eve, Dec. 24.

The storm arrived on the heels of heavy snowfall earlier in the week and brought with it even more snow that combined with sub-zero temperatures with winds gusting over 30 mph to create blizzard conditions.

Christmas programs and school activities were canceled or postponed from Wednesday evening through Saturday morning, and students in area schools were dismissed with e-learning or snow days during the blizzard.

I-90 closed across much of South Dakota Thursday, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation followed suit closing its portion of the interstate from the border to the St. James exit, along with state high-



The Luverne Fire Department employed the tracks on its new Ranger to rescue stranded motorists twice during last week's blizzard.



Lori Sorenson photo/1229 sun dogs

Life-size snowmen greet motorists along North Highway 75 in Luverne Tuesday morning.

ways in much of southwest Minnesota.

Eventually, I-90 closed all the way to Albert Lea and state roads closed as far north as Willmar.

No-travel advisories were issued, along with warnings that motorists who needed rescuing would be liable for expenses resulting from their decisions to venture out.

With wind chills hovering around minus 30 degrees, officials warned that outdoor exposure would result in frostbite after only minutes, and that prolonged time in the elements could be deadly.

That didn't stop some from attempting travel and requiring rescue.

Statewide, between 4:30 p.m. Friday

and 11:30 a.m. Saturday, there were 350 crashes, 30 with injuries, 282 spin outs and one jackknifed semi, according to the Minnesota State Patrol. That's not counting incidents along county and township roads involving local emergency responders.

In Rock County, the Luverne Fire Department was dispatched twice with its new four-door Ranger that's equipped with tracks.

"The drifts were hard, so it barely sunk in," said fire chief David Van Batavia. "We were able to drive on top of the snow."

Blizzard/continued on page 5

City administrator retires, will continue living in Luverne

By Lori Sorenson

City Administrator John Call will live out his retirement in Luverne where he'll enjoy the amenities he's helped with during the past 17 years.

"One of my goals in retirement is to wear out the Loop trail with my bicycle or my feet," Call said.

"That's another great part of retiring here. We can take advantage of the projects we've worked to bring here."

From Iowa to Minnesota

Call grew up in Spirit Lake, Iowa, and earned a political science and economics degree at Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa, and a master's in public administration from USD in Vermillion.

"When I interned in the city manager's office in Storm Lake, I liked the idea of working with city leaders and building

relationships," Call said.

"I saw projects they were working on, like storm sewers and water towers and buying a fire truck. They were basically community building, and I thought that was pretty cool."

He said it's what he appreciated about 35 years in city administration.

"It wasn't just a job working in



an office," Call said. "I liked working with people on projects and learning about them. We were doing important things to make a difference in people's communities."

Mending fences

Call was city manager in the Iowa towns of Pocahontas, Eagle Grove (where he met and married

John Call retires/see page 3



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Library launches 50 States Book Challenge

The Rock County Library will launch its "50 States Book Challenge" beginning Jan. 1. Library staff challenge residents to read 50 books in a yearlong challenge. Each book's setting must be in a different state. Various prizes are available based on the number of books read. Any reader who completes the 50 states will earn a grand prize. Library staff have a list of book suggestions as well as log sheets available beginning Jan. 1.

Blue Mounds State Park offers January activities

- Meet at the picnic area parking lot on Jan. 1 for a **First Day Hike** from 1 to 2:30 p.m. to start the new year off outdoors and discover a winter wonderland on the prairie. Join the naturalist for a 2-mile hike along parts of the Upper Cliff Line and Mound Trails. Trails may be snow-covered or icy during winter months. Warm clothing and sturdy boots are recommended.
- Meet in the Picnic Shelter from 10 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, to learn about **Beavers, Nature's Architects** and America's largest rodents. Discover how these critters use their unique adaptations to play a valuable role on the landscape. The program will conclude with a short walk down to the creek to look for beaver activity.
- Meet in the Picnic Shelter from 1 to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, for **Winter Birding: Owls**. Winter can be a great time to view owls. Find out what makes these wonderful birds so special and discover what species are in the backyard.

Nutrition for seniors Jan. 5

Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors 60 & older, sponsored by A.C.E. of SWMN, will be from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 5. The drive through distribution will be in the parking lot off Maple Street at the new A.C.E. office on east side of Generations Event Center. Pre-registration is required. Call Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064.

Luverne Community Ed

Community Education will offer the following classes in the next few weeks. Call 507-283-4724 to register. Watch for the new **Winter Brochure** in the Luverne Announcer the weekend of New Year's Day. Registrations will be taken starting Jan. 3. The Community Ed Office will be closed from Dec. 21 through Jan. 2 for winter break.

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

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

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

#TellUsTuesday Results

Scan Here to Vote for this Week's Survey!



What Is Your Favorite Christmas Movie?

Elf	7%
The Grinch	10%
Home Alone	24%
Die Hard	5%
National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation	41%
Polar Express	2%
Hallmark Movies	10%



Lori Sorenson photo/1229 jill wolf sworn in

'I, Jill Wolf, do solemnly swear ...'

Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian administers the oath of office to Luverne's new city administrator, Jill Wolf, at the start of the City Council meeting Tuesday night, Dec. 20, in council chambers of Luverne City Hall. Wolf, who worked from 2004 to 2009 as Luverne's Economic Development Authority director, replaces City Administrator John Call who retired this month after 17 years in the position. Wolf has been training with Call and department heads in the past few weeks. Baustian said the entire council was in agreement about hiring Wolf in October. "We were looking for an administrator who could make a seamless transition, who understood that we have no 'issues to be fixed' and someone who will keep Luverne on the path it has been on in terms of housing, day care and economic development," Baustian said. "Jill has worked here before and understands our priorities."

DeBates joins Luverne School Board

By Mavis Fodness

Ryan DeBates of Luverne took the oath of office Thursday night, Dec. 22, becoming an official member of the Luverne School Board.

DeBates won his board seat in a special election in November, filling the position vacated by Jeff Stratton. Stratton resigned the post in July after being hired as the district's resource officer.

DeBates will serve the final two years of Stratton's four-year term.

Retired school board member Colleen Deutsch was appointed to fill Stratton's position until after the election.

In his report to the board, Superintendent Craig Oftedahl thanked Deutsch and retiring board members Katie Baustian, Jodi Bosch and Reva Sehr.



School business manager Tyler Reisch (left) congratulates Ryan DeBates, after delivering the oath of office Thursday night, Dec. 22, during the board's monthly meeting.

"Thank you for your service and a special thanks for the guidance to the school and community through the building project. Your

vision and energy fueled the fire to not only instigate the project, but to see it through," he said. Elected to replace the

three retiring board members were Mike DeBates, Zach Nolz and Randy Saker. They will officially take office in January.

FEMA flood maps/continued from page 1A

Program coordinator.

She explained FEMA's appeal process where residents work with their municipal representatives to submit documentation outlining any flood mitigation efforts not included on the flood maps.

"Because we know the maps are not perfect," Strauss said.

Individual homeowners' efforts to build above the flood plain are often not known at the federal level unless an appeal is filed, she said.

In the case of large projects like that completed by the city of Luverne, FEMA may redo the maps to include the missing information.

"We will go back to the beginning and release new maps," Strauss said.

In addition to reviewing flood plain maps online, each city clerk's office has printed flood maps of their individual municipalities for public viewing. The



Mavis Fodness photo/1222 Flood Maps

Ceil Strauss (at screen, pointing to a flood plain map of the city of Luverne) talks with county and municipal representatives about the recently released preliminary Federal Insurance Rate Map. The early December meeting with local officials revealed the maps may be missing key flood mitigation projects that affect the flood plain area around Poplar Creek in Luverne. If missing, the map for the city of Luverne may have to be redone, Strauss said.

Rock County Courthouse has printed maps of the unincorporated areas in the county. This spring, communities are encouraged

to adopt the new flood risk data before the new flood insurance rate maps go into effect.

Residents in commu-

nities that fail to meet the adoption deadline would be able to buy premiums through the National Flood Insurance Program.

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City Administrator John Call retires/continued from page 1A

his wife, Brenda), Fort Madison and Storm Lake, spending roughly five years in each city before coming to Luverne in 2005.

"Storm Lake was a town of about 12,000 people at the time, and I kinda thought Luverne was a nice little town and it would be a nice, slower work pace," Call said.

"I was pleasantly surprised that they didn't let me rest between projects."

For one thing, Luverne was recovering from a previous administrator (Greg LaFond) who had threatened city-county cooperation on law enforcement, library, rec center and more.

"I remember Mayor Andy Steensma — what a nice man and God bless him," Call said.

"One of his priorities for me was mending fences with the county. The good thing was that Kyle (Oldre), county administrator, also wanted a good relationship with the city, and we made a fresh start."

Call also navigated an airport runway expansion in 2008 that closed a township road and acquired land through eminent domain.

Today the airport is among Luverne's important economic tools, attracting air traffic from many regions of the country.

"They needed somebody with a certain personality who would work with people and build relationships," Call said, reflecting on those early days.

"I guess that's something I was successful at and I'm very proud of."

Building trust, industry and infrastructure

In addition to the Loop and the airport work, Call said he's proud of housing developments, industrial park improvements, the new pool and fitness center, the Lewis and Clark water connection.

"Lewis and Clark secured a water source for the next 50 to 100 years," Call said.

"We don't have to depend on a shallow wellfield, and we can have economic development without having to be worried about water."

He said his Saturday morning routine is to drive around town checking on projects and improvements.

In recent years, that's included new roads and infrastructure and new industry like PMP, Lineage Logistics and the National Guard Armory near I-90.

"I remember when that was the Marty Mayes property, and it was a cornfield," Call said.

'We all do better when we all do better'

And he also enjoys tallying the city's tax increment financing districts like the former Sharkee's lot which now houses 54 apartment units valued at \$8 million.

"The new taxes on those apartments will pay off the improvements the city made in that area," Call said. "And then once the improvements are paid off, the money goes into the tax rolls."

On a smaller scale, he appreciates the city's efforts to keep up residential neighborhoods and redevelop properties for better uses.

"We always feel proud

when people say that the first thing that strikes them about Luverne is that it's a really clean community," Call said. "I think what they're basically saying is there are no ramshackle parts of town."

He said that's due to the City Council's mission to redevelop blighted lots.

"There is a certain amount of property in every community that reaches the end of its life," Call said. "And if you can reach an agreement with sellers, where they end up with a little cash in their pockets to do something else ... It's a benefit to everybody."

The improvements, whether residential or commercial, generate additional tax revenue to benefit all involved.

"I'm really glad we're retiring here in this town, and I can drive by some of these neighborhoods and remember what they looked like before we completed projects," Call said.

"To quote Paul Wellstone, 'We all do better when we all do better,' and we've all been better for all those projects."

'Like a good marriage ... It was meant to be'

He said he's grateful for city leaders and staff he's worked with over the years.

"We've always been blessed here in this community with elected officials who are in it for the right reasons, the betterment of everyone," Call said.

"I'm retiring with a lot of friends in the community."

Call has been the longest-serving city administrator in Luverne's history, and he's worked in Luverne longer than he has in any other city in his 35-year career.

The reason for that, he said, is simple: "It's like a good marriage," he said about his work with council and department heads. "It worked out. It was meant to be."

During Call's final City Council meeting earlier this month, Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian thanked him for his leadership.

"He's been one of the most involved city administrators that I've ever worked with," Baustian said.

"Many, many other city administrators look up to Mr. Call. ... You've given them guidance and mentorship. As mayor, I've been very proud to work with you on the city council."

In retirement, Call said he and Brenda look forward to traveling and spending time with their nephews and nieces. He will also continue as a mentor in Rock County's Big Buddies program.

"My wife and I fell in love with Luverne and Rock County. Now that I'm retired, I really want to be here because of our friends here, our church, Big Buddies and also because I can see and enjoy the progress we've made," he said.

"I can't imagine anywhere else I'd like to be. It really has been good."

Call said it's a good time for anyone to be living in Luverne.

"I think the future's bright with the things we have going on here," he said, adding that he's confident in Luverne's new administrator, Jill Wolf.

"I feel the community is going to continue to prosper, and that makes me happy."



The Luverne City Council and Rock County Commissioners toured the Lineage freezer storage warehouse Aug. 30 being constructed in the Luverne Industrial Park. The gigantic building is roughly 400 feet by 450 feet with a 48-foot ceiling.

Year in review/continued from page 1A

in Luverne and Rock County.

Luverne child care center

As state and national child care shortages continue to stifle business growth, Luverne leaders are tackling the issue with a city-subsidized day care center.

The city paid \$515,000 for the former Tri-State Insurance Building (recently Total Card Inc) on Roundwind Avenue to accommodate up to 186 children from infants through school ages.

The 1974 building (just north of the pool and fitness center) has 30,000 square feet on 4.7 acres of land, with adequate "green space" required by the state.

On Dec. 20, city officials learned they were approved for a \$2.6 million state grant, a crucial funding piece for the \$6.4 million project.

The city will own, maintain and insure the building, and a commercial or non-profit day care business will operate in it.

Child care and housing can't come soon enough for a community that's about to see 200 more jobs with business growth in the industrial park.

Lineage Logistics \$50 million cold storage warehouse

In Luverne's biggest development news of 2021, Lineage Logistics announced construction of a 235,000-square-foot cold storage warehouse on land near Premium Minnesota Pork.

The warehouse, with an estimated construction value of more than \$50 million, went up this summer, its size looming at roughly the size of four football fields.

It is built to store food products requiring temperatures ranging from minus 20 to 45 degrees and will require up to 75 new "quality paying" jobs in the area when it's complete in the summer of 2023.

Premium Minnesota Pork builds smokehouse

Premium Minnesota Pork is building a \$70 million processing facility that will add nearly 100 jobs in Luverne's industrial park near its current pork processing facility along County Road 4 west of town.

The new facility, set for completion in 2023, marks a significant investment for the company that already spent \$30 million in 2019 to expand the

78,000-square-foot building to 145,000 square feet.

Following a 10,000-square-foot, \$7 million cooler addition, the once shuttered IBP property is now a 4,000-hog-per-day operation that employs more than 450 workers.

Luverne puts \$14 million into wastewater improvements

PMP negotiated a wastewater treatment agreement with the city of Luverne to improve the city's water treatment capacity, and 2022 saw the completion of that massive \$14 million project.

The city, which was already planning to refurbish its 1950s equipment, negotiated with Premium Minnesota Pork to pay for nearly half, \$6.7 million, of the improvements.

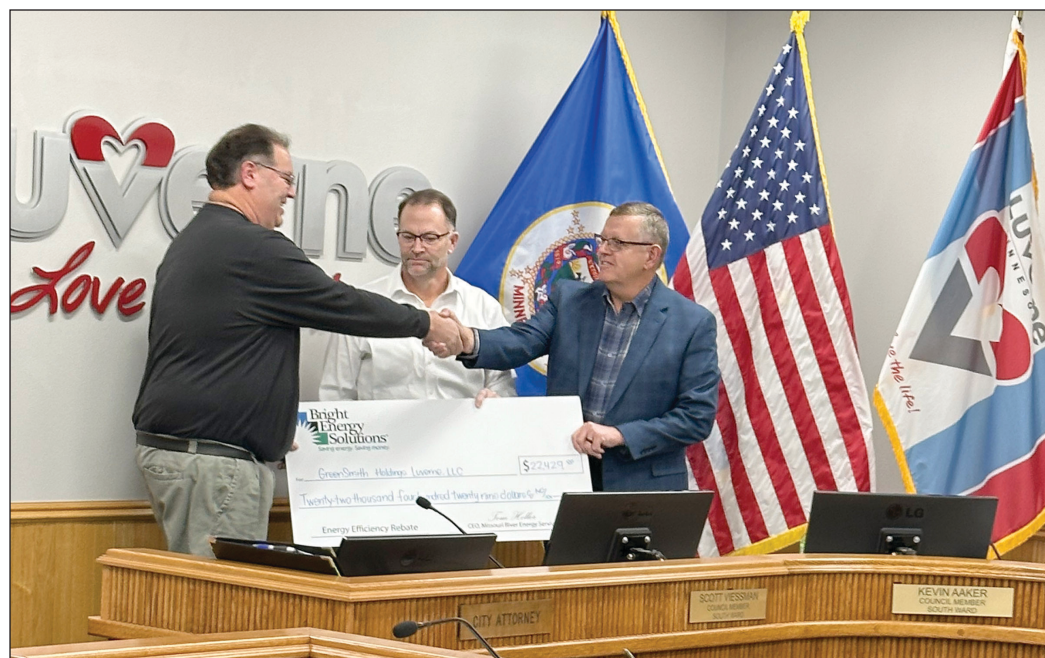
PMP is now guaranteed a 300,000-gallon-per-day treatment capacity, which accommodates higher production goals, and the city is well-situated for future industrial water treatment capacity.

Power plant upgrades

The city of Luverne in 2022 also completed an \$11 million upgrade in the historic power plant on East Main Street at the Rock River.

The project, which includes two

Year in Review, go to page 8A



Lori Sorenson photo/1229 MRES rebate to PrairieE Loft

Bright Energy Solutions

Wade Sand of Missouri River Energy Solutions presents a check for \$22,429 to Rich Dreckman representing Greensmith Holdings as part of the MRES Bright Energy Solutions Rebate Program, which incentivizes businesses to make qualified energy-efficient improvements through rebates and 0-percent loans. Greensmith built Luverne's PrairieE Loft I and II apartment buildings on South Highway 75. The apartments are named with a capital E for "environmental sustainability and smart building practices." The rebate was awarded in Luverne City Hall Tuesday, Dec. 20, during the council meeting.

Happy 60th Anniversary
TONY & SADIE
VanGrootheest
on January 1
"And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." -Colossians 3:14
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Blizzard brings reflection on lost things

Why do we lose things?

The question nagged me during the two days spent at home as a blizzard raged outside.



RUMINATIONS

By Mavis Fodness, Reporter

It was especially brought to focus when my husband, Bryan, handed me a small pair of scissors he had used while in the horse barn and slid into his coat pocket.

The scissors, instead of becoming lost, is now permanently kept in my home office.

Engraved on several places around the blades are the words, "Avis Olson." She didn't leave any doubt as to the scissors' owner.

Avis is my sister, and obviously she lost the scissors since I now have them at my desk.

How they ended up in my horse barn is what experts agree is just absent-mindedness.

They got picked up for use and left behind as my mind focused on another object.

We do it all the time.

We lose our car keys, our cell phones or the television remote.

Other experts say misplacing things is a normal part of aging.

They liken the feeling to running into someone and not being able to think of their name — and hours later, it pops into your mind.

Absent-mindedness or age, losing things happens frequently in my house.

Bryan and I often kid each other, "You can hide (and find) your own Easter eggs."

In googling how to overcome losing items, here are some of their suggestions:

- When you put something somewhere, say its location out loud. This allows our brains to be more mindful where we put things.
- Take pictures. Ever leave

a store and wonder where you parked your car? Most people annoyingly hit the panic button on their keys, setting off the car's horn in short blasts. Experts suggest taking a picture of storage areas, where you store easy-to-lose objects. When you can't find them, pull up the photo.

- Invest in technology that allows tracking of items. There are various fobs to attach to items that sound when pressed, signaling where the lost item is.
- Set up a routine where everything has a home. Place keys or purses in the same place, or place the item back in a certain drawer or cupboard to be found again when needed.

At home finding lost items has become a mystery game. Bryan regularly loses his gloves when he works around the farm. He buys another pair, as the location of the original pair remains a mystery.

However, one mystery was recently solved in a funny location. As last week's weather forecast had us bracing for bone-chilling cold, he decided the heater in our well needed to be checked. I was recruited as the extra pair of hands for the project.

The well is topped with a heavy concrete slab and is not easily accessible without a crowbar and some muscle. Once removed, a ladder leads down some 10 feet until the pump is reached.

Within a minute of climbing down the ladder, an extra pair of gloves suddenly pops up from the hole — from this spring when Bryan previously checked the well.

A year's a long time; here's our recap at a glance

Happy New Year, Star Herald readers. We in the newsroom find satisfaction in reviewing and highlighting the top stories of the year in our final December edition.

It shows we have progressive and ambitious local leaders and residents, and it shows our news team takes our work seriously in documenting big things, whether good news or bad.

At a glance, this year's top stories include:

- Prairie Loft apartments accept first residents
- Luverne Child Care Center plans (and some funding) are in place
- Lineage Logistics \$50 million cold storage warehouse goes up with opportunity for 75 jobs
- Premium Minnesota Pork announces \$70 million smoke-

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

house processing plant with opportunity for 100 jobs

- Minnesota National Guard's 17.5 million Readiness Center in progress

- Luverne's \$14 million wastewater treatment plant improvements are done

- Luverne's \$11 million power generation project is complete and on standby

- Next Era's 40-turbine Walleye Wind Farm is online in western Rock County

- Luverne's \$5 million pool and fitness center renovations and splash pad are complete

- Rock County THC ordinance

is in place

- Luverne district's 18-candidate school board election results in five new school board members

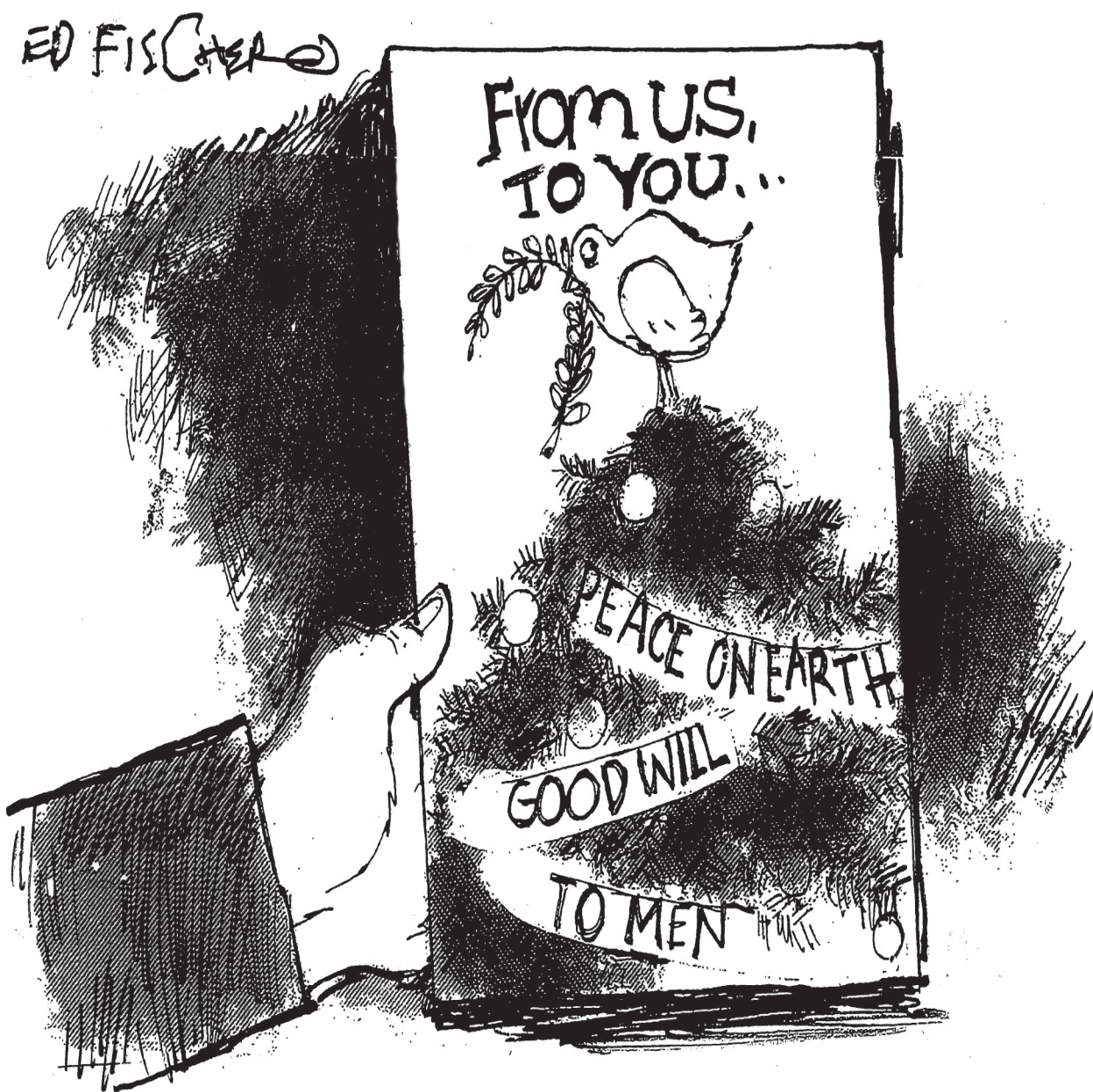
- Loop and Ashby Trail are complete.

- Derecho winds, tornadoes, heat, drought and blizzards make headlines.

The Star Herald has also reviewed top business news in this edition and our B section carries a story reviewing top sports stories of 2022.

Meanwhile, it's true what "they" say, "The days pass slowly but the years fly by."

See you next year.



2023 will be more spontaneous, plans-on-the-fly kind of year for the Peterson household

Before I close the book on 2022, I want to thank all of you who took the time to write a note in a Christmas card or drew one of your own. We collected nearly 700 cards this year, and the last box was just shipped off last week to Military Missions Inc. in Lexington, Kentucky.

We also dropped some cards and coloring contest entries off at the Minnesota Veterans Home.

May you have a blessed new year knowing you helped make someone's Christmas a little brighter.

New Year 2023 is at our doorstep, and frankly I am more than ready



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, general manager

for a new year, especially with the winter weather we had in the last month of 2022.

The past year was kind of a cancel event kind of year for me. It all started about this time last year.

We had plans for a family gathering to ring in the New Year, but I came down with COVID, and that ended that.

I bought a South Dakota fishing license only to have our annual

fishing trip canceled. I bought a South Dakota pheasant hunting license only to have bad weather scrap that trip.

I still have the month of January ... maybe I can squeeze a quick South Dakota trip in before the end of the pheasant season.

The weather didn't help our plans for last weekend's trip to the cities for the Vikings game.

Our Fourth of July celebration with our out-of-town friends was canceled due to an illness.

My plan for 2023 is to be a bit more spontaneous and make plans

on the fly.

If I find myself with a couple of free days and the weather is cooperating, head to the hills — the Black Hills, that is — or make a couple of phone calls and get the fishing group together and drop a line in the Missouri River.

I am not banking on this, but if Mother Nature can get her act together in the next couple of weeks, who knows? Maybe a three-day pheasant hunting trip may still be possible.

Goodbye 2022 and welcome 2023! Happy New Year!

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Rock County's newspaper since 1873

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ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

Dec. 16
 •Responded to alarm on 150th Avenue near Hardwick.
 •Complainant reported cattle out at 140th Avenue near I-90.
 •Complainant on 171st Street reported trespassing.
 •Complainant on Fairview Drive reported a driving complaint.

Dec. 17
 •Complainant east-bound on I-90 near mile marker 4 reported debris on roadway.
 •Complainant reported a pedestrian on County Road 4 near 200th Avenue.
 •Complainant on E. Crawford Street in Luverne reported property damage.
 •Complainant on North Blue Mound Avenue reported property damage.
 •Complainant on South Kniss Avenue in Luverne reported a gas drive-off.

Dec. 18
 •Complainant at 110th Avenue and 141st Street reported a driving complaint.
 •Law enforcement assisted motorist on County Road 7.
 •Debris was reported on I-90 near mile marker 11.
 •Complainant on South Kniss Avenue reported property damage.

Dec. 19
 •Complainant reported a disorderly person on East Sanford Avenue in Steen.
 •Law enforcement assisted another department.
 •Motorist reported debris on I-90 near Magnolia at mile marker 20.
 •Complainant on South Kniss Avenue reported a gas drive-off.
 •Complainant on East Luverne Street reported alarm.

Dec. 20
 •An outage was reported in Luverne at 1:26 a.m.

•Complainant on 20th Avenue near Valley Springs, S.D., reported a civil issue.
 •Complainant on 120th Avenue near Luverne reported a deceased person.
 •Complainant at 180th Avenue and 221st Street near Hardwick reported debris on roadway.
 •Complainant reported a fire on 61st Street near Luverne.

Dec. 21
 •Complainant on Highway 75 near 131st Street required assistance.

Dec. 22
 •Deputy responded to alarm on South Kniss Avenue.
 •Complainant on North Estey Street reported power outage at 6:38 p.m.
 •Complainant reported a public nuisance.
 •I-90 was closed at 6:54 p.m. due to weather.
 •Deputy assisted the Minnesota State Patrol on I-90 at mile marker 9 west-bound near Beaver Creek.
 •Motorist required assistance on North Kniss Avenue.

Dec. 23
 •Deputy assisted Minnesota State Patrol on I-90 at mile marker 10 west-bound.
 •Deputy assisted another department at Highway 23 and County Road 5 near Garretson, S.D.
 •Complainant on North Spring Street reported an alarm.

In addition, officers responded to 3 motor vehicle accidents, 11 stalled vehicles, 12 vehicles in the ditch, 2 weather report issues, 10 ambulance runs, 2 paper services, 2 animal complaints, 1 fingerprint request, 11 purchase and carry permits, 8 traffic stops, 10 abandoned 911 calls, 1 welfare check, and 1 follow-up.



Luverne firefighters work at the scene of a house fire near Steen on Dec. 20.

Grease fire destroys kitchen in home near Steen

By Lori Sorenson

A Dec. 20 house fire near Steen destroyed a kitchen and left two people temporarily displaced, according to Luverne Fire Chief David Van Batavia.

The 911 call came in shortly after 6 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 20, of a kitchen fire above the stove.

Two occupants, including Kris Van Der Brink, were out of the house and at the end of the driveway when firefighters arrived.

A grease fire on the stove had climbed up the cupboards and traveled along a vent to the attic, requiring firefighters to rip out a segment of sheetrock to extinguish the blaze above.

The Hills Fire Department was dispatched to provide mutual aid, but Van Batavia said he sent them home moments later after it was clear Luverne had it under control.

"It was so cold, I didn't want them out there longer than they needed to be," he said.

He said damage was contained to the kitchen, which would likely need to be gutted, and there was smoke damage throughout the house.

While the plumbing, heating and electric remained operable, Van Batavia advised that a professional electrician inspect it before Van Der Brink move back in.

She said she's glad everyone is OK, and the house is insured.

Blizzard/ from page 1A

Just ahead of the storm last week, he said Rock Motor Sports swapped out the UTV's wheels for tracks.

"It worked really well," Van Batavia said.

'I can't believe anyone would want to live here'

The first call came in around 3:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 23, to rescue two individuals stranded in a semitrailer at 160th Avenue and 91st Street south of the country club.

Van Batavia said the two had driven from the Badlands to Minnesota and were headed back to Nebraska on back roads after I-90 and state highways closed.

"They were pretty far off track," Van Batavia said.

Their trailer slid into the ditch and after 24 hours in the cab, they were running low on fuel and called for help.

"The one guy was from Kentucky and said he couldn't understand why anyone would want to live here," Van Batavia said about the blizzard conditions.

"Our eyelids were freezing to our eyes in no time." The Ranger, with its heated interior, travels up to 30 mph on the tracks. It carried Van Batavia and assistant fire chief Jordan Siebenahler to the stranded semi and returned the truckers to the Super 8 in Luverne.

"They were pretty happy to get to the hotel," he said.

The fire department and its ranger were dispatched again at 2:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 24, for a motorist stranded in a drift on Highway 75 near the Steen blacktop. The caller reported his Chevy Cruz was stuck in the driving lane and the heater wasn't working.

Calmer Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve morning, residents awoke to calmer winds and improved visibility, with rural residents seeing a horizon for the first time in nearly two days.

By 11 a.m. I-90 reopened from the South Dakota border to Albert Lea and no-travel advisories were also lifted on state highways in southwest Minnesota.

Motorists were advised that drifting and blowing snow would continue to make travel difficult that day as snowplows worked to clear large snowdrifts.

Further complicating their work were stalled vehicles stuck in drifts and needing to be dug out and towed.

DNA identifies cold case murder victim near Beaver Creek

The Rock County Sheriff's Office and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) announced on Tuesday a break in a cold case homicide.

A murder victim whose remains were found 41 years ago in Rock County has been identified through genetic genealogy and DNA.

Louis Anthony Gattaino of Omaha, Nebraska, had been missing since October 1971. He was 25 at the time.

On March 13, 1981, a highway worker found skeletal remains of a man now identified as Louis Gattaino near a culvert along Minnesota Interstate 90 near County Highway 23 in Beaver Creek Township.

Despite an exhaustive investigation, the man's identity remained a mystery. BCA forensic scientists obtained DNA from the remains,

but it did not match to anyone in convicted offender or missing persons databases.

Then this past August, researchers from the Doe Project working with a public genealogy database identified a likely genetic connection to Gattaino's family.

BCA agents and Rock County investigators traveled to Omaha to collect DNA samples from several family members. BCA forensic scientists obtained DNA results that support the familial relationship last week, and Rock County investigators notified Gattaino's family members of the results.

"While it's not news anyone wants, Louis Gattaino's family at long last has some answers," Rock County Sheriff Evan Verbrugge said.

"And while there is still much to be learned about Mr. Gattaino's

death, knowing his identity – even decades after he died – is a critically important new clue in this case."

The Rock County Sheriff's Office, the BCA and the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office urge anyone who recognizes or had contact with Louis Gattaino between 1971 and 1981 or who has information about his death to contact the Rock County Sheriff's Office Tip Line at 507-283-5000.

"Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy continues to unlock mysteries and provide families with answers about their loved ones," BCA Superintendent Drew Evans said.

"Although DNA testing wasn't possible when Louis Gattaino died, we are grateful that it brings his family some resolution today."

The BCA continues to urge families with missing loved ones to report them missing to law enforcement and to provide DNA for comparison to unidentified remains DNA in Minnesota and across the nation.

Families can start the process by contacting their local law enforcement agency or the BCA.

Investigators are grateful to the Doe Network for their efforts in this case that ultimately resulted in Louis Gattaino being identified. The Doe Network works to assist in resolving missing and unidentified persons cases.

Tofteland honored for commitment to Rotary

Walter Tofteland was recently honored by the district Rotary International governor as the Luverne club was recently inducted into the Paul Harris Fellow Club.

The Paul Harris Fellow recognizes individuals who contribute or who have contributions made in their name of \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. The Foundation uses the contributions to support service projects throughout the world.

All 36 members of the Luverne club are Paul Harris Fellows, and members credit Tofteland's help in achieving the rare distinction.

Tofteland often challenged members to raise at least half of the \$1,000 Foundation donation by paying half the amount himself.



"Walter has been amazingly consistent in his support for the Luverne club and for Rotary in general," said current Rotary president Dave Sternborg.

"His commitment and

motivation to other club members is unparalleled in my experience."

Tofteland, 93, joined the presentation via Zoom from a retirement home in Sioux Falls. He joined the local Rotary International on July 1, 1958.

Tammy Loosbrock, Luverne Rotary foundation committee chairman, presented Tofteland with the Paul Harris Fellow Club banner.

"This honor is a true legacy to you as a Rotarian leader in our club."

HRA Annual Agency Plan Hearing Set for January 11, 2023

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Luverne has developed its Annual Agency Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. It is available for review at the Blue Mound Tower at 216 North McKenzie in Luverne, MN, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. A public hearing will be held on January 11, 2023, at the Authority's conference room at 11:30 a.m. The public may attend.

For any questions, please contact 507-283-4922 or tammy@bmtluverne.com

Luverne HRA • 216 McKenzie Street Luverne, MN 56156

PALACE THEATRE **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Ring in the New Year with **MASON DIXON LINE!**

SATURDAY
 December 31 at 7:30 pm
The Midwest's premier Country-Rock Band!
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

MASON DIXON LINE
BANK NITE MOVIE PG
Paws of Fury: The Legend of Hank
 Thursday, January 5 6:00 pm
 Sponsored by: First Farmers & Merchants Bank and Papik Motors
FREE ADMISSION

MOVIE TBD
 Check our website or social media for an announcement!
Weekend Movie: TBD
 Friday, January 6 7:00 pm
 Saturday, January 7 7:00 pm
 Sunday, January 8 2:00 pm
 Tickets: \$5 for kids age 3 – 12th grade, \$7 for adults

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



The last year saw many changes in the local business community including the sale of M & M Repair, owned by retiring Mel and Minnie Van Batavia (pictured right), and purchased by Dylan Tieszen. A ribbon-cutting ceremony (above) was completed for Wildflower's new mobile coffee shop in August. Above left, father-son owners of the Luverne Farm Store sold the nearly 75-year old business to various local entities, and new bar owners Sheri Moucka and Deon Carriere (at left) changed the name, Willie's Bar, to Brody's in Hills, named after their dog.



Retirements, new business changes, openings occur in 2022

By Lori Sorenson

There was a flurry of business news in Rock County in 2022.

Merlin Cleveringa announced in December his retirement and the sale of his longtime construction business to his foremen Adam Uithoven and Derek Sandbulte.

The long-awaited Fareway Meat Market opened on the corner of Main Street and Highway 75 in September.

Buffalo Ridge Insurance purchased Estenson Company from Dave Gangestad, and Tim Knoll opened his own business, Knoll and Associates.

The legendary Luverne Farm Store closed, and Gary and Nate Golla sold the business to two local entities. The feedmill was sold to Pro Partners Milling and the lawn and fertilizer business was sold to Luverne Lawn Care.

Mel and Minnie Van Batavia retired from the automotive repair business in Steen and sold their M&M business to Dylan Tieszen who opened Tieszen Automotive LLC.

Deon Carriere and Sheri

Moucka bought Willie's Bar in Hills and renamed it Brody's.

New Vision replaced the Beaver Creek elevator with a new office and scale. Its new bins were damaged in a storm. New Vision also sold its bins in Hills.

Rock County approved a tax abatement for New Vision's \$2.35 million grain handling expansion in Magnolia.

Among other business news in 2022, Luverne Area Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere has compiled an additional list of business news for 2022.

New businesses in 2022

First Comes Love – Mary Brown
Benson Tech Solutions – Brock and Ashley Benson
Novo Aesthetics
Elevate Appraisal LLC
Yellow Rose Cookie Shoppe – Janet Marshall
Prairie Lofts Apartments – Aaron Smith
Children's Remembrance Garden
Randy Rogers Farmers Insurance Agency

Businesses with change of ownership in 2022

A & B Pressure Washing (Dave Hup) becomes J-N-J Power Washing (Greg & Sandy Johnson)
Vast Broadband becomes Blue Peak – Jeremy Davidson
Grand Prairie Events becomes Generations
HilCom sold to Skie Peltier-Anderson & Jill Boltjes
Fulda Area Credit Union becomes Leading Edge Credit Union
Spotlight Dance (Cindy Crable) to Spotlight Dance Center (Maddie Stegenga)
Culligan Water (Rolf Berg – family ownership from 1946) becomes Culligan Water SW MN (Dave Cone)
Stroeh's Auto to Doug's Auto Repair (Doug Flier)

Closed businesses in 2022

Alpha Sigma Health Group
HilCom Enterprises
Time to Delegate
Red Rock Oil
Prairie Rock Honey
Grand Prairie Events
Vinnie's Dang Fine Dine
Heath Peterson Agency

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2012)

•Students at Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary spent the month of December collecting food items for the Rock County Food Shelf. The 1,211 items collected were part of the Holiday Outreach Project organized by the student council. Each grade level kept track of the number of items collected. The class with the most items on Dec. 20 would be declared the winners and receive prizes for everyone in the class. The sixth grade maintained the lead throughout the month and easily won, having donated more than 250 items. On Thursday morning, Dec. 20, the student council and peer mediators braved the 16-degree temperature to load the goods in Principal Corinna Erickson's truck. She delivered them to the Rock County Emergency Food Shelf located at the First Methodist Church in Luverne.

25 years ago (1997)

•Jeweler and clock maker Ralph Herreid officially retired in 1979 when he and his wife, Ruth, closed the doors of Herreid's Jewelry in downtown Luverne, but he's continued to share his gifts and talents since then.

Two tall clocks, one completed and one on its later stages of construction, remain in his basement shop at 508 West Luverne Street. An engraved brass plate on the finished clock reads, "Made especially for Jeff Thorson, Love Grandpa. 1996."

The clocks are two of six grandfather clocks Herreid has made to give to his grandchildren. The others have already been delivered to their new owners.

50 years ago (1972)

•I'll always remember the day Harry Truman visited Luverne. It's the only time during my lifetime that an ex-president of the United States has ever been in town.

It was a bright October day – in fact it was Columbus Day, Oct. 12, 1956.

The ex-president, then 72 years old, was on a campaign tour through Southwestern Minnesota, stumping or the Adlai Stevenson-Estes Kefauver ticket.

75 years ago (1947)

•Formal opening of the Luverne Farm Store will be held Saturday, January 3, the owners, Magnus Christensen and George Golla announced this week. The store is located at the south edge of Luverne on Highway 75. ...

The new business will deal in feeds, seeds and fertilizers although they plan to install seed cleaning and treating equipment later on.

During their formal opening Saturday, representatives of General Mills Larro feed division, Cargill, Inc. seed department and the Dow Chemical company weed control division will be on hand to answer any questions farmers of the Luverne trade territory may have regarding feed, seed and weed control problems.

100 years ago (1922)

•Eighteen baskets, filled with things essential for a full Christmas dinner, and topped with fruit and candy for the "kiddies," were distributed Sunday morning by the Luverne Kiwanis club to homes in Luverne, as the club's Christmas offering.

The Kiwanis motto is: "We Build." This motto is accepted in its broadest interpretation by all Kiwanians. To build up happiness in the hearts of others is one of the ways of building held by Kiwanians to be a duty and a pleasure, for happiness is the keystone of success in every community.

CELEBRATIONS

Open house

Marilyn Swenson will celebrate her 85th birthday with an open house from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, at the Centennial Apartments. Refreshments will be served.

Card shower

Tony and Sadie Van Grootheest will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Sunday, Jan. 1. Greetings may be sent to them at 305 N. Blue Mound Avenue, Luverne, MN 56156.

MENU AT GENERATIONS

Monday, Jan. 2: New Year's Day Observed.

Tuesday, Jan. 3: Biscuits and sausage gravy, roasted potatoes, cinnamon apple slices, dessert.

Wednesday, Jan. 4: Orange chicken, rice pilaf, peas and carrots, peaches.

Half-Price Day sponsored by C&B Operations.

Thursday, Jan. 5: Sloppy Joe on a bun, potato wedges, vegetarian baked beans, banana or fresh fruit, cookie.

Friday, Jan. 6: Fish on a bun, cheesy potatoes, broccoli florets, pears, gelatin with whipped topping.

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

Call Pam Franken at 283-9846, extension 11 to reserve one day prior, to arrange to pick up a dinner or for home-delivered meals.

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

1943: Reynolds featured member from Diamond Club

The following article is part of the Diamond Club Member group that began in the January 7, 1943, issue of the Rock County Star Herald. Members of this group consist of persons of age 75 and older.

The following appeared in The Rock County Herald on July 15, 1943.

If more people today had the same philosophy on life that Mrs. S.D. Reynolds, of Hardwick, has, there would be less complaining about the lack of gasoline for joy riding, and about meat, sugar, coffee, canned goods and fuel shortages.

This 78-year-old mother of eight children knows that it is possible to get along without a lot of things, because she has done it. Yet she is hale and hearty enough to maintain her own home, and has in her memory a priceless history of pioneer days in southeastern South Dakota as well as in Rock county.

Born Regina Glaser in Clayton county, Ohio, July 28, 1864, she moved at the age of two with her parents to Greeley, Ia., then to Strawberry Point, McGregor and finally to Walnut, before going to South Dakota where her life was filled with colorful incidents of pioneering.

Herded Pigs

The trip from Walnut, Iowa, to McCook county, South Dakota, was made by ox-team and covered wagon via Sioux Falls. Her father, Martin Glaser, took a preemption claim not far from Wall Lake. The lake abounded with fish, and oftentimes she and her brother caught a sack full of fish while they were herding cattle and pigs in that area.

"We'd fish all day," Mrs. Reynolds recalls, "and when it came time to go home, we'd tie the gunny sack we kept them in to a white steer's tail, and he'd carry them home for us."

The fact that they were a long ways from church (the nearest Catholic church was then at Sioux Falls, about 15 miles away) did not keep them from observing Sunday in the house of worship.



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, Rock County Historian

Up at 4 a.m. on Sunday

"Mother would get up early," Mrs. Reynolds reminisced, "and would pack a lunch and get us children ready. About 4 a.m. we'd leave by ox-team for Sioux Falls. The trip was long and tedious, but finally we would get to the Sioux river and we'd know we were almost there. We'd ford the river with the oxen, then we'd unyoke them and let them graze while we walked about a mile up the hill to church. After we'd attended services, and we children had completed our catechism class, we'd be ready to start for home again."

After living near Wall Lake for five years, the Glasers moved to Salem, S.D., where Mr. Glaser built the first residence ever erected in that town. It was a combination store and home, but because of the family's hospitality, it soon developed into a boarding house. In addition to operating his store, Mr. Glaser served as a "squatter", the pioneer day version of a real estate agent.

Because there was no well there, and no well diggers could be obtained, Mrs. Reynolds and her brother would haul water from the West Vermillion river in barrels drawn by oxen. They only had three barrels, she relates, so they had to make the trip often.

Business Ventures

The water hauling, however, became a profitable sideline for a while, until her father learned of her business tactics, and then the business "went up

Bits, go to page 6A

Star Herald remembers loved ones lost in 2022

The following is a list of the obituaries that appeared in the issues of the Rock County Star Herald in 2022.

December 2021

Dec. 18: Jean Wallenburg, 66, Inwood, Iowa.
Dec. 20: Randall Morgan, 72, San Clemente, Calif.
Dec. 28: Thomas Feit, 70, Rushmore.

January 2022

Jan. 4: Randy Aanenson, 69, Garretson, S.D.
Jan. 6: Kenneth Husen, 76, Alexandria; Johnny Jonas, 55, Ellsworth.
Jan. 7: Lee Alexander, 90, Rolla, Missouri; Theresa Burmeister, 57, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Jan. 8: Dallas Bowron, 107, Luverne.
Jan. 9: Steven Larson, 73,

Sioux Falls, S.D.
Jan. 10: Frieda Kooiker, 68, Magnolia; Marya Manfred, 72, Luverne; Harriet Kroontje, 86, Leota.
Jan. 12: Phillip Vos, 62, Harlan, Iowa; Shirley Honken, 81, Hills.
Jan. 13: Norma Wassenaar, 66, Hills.
Jan. 14: Dennis Baack, 71, Luverne.
Jan. 16: Darrell Hoeck, 81, Luverne.
Jan. 19: Verland Johnson, 93, Luverne.
Jan. 20: Estelle Leuthold, 91, Hills; Audrey Braun, 65, Worthington; David Barber, 81, Luverne.
Jan. 23: Janice Kleve, 68, Magnolia; Glenyce Lecher, Anderson, S.C.
Jan. 26: Sharon Riddle, 63, Luverne.

Bits/continued from page 6A

in smoke.” About that time, the railroad was being built through Salem, and the workers very often preferred water to beer. “For a while there, I was selling those railroaders water at a nickel a glass and was making a pretty good thing of it. I figured if they could pay a nickel a glass for beer across the street, that was easier to get than water, I should have something for my efforts. Father was of a different opinion, however, for when he heard about it, the water was given free of charge to anyone who wanted it. The following year, a well was dug, and that ended our water problems, but I want to tell you, when you haul water by barrel a distance of a mile, it’s mighty precious stuff, especially where you have to use it for drinking, cooking and washing.

Muslin Newspaper

The first winter there was one of the most difficult experienced in South Dakota. Not only was it cold, but the snow was so deep that travel was impossible. Several men on the railroad crew were snowed in all winter, and the printer of the newspaper there was unable to get paper to use on his press.

“His name was Jonas Rutman,” Mrs. Reynolds recalls, “and father helped him out of his predicament by allowing him to move his press into our store building. There, father let him have a couple of bolts of unbleached muslin, and he cut that up and printed the news on that.”

Had it not been for wild game, they would have been without meat long before the winter was over. Mrs. Reynolds states that they had dug a pit for the turn table for the railroad there, and wild antelope looking for food would wander near the village and into the pit where they were easily captured. Antelope meat that winter was one of their main courses. They had no sugar, but had plenty of hard candy, so the boarders used it in their coffee for sweetening. They had no milk, cream or butter.

Farm families of the community had greater difficulties. Mrs. Reynolds states that many of them were forced to grind wheat in old-fashioned coffee grinders and use it to make whole wheat pancakes, their only food for several days. Farm families who had no fuel to burn in some instances burned their furniture to keep warm while a blizzard was raging.

Donations to the Rock County Historical Society can be sent to the Rock County Historical Society, 312 E. Main Street, Luverne.

Clifford Hansen

Clifford Odean Hansen, 79, Lake Benton, formerly of Luverne, died Saturday, Dec. 24, 2022, at the Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



Per Cliff’s wishes, no public services will take place. To sign an online registry, please visit www.hartquistfuneral.com

Clifford Hansen was born on Jan. 26, 1943, to Carl and Olga (Larson) Hansen in Luverne. He was raised on the family farm north of Luverne and attended school in Luverne, graduating from high school in 1961.

Following his education, he began an entry level job at Land ‘O Lakes in Luverne. He continued to work his way up in the company and eventually became the plant’s manager. Cliff moved on from the company after 35 years of service.

On May 2, 1984, Cliff married Gloria Hansen in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Cliff began working for JBS in Pipestone and continued working there in maintenance for ten years. He retired in 2008.

In 1988 Cliff and Gloria moved to their lake home in Lake Benton. During his

retirement, Cliff kept busy attending auctions where he would then find golf carts and skidsteers that he would buy, repair, paint, overhaul and resell. Cliff kept busy with projects and could fix almost anything. He made the best beef jerky that became a family favorite.

During his time living on Lake Benton, Cliff enjoyed taking out the pontoon with family and a little bit of fishing.

Cliff is survived by his wife, Gloria; three children, Karen (Stan) Van Wattering of Luverne, Gordie (Colette) Hansen of Luverne, and Adam (Tracy) Hansen of Luverne; three grandchildren, Derek (Stephanie) Van Wattering, and Lauren and Josh Hansen; one great-granddaughter, Lydia Van Wattering; three siblings, Ardie Bowen of Luverne, Viv Aarestad of Apple Valley, and Ray (Elaine) Hansen of Luverne; and other relatives and friends.

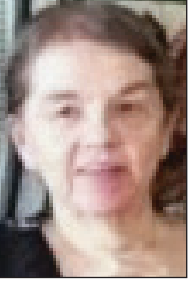
He was preceded in death by his parents, Carl and Olga Hansen; and a sister, Gloria Boelman.

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

(1229 F)

Cathy Groth

Cathy A. Groth, age 76, of Grey Eagle and Cape Coral, Florida, passed away suddenly from complications of dementia on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2022, at the CentraCare Hospital in Melrose, Minnesota.



A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Cathy Ann Ripley was born April 21, 1946, in Worthington, Minnesota, to Russell and Eunice (Carlson) Ripley. She graduated from Luverne High School in 1964, the year the Cardinals boys’ basketball team won the state championship. Cathy graduated from the University of Minnesota with two degrees.

She was united in marriage to Larry Groth, raised three children, and later divorced.

In 2012 she married Greg Gervais in Maui, Hawaii. After a successful working life, Cathy retired in 2018 and spent her summers in Grey Eagle and her winters in Florida.

Cathy wasn’t happy unless she was rearranging or redecorating her house. Instead of buying a picture that matched the color of her walls, she would buy

the picture and have Greg repaint the room to match the picture!

Cathy loved spending time with Greg, and some of their favorite times together were spent traveling the world, especially their trips to Europe.

Survivors include her husband, Greg Gervais of Grey Eagle and Cape Coral, Florida; sons Jason Groth of Plymouth, Christopher (Angie) Groth of Plymouth, and James (Michelle) Groth of Mound; three grandchildren, Maria Groth of Duluth, Grace Groth of Duluth, and Ella Groth of Plymouth; mother, Eunice Ripley of Luverne; siblings, Robyn (Dennis) Nowka of Luverne, Vicky Atwood of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Sally Ripley of St. Paul, Russell “Scott” Ripley of Dassel, Kim Ripley of Golden Valley, and Lisa (Tom) Lahr of Butte, Montana.

Cathy was preceded in death by her father, Russell Ripley; brother, Randy Ripley; and sister, Paulette Ripley.

Arrangements were made with Patton-Schad Funeral and Cremation Services of Melrose, www.pattonschad.com.

(1229 V)

Margaret Kienast

Margaret Gertrude Kienast, 97, Luverne, died Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022, at Good Samaritan Society – Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne.



Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 29, at Dingmann Funeral Home in Luverne. A funeral service will be at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 30, at Dingmann Funeral Home in Luverne. Burial will be in Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Margaret Baerenwald was born to John and Anna (Enninga) Baerenwald on Jan. 30, 1925, on a farm near Magnolia. The family moved to Adrian, and Margaret graduated from Adrian High School in 1942. She loved to sing and dance and was in-

involved in choir, school plays, tap dancing, and later in life ballroom dancing.

After high school she worked at the district attorney’s office in Worthington.

She married Roy Kienast Jr. in 1943. They lived on the family farm near Magnolia for 17 years. In 1965 Margaret moved to Luverne and worked for Land O’ Lakes for 28 years. She retired in 1990.

While living in Luverne, she purchased her own home and lived in it until July of 2022. At that time she went to Good Samaritan Society – Mary Jane Brown Home until her death.

During her life, she taught

Sunday School and sang in the choir. In her retirement she traveled throughout Great Britain and Paris. She also enjoyed playing cards and reading her tablet.

Margaret is survived by her six children, Judith (Audie) Carter of Florida; Charles (Tere) of Colorado; Wallace (Shirley) of Arizona; James of Arizona; Gordon (Linda) of Minnesota; and LaDawn (Kenneth) of Florida; 13 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, John and Frank; and two sisters, Eleanor and Elli.

Arrangements are provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Luverne, dingmann-sons.com.

(1229 F)

Camilla Graff

Camilla Graff, 81, Luverne, died unexpectedly on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022, at the Sanford Luverne Hospital.



A funeral service was at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 23, at the First Baptist Church in Luverne. Burial followed at Memory Gardens Cemetery near Luverne.

Camilla Vanderburg was born on Nov. 17, 1941, to Dorris and Henrietta (DeVries) Vanderburg in the Luverne Minnesota Hospital. She was baptized as an infant in the Luverne Christian Reformed Church. Camilla lived in Beaver Creek and graduated from Beaver Creek High School in 1959. She graduated from Sioux Falls College in 1964 with a double major in English and elementary education. Camilla taught primary grades in Christian schools in Denver, Washington, D.C. and Seattle for 20 years.

Camilla married Dave Gunderson in 1975 in Anchorage, Alaska. They were later divorced.

She received immersion baptism when she joined the Baptist Church in Seattle.

In 1984 Camilla worked as a nanny for three different families and then as a nurse’s aide for eight years before returning to Luverne in 1998 to stay with her mother. In all, she worked for 20 years as a nurse’s aide and retired from working at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne in 2007.

Camilla married Lyle Graff in 2012. At that time she inherited seven children, 22 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Camilla enjoyed hiking, camping, backpacking, downhill and cross-country

skiing, needle crafts and crocheting afghans, baby blankets, prayer shawls, doilies and much more. She liked gardening and shopping at thrift stores, Bible studies, and singing.

In her later years Camilla fought battles with breast cancer, lymphoma cancer, skin cancer and kidney cancer.

Camilla is survived by her brother Dennis (Carolyn), sister Nancy, brother James (Joann), and brother Keith (Lynda), along with many nephews, nieces, her companion, Leroy and friend Sue, and other family and friends.

Camilla was preceded in death by her parents; a sister-in-law, Carol Vanderburg; a nephew, Justin Vanderburg; and her second husband, Lyle Graff.

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

(1229 F)

Joyce Fluit

Joyce Gertrude Fluit, 83, Luverne, died Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022, at her home.



A funeral service was Wednesday, Dec. 28, at the Netherlands Reformed Congregation of Rock Valley, Iowa. Burial followed at Valley View Cemetery of Rock Valley.

Joyce Jansen was born Nov. 28, 1939, to Gilbert and Bertha (Duimstra) Jansen near Alford, Iowa. She grew up on a farm near Alford where she attended a country school and graduated from Lester High School in Lester, Iowa, in 1958.

On June 3, 1959, Joyce married Clarence Fluit in Inwood, Iowa. The couple lived near Lester for a short time before moving to a farm near Luverne in 1961 where

they farmed and raised their three children, Kevin, Cheryl and Brent.

Joyce was a member of the Netherlands Reformed Congregation where she served as a member of The Martha Mission Guild. Besides taking care of her family, Joyce also enjoyed gardening and sewing. She made numerous quilts for special occasions for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Joyce was also a member of the Blue Mound Quilters in Luverne.

Joyce is survived by her children, Kevin (Tina) Fluit of Rock Rapids, Iowa, Cheryl (Keith) Van Der Brink of Alford, Iowa, and Brent (Dorenda) Fluit of Luverne; 10 grandchildren, Kaylee (Trevor) Cole, Katrina Fluit, Kenley Fluit, Brett (Joann)

Van Der Brink, Alisha (Tony) James, Devon (Trina) Fluit, Shain (Emily) Fluit, Shania Fluit, Emily Fluit, and Jared Fluit; 11 great-grandchildren; one brother, Donald (Lavonne) Jansen; and five siblings-in-law, Lila Jansen, Anna Marie Kaster, Joyce (Greg) Hetrick, Sylvia Fluit and Evelyn Fluit.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence Fluit; her parents; infant granddaughter Nicole Fluit; a brother, Ronald Jansen; her parents-in-law, Henry and Anna Fluit; and five brothers-in-law, Tuenis (Elizabeth) Fluit, Wilmer Fluit Sr., John Fluit, Henry (Deanne) Fluit, and Ladell Kaster.

Arrangements were provided by Porter Funeral Home of Rock Valley, porterfuneralhomes.com.

(1229 F)

Loved ones/from page 7A

May 9: Joyce Dykstra, 82, Luverne.
 May 10: Steven Carlson, 82, Luverne.
 May 11: Stanley Vander Maten, 88, Leota.
 May 14: Pamela Oye, 62, Luverne.
 May 15: Gordon Johnson, 75, Bloomer, Wis.
 May 16: Lucille Gangestad, 95, Hills.
 May 18: Marc Rhoades, 82, Luverne, formerly Yankton, S.D.
 May 20: John Thies, 81, Luverne.
 May 21: Anthony Dunleavy, 80, Luverne.
 May 23: Barbara Ashby, 70, Luverne.
 May 26: Elaine Snyders, 81, Luverne; Albert Matthiesen, 81, Worthington.
 May 29: Karen Williamson, 68, Garretson, S.D.
 May 31: Allan Schoon, 90, Mankato; LaVone Wagner, 86, Sioux Falls, S.D.

June

June 1: Kevin Ruddy, 56, Brooklyn Park.
 June 3: George Scholten, 84, Luverne.
 June 11: Nancy Haraldson, 67, Pipestone; Janice Hume, 83, Hendricks; Marilyn Schmidt, 83, Luverne.
 June 15: Pearl "Marie" Brown, 79, Hills.
 June 17: James Vander Lugt, 84, Edgerton; Raymond Rozeboom, 95, Rogers.
 June 18: Winnie Scholten, 98, Hills.
 June 23: Faye Gilbertson Sahr, 91, Minneapolis; Edward Hartog, 87, Citrus Heights, Calif.
 June 25: Myrna Spease, 89, Luverne.

July

July 3: Reva Hoff, 94, Luverne.
 July 6: Dixie Arends, 77, Luverne.
 July 7: Susan Malone, 81, Detroit Lakes.
 July 8: Lyland "Pete" Behr, 88, Luverne.
 July 9: Arend John Klarenbeek, 81, Luverne.
 July 11: Jerre Jordahl, 76, Rosemount.
 July 13: Frederick Nuffer, 87, Elkhorn, Neb.
 July 17: Judith Vis, 76, Valley Springs, S.D.; Eugene Siebenahler, 70, Killeen, Texas; Marvin Gradert, 87, Terre Haute, Ind.
 July 19: Ronald Evans, 69, Pipestone.
 July 21: William Fillis, 91, Blair, Neb.
 July 22: Robert Mulligan, 95, Seattle, Wash.
 July 24: Marguerite Wenzel, 88, Orange Park, Fla.
 July 27: Sidney Jiskoot, 88, Sanborn, Iowa.
 July 28: Hermina Van Meeteren, 92, Luverne.
 July 29: Elaine Kellen, 98, Worthington.
 July 30: Leola Sweeney, 87, Luverne.

August

Aug. 7: June Polzin, 89, Luverne.
 Aug. 8: Naidine Aanenson, 93, Luverne.
 Aug. 11: Donald Pap, 83, Beaver Creek.
 Aug. 13: Ila Mae Wiekling, 92, Hills.
 Aug. 17: Susan Deutsch, 79, Magnolia; Ramona Vlastuin, 93, Luverne.
 Aug. 20: James Nelson, 77, South St. Paul.
 Aug. 22: Ronald Gath, 89, Luverne.

September

Sept. 7: Allen Croat, 69, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 Sept. 11: William Skewes, 77, Evergreen, Colo.

Sept. 12: Delores Brooks, 89, Luverne.
 Sept. 13: Carson Ehde, 21, Garretson, S.D.
 Sept. 15: Doris Kemerling, 86, Luverne.
 Sept. 17: Manning Churchill, 5, Luverne.
 Sept. 18: Deborah Taubert, 87, Beaver Creek.
 Sept. 19: Earl Von Holt, 87, Mankato.
 Sept. 20: Alvin Boomgaarden, 99, Luverne.
 Sept. 24: Helen Lonneman, 88, Adrian; Cecelia "Jeanette" Tangeman, 96, Luverne.
 Sept. 29: Linda Dooyema, 72, Magnolia.

October

Oct. 1: Gloria Boelman, 75, Luverne.
 Oct. 2: Madge May, 105, Luverne.
 Oct. 7: Stanley Olson, 81, Hills.
 Oct. 8: James Schaefer, 78, Worthington; Norman Anderson, 89, Maple Grove.
 Oct. 11: Ann Leskinen, 67, Ellsworth.
 Oct. 14: Barbara Loosbrock, 77, Luverne; Richard Buss, 77, Luverne; Ben Smidstra, 91, Luverne.
 Oct. 17: Frances Slieter, 86, Jasper.
 Oct. 19: Marie Klarenbeek, 98, Luverne; Bruce Tofteland, 63, Luverne.
 Oct. 25: John Ruddy, 74, Luverne.
 Oct. 26: Kathy Dietrich, 64, Luverne.
 Oct. 28: Carol Taubert, 85, Beaver Creek.
 Oct. 29: Anna Noll, 98, Luverne.

November

Nov. 3: Glenn "Corky" Gunnink, 74, Edgerton.
 Nov. 5: Jennifer Rogers, 44, Luverne.
 Nov. 9: Daniel Siegfried, 72, rural Valley Springs, S.D.
 Nov. 10: Sandra Winter, 80, Luverne.
 Nov. 12: Carole Horn, 82, Beaver Creek.
 Nov. 14: Joan Michelsen, 82, Magnolia.
 Nov. 16: Christopher Smook, 34, Hills.
 Nov. 21: Robert Loosbrock, 80, Luverne.
 Nov. 23: Orville Bork, 81, Luverne.
 Nov. 24: Lucille Feekes-Graff, 91, Luverne.
 Nov. 26: Gene Davis, 95, Minneapolis.
 Nov. 29: Randall Harms, 54, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Donald Matus, 92, Luverne; Joseph Jeffer, 80, Luverne.
 Nov. 30: Susan Horton, 69, Luverne.

December

Dec. 1: Martha Lursen, 95, Adrian.
 Dec. 2: Wilda Pfeifer, 87, Luverne.
 Dec. 5: Jason Remme, 39, Luverne.
 Dec. 7: Angelina Reisdorfer, 96, Lismore; Dennis Johanning, 74, Ellsworth.
 Dec. 10: Evelyn Taylor, 94, Worthington; Lorraine Draper, 81, Pipestone.
 Dec. 11: Leslie Harms, 77, Brewster.
 Dec. 12: Gary Wagner, 70, Worthington; Mary Jane Holleran, 78, Mankato; Clare George, 103, Newington, Conn.
 Dec. 13: Carol DeWispelaere, 84, Luverne.
 Dec. 18: Cathy Groth, 76, Grey Eagle and Cape Coral, Florida.
 Dec. 20: Camilla Graff, 81, Luverne; Margaret Kienast, 97, Luverne.
 Dec. 24: Clifford Hansen, 79, Lake Benton.

Year in review/continued from page 3A

new 3,100 kW generators, will ensure Luverne's backup generators keep the city's lights on in the event of a power outage.
 They will also provide increased backup power for Missouri River Energy Services, which contracts with Luverne for supplemental electricity.
 In times of severe weather in other parts of the country served by MRES, Luverne can now fire up the new generators to meet additional need.



Meteorologists described the powerful winds of May 12 as a "derecho" that destroyed property throughout Rock County blowing over a semitrailer (pictured above, with the Minnesota, State Patrol directing traffic around the overturned vehicle).

Walleye Wind Farm

In other local energy news, the 109-megawatt Walleye Wind Farm was completed in 2022 in western Rock County after two years planning and construction.
 NextEra built 40 wind turbines on a 49-square-mile (31,000 acres) footprint, bringing more than 200 workers to Rock County communities and businesses.
 Late in 2022, the turbines started spinning up to their 109 MW capacity, enough to power roughly 40,000 homes per year.
 The Walleye Wind Farm will generate \$400,000 to \$600,000 in annual local tax revenues and feed electricity to the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency through a 30-year agreement.

THC edibles

Rock County was among the first in Minnesota to pass an ordinance for the sale of hemp-derived products since the state legalized the sale of THC (tetrahydrocannabinols) food and beverages in July.
 When the state's legislation failed to specify provisions for licensing, rules and sales of THC products, counties imposed a moratorium through Dec. 1.
 Rock County's ordinance now stipulates license fees, identification parameters, enforcement and compliance checks similar to those in place for tobacco sales.
 At their Dec. 13 meeting, commissioners approved licenses to sell edible THC products to Herb N' Legend and Rock River Apothecary, both in Luverne.

School board election draws 18 candidates

Local elections made headlines in 2022 with 18 candidates filing for five seats on the Luverne School Board.
 Four were elected out

of 15 candidates vying for the four-year terms on the board. They include Zach Nolz (1,173 votes, 11.27 percent), Randy Saker (1,020 votes, 9.8 percent), Michael DeBates (913 votes, 8.77 percent) and Eric Hartman (902 votes, 8.67 percent).
 Ryan DeBates was elected to fill the remaining two years of the seat vacated by Jeff Stratton who left the board to become the school resource officer. DeBates captured 1,288 votes (46.53 percent) in the three-way contest.

Pool and Fitness Center

The Luverne Area Aquatics and Fitness center reopened this spring after completing a \$5 million remodel and expansion.
 Improvements include an outdoor splash pad, new locker rooms, four family changing rooms, flat space rooms for group aerobic exercise, new office space and staff area, larger rooms for 24-hour weightlifting and aerobic exercise machines and a new mechanical and heat, ventilation and air-conditioning system.
 Membership fees were increased slightly, but the city of Luverne subsidizes the facility's operations as a "quality of life" amenity for residents.

Loop and Ashby Trail

Another public amenity completed this year was the Luverne Loop Trail, which connects to the Blue Mound Trail for 13 total miles of hard surface riding and walking between the city and the Blue Mounds State Park.

The final portion of the Loop follows the scenic Rock River south of the wastewater treatment plant to connect with the existing trail behind the Econo Lodge hotel on South Highway 75.
 It intersects with the 1.95-mile Christopher Martin Ashby Trail, funded by Gene and Barb Ashby in memory of their late son.

National Guard Readiness Center

Another major development continuing in 2022 is the \$17.5 million Minnesota National Guard Luverne Readiness Center on 15 acres west of Papik Motors along I-90.

The 47,902-square-foot facility includes assembly halls, work bays, storage areas, classrooms, a learning center and fitness center with locker rooms. It's expected to open in 2023.
 The project received more than \$6.2 million in private funds from the K.A.H.R. Foundation of Luverne native Warren Herreid II and his wife, Jeanne Rivet.

Drought, wind, blizzards make news

On May 12, a billowing wall of dust and debris rose from a blackened western sky, and damaging winds wreaked havoc on the ground as it stretched for 500 miles from eastern Nebraska to northern Minnesota.
 It barreled through Rock County around 5:15 at roughly 70 mph, downing trees, overturning vehicles and flattening buildings and scattering pieces of tin and shingles for miles across nearby tilled and planted fields.
 And as quickly as it struck, it abruptly ended, with a smattering of much-needed rain and a temperature drop of more than 20 degrees.

Meteorologists say record heat (94 degrees in Sioux Falls) and humidity fueled the complex system that tore through five states.
 Then on May 30, a series of tornado-like cells ripped through the county starting at 2:30 a.m. with another midday and a third later in the afternoon causing extensive property damage, including downed power lines and outages.

In their wake were reports of trees falling on houses and vehicles, downed powerlines and outages, and livestock buildings and machine shops either collapsed or missing rooftops.

The year continued with extreme heat in late June and drought conditions affecting local crop yields, and 2022 ended with a long blizzard week, closing roads and affecting holiday activities and family gatherings.
 See the B Section for sports highlights in 2022, and see a related year-in-review story about local business highlights from 2022

THANK YOU!



MAX YOUR COMMUNITY

We are again overflowing with gratitude for the donors, businesses and organizations that supported our Max Your Community giving event. **We have reached the \$75,000 mark of our \$100,000 goal.** These gifts will be used to support the needs of the nonprofit organizations in Rock County. We cannot do this without your support. With donations coming from communities throughout the county, we are truly blessed to be an organization trusted to know the needs of our communities and distribute the charitable dollars where they make the most impact.

As you finish your year-end giving decisions please consider **LACF Max Your Community** as an option. Help us reach our goal of \$100,000 for a 2nd year and partner together to do great things in our communities!

With full hearts,

Emily Crabtree, LACF Executive Director and the LACF Board of Directors Isaac DeBoer, Sharla Reisch, Keith Elbers, Tammy Johnson, Jeff Haubrich, Jim Juhl, Kevin Thelen, Nancy Sandager, Gary Overgaard, Wayne Robinson, Ron Honken and Josh Teune

For more information about Luverne Area Community Foundation please visit our website at www.luvacf.org or Facebook - Luverne Area Community Foundation or call us at 507-220-2424.

Give directly online at <https://luverne.fc suite.com/erp/donate>, drop off at 102 E Main St, mail to PO Box 623 or Venmo.

To insure 2022 charitable giving credit, donations must be postmarked by Saturday, December 31, 2022.



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Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball teams battle in Hills Dec. 20

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball teams faced off in Hills Tuesday, Dec. 20, with the Cardinals topping the Patriots 79-21 in the non-conference win.

With the win over Hills-Beaver Creek, Luverne's season record is 5-0, and they lead the Big South West Conference with a record of 2-0.

H-BC now stands at 2-4 for the regular season with the loss to Luverne, but the Patriots are leading the Red Rock Conference with a record of 2-0 after wins over Edgerton and Murray County Central.

"We have made it through the stretch of tough non-conference opponents," H-BC head coach Dylan Gehrke said. "These games will hopefully help prepare us for our conference games coming up."

The Patriots struggled to score in the first half Tuesday night, leading to the Cardinals taking a commanding lead of 55-7 at the half.

"I think our defensive pressure set the tone early. We were able to get turnovers and push the ball up the floor for easy buckets," said Luverne head coach TJ Newgard.

In the game H-BC turned over the ball 32 times to Luverne's 15.

Leading the scoring for the Cardinals was senior Elizabeth Wagner with 27 points, followed by junior Kiesli Smith with 13, senior Emma Beyer with 12, and eight points by junior Sarah Stegenga.

Defensively junior Kira John grabbed eight rebounds, one steal, two assists and five deflections.

Senior Christina Wagner contributed seven rebounds, three steals, seven assists and three deflections.

Senior Elizabeth Wagner posted six rebounds, three steals, five assists and a team high for the night of seven deflections.

Helping out were senior Averill Sehr with six steals and two assists and senior Jocelyn Hart with four

rebounds, two steals, one assist and two deflections.

For the Patriots junior Layla Deelstra posted four points, four rebounds, two assists and one blocked shot.

Freshman Abbie Harris had three points, six rebounds and one assist.

Senior Olivia Bork had three points, one rebound, one steal and one blocked shot.

Eighth-grader Olivia Deelstra made three points, one rebound, one assist, two steals and one blocked shot.

Defensively junior Lanae Elbers grabbed six rebounds and one steal.

Junior Brynn Rauk had eight rebounds.

After the Christmas break, Luverne is scheduled to travel to Windom Tuesday, Jan. 3, and then host Marshall Friday, Jan. 6

Hills-Beaver Creek has an away game at Elkton-Lake Benton Tuesday, Jan. 3, and then hosts Heron Lake-Okabena/Fulda Thursday, Jan. 5.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/1229 LHS HBC GBB1

Luverne junior Kira John and Hills-Beaver Creek junior Lanae Elbers battle after a rebound in Hills Tuesday, Dec. 20. John grabbed eight rebounds and Elbers snatched six rebounds in the game.



"These games will hopefully help prepare us for our conference games coming up."

— H-BC head coach
Dylan Gehrke

Greg Hoogeveen photo/1229 LHS HBC GBB2

(left) Lanae Elbers, a junior for H-BC goes up for two points against the Cardinals Tuesday, Dec. 20 in Hills.

Greg Hoogeveen photo/1229 LHS HBC GBB3

(right) Senior Elizabeth Wagner grabs a loose ball under the net in Luverne's 79-21 win over Hills Tuesday, Dec. 20.



H-BC boys' basketball upended by Mountain Lake Area-Comfrey

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team traveled to Mountain Lake Area-Comfrey Tuesday, Dec. 20.

The Patriots lost to the Wolverines 74-56 and are now 0-3 for the season.

"We played really well in spurts and allowed them to get out to an early lead," said head coach Kale Wiertzema.

At the end of the first half the Patriots found themselves down 43-29.

"We did end up cutting the deficit to four in the middle of the second half," Wiertzema said.

H-BC made 27 points to the Wolverines' 31.

H-BC gave up 27 points in transition during the game. "We can't get beat down the court that many times and expect to win," Wiertzema said.

Junior Riley Tatge scored 12 points, grabbed four rebounds, blocked one shot and had one steal.

Senior Brock Harnack contributed 10 points, two rebounds and one steal.

Jamin Metzger, a ninth-grader, scored nine points, had four rebounds and two steals.

Sophomore Beau Bakken sank seven points, fought for 10 rebounds and had two steals.

Other point scorers were senior Brayden Metzger with eight, sophomores Cameron Allen and Sawyer Bosch made four points each, and EJ Wegener made two points.

The Patriots are scheduled to finish 2022 with a tournament at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall Friday, Dec. 30.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/1229 LHS BBB Johnson

Freshmen Jaydon Johnson defends the net in the Luverne vs. Jackson County Central contest Tuesday, Dec. 20, in Luverne.

Use common sense on early ice

By Scott Rall

Outdoors columnist

At this very moment, the town I live in is pretty much shut down. Snow in amounts I don't like along with winds I hate even worse are arriving later today.

The pheasants are getting a huge reprieve from hunters that would normally be chasing them until the very end. The snow depths, on the other hand, are giving them a different kind of challenge.

It is amazing how wildlife can survive in conditions that I and every other human would perish in. God's creatures are certainly resilient.

With the pheasant hunting coming to just about a standstill, ice time is now on the minds of many.

Ice and I get along OK, but when it comes to taking chances, I am the very last one to do so.

First ice is like a magnet to many ice anglers who know the fishing success is



THE OUTDOORS

normally the best as soon as conditions allow for travel on hard water.

When I was much, much younger, I would go ice fishing with a float tube. This is an inflatable tube that will float you in open water. They are often used to reach fishing places where you could not take a boat. If I fell through the ice, I would just float in the whole until

another member of the group could pull me out. My float tube is still in the shed, but I have not used it as a safety device in more than 30 years.

Maybe as I got a lot older, I came to the conclusion that no fish was worth risking your life for. There are charts all over that give you a reasonable clue as to when it is safe to traverse hard water with different methods of travel: 3 inches for foot traffic, 6 inches for AVTs and side-by-sides, 8-10 inches for smaller cars, and 12-16 inches for larger trucks.

A longtime friend of mine was fishing on Mille Lacs Lake years ago and decided to relocate. He took a 9-mile drive cross country across the middle of the lake to the north end. He was driving a

Early ice/see page 2B

Luverne boys' basketball loses to conference rival Jackson County Central

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne boys' basketball team hosted conference rivals Jackson County Central Tuesday, Dec. 20.

The Cardinals lost to the Huskies 77-67 and are now 3-2 for the season.

"Jackson County Central is a very good team, and we battled with them in the first half," head coach John Sichmeller said.

The Huskies led the Cardinals at the end of the first half 28-25.

Jackson County Central played hard under the net all night where they scored 50 of their 77 points.

Luverne was able to keep the ball moving with



Greg Hoogeveen photo/1229 LHS BBB DeBeer

Junior Gavin DeBeer powers over a Huskies defender to score two points Tuesday, Dec. 20, in Luverne's 77-67 loss.

13 steals and 15 points off turnovers.

"Our shots weren't falling all game and they shot very well in the second half," Sichmeller said.

The Cardinals shot 52 percent inside the paint and only made three of 20 3-point shots.

The Huskies shot 63 percent inside and made six of 11 3-point shots.

"Our guys didn't give up and tried to make a run at the end but it was too late," Sichmeller said.

The Cardinals are scheduled to travel to Windom Tuesday, Jan. 3, and then host Marshall Friday, Jan. 6.



What a year in sports!

Top Luverne High School sports stories for 2022

By Greg Hooegeven

This year was a year to remember for local athletes and coaches.

Several teams completed school history-making seasons while others had individual standouts among their ranks. (See related story).

At the Star Herald we tried to capture the excitement and significance in the accomplishments.

One thing stands out among all the sports stories – all the time, effort and practices paid off in their accomplishments.

Here are the Star Herald's top stories for 2022 (in no particular order.)

Luverne girls' hockey

The Luverne girls' hockey team continued its dominance in the region by claiming the Section 1A Championship for the third year in the row.

It was a hard-fought season coming down to meeting rival New Ulm in the championship where the Cardinals emerged with a 3-2 victory on Tuesday, Feb. 2.

Coach Tony Sandbulte reflected on a successful season capped by the section championship.

"It's hard to put into words. It's truly been a dream season," he said. "The girls set goals and worked hard to achieve those goals together. Winning a section championship over New Ulm only made it that more special."

In the state tournament, the Cardinals met up with South St. Paul in a loss and lost to River Lakes in the consolation semifinals.

Luverne boys' and girls' tennis

The Cardinal boys' tennis team continued their dominance in Section 3A by winning their 12th consecutive title and gaining entrance to the state tournament.

The streak began in 2010 (excluding the 2020 no-sports pandemic year).

The girls' tennis team made school history in 2022 when the team of Priscilla Muehr, Tori Hemme, Katharine Kelm, Sarah Stegenga, Augusta Papik, Caitlin Kindt, Morgan Hadler, Cassandra Chesley, Rose-

lynn Hartshorn and Rayann Remme earned the school's first Section 3A girls' tennis team title and made their first state tournament appearance.

At the state tournament, the Cardinals lost both matches, but the magic of the season was still apparent to coach Jon Beers.

"You never know just how good the other section teams will be each year, but I always felt that if we played our best, we had a really good chance at making it to state," Beers said.

"The girls had a great season and should be very proud of everything they accomplished this year."

Luverne track and field

Luverne continued to be the team to beat during the 2022 track and field season as the Cardinals earned back-to-back Section 3A championships.

They took their talented team to the state meet in 2022 where several athletes shined.

Thirteen Cardinal athletes earned All-State honors by finishing in the top nine places in an event in the state meet. They added three Class A state titles (a program best), two additional finishes in the top five, and the athletes set three new school speed records.

The titles included:

- Cardinal Boys' Track - Fourth-Place Team.
- Senior Ashton Sandbulte - State Champion 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash.
- Cardinal Girls' Track - Fifth-place Team.
- 4-by-800 Relay State Champions - Elizabeth Wagner, Tiana Lais, Jenna DeBates, Tenley Nelson
- Senior Tenley Nelson - State Champion 800-meter run.

Making the record books were Ashton Sandbulte who broke his own 200-meter record (21.94), the boys' 4-by-100 team of Bucky Dara, Zachary Terrio, Eli Radtke and Ashton Sandbulte (43.72) and Tenley Nelson broke her own record in the 800-meter run (2:14.68).

Luverne boys' cross country

The Luverne boys' cross country team achieved the best state tourna-

ment finish in school history in November 2022, when they were awarded silver medals at the Minnesota State High School League Class A Cross Country Championships in Northfield.

It was the first time in 26 years of school history that a boys' cross country team finished in the top three teams in Class A state championships.

The boys' team had never made it to the podium before, and the team of Owen Janiszski, Camden Janiszski, Ryan Fick, Sage Viessman, Leif Ingebretsen, Carson Tofteland and Kaleb Hemme placed second.

Owen Janiszski placed fifth individually.

Coach Peter Janiszski was proud of what this year's boys' team accomplished in 2022.

"They've won the most meets that they've ever won. They're probably the most talented and fastest group that we've ever had, and that testifies to all their hard work," he said.

At the state meet, the boys' team placed three points away from the gold medal.

State Legion baseball

Luverne put their best foot forward when the city hosted the Division II Minnesota American Legion Baseball State Tournament.

As hosts, the Luverne Senior Legion team received an automatic berth in the eight-team tournament.

The team made an impressive start during the July 29-31 event at Red Bird Field.

Luverne lost a heartbreaking 1-0 game in 22 innings to eventual champion Wadena to place them into the consolation semifinals. They lost to Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton.

For the host city, the weekend was nothing but wins.

"We heard nothing but positive comments about the tournament, facilities and community from visiting players and fans," said Barry Shelton, local tournament director. "It was a great weekend."

Individual athletes reach milestones in 2022

By Greg Hooegeven

The 2022 sports season saw many individual accomplishments that reached historic milestones within their sport.

These moments were years in the making and involved many hours of work and dedication to accomplish.

Six athletes from Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek hit milestones within their athletic careers in 2022.

Gannon Ahrendt - 1,000 Point Club

As a junior Luverne's Gannon Ahrendt reached the 1,000-point club during the Cardinals' home 79-71 victory over Hills-Beaver Creek Feb. 17, 2022.

Ahrendt reached the milestone as a junior and is the second Luverne basketball player to reach this record besides Brett Heronimus in 2013.

Heronimus set the Luverne school record at 1,248 total points. Ahrendt, as a junior, had 1,017 points as of Feb. 21, 2022.

As a senior, Ahrendt is around 25 points away from breaking the school scoring record after playing Redwood Valley Dec. 10.

Elizabeth Wagner - 1,000 Point Club

Senior Elizabeth Wagner entered the 1,000-point club during Luverne's 74-42 victory over Redwood Valley Monday, Dec. 19, 2022.

Wagner also set the school's single game scoring record, posting 42 points in the game.

"Setting a school record for points in a game and reaching that milestone is a huge accomplishment for her," Newgard said

"The great thing is that even after I called a timeout so she could be recognized, she was oblivious. That's who she is. The only thing she cares about is winning the game."

Wagner joins eight other women who have hit the 1,000 mark. Brooklynn Ver Steeg is at the top with 1263 career points.

Kamryn Van Batavia - 200 Point Club

As a junior, Kamryn Van Batavia scored her 200-career goal at home against Breckenridge-Wahpeton in a 9-1 win Friday, Jan. 7, 2022.

Entering the game, Van Batavia was leading the state of Minnesota in scoring with 197 total goals. She posted six goals during the game.

After the game Van Batavia shared thoughts on her 200th career goal and her team's success this season.

"It has been very exciting, and I really enjoyed seeing all the support from my coaches, teammates, family and fans," she said.

Braydon Ripka - 100 Win Club

Senior Braydon Ripka earned his 100-career win wrestling at the Tracy Quadrangular Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022.

Ripka won four matches that day in the 145-pound class to reach the milestone.

"It feels great to be in the top seven total wins in LHS history," added Ripka. "I hope to make it in the top five before my career ends."

Kenadie Fick - 1,000 Point Club

Senior Kenadie Fick scored her 1,000th point on Tuesday night, Feb. 22, 2022, during the game with Adrian-Ellsworth.

"I have said it time and time again, Kenadie Fick is one of the hardest working players I have ever been around," said H-BC girls' basketball head coach Dylan Gehrke.

Fick is the 22nd Patriot basketball player to join H-BC 1,000-point club.

Cole Baker - 1,000 Point Club

Senior Cole Baker scored his 1,000th point in the game with Russel Tyler Ruthton Friday, Feb. 25, 2022.

"Cole is an unbelievable athlete and ultimate competitor. He wants what is best for the team and is humble in his individual achievements," said H-BC boys' basketball head coach Kale Wiertzema.

Baker is the 23rd Patriot basketball player to join H-BC 1,000-point club.

Early ice/continued from 1B

1-ton Ford diesel truck pulling an enclosed hard house behind. He made his own trail and was not following other tracks. How one has this much confidence is beyond me. He made it with no problems, but it was a risk I would never have taken even in my most courageous age category.

In my current world, when others are driving big

trucks and fish house rigs, I am confident that I can follow along in my Ranger side-by-side. I have a set of tracks on this rig, and the tracks spread out the unit's weight footprint over a much larger area. They are also almost unstoppable when it comes to snow. I drove this rig last week up on top of an 8-foot-deep drift, and when I opened the door, the tracks

had only sunk into the snow about 3 inches.

The one condition that a tracked side-by-side is vulnerable to is slush. A fishing guide friend of mine from Wisconsin was guiding some folks on a lake near Hayward, and as they were traveling along about 20 mph, the rig fell through the frozen crust into about 16-18 inches of slush. By the time the rig came to a stop, the slush was pushed up in front of the rig and was as high as the roof.

The occupants stepped out and immediately filled their boots with freezing cold

water. If not for the other two rigs that were traveling with them, this could have turned into a life and death situation. All the rigs had heaters and it took some considerable time to ferry everyone back to the safety and warmth of their vehicles that were 6 miles away. As this effort was underway and by the time the process was finished, the first rig had frozen solid where it sat.

Needless to say, the damage done to remove the first frozen in time side-by-side left it almost a total loss. The water was 4 inches over

the floor boards. Other than some monetary loss, everything else turned out fine.

One of my most concerning reasons not to drive my truck on the ice is my dogs. When I travel, I almost always travel with my dogs. I could never forgive myself if the truck ever fell through and all my dogs in the dog box topper mounted on the back were to drown.

Ice conditions vary from lake to lake and even from place to place on the same lake. Heavy snow amounts weigh down the ice, and slush becomes more prominent.

Snow also insulates the ice from the cold temperatures and makes ice creation much slower.

I love to spear pike and am about to start doing so, but please use all of the common sense you have or can borrow to be safe doing what you love. No fish is worth risking your life for.

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

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Offer good from Jan. 1 - 31, 2023, some exclusions may apply.

THE NEW YEAR CALLS FOR NEW GLASSES!

Read Recycle Reuse

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

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Mass. Public Mass will be celebrated at FULL capacity in the church. Masses: 9 a.m. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Friday at the nursing homes – check the bulletin. All Sunday masses will be live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/stccluverne/videos/>. Visit www.stscl.org for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, Jan. 1: 9 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Coffee Fellowship. No Sunday School & Drums. Tuesday, Jan. 3: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 4: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 1 p.m. Prisc/Elizabeth Circle meets. 6:15 p.m. 6th Grade Confirmation class. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are available. Online worship: Sundays 9 a.m. at www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab; or Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 605-215-9834
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor

Sunday: 9 a.m. Sunday School and Bible class. 10:15 a.m. Worship service; worship online as well (at els.org). Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne) for other classes and events.

American Reformed Church
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org

Friday, Dec. 23: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. **Saturday, Dec. 24:** 5 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. Sunday, Dec. 25: NO Sunday School. 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. Thursday, Dec. 29: 9 a.m. Cookie Crew. Services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

Rock River Community Church
1075 110th Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-9070; email: info@rockrivercommunity.church
Bob Junak, Pastor

Come as you are—Sundays @ 10 a.m.: Main Service. Kids church age 3-6th grade—Nursery. Wednesdays @ 6:30 p.m. Midweek Service—Kids age 3-6th grade.

United Methodist Church
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4529

Thursday, Dec. 22: 7 p.m. AA meeting. **Friday, Dec. 23:** 4-7 p.m. Annual Christmas Meditation at Luverne Palace Theater. **Saturday, Dec. 24:** 5 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. 6 p.m. Free Community Christmas Eve meal. Please sign up at church or call the office. Pick up option is available. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Tuesday, Dec. 27: 9:30 a.m. Folding Team. 1:30 p.m. Sewn in Faith. 7 p.m. Scouts. Wednesday, Dec. 28: 9 a.m. Open prayer chapel. NO classes. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Thursday, Dec. 29: 7 p.m. AA meeting. Live streamed on Facebook and radio.

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

Sunday, Dec. 25: 9 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 10:15 a.m. Worship service. Youth Sunday school during worship service. In-person Worship service and live on Facebook. Our Facebook page can be found under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne. We are also on the local

Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

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

Saturday, Dec. 24: 5 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. Sunday, Dec. 25: 9 a.m. Worship Service. Monday, Dec. 26: 1 p.m. Quilters meet. 3 p.m. Youth night at Pizza Ranch. Wednesday, Dec. 28: 9 a.m. Bible Study. 6:30 p.m. NO youth classes. Services will be available on the Vast Channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, cityofluverne.org.

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

New Life Celebration Church
101 W. Maple, Luverne
Ph. (605) 368-1924; email: newlifeceleration@gmail.com
Food mission every third Thursday.

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

Sunday, Jan. 1: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Bible study. Worship service on Luverne cable at 3:30 p.m. every Thursday and Friday.

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

First Lutheran Church
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.
Ph. (605) 757-6662 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Mark Eliason, Pastor

Saturday, Dec. 24: 8 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service at First Lutheran Church. Sunday, Dec. 25: 10:30 a.m. Worship at First Lutheran Church. All are welcome. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @FirstLutheran-Valley Springs; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish.

Palisade Lutheran Church
211 121st St., Garrettsville, S.D.
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — palisadechurch@alliancecom.net
www.palisadelutheran.org
Mark Eliason, Pastor

Saturday, Dec. 24: 6 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service at Palisade Lutheran Church. Sunday, Dec. 25: 9 a.m. Worship Service at Palisade Lutheran Church. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @PalisadeLC; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish.

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

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. Second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Session meeting.

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

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

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

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 962-3270 / bethlehemofhills@gmail.com
Nita Parker, Pastor

Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 9 a.m. Sunday school. 10 a.m. Worship Service. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website blhills.org.

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

The love of God is all we need

I greet you in the name of the one who came for you!

In the scripture, Matthew gives us the birth of Jesus in a sentence and names him Jesus.

"²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus."

Matthew goes on to talk about the star, the wise men, and the plot of King Herod.

Mark starts with the baptism of John the Baptist and about the adult baptism of Jesus.

Luke has the longest and the most in-depth version of the birth of Jesus. He tells of the Angel visits to Mary, Joseph, and Zachariah. He tells wonderfully the birth story of both, and he gives us Mary's song and Zachariah's prophesy.

John starts out with tying the Genesis creation story to the divinity of Jesus and weaves together how God is present in this human, divine breath and life-giving Jesus, the Word made flesh.

³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

As we move into a new year, a fresh start in life, let us not forget that the love of God created this world, the love of God created

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Juanita Parker, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hills

*Let us turn
our hearts
and our
minds to
the One
who loves
us enough
to lay
down
everything,
that we
may be
with God
in
paradise!*

each of us, and the love of God will prevail especially when we all fail.

Let us turn our hearts and our minds to the One who loves us enough to lay down everything, that we may be with God in paradise! And that paradise, Heaven is all that we ever need!

May the Star of Bethlehem lead you to the path that God has set for you and give you all peace, knowing that the love of God is all any of us needs!

Blessings to you in 2023!

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

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Star Herald PUBLIC NOTICES

...continued from previous page

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: \$204,309.90

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: September 29, 2022, at 10:00 A.M.
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 March 29, 2023, 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: July 26, 2022

Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

LIEBO, WEINGARDEN, DOBIE & BARBEE, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
21 - 22-002677 FC

IN THE EVENT REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW: THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
(08-04, 08-11, 08-18, 08-25, 09-01, 09-08)

Notice of postponement

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 580.07, the foregoing foreclosure sale is postponed until November 10, 2022 at 10:00 AM at the Sheriff's Office, Main Entrance, Law Enforcement Center, 1000 North Blue Mound Avenue, Luverne, MN, in said county and state.

Dated: September 27, 2022

Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

LIEBO, WEINGARDEN, DOBIE & BARBEE, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
21 - 22-002677 FC

IN THE EVENT REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW: THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
(10-06)

Notice of postponement

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 580.07, the foregoing foreclosure sale is postponed until December 22, 2022 at 10:00 AM at the Sheriff's Office, Main Entrance, Law Enforcement Center, 1000 North Blue Mound Avenue, Luverne, MN, in said county and state.

Dated: November 8, 2022.

Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

LIEBO, WEINGARDEN, DOBIE & BARBEE, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
21 - 22-002677 FC

IN THE EVENT REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW: THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
(11-17)

Notice of postponement

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

Pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 580.07, the foregoing foreclosure sale is postponed until February 2, 2023, at 10:00 AM at the Sheriff's Office, Main Entrance, Law Enforcement Center, 1000 North Blue Mound Avenue, Luverne, MN, in said county and state.

Dated: December 20, 2022.

Nationstar Mortgage LLC
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

LIEBO, WEINGARDEN, DOBIE & BARBEE, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
21 - 22-002677 FC

IN THE EVENT REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW: THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.
(12-29)

Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

CARDS OF THANKS

The family of Orville Bork wishes to thank everyone who helped make these dark days a little easier. Your kind words, prayers, cards, and food were so appreciated. A special thank you to the Rock County ambulance attendants, the Beaver Creek EMTs, staff at the Sanford hospitals and lastly the Hospice Cottage staff. A heartfelt thank you goes to Jeff Hardquist and his crew who gently guided us through the funeral process. Belonging to such a caring community is priceless.

Barb Bork,
Marci Bork & family,
Mary Bork Sawyer & family,
Wendy Hathaway & family,
Nick & Annie Bork & family
(12.24-12.29)

Thanks to everyone for the following while Ron was hospitalized and receiving infusions and I was recovering from broken wrists: Food, gas cards, money, transportation and prayers. Mowing lawn, picking up leaves, blowing snow. Pastor Kristi Franken and Chaplain Mari Rogers for prayers & visits. To the anonymous donor for the materials for constructing a ramp. We are humbled by the generosity of this community. The power of prayer is amazing.
Ron and Marlys Rauk
(12.24-12.29)

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted: Son-D Farms in Adrian is seeking a pick-up driver. Full or part-time. Call Doug for information, 507-370-1590. (12.17-1.26)

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. There are several positions available, salaries range from \$12.50-\$18.36/hr, and 40 hour work week. We also have a variety of part-time positions available. For job information and application please visit <https://bhr.sd.gov/job-seekers/seasonal/>. Applicants must be age 16 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 (12.24-1.12)

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EMPLOYMENT

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SAVE MONEY!

Call your local newspaper or MNA 800-279-2979 to find out how you can save money by placing your advertisement here!



DRY JANUARY

ALCOHOL - FREE FOR 31 DAYS

WHAT IS DRY JANUARY?

- It's a public health campaign urging people to abstain from alcohol.
- It's about you taking a break, living better, feeling better. Starting your new year the right way.
- 31 days alcohol-free, a break and total reset for the body and mind.

WHAT ARE THE RULES OF DRY JANUARY?

- Really, the only rule of Dry January is to not drink alcohol

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF DRY JANUARY?

- **Energy and Mood Boost:** feel better about life and get an increased amount of energy during the month. Since alcohol acts as a depressant, reducing or cutting out alcohol consumption can help promote a better mental attitude and reduce fatigue.
- **Weight Loss and Bloating Reduction:** Alcoholic beverages are full of empty calories which means people often lose weight during Dry January. In addition, people tend to eat less junk for and snacks when they are not drinking alcohol
- **Financial savings**
- **Better Relationships with those around you**
- **Improved Sleep:** Although you might find that alcohol makes you feel drowsy, you aren't actually benefitting from deep sleep. Taking a break from drinking can change that.
- **Lower Risk of Disease:** High alcohol consumption is linked to cardiovascular disease, liver disease, and cancer, so developing healthier drinking habits is always a good thing when it comes to your overall health.

HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL DRY JANUARY?

- **Remove all alcohol from your living space and workspace**
- **Rely on a support system:** You're going to want a support system, whether that's friends, family, or a significant other, somebody who's going to support you and encourage you in making this change.
- **Find an accountability partner**
- **Write down your goals:** Whatever your reasons are for doing Dry January, you should write them down somewhere. Maybe you want to have more energy on the weekends, be more present for your family, or be more focused on things like work, food, or exercise.
- **Create some activities to do in place of drinking:** Join a gym or exercise program or take up a new hobby
- **Determine which activities and places are Dry January friendly.**
- **Plan your comebacks** for when friends and acquaintances ask why you aren't drinking.
- **Instead of focusing on what you're giving up for Dry January, which can make you feel deprived, think about what you're going gaining from the challenge.**

WHAT HAPPENS IN FEBRUARY?

- Just because the month is over, it doesn't mean you have to go back to your old habits but if you decide to reintroduce alcohol to your life, go slow.
- If you feel that you need more support for your alcohol use, please reach out to these local resource:

Sanford Medical Center
507-449-1246
New Life Treatment Center Detox Services
507-777-4321
Southwest Health and Human Services
507-283-5070

** It is important to know that alcohol withdrawal can be life threatening. If you are a heavy drinker, contact your doctor or addiction services before attempting Dry January.

SUBSTANCE FREE COALITION OF ROCK COUNTY



**EDUCATION
 AWARENESS
 PREVENTION
 TREATMENT
 RECOVERY**

Information from:
<https://www.womansday.com/health-fitness/wellness/a38242789/what-is-dry-january/>
<https://www.shape.com/lifestyle/mind-and-body/how-to-do-dry-january>

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An Issue Team of #Luv1LuvAll
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