

welcome to luverne

Tollefson Publishing 2021 Guide to Luverne

Luverne
Love the life!

m EXPLORE
MINNESOTA

"Brilliant Tipi"
Heather Johnson

THE PLACES *You'll Go*

In this charming community, discover acres of natural beauty; experience the rich history of the past; enjoy sophisticated eateries or hometown cooking; revel in world-class art and entertainment; meet challenges of outdoor adventure; celebrate with scores of special events; and find delight in the always charming shops on Main.

and...

- Experience 4,500 nutcrackers at the History Center...it's jaw-dropping
- Explore more than 2,500 acres of Northern Tallgrass Prairie Refuge at Blue Mounds State Park and Touch the Sky Prairie
- Uncover the stories of heroes and heroines at the Herreid Military Museum, History Center and Hinkly House
- Enjoy great entertainment at the Historic Palace Theatre or Verne Drive In Theater
- Experience art like never before at the Brandenburg Gallery, Lord Grizzly Gallery and Deuschle Studios
- Step out of your comfort zone - climb the Blue Mounds Cliffline, paddle down the Rock River Water Trail or sky-dive at Quentin Aanenson Airfield
- Pedal the Luverne LOOP and Blue Mounds Trail
- Quench your thirst at Take 16 and savor the flavors at Sterling's Café & Grille and other fine restaurants
- Experience moments you'll never forget and places to gather with friends...*enjoy all Luverne has to offer*



reflect



learn



dine



enjoy



remember



unwind



appreciate



shop



stay



explore

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TO LUVERNE, YOUR
ADVENTURE IS WAITING.**

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MINNESOTA

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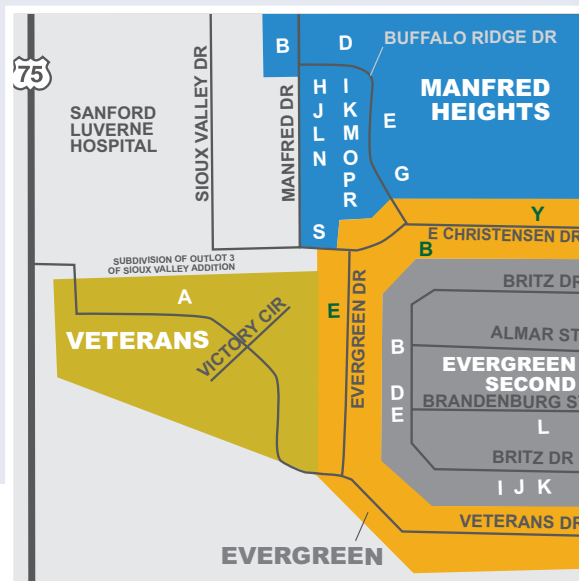
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Luverne, Minnesota is a thriving community bursting with opportunity. With outstanding schools, world-class cultural institutions, tremendous healthcare, a charming downtown and plenty of recreational, retail and restaurant options, you'll find no finer place to raise a family.

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There's lots to love in Luverne!



Check out the new UITHOVEN ADDITION near Luverne Public Schools and the Luverne Loop!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:

Holly J. Sammons
Economic Development Director
507.449.5033
hsammons@cityofluverne.org

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It is our pleasure to welcome you to Luverne, the Gateway to Minnesota.

A city of nearly 5,000 progressive citizens, the area boasts superior schools, a robust economy, clean water, fresh air, safe neighborhoods, excellent medical care, convenient transportation services and a contagious community spirit.

Luverne offers many benefits that make it an attractive

place to live — parks, culture, arts, entertainment, sports and recreation. We are a community of families deeply rooted in values and an undying commitment to building a city we can all be proud of.

We are excited about Luverne — both its past and its future, and we welcome you to discover the excitement and enjoy it for yourself.

ON THE COVER BLUE MOUNDS STATE PARK TIPIIS



Tipis were a favored home for tribes who followed the buffalo in this territory, which is now Minnesota. The word tipi means “for living in.” Many Native American plains tribes favored the tipi because they were simple and easy to move. Moving a tipi quickly was important as they followed wherever and whenever the buffalo roamed. Tipis were warm in the winter and cool in the summer, easy to construct and moveable. Traditionally, women set up and maintained the tipis while the men were on the buffalo hunt.

Blue Mounds State Park has three tipis available to rent from late May until late October. Experience a bit of history, tradition and adventure! The tipis are 18 feet in diameter and elevated off the ground with a cedar deck inside. While traditional tipis were made from buffalo hide, the tipis at Blue Mounds are made of canvas. You will still appreciate the beauty and craftsmanship of these native dwellings and the sense of awe they invoke. See page 9 for more information about Blue Mounds State Park.

The cover photo and the photo to the left were taken by Luverne resident Heather Johnson on a summer camping and comet-watching adventure with her family at Blue Mounds State Park.



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LUVERNE CITY PARKS



This beautiful wooded park serves as a scenic welcome to travelers entering Luverne from the east. Nestled along the Rock River, it offers several well-maintained playgrounds, a shelterhouse, ball diamonds, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits and much more. To get there, travel east on Main Street over the river and enter the park on the south side of the road. The city of Luverne also offers fully equipped pocket parks throughout the city, giving residential neighborhoods quick access to outdoor recreation near their homes. There are 11 pocket parks scattered strategically in neighborhoods all over Luverne.

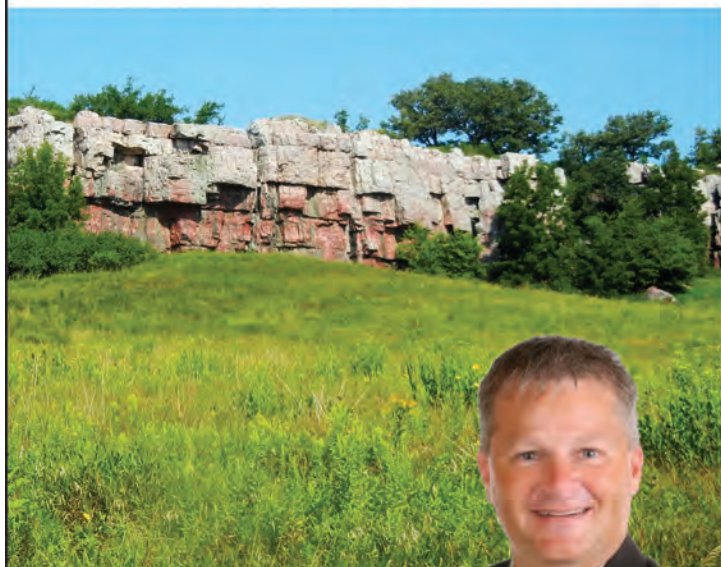
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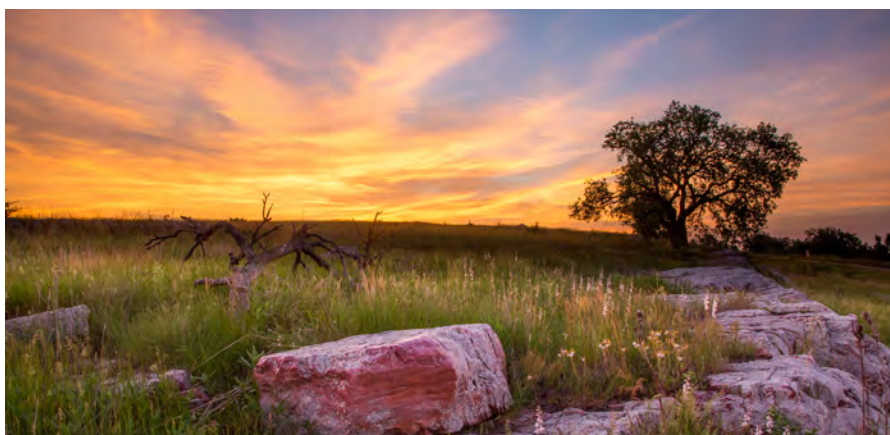
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BLUE MOUNDS

STATE PARK





Blue Mounds State Park is one of the largest prairie parks in Minnesota. The park office and main campground entrance is four miles north of Luverne on Highway 75. The phone number is 507-283-6050 for reservations and information.

The park's approximately 1,500 acres of prairie and grassland preserves a wide array of rare and common plants and wildlife.

The park is home to over 100 bison that graze peacefully on the prairie. The herd is among the most genetically pure in the country, and the park's new Bison Touring Vehicle allows visitors to get an upclose look at the rare creatures in their natural habitat. The guided tours also offer fascinating information about prairie habitat and grassland native species.

Most of the park's prairie sits atop a massive outcrop of rock known as Sioux

quartzite. The rock outcrop slopes gently up from the surrounding countryside but terminates abruptly in a spectacular cliff line. The cliff, one and one-half miles long and at some points 90 feet in height, provides a panoramic view of the countryside and is also used by a number of rock climbers from throughout the Midwest.

Miles of hiking and cross country skiing trails take you along the cliffs, around the park's upper lake, into the oak woods, and through the prairie.

Blue Mounds offers you the opportunity to see, hear and feel Minnesota's prairie environment firsthand. Here you can experience tall grasses and colorful wildflowers swaying in the wind or witness the power and color of a summer prairie thunderstorm rolling in from the west.

The mystery of the Blue Mounds is not restricted to the cliffs. At the Blue Mounds' southern end is a 1,250-foot-

long line of rocks aligned in an east-west direction. Who built it and why is unknown. It is known that on the first day of spring and fall the sunrise and sunset are lined up on this stone alignment. Visitors can hike to the alignment to ponder the well-marked sunrises of spring and fall.

Blue Mounds State Park features 73 semi-modern campsites, 40 with electrical hookups. There is also a primitive camping area that includes tipi campsites. The tipis offer campers a bit of history, a bit of tradition and a bit of adventure. Each tipi is 18 feet in diameter and has a cedar deck inside.

There are 13 miles of hiking trails and opportunities for all levels climbing challenges. Throughout the year the park naturalist provides a variety of programs both at the park amphitheater area and various locations in the park.

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While the Star Herald is proud to be Rock County's oldest business, it is also thankful for it's readers who make a point of keeping in touch with local news through the paper.



for content & updates

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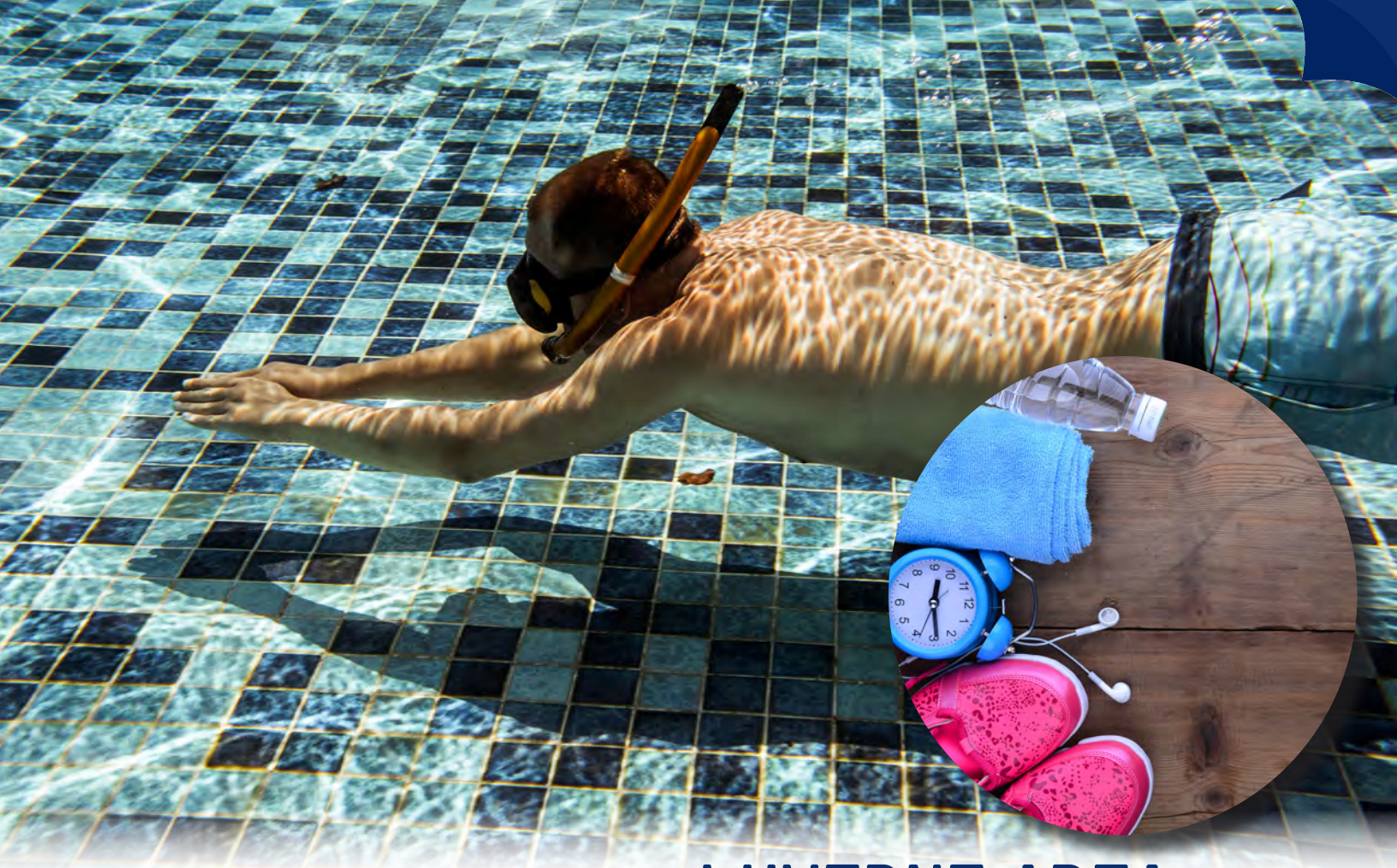
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www.cityofluverne.org
**Click on Pool &
Fitness Center**

The Luverne Area Aquatics and Fitness Center provides the community with a state-of-the-art recreation facility. The center is open seven days a week and can be rented for special events by reservation.

The pool area boasts an Olympic-size pool with a large wading area and special equipment to make swimming a fun activity for the entire family.

During the summer months the large glass panels can be opened to allow swimmers to go outside and enjoy the sunshine or remain inside out of the sun.

A hot tub that seats 10 to 12 people is also located adjacent to the pool area.

The fitness area of the center includes weight rooms with a variety of recently updated apparatus and free weights; a cardio fitness room houses treadmills, stationary bikes and elliptical machines.

In addition to the equipment, fitness personnel can set up individual programs for participants. This year-round facility is one of the premier facilities for a community of this size. You are encouraged to join the pool and fitness center on an annual, monthly, or daily basis.

Call 449-5036 for membership and schedule information.



Jim Juhl photos



BLUE MOUNDS TRAIL



The Blue Mounds Trail, a multi-purpose bike and pedestrian trail, was completed in 2003. The seven-mile path officially starts at the corner of Blue Mound Avenue and Main Street and connects Luverne with the Blue Mounds State Park. It features open scenery, tree-lined shade and a beautiful view of the Blue Mounds cliff line. It allows access to bicyclers to enjoy all the park has to offer.

THE LOOP



Phases 1, 2 and 3A of the Luverne Loop have been completed on an additional section of trail around the western outskirts of the city. The six-mile paved trail connects the city to the seven-mile Blue Mound Trail that goes over and around the park, with an option to branch off to the top of the 90-foot cliff line for a panoramic view of Luverne. By connecting to the Blue Mounds Trail, the Luverne Loop provides residents and visitors of all ages with a safe, natural place for healthy recreation and transportation that connects them to areas of interest throughout Luverne and Rock County.

ROLL ON LUVERNE



Roll On Luverne is a bike loan program supported by Minnesota SHIP, Luverne Convention & Visitors Bureau and 12 local sponsors.

The program offers 14 universal bikes (eight adult, four youth and two adult trikes) available FREE ON LOAN for public use any time of the day or night.

In partnership with GrandStay Hotel & Suites, the bikes are available any time of the day or night by contacting the front desk of the hotel.

Borrowers simply have to sign a waiver and leave a credit card or driver's license as collateral until the bike is returned.

Enjoy a ride on the scenic Blue Mounds Trail or Luverne LOOP as you "Roll On Luverne."

Sponsors include: Den Herder Construction, Security Savings Bank, First Farmers & Merchants Bank, Ken's Bike Shop, Luverne CVB, Luverne Physical Education Teachers, Luverne Rotary Club, Mike Davis Tree Trimming, Papik Motors, REMAX Land & Home, Sanford Luverne and Those Blasted Things.






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Trails Map Key

- Loop Trail
- Blue Mounds Trail
- State Highway Bike Lanes
- Local Sidewalk Connection
- On-Street Trail Connection
- Planned Future Phase

Parks

- 1 Evergreen Park
- 2 Tonto Park
- 3 Veterans Memorial Park
- 4 Prairie Moon Park
- 5 Longhorn Park
- 6 Sitting Bull Park
- 7 Hawkinson Park
- 8 Kolbert Park
- 9 Mocassin Park
- 10 Buffalo Bill Park
- 11 Riverside Park
- 12 Luverne City Park
- 13 Flag Park
- 14 Rotary Park/Dog Park
- 15 The Lake

Lodging & Camping

- 16 Blue Mounds State Park
- 17 Cozy Rest Motel
- 18 Hillcrest Motel
- 19 GrandStay Hotel & Suites
- 20 Econolodge
- 21 Super 8 Motel

Attractions

- 22 Blue Mound Ice Arena
- 23 Blue Mound Liquor
- 24 Hinkly House
- 25 History Center
- 26 Joe Roberts Field
- 27 Luverne Area Aquatics & Fitness
- 28 Luverne Public School
- 29 MN Veterans Home
- 30 Palace Theatre
- 31 Prairie View Complex
- 32 Redbird Field
- 33 Rock County Community Library
- 34 Courthouse Square
 - Brandenburg Gallery
 - Herreid Military Museum
 - Luverne Area Chamber
 - Rock County Courthouse
- 35 Rock County Fairgrounds

Visitor Services

- 36 Luverne Area Chamber
507-283-4061
- 37 Roll on Luverne - Bike Loan
- 38 Those Blasted Things





The semi-private golf course is one of the most spectacular nine-hole courses in the region. Beautiful trees, sand and water make Luverne Country Club a delightful challenge to any golfer. The course was founded in 1939 and was designed by Joel Goldstrand. The club is located two miles east and one mile south of Luverne. Visitors are welcome. For green fees and hours of operation, see www.luverne-countryclub.com or contact golfcc@yahoo.com. Motor carts are available for rent in the clubhouse. The course is closed after 10 a.m. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for league play. Our driving range is open daily to the public.



Luverne Country Club offers many different membership packages and leagues to golfers of any skill level and ability. Luverne Country Club also has tournaments that are open to the public. Call 507-283-4383 for tee times or directions.

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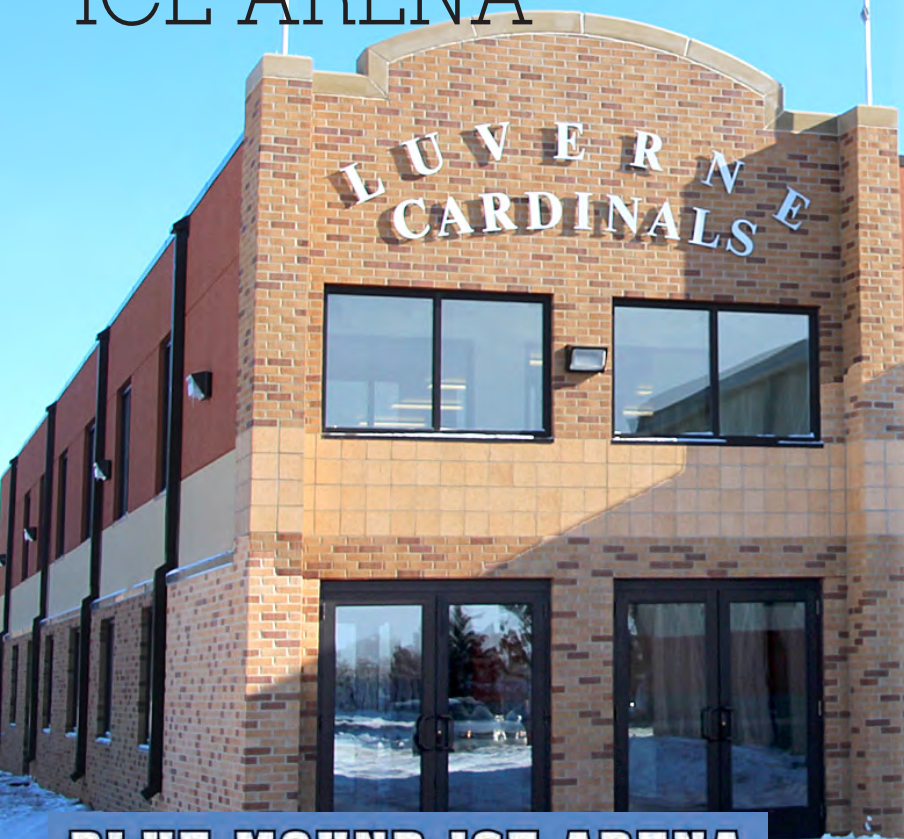
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BLUE MOUND ICE ARENA



Luverne High School made an appearance in the girls' state hockey championships in 2020.



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The Blue Mound Ice Arena is used year-round by local hockey and figure skating clubs and teams from around the area, in addition to the public.

The building is a source of pride in the community and is ranked as one of the finest ice facilities in the area. The Luverne Hockey Association has taken responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of the building and has continually improved the arena with bleachers, heating, locker rooms, concessions and a variety of other improvements.

A two-story 112-by-32-foot addition in 2013 expanded space in the entry and concession areas and added two handicap-accessible restrooms. Also, a new hockey dryland training room allows for off-ice workouts for stick handling, plyometrics and cardiovascular work.

The building can be rented for other uses throughout the year and is often used for special events in the community. During the winter season we encourage visitors to call the arena for open skating times.

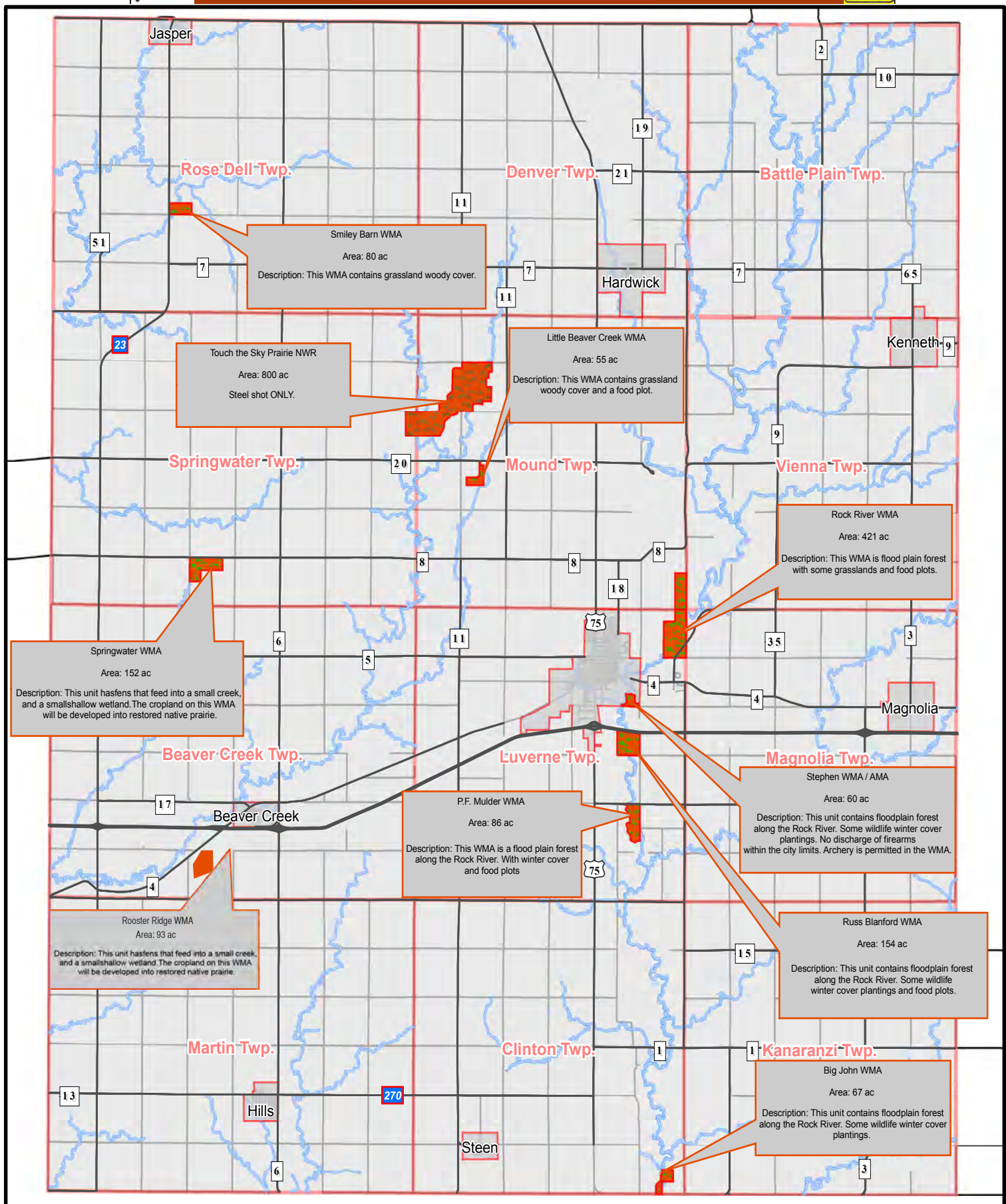
The Blue Mound Ice Arena can be reached at 449-9138 or visit luvernehockey.org.





Rock County

Public Hunting Areas



ROCK COUNTY

SPORTSMAN'S CLUB



The Rock County Sportsman's Club dates back to the turn of the century, but its current location — 40 acres near the Rock River just west of the golf course — dates to the 1930s. The clubhouse itself is fashioned from a former World War II barracks that was moved here from Sioux Falls. Today,

the Rock County Sportsman's Club has roughly 70 members, and on any given Tuesday night league shoot, about 60 show up. Call Steve Nath, 507-283-9619, with questions about target fees, ammunition prices and yearly memberships.



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HUNTING

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Rock County is home to nearly 1,600 acres of Wildlife Management Areas, providing ample opportunities for hunting enthusiasts to experience the local outdoors.

The Rock County chapter of Pheasants Forever maintains an active presence in the community, serving to connect sportsmen with each other and with resources to improve their hunting experiences.

Darin Kindt can be reached at 507-920-7544 for information about Rock County Pheasants Forever and about where to find the best area public hunting grounds.



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The Rock County SnoMasters Snowmobiling Club maintains 90 miles of groomed trails throughout rural Rock County during the winter riding season. The well-maintained trail system allows for remarkable scenery amid the heart of the community's nature areas. The prettier parts of the trail wind through the Blue Mounds

State Park. Riders say it's not uncommon to encounter dozens of deer on some off-road trails near the river. For information on the trail system or about the SnoMaster's Club, contact Greg Vande Velde at 507-920-5189. Maps are available at gas stations, the Luverne Chamber Office and at a local bars.



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PRAIRIE

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"Late Morning Sky" by Kelly Doyle

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Third-graders in Luverne Elementary School — through the Prairie Ecology Bus, Lakefield — tour Touch the Sky Prairie annually to study prairie ecology and trek through the tall grass looking for evidence of plant and animal life forms.





Beaver Creek water feature photo at Touch the Sky Prairie by Bob Dunlap.



Jim Brandenburg and the Brandenburg Foundation dedicated Touch the Sky Prairie in 2001 for the purposes of preserving and restoring the prairie and educating the public about its beauty and resources.

Brandenburg is well known for his photography of wolves and National Geographic stories, as well as of Minnesota's North Woods, where he makes his home. This award-winning photographer is a former farm boy who grew up near Luverne and graduated from Luverne High School in 1963.

In May 1999, Brandenburg, in cooperation with the Luverne Chamber of Commerce, opened the Brandenburg Gallery in Luverne. Over 100 of his popular and famous photographs line the walls. Brandenburg once stated that he thinks the prairie, in its own way, is as beautiful as the North Woods. He obviously still feels an attachment to it, for the Brandenburg Gallery houses more than breathtaking photographs. It is also the headquarters of the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation.

Jim and Judy Brandenburg established the Foundation to preserve and expand prairie in southwest Minnesota.

The Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have purchased more than 1,000 acres of untillied prairie northwest of Luverne, adjacent to the farm where Brandenburg grew up.

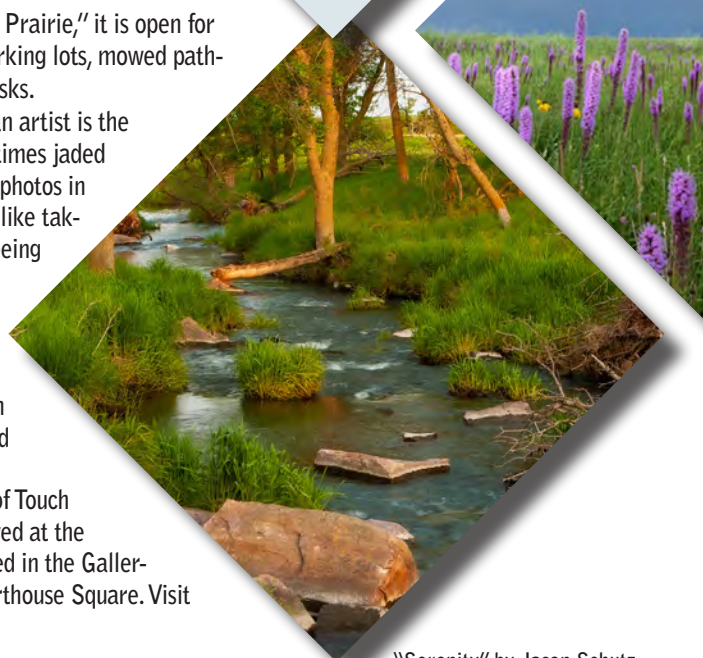
Heavily grazed for over a century, this area is now being restored to a healthy native North American Tallgrass Prairie.

This prairie is located northwest of the city of Luverne in Rock County, Minnesota.

Named "Touch the Sky Prairie," it is open for the public to enjoy, with parking lots, mowed pathways and informational kiosks.

What makes an artist an artist is the ability to see what our oft-times jaded vision ignores. Viewing the photos in the Brandenburg Gallery is like taking a walk on the prairie, seeing wildlife and unexpected beauty through the eyes of an artist. Seeing what our eyes often overlook. Inviting us to open our eyes to the world around us.

Brandenburg's images of Touch the Sky Prairie can be viewed at the Brandenburg Gallery housed in the Galleries at the Rock County Courthouse Square. Visit jimbrandenburg.com/bpf.



"Serenity" by Jason Schutz

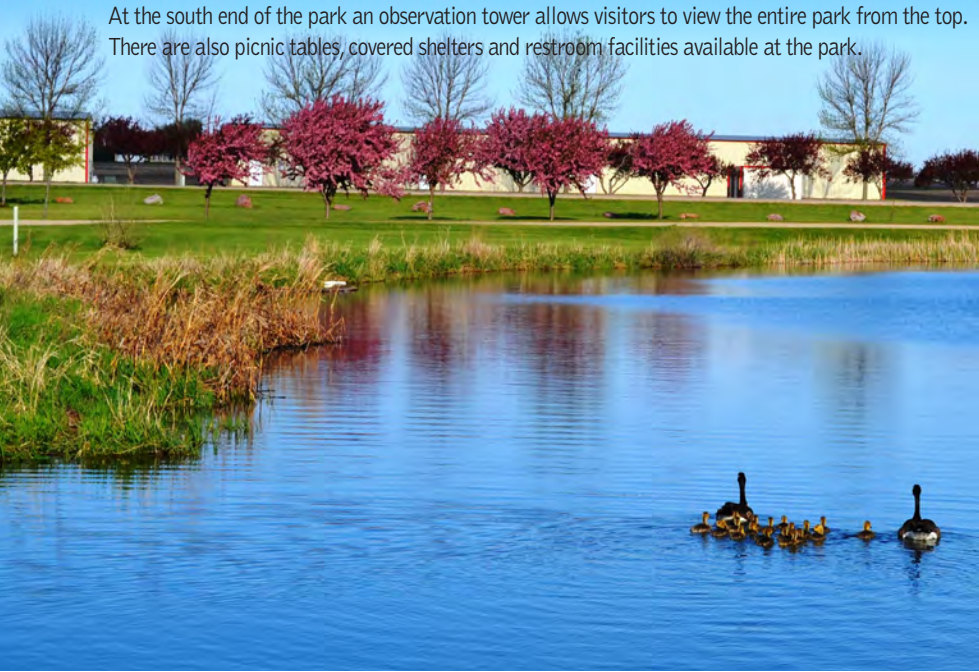
Schoneman Park is a county park located south of Luverne on Highway 75. The park is maintained by the county and provides fishing, picnic areas and nature walks around the larger ponds that have been developed for nature observance.

Throughout the spring, summer and fall, the park has become home to a flock of Canada geese which provide entertainment to people of all ages. They they wait for the arrival of the geese and watch the young develop into mature geese that leave with others as they migrate south in the fall.

The park is a popular fishing spot with a floating dock that has been developed to allow youngsters, adults and even those with disabilities the opportunity to fish. Ice fishing is also popular.

At the south end of the park an observation tower allows visitors to view the entire park from the top. There are also picnic tables, covered shelters and restroom facilities available at the park.

SCHONEMAN PARK



Love the
LAKE

815 West Edgehill St.

The Lake is a place for people to go to and enjoy fishing, playing volleyball, horseshoes, having bonfires and playing at the beach. Once a gravel pit at the west end of Edgehill Street, the spring-fed body of water has become a local favorite for summer and winter recreation. The beach has been groomed as a public

swimming area, a dock and fishing pier has been established and work is underway to improve parking lots and more public amenities. The DNR has also stocked the water with fish, and local anglers have reported sizeable catches in both summer and ice fishing outings.

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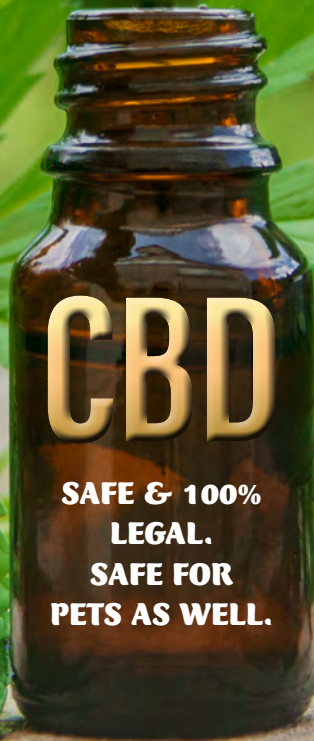
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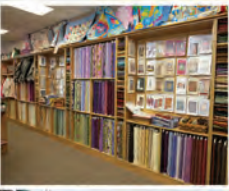
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Documentary film producer Ken Burns stops traffic on Luverne's Main Street to view downtown. He said, "This is my country."

THE WAR

On Sept. 6, 2007, Luverne's historic Palace Theatre hosted the world premiere of the Ken Burns documentary film, *THE WAR*. The film, which critics and Burns himself declared one of his best ever, features Luverne and three other communities to tell the story of World War II from the perspective of the soldiers and their loved ones at home who lived it.

This perspective of WWII — from the bottom up, as Burns calls it — is what *THE WAR* documentary set out to accomplish. Quentin Aanensen's PBS film is the reason Luverne was discovered for the film, but Burns said the town and the people he met there were perfect for telling the story the way he envisioned it.

In a process that took more than six years, Burns and his producers spent time in Luverne collecting

treasures from family scrapbooks and home movies, interviewing soldiers and recording testimonials from those who survived back at home without their loved ones.

Along the way, Burns found Al McIntosh, the late editor and publisher of the Rock County Star Herald in Luverne.

His columns detailed soldiers deploying and returning home, and the anxieties and exuberance of those experiences at the time. The columns also captured the horrifying sadness of local families receiving news that their loved ones would not be coming home. McIntosh's words narrate much of the film through the voice of actor Tom Hanks. Burns calls McIntosh the "one man Greek chorus" in the film, and those poignant wartime columns are now compiled in a book, "Selected Chaff."

As a result of the film and its spectacular world premiere, the community continues to enjoy national attention and increased awareness of its rich historical heritage.



Luverne native Quentin Aanensen's PBS documentary "Fighter Pilot's Story" launched Luverne into *THE WAR* series. He's pictured with his wife, Jackie, at the 2007 premiere of the Ken Burns film in Luverne.

THE WAR



Crowds gather outside the Palace Theatre on Luverne's Main Street for the 2007 world premiere of "The War."
(Lori Ehde photos/Star Herald)



Internationally known nature photographer Jim Brandenburg, a native of Luverne, uses the gallery in his hometown to market his photography to residents and visitors alike.

The Brandenburg Gallery is managed by the Luverne Chamber staff and is located in the Rock County Veterans Memorial Building on the Rock County Courthouse Square.

Brandenburg became noted for his photography of wolves and the beauty of the North Woods. But his first photos and his current interest are of his native prairie of southwest Minnesota.

Brandenburg started his career as a contract photographer with National Geographic and spent almost 30 years in that capacity. He has also done contract work for other national and international publications.

Over the past few years, Brandenburg has completed a three-year project of capturing the seasons of the prairie for a Japanese public television special. He is currently working on a companion book of native prairie as well as a book on the timber wolf of northern Minnesota. Brandenburg's film, "Images from Home: Jim Brandenburg's Minnesota" debuted at the Bell Museum in St. Paul last year. The film is a collection spanning more than 50 years of Brandenburg's most rare and exceptional

moments filming Minnesota's rich natural history. This new documentary was prepared exclusively for the museum and finds its home inside the Glacial Theater nestled within the Pleistocene Minnesota diorama. From the tall grass prairies to the north woods to the shores of Lake Superior and the hills of the southeast, embark on an immersive experience that connects you to the cycle of seasons and the surprising and rarely seen interactions of Minnesota's native creatures.

The Luverne gallery opened in 1999 and a few years later Brandenburg also opened a gallery in Ely, Minnesota, his current residence. The Luverne gallery is owned by the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation with all proceeds from the gallery going to the Foundation, whose mission statement is, "to educate, expand and promote native prairie in southwest Minnesota."

The "Touch the Sky Prairie" is a project located northwest of Luverne that is also part of the Brandenburg Prairie Foundation, and the gallery is not only a display of his prairie images, but also an educational component of the prairie project.

The artist said he's enthusiastic about the project because Luverne is his hometown, and profits from the gallery support local prairie preservation projects. "The gallery, to me, is

about giving back to the prairie that's been good to me," he said.

"All my ancestors farmed in Rock County; my great-great-grandparents broke sod here. Growing up here, I was very interested in the prairie ... It's a very spiritual thing for me. I have deep, deep roots in the prairie of the Blue Mounds State Park."

The gallery continues to be the cornerstone of a series of local initiatives to cultivate a "Spirit of the Prairie" theme, and the images in the gallery capture and interpret the beauty of the prairie for visitors.

"The landscape is very elusive, if not beguiling, and I think people don't truly appreciate what they're seeing when they're on the prairie of the Blue Mounds. Photography can be helpful to visually interpret that remarkable beauty," Brandenburg said.

Visitors are encouraged to stop by the gallery in the Courthouse Square to see more than 100 images of the prairie and beyond. In addition to the images, there are posters, videos, and note cards available. Luverne is very proud of its native son, and we look forward to sharing our pride with others.

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The Palace Theatre in downtown Luverne was built more than 100 years ago in 1915 by Herman Jochims, primarily for the presentation of stage plays by traveling theatre troupes and for the "moving pictures," then an upcoming form of entertainment.

Focal points of the building are the originally painted wall panels, stage curtains, pipe organ, and the artistic wall and ceiling decor. A ballroom originally occupied the second floor of the building.

The theatre is still in operation today for movies and live productions, thanks to tireless efforts of volunteers with the Blue Mound Area Theater Board of Directors. While 2020 has been less busy due to Covid-19, Lorie Line, Tonic Sol-Fa, Deuces Wild! Dueling Pianos, Ken Burns and local acts such as the Green Earth Players, Spotlight Dance and Luverne Street Music are only a few of the performers that have recently graced the Palace stage. The Palace box office is open from 12pm-5pm Monday-Friday and can be reached at 507-283-4339. Tickets for live shows can be purchased at the box office or online at www.palacetheatre.us with no added fees.

Thanks to Papik Motors and First Farmers and Merchants Bank, the Bank Nite FREE family movie night continues. A free, family-friendly movie is shown on the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. The evening features a cash drawing, just as it was done in the 1930s, when the free movie night was known as "Bank Nite," sponsored by the local banks.

To help support the continued efforts of the Palace Theatre, donations are always accepted at the Luverne Area Community Foundation office (P.O. Box 623 Luverne, MN 56156).

All of the Palace Theatre's events are listed on www.palacetheatre.us and are regularly posted on Facebook: Palace Theatre Luverne and Instagram: @palaceluverne.

The Historic Palace Theatre building has contributed significantly to the history of culture on the prairies of Southwest Minnesota since 1915. In September 2007 several improvements were completed extending the theatre's useful life while preserving its significant historical character.

The improvements were completed just in time for the world premiere of Ken Burns' documentary film, "The War," which featured Luverne as one of four communities in the film to illustrate the effects of war not only on the soldiers but on the communities they left behind.

See page 29 for more information about "The War" premiere in Luverne.



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It's located next to the Palace Theatre at 104 E. Main St. in the office of the Luverne Area Community Foundation. Office hours are noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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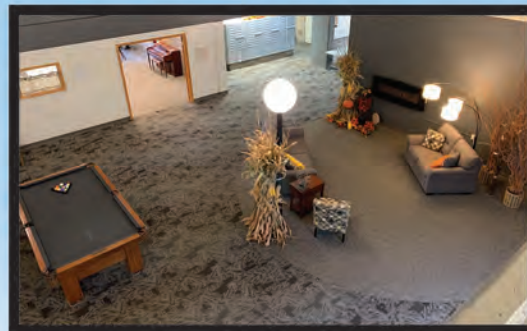
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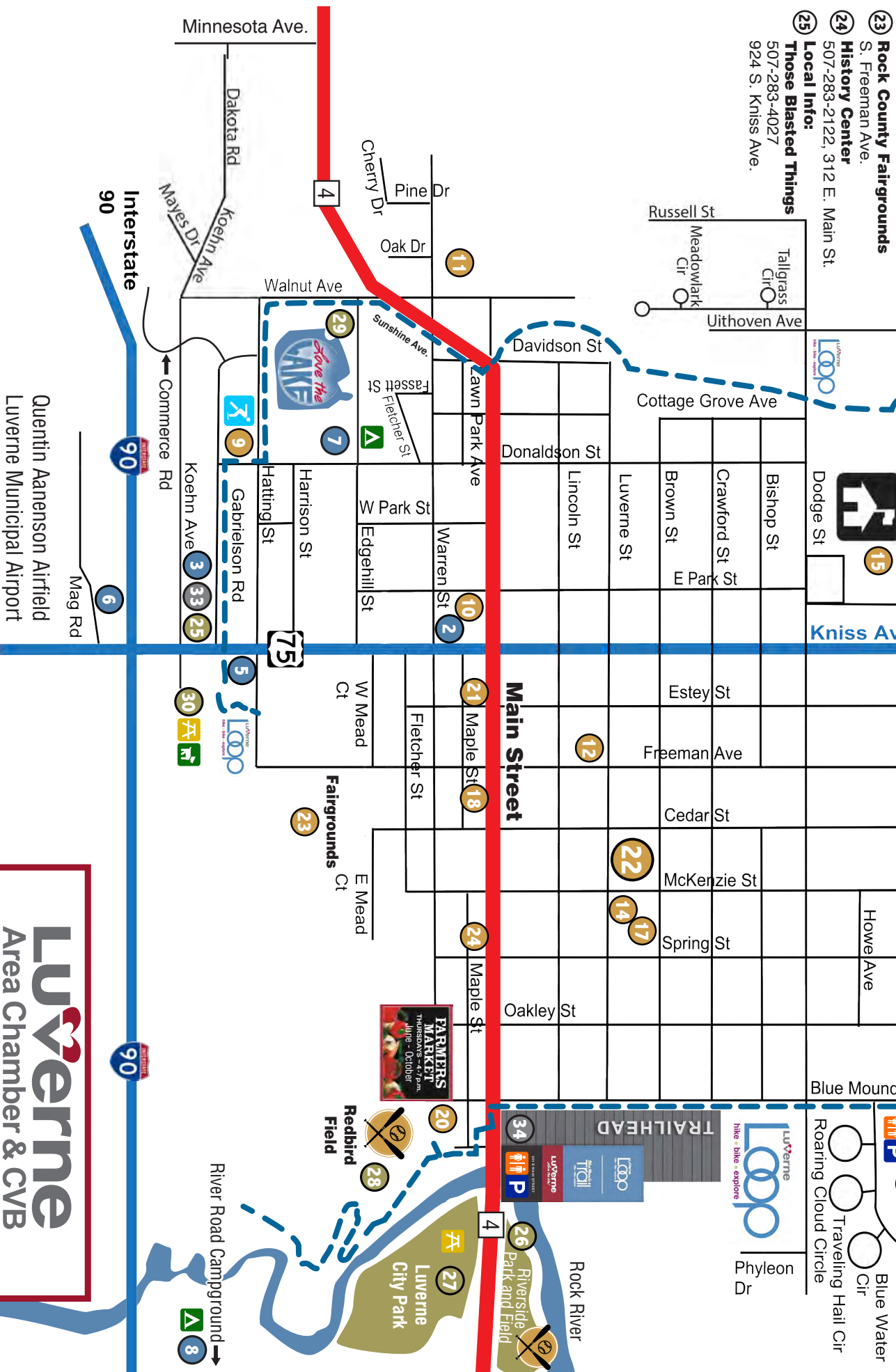
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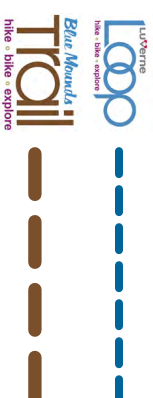
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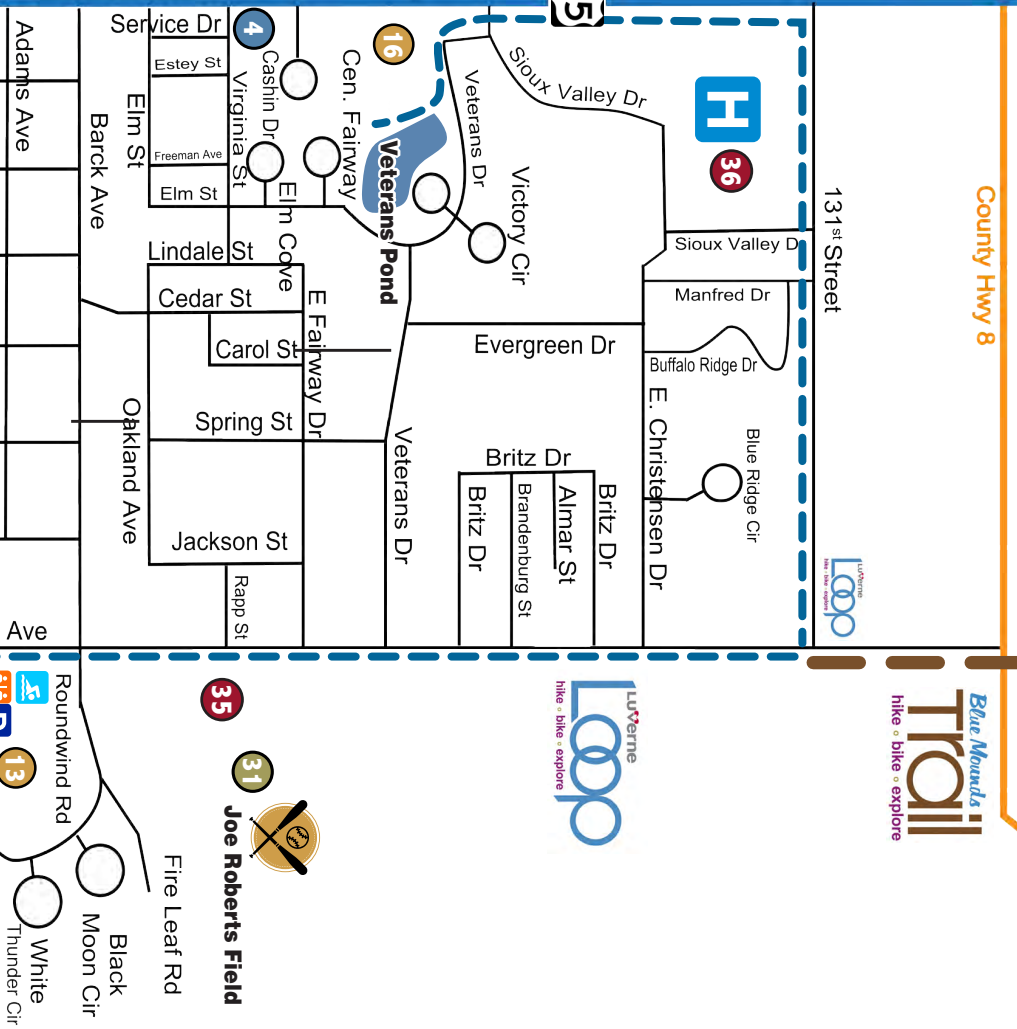
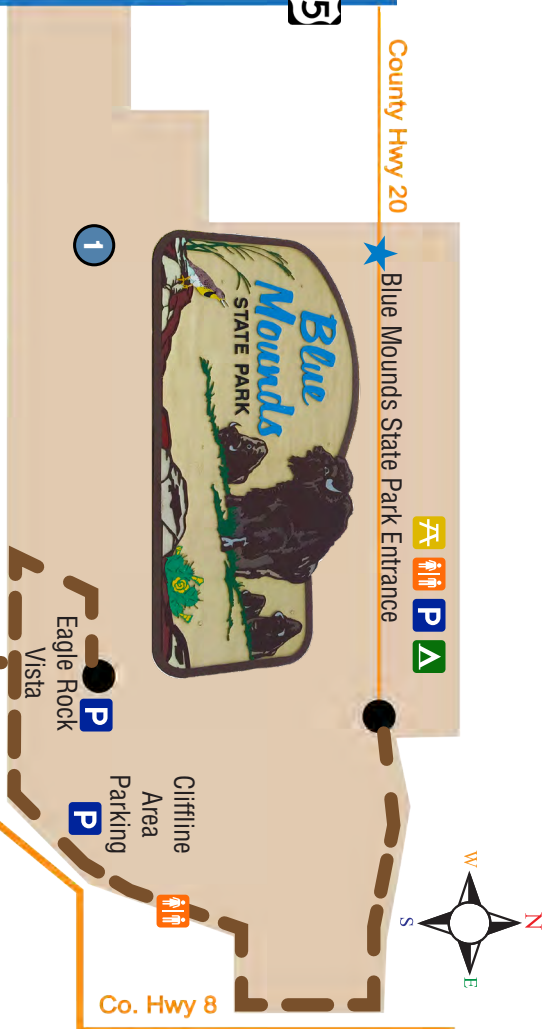
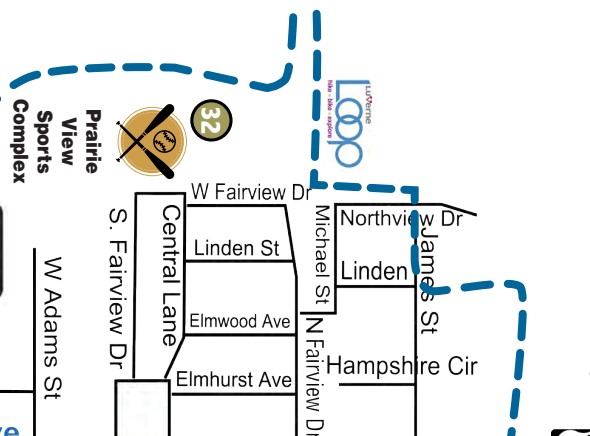
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Luverne Public Schools

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Luverne, MN

www.isd2184.net



LUVERNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Within months, Luverne Public Schools will finish a major renovation, remodel and refurbishing project. The completion of this two-year venture is the result of a \$30 million bond referendum passed in November 2017. Many years of planning have focused on improving our school facilities for the 21st century with the latest project focusing on the middle-high school building.

Learning today is considerably different from when the original middle-high school first opened in 1956. Learning now focuses on collaboration, technology, problem solving and teamwork.

When the new Luverne Elementary was finished 1999, the new learning focus was immediately utilized. Students easily move around to the various learning areas in the classroom, they actively talk with other students and engage in thought processes to bring about results and answers to problems. Even the traditional classroom desks and chairs used in Luverne Public Schools have brought functionality to these new ways of learning. Growing with the functionality of the classroom is the expanded use of technology. Students now learn how to best use these tools and develop the soft skills needed to become employable in today's world.

SCHOOLS

As the current construction project comes to completion, excitement is building among the 1,200 students and 225 staff on the K-12 campus along North Highway 75. Because today's students have a wide variety of talents and needs, the facility upgrades focus on improving the student experience from all facets. Improvements have been made in safety and security, the development of a student commons and cafeteria area, a celebration of music and fine arts, and the needed infrastructure upgrades to support enhanced collaboration and learning.

The last upgrade is the new \$7 million Performing Arts Center. The state-of-the-art facility will seat almost 780 patrons. The PAC is the last piece in the current construction project and is to be finished in mid-year 2021. No longer will students sing, perform or play instruments in gymnasiums, but on the center stage of the PAC.

Luverne Public Schools is also committed to providing outstanding educational opportunities beyond its K-12 focus. From Early Childhood Family Education to a wide variety of

children and adult Community Education courses, each encourages the community to embrace lifelong learning. The year-round offerings in academics, the arts and athletics for all ages means Luverne Public Schools has something for everyone.

Historically Luverne students have done well academically. Typically statewide testing and ACT scores are at the top among our peers in the Big South Conference with high school graduation rates hovering around 95 percent with the majority of graduates continuing their education beyond high school.

In the classroom, Luverne Public Schools has also added offerings beyond the traditional walls. In recent years Luverne Public Schools has invested in more career and technical education options for students. We offer an Introduction to Medical Career with the local community college, a collaborative course with surrounding school districts for Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities, and we have kicked off a competitive robotics team through the support and use of community resources.

Come grow with us and be Cardinal Proud! Learn. Live. Lead.



The mission of Luverne Community Education is to provide "lifelong learning" opportunities for everyone, from infants and toddlers to senior citizens. We are very fortunate to live in a community that willingly shares its talent, experience and expertise for the broader good. This is what makes "Community Education" work. The Community Education office, located on the Luverne Public Schools campus, is the parent organization for several vital learning programs in the community. For example, the summer recreation program — which oversees everything from kinderball and T-ball to youth soccer and major league baseball — is operated through Community Ed, as are the early childhood education programs and senior defensive driving classes. Visit the Luverne Community Education website through the Luverne School District website, www.isd2184.net, and click on Community Education. Click on the current brochure for a full listing of current class offerings. The phone number is 507-283-4724.

LUVERNE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

ECFE is a Community Education program for parents and their children, from birth to kindergarten age. It offers information and support to parents and provides activities for parents and children to explore together through classes that meet throughout the school year. We offer two 12-week sessions. Sibling care is available for other children in the family (\$1.75 per class), in addition to transportation on Heartland Express if needed. Classes are open first to Luverne School District residents and open-enrolled families at no cost (just ask to have fee waived) or whatever you wish to pay up to \$50 /per child/per class. Out-of-district residents may enroll if classes are not full, at a cost of \$50/per child/per class.



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Sanford Health has both a primary care clinic and critical access hospital located on the north side of Luverne, MN.

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- Prenatal education and lactation consultation
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- Rehabilitation services: cardiac therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pulmonary rehab, and speech therapy
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Visit sanfordhealth.org for more information.



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GOOD SAMARITAN COMMUNITIES

The Good Samaritan Campus in Luverne continues to grow to meet the needs of area seniors. Today the campus hosts a full continuum of retirement and nursing care options including:

- The Oaks – Senior Living Apartments (pictured above)
- Poplar Creek Estates – Assisted Living Apartments
- Good Samaritan Center Home Health Care
- Mary Jane Brown Good Samaritan Center – Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Facility (above top)

Mary Jane Brown Good Samaritan Center has been in the community for half a century. The 60-bed facility features skilled and sub-acute care as well as advanced rehabilitation and therapy. The staff at Mary Jane Brown invites you to experience the loving, home-like atmosphere. The care and services have changed greatly over the years, yet the mission to “Share Christ’s Love” continues to be the foundation.

The Oaks, senior living apartments, were established just south of Mary Jane Brown in 1997. The 28 spacious apartment units are perfect for older adults who desire to plan for a secure and self-reliant future. Tenants enjoy carefree living, with all the comfort, security and satisfaction of community living.

Poplar Creek Estates, the newest addition to the Good Samaritan campus, opened its doors July 19, 2004. The beautiful new assisted living facility is located just south of Mary Jane Brown and is connected to The Oaks. The 24 new apartment units offer seniors a home-like apartment setting with a full range of assisted living services. To learn more about The Oaks or Poplar Creek Estates, please call our housing manager at 507-283-3101.

Good Samaritan Home Health Care assists individuals in their goals to maintain their independent lifestyle while receiving the appropriate care and



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Photo courtesy Jim Juhl, Myhre Studio

MINNESOTA VETERANS HOME

The Minnesota Veterans Home, built in 1993, is located on the north edge of Luverne with a scenic view of the Blue Mounds State Park. The residents enjoy a variety of outdoor activities including an enclosed picnic shelter and fishing dock located on the grounds of the Veterans Home. Local community events and golf cart rides are popular leisure activity choices for the residents.

Nursing staff is on-site 24 hours a day to provide individualized care for residents. Other services provided are bi-weekly physician visits, nutritional meals, social,

recreation and chaplain services, physical, occupational and speech therapy, pharmaceutical services, mental/behavioral health services, barber/beauty services, transportation to medical appointments and wireless Internet. A 17-bed special care unit is designed to provide care for the physical, emotional and social needs of residents with dementia.

The residents enjoy interacting with the community, and many volunteer opportunities are available. Please call 507-283-1100 if you are interested in more information about living, working, or volunteering at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne.



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See luverneevents.com for a complete list of Luverne community events.

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MARCH 17

St. Patrick's Day Parade on Main Street

APRIL 10

Love the Ladies Expo

APRIL 29-30 & MAY 1

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MAY 30

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Luverne's Buffalo Days Celebration

JUNE - AUGUST

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JUNE 26

I Rocked the River, Canoe & Kayak Ride

JULY 4

4th at The Lake & Fireworks Spectacular

JULY 15

Luverne's 59th Annual Hot Dog Nite

SEPTEMBER 3

6th Annual Tractor Ride

SEPTEMBER 25

70th Annual Tri-State Band Festival

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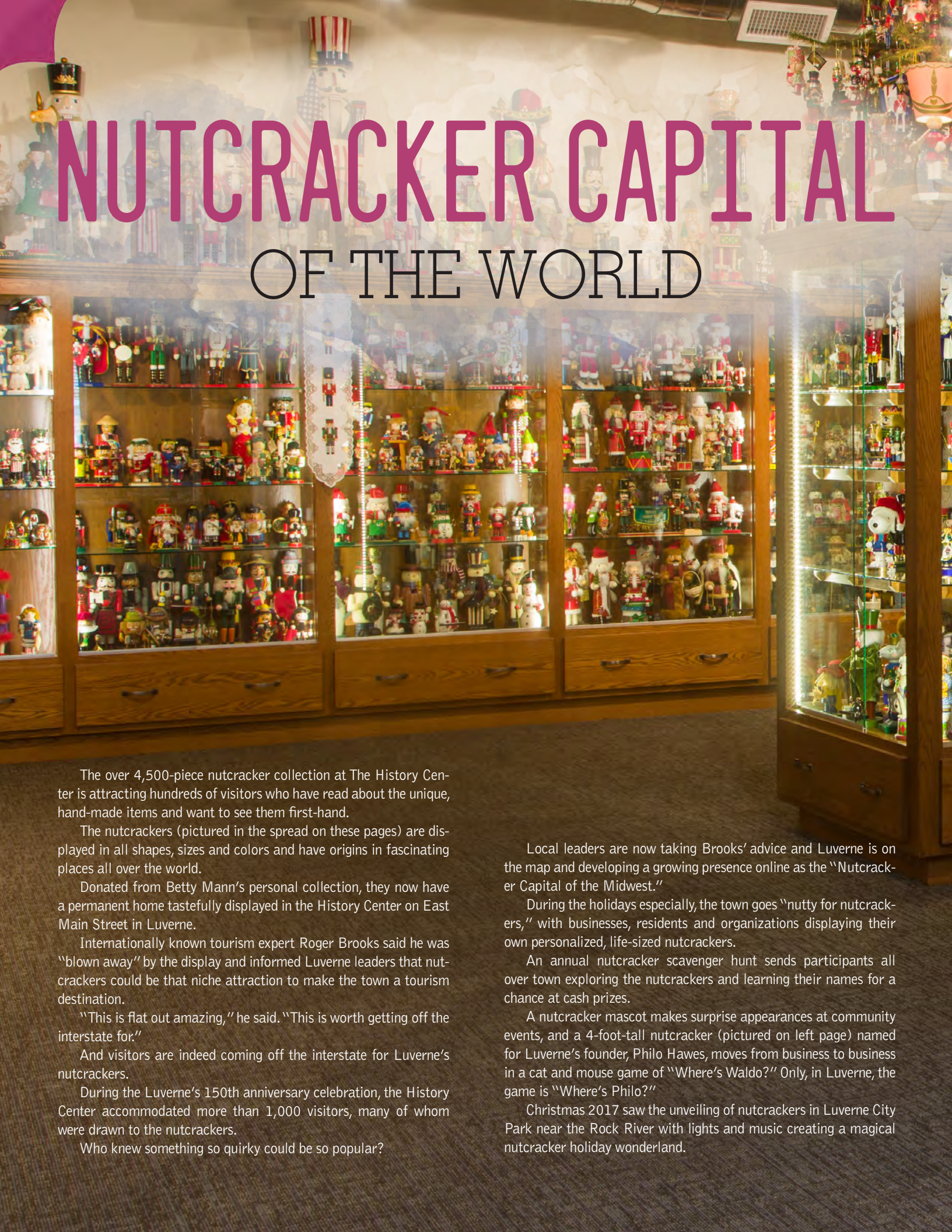
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NUTCRACKER CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

The over 4,500-piece nutcracker collection at The History Center is attracting hundreds of visitors who have read about the unique, hand-made items and want to see them first-hand.

The nutcrackers (pictured in the spread on these pages) are displayed in all shapes, sizes and colors and have origins in fascinating places all over the world.

Donated from Betty Mann's personal collection, they now have a permanent home tastefully displayed in the History Center on East Main Street in Luverne.

Internationally known tourism expert Roger Brooks said he was "blown away" by the display and informed Luverne leaders that nutcrackers could be that niche attraction to make the town a tourism destination.

"This is flat out amazing," he said. "This is worth getting off the interstate for."

And visitors are indeed coming off the interstate for Luverne's nutcrackers.

During the Luverne's 150th anniversary celebration, the History Center accommodated more than 1,000 visitors, many of whom were drawn to the nutcrackers.

Who knew something so quirky could be so popular?

Local leaders are now taking Brooks' advice and Luverne is on the map and developing a growing presence online as the "Nutcracker Capital of the Midwest."

During the holidays especially, the town goes "nutty for nutcrackers," with businesses, residents and organizations displaying their own personalized, life-sized nutcrackers.

An annual nutcracker scavenger hunt sends participants all over town exploring the nutcrackers and learning their names for a chance at cash prizes.

A nutcracker mascot makes surprise appearances at community events, and a 4-foot-tall nutcracker (pictured on left page) named for Luverne's founder, Philo Hawes, moves from business to business in a cat and mouse game of "Where's Waldo?" Only, in Luverne, the game is "Where's Philo?"

Christmas 2017 saw the unveiling of nutcrackers in Luverne City Park near the Rock River with lights and music creating a magical nutcracker holiday wonderland.



All this nutcracker nonsense is working.

Word is getting out, and curious visitors are increasingly exploring Luverne to experience the nutcracker phenomena for themselves. But wait, there's more.

The next endeavor will be several eight-foot fine-art nutcrackers that will be designed by local artist and displayed on Main Street.

Luverne is already known as a gem on the prairie for travelers to stop in and enjoy the beautiful shaded neighborhoods, historic points of interest, clean and inviting parks and trails and the acclaimed Rock County Veterans Memorial and Veterans Memorial Building and Military Museum.

Our nutcrackers are nutty, no doubt, but we're pleased their fans are discovering our town and all the other wonderful and surprising attractions our little home on the prairie has to offer.

ROCK COUNTY

AGRICULTURE



Rock County is and always has been an agricultural community.

The first settlers to Rock County saw nothing but prairie grass when they arrived in the mid-1860s. Trees lined rivers and streams, and Native Americans roamed the land.

With the federal Homestead Act, many adventure seekers saw opportunity on the prairie. If they could live on the land for five years, the land would be theirs.

Early settlers were looking for fertile soil to plant their crops, raise their livestock and raise a family.

These families understood the value of their freedoms and how fortunate they were to "live in the land of the free and the home of the brave." That tradition of sacrifice and service has continued throughout the coun-

ty's existence.

In three years — from 1870 to 1873 — Rock County's population grew from 138 people to 2,119. After erecting shanties or dwellings, farmers began to till, plant and harvest by hand or with oxen.

During those years it was a challenge to travel anywhere. In general, with a team of horses, a round trip of 10 miles took a full day to accomplish. Churches and communities developed within that boundary.

Businesses in small communities — Luverne at the center — provided goods and services to farm families.

Within a few years, horses became more prevalent, and with the advent of the railroads, wood and iron machinery made its way into the county.

Early pioneers witnessed hard times with blizzards, drought, prairie

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fires, epidemics, hail, wind and plagues. In 1873, grasshoppers engulfed Rock County for almost four years. During that time, farmers had no money to spend in the towns.

Businesses failed and people moved away. Settlers faced those hardships with determination and grit.

In the early 1900s the first tractors began to appear and take over many of the jobs done earlier by livestock. It was truly part of the industrial revolution of agriculture.

After World War I, home generators and wind generators equipped farms with some electricity, but it was not until the 1930s and '40s that the Rural Electric Association brought permanent electricity to farms.

People could now throw out the old coal and wood cook stoves, kero-

sene lanterns, battery radio and hand crank phonograph.

Also, pumping water, cleaning the barn, milking cows and doing a vast assortment of other tasks became easier.

The agricultural community in Rock County had truly progressed and brought more settlers with these innovations.

Today those innovations have allowed a single farmer to feed thousands in a single harvest. Technology such as GPS positioning, drones, ever-improving plant hybrids have revolutionized the agriculture business as we know it.

Increasingly diverse global markets, renewable fuels and international political climate play a daily role in lives of farmers who once were concerned only with feeding their own families.





ROCK COUNTY

VETERANS MEMORIAL



THE MEMORIAL IS A FITTING TRIBUTE TO VETERANS AND A BEAUTIFUL COMMUNITY ATTRACTION

The Rock County Veterans Memorial was dedicated on the front lawn of the Rock County Courthouse on Memorial Day 2007. More than 2,000 pavers have been spoken for in this spectacular 30-foot-wide memorial.

The Rock County Veterans Memorial is a gift from Warren Herreid II and his wife, Jeannine Rivet, Minnetrista, through their non-profit foundation called KAHR.

Herreid II said, "We wanted to do it to give something back to the community." His father, Warren Herreid I, Luverne, is a decorated veteran and served during World War II and the Korean War. Many of his brothers did as well.

Herreid II said, "It was my father's idea to put the memorial on the courthouse lawn."

It features a life-size bronze statue of a veteran, known as "Poppie." Poppie (pictured at left) sits on one of five granite benches that circle a center obelisk that carries the names of local veterans who died in service.

The obelisk is 18 feet tall, made of five-sided black granite.

The five sides face the five benches, which sit at the points of a paved granite star. The pavers are next to the star and also line the sidewalk leading to the memorial.

Luverne's historic Civil War cannon and carriage were added to the memorial, and plans are underway to add a water feature. The memorial has proven to be a fitting place of honor for local veterans and a beautiful attraction to the community.

See www.rockcountyveteransmemorial.com.



ROCK COUNTY VETERANS MEMORIAL

LUVERNE, MINNESOTA

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- ~Learn the history of the Memorial
- ~See the names of MIA/KIA Veterans honored at the site



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Mail to:

Rock County Veterans Memorial
c/o Administrator
PO Box 509
Luverne, MN 56156

Line 1, print veteran's name.

Line 2, print veteran's rank or branch of service.

Line 3, print dates of service or conflict.

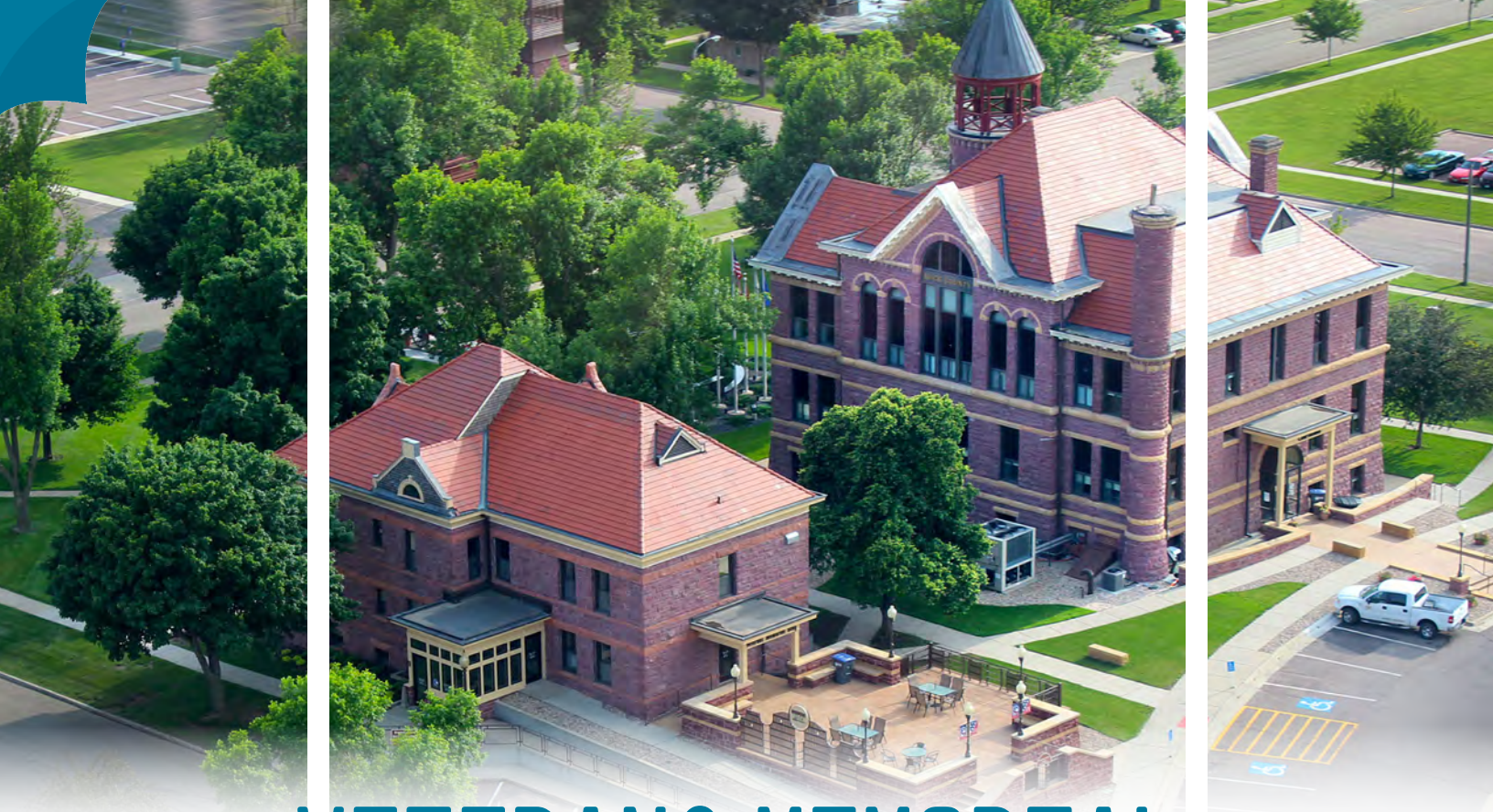
Reminder: 20 characters per line (commas, dashes, spaces, and periods each count as a character)

LINE 1

LINE 2

LINE 3

The cost is \$125 for each paver. (501C3 nonprofit).



VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING



A massive renovation and revitalization project in 2009 turned the century-old Rock County Jail and Sheriff's Residence into a new place of art, heritage and history, through the generosity of the K.A.H.R. Foundation and the Rock County community.

Called the Rock County Veterans Memorial Building, it features the Brandenburg Gallery, Herreid Military Museums and Kahler Terrace. Perhaps the project's most important

purpose is to tell Rock County's history and pay tribute to those who made us the great community that we are.

The features artifacts, pictures, stories and memorabilia of the brave men and women who have served our country. Students became soldiers, farmers became sailors and bookkeepers became airmen ... no matter what their call – the citizens of Rock County responded to the call of the nation.

Come and experience their story of service from the Civil War to Vietnam, from WWI to WWII, from the Korean War to more recent military conflicts. Learn of their sacrifice at the Herreid Military Museum.

The third floor of the museum tells the story of the Korean War, Vietnam War and post-WWII wars ... of Rock County families, friends and neighbors who were affected by recent war in American history.

The exhibit features a life-size restored military jeep (pictured at left) and a bunker similar to what combat soldiers would have used in the jungles of Vietnam.

Hours at the Rock County Veterans Memorial Building are Mon-Fri: 8am – 5 pm, Sat: 10 am – 5 pm

Location: 213 East Luverne Street (two blocks north of Main Street and three blocks east of Highway 75)

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BETTY MANN, PRESIDENT
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Dedicated to archiving and preserving our county's history, the Rock County Historical Society is a thriving organization of dedicated volunteers. From their headquarters at 312 E. Main Street, the Society maintains and preserves artifacts, materials and exhibits from Rock County's 150-year history.

The History Center, located in the historic former Ford dealership building downtown, features displays of Rock County cities, Rock County government, and changing displays on specific historical topics. The Society has developed a massive collection of organized articles, obituaries, and printed materials for public and private research. The History Center is also home to Luverne's famed 4,500-piece nutcracker collection, which draws visitors from around the country.

Check us out on [Facebook.com/RockCountyHistoryCenter](https://www.facebook.com/RockCountyHistoryCenter), Trip Advisor, Google My Business or call (507) 283-2122 RCHS or (507) 283-4061 Luverne Area Chamber.

Multiple locations of local historic interest

The Rock County Historical Society, in addition to the beautiful Victorian home, The Hinkly House, also maintains four buildings at the Rock County Fairgrounds.

The Fitzer Barn was built over 100 years ago and features artifacts and displays of farming materials from Rock County. Working exhibits provide a hint of farm work throughout the 20th century.

The One Room School is a replica of County School District 1 and provides a glimpse of education during the first half of the 20th century at a time when Rock County had over 75 school districts.

The Lopau Summer Kitchen brings the past alive. In the days before air-conditioning... before electric and gas stoves... women spent hours cooking and cleaning in the summer kitchens to keep their homes cool during hot summer days. See what life was like!

The Ordnung Building offers a glimpse of the past through a wonderful collection of historic farm machinery, manufacturing equipment, and historic vehicles.

Call 507 283-2122 or email rcmuseum@hotmail.com or contact Historical Society President Betty Mann via email: mannmade@iw.net.

The History Center address is 312 E. Main St., Luverne, MN 56156.

HINKLY HOUSE

On North Freeman Avenue, the Hinkly House is a beautifully preserved and accurately restored Victorian period home in Luverne presented to the Rock County Historical Society in April 1959 by the heirs of the R. B. Hinkly family.

Luverne businessman and pioneer, R. B. Hinkly, his wife and four children moved into the house on November 11, 1892. Architect W. E. Green designed this modified Queen Anne home that had 12 rooms, 2 bathrooms, and a story-high attic. The home was built of Sioux quartzite that was quarried and hauled on horse-drawn boats from Hinkly's Blue Mound Quarry north of Luverne. Master stone mason was Knute Steine, native of Valdres, Norway, who supervised the masonry. Steine also carved the two lions that stand guard at the home's front door.

R. B. Hinkly was a visionary of things to come. The house is an attribute to his foresight, engineering and artistic skills. He looked ahead to a time that electricity would be available in Luverne and installed wiring in his house during construction. Hinkly also installed a gravity-operated plumbing system that used a large tank in the attic to supply water to the bathrooms and kitchen prior to the development of the city's water utility.

The name "HINKLY" is displayed in a panel of stained glass on the top of the threshold of the front door. Upon opening the door, the word "WELCOME" and a key are inlaid in the parquet floor. Wood-flooring throughout the first floor features unique inlay pattern designed

by R. B. Hinkly.

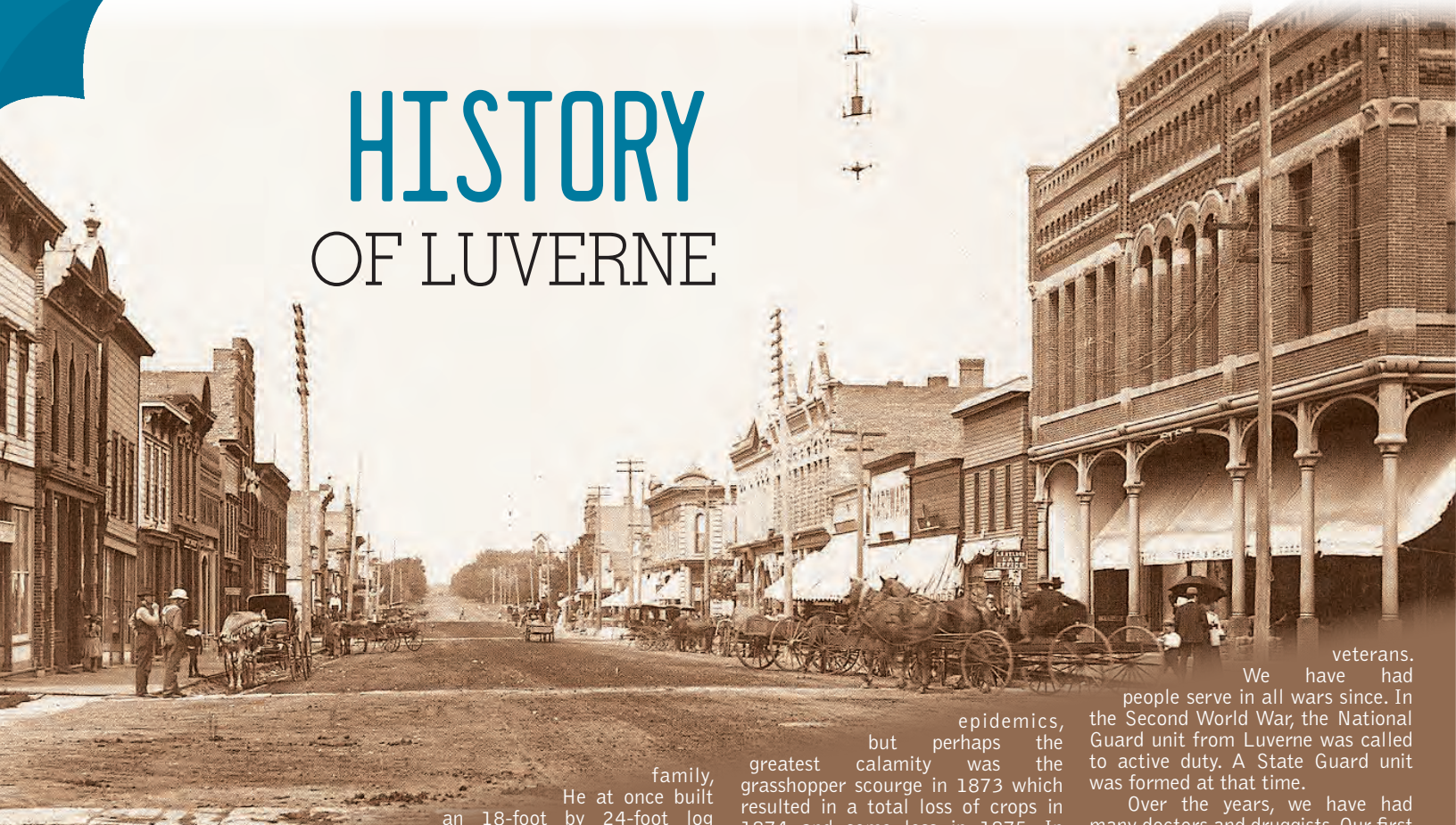
The main floor rooms include a dining room, formal parlor, family parlor, music room, kitchen, bathroom and library/office. Stained glass and leaded windows prominently adorn many of the first floor rooms. The second floor features the master bedroom, five additional bedrooms, a spacious hallway and bathroom.

The full basement features, among other rooms, the wood-working shop where the majority of the home's ornate woodwork was carved and manufactured. One of the home's most unique features is the tunnel constructed from the basement to a "cellar" located in the middle of the backyard. Hinkly used "the cellar" to store dynamite during the time he operated the quarry.

Tours are available by appointment and summer hours are posted at RockCountyHistorical.com. Call 507 283-4061.



HISTORY OF LUVERNE



**By Betty Mann,
Historical Society president**

Philo Hawes passed through this area on June 14, 1867, to set up a mail route from Blue Earth to Yankton, S.D. There was only a rough military road from Jackson through Dakota Territory to Yankton. He and his companion, Joe Fields, camped on the east side of Blue Mounds. He climbed to a high point and when he returned to camp he told his friend, "I have found the Garden of Eden and I will live here and lay my bones here." He did.

He returned in September to establish a mail station and put up hay. He was accompanied by four men and three teams of horses. He first stopped at Blue Mounds but discovered a better supply of timber to the south. There, out of poles and hay, he built a stable large enough for six horses, and he put up enough hay for the winter. He staked a claim by squatter's rights.

He visited his station in November and brought with him the John Leitze family and Miss Miranda Skinner to maintain a "half way" house on the mail route. The house was a dugout, lined with logs and covered with ridge poles. Hay and dirt were piled over the top for a roof. This was near where the power plant is now. Mr. Leitze and his family spent the winters of 1867 and 1868 there.

In March 1868, Mr. Hawes, accompanied by his lovely wife, son Charles and daughter Eva Luverne, arrived at the station and moved into the dugout vacated by the Leitze

family. He at once built an 18-foot by 24-foot log cabin. In the fall a 12-foot by 24-foot addition was added. This was post office, city hall, church and community center. Mr. Hawes named the post office Luverne after his daughter Eva Luverne.

The next to arrive as active promoters of Luverne were the Kniss brothers. P.J. Kniss was a proficient surveyor and civil engineer so he plotted out the town west of the Rock River. The first streets plotted north and south were Cedar, McKenzie, Spring, Oakley and Blue Mound. East and west streets were Luverne, Lincoln, Main, Maple and Fletcher.

In January 1871 the governor proclaimed Luverne would be the county seat.

The first school in Luverne was founded in 1871, and the first building was built in 1872. In 1875 a fire destroyed that building and a new was built on East Main Street. That building soon became too small and school was held in many churches and other buildings. In 1882, Central School was built where the old elementary school now stands. The first class graduated in 1888. In 1895 room was needed again, and a high school was built where Fledgling Field is now. In 1925 old Central School was moved to the side of the block and a new high school was built. That building is now the old elementary school which is being turned into apartments. The present high school was built in 1956. An elementary and middle school was added in 1998 to the high school complex.

Early pioneers saw hard times, terrible blizzards, prairie fires and

epidemics, but perhaps the greatest calamity was the grasshopper scourge in 1873 which resulted in a total loss of crops in 1874 and some loss in 1875. In Luverne, businesses failed and many moved away. Progress ceased and even regressed at this time.

When the crop of 1877 was saved the town began life anew. In 1878 the boom began. On November 15, 1878, the village government was established.

Construction of the railroads helped this boom. By October 1876, the first trains were running regularly into Luverne, then the terminus of the line. By 1879 a line was laid south to Doon, Iowa. By 1883 trains were running in all four directions. The first depot built of wood needed to be replaced in 1911, and the replacement building still stands in the south part of town.

In October 1880 the first snow began to fall. People were not prepared for such an early snowfall, and throughout the winter many storms left the town with few supplies. There was a three-month period where very little traveling could be done, and Luverne was blocked in by snow.

The pioneer church was the Methodist Church established in covered wagons in 1873 by the Rev. E.H. Bronson. The original part of the present church was begun in 1877. Many other churches began very soon after this. The Episcopal Church was constructed in 1891 and still stands on the corner of Cedar and Luverne streets.

The G.A.R. was a power in the town's early history, and many pictures are of the G.A.R. encampments held here. This has been a very patriotic community over the years. Many of the original settlers were Civil War

veterans. We have had people serve in all wars since. In the Second World War, the National Guard unit from Luverne was called to active duty. A State Guard unit was formed at that time.

Over the years, we have had many doctors and druggists. Our first hospital was in a house. Dr. Sherman built a hospital on the corner of Brown and McKenzie streets, and now we have our present hospital and medical center on Luverne Street.

In May 1883, gas street lamps were erected. A man was hired to light the lamps every night and put them out in the morning. These lamps cost the village \$101. In August 1892, electric lights were installed using the water power at the pumping station. In 1911, the city light plant was remodeled. In 1914 the city was without electricity or water due to flooding of the power plant. A new plant was built in 1915 when residents had electricity for 24 hours a day. We now buy electricity from Western Area Power Administration and Missouri Basin Municipal Power Agency.

In 1873 store owners put up board walks in front of businesses. In 1886 storm gutters were installed. In 1900 concrete sidewalks were poured. In 1907 the streets were graveled. Oct. 1, 1920, four blocks of Main Street were paved with cement.

Through the decades, Luverne flourished and thrived, and the character of the town was shaped by trials and tribulations of the Great Depression, service in war, farming crises and advances and more.

To find out how Luverne became the beautiful, progressive community that it is today, visit the History Center on East Main Street. (see page 62).

We have a great deal to be proud of in Luverne, and it's worth learning about our past to appreciate it.



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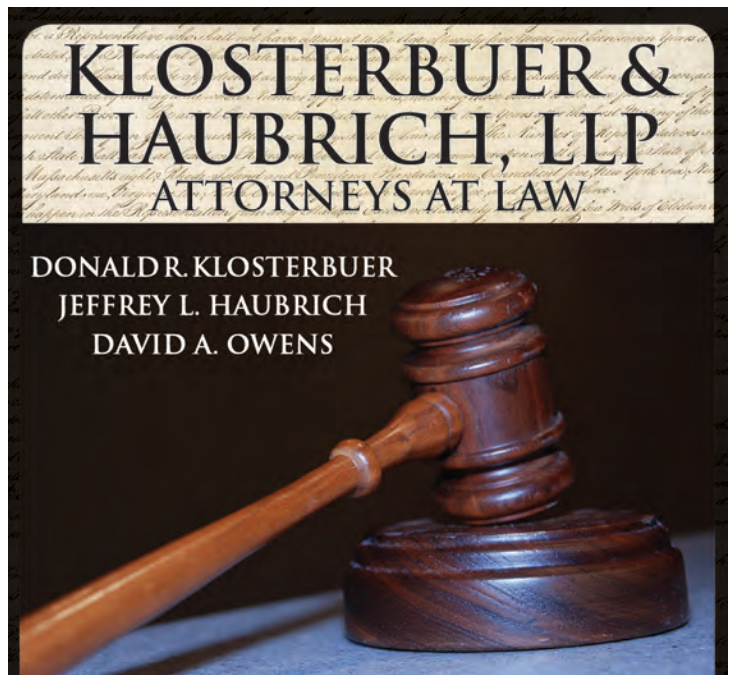


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 283-4529

Bethany Lutheran Church
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 283-4571

Grace Lutheran, ELCA
 500 N. Kniss Ave.
 283-4431

Luverne Christian Reformed Church
 605 N. Estey St.
 283-8482

Living Rock Church
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 449-0057

First Baptist Church
 1033 N. Jackson St.
 283-4091

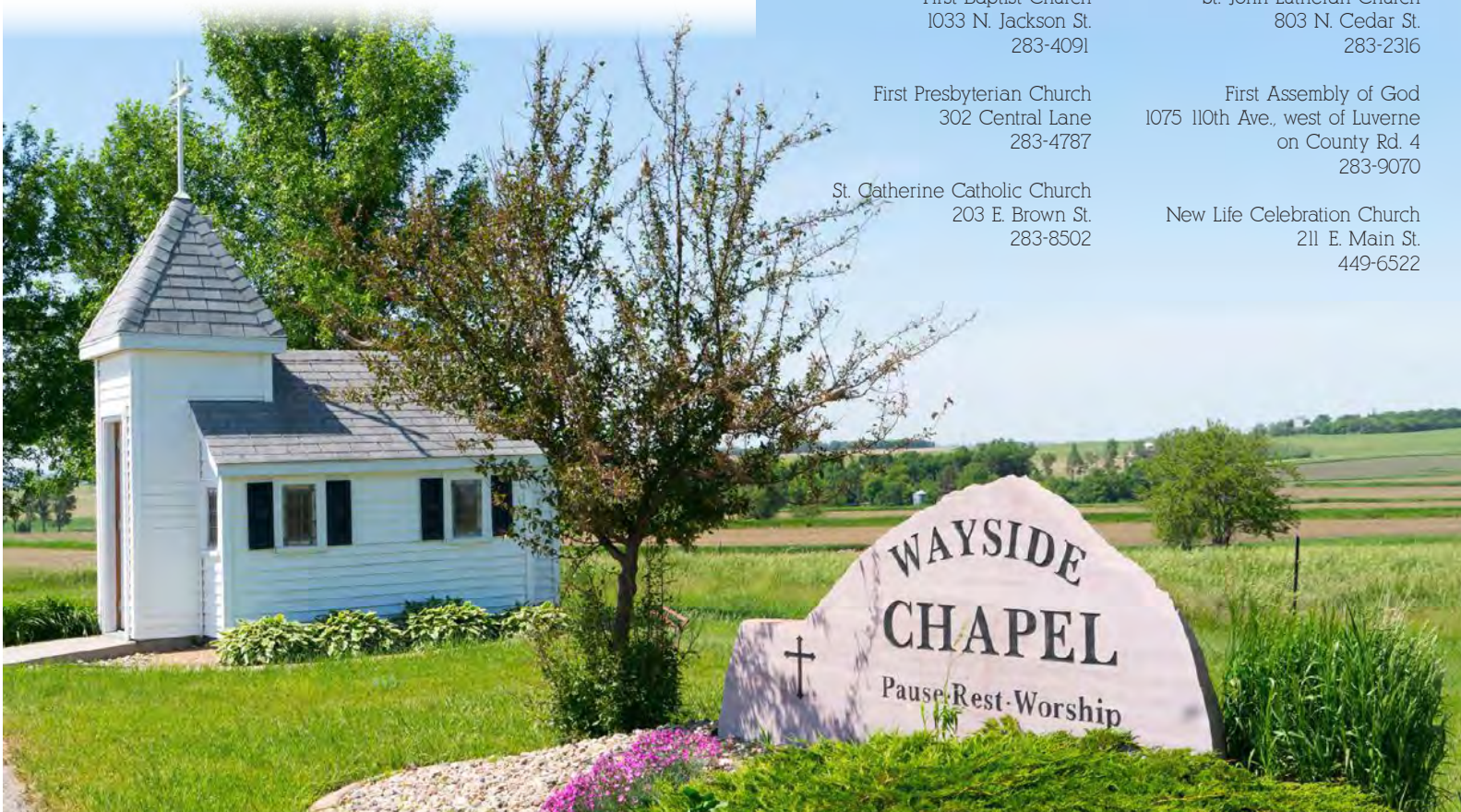
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 283-2316

First Presbyterian Church
 302 Central Lane
 283-4787

First Assembly of God
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 on County Rd. 4
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St. Catherine Catholic Church
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 283-8502

New Life Celebration Church
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Building Inspector 507 449-5031
Public Utilities 507 449-9916
Public Works 507 449-9914
Economic Development 507 449-5033
Administrator 507 449-5025

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Luverne Municipal Airport
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507 283-5070
Extension & 4-H 507 283-1302
Veterans Service Office 507 283-5061

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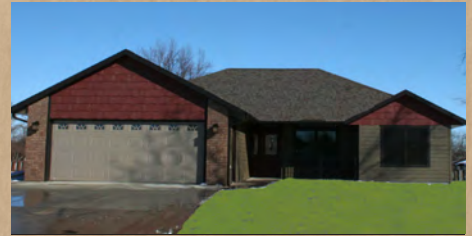
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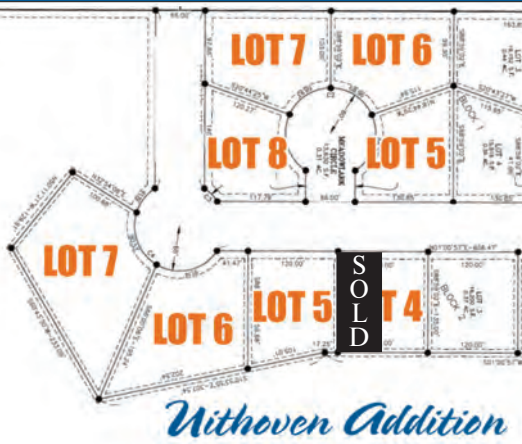


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8 New Lots
Available in the Uithoven Addition



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Renovations Remodels

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Townhomes Farm Shops

Pole Buildings Cattle Barns

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