



Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, June 20, 2019

'Tall Grass Guitar Class' to debut in October

Guitar greats include Dan Mahar, Lee Roy Parnell, Pat Donohue and Verlon Thompson

By Lori Sorenson
Musical artists and organizers of Tall Grass Guitar Class made a big announcement at a small gathering Thursday, June 13, during Southwestern Mental Health Center's Chamber open house.
Scott Johnson, CEO of SWMHC, introduced an Oct. 18, 19 and 20 event that will bring three "world class" guitar players to Luverne for three days of guitar study and a culminating performance at the Palace Theatre.
Johnson shared information with fellow Chamber members about Southwestern Mental Health Center's 60th Anniversary of providing mental health services to the region, and he spoke about challenges in accessing resources to address increasing demand for services (See the related story.)
Along those lines, he announced SWMHC as a sponsor of the Tall Grass Guitar Class and an Oct. 20 benefit concert open to the public as a way to raise awareness and funding for mental health services, particularly children's services.
At Thursday's Chamber gathering, Johnson introduced Sioux Falls singer and songwriter Dan Mahar who is tapping his national and international connections to bring three big-name guitar players to Luverne.
"Our goal is to bring a quality, musical educational opportunity and the experience of studying under great guitar players," Mahar said Thursday.
Recording artists Lee Roy Parnell,

Tall Grass Guitar Class/see page 5

School to break ground on building project



Public ceremony planned for Thursday, June 20, on south side of campus

By Mavis Fodness
Workers with Gil Haugan Construction have spent weeks cutting the Luverne school complex in half.
Crews are preparing for the demolition of eight classrooms from the two-story west wing of the high school to make room for the new commons and performing art center addition, which will be located between the elementary and high school facilities.
In the meantime, a public groundbreaking ceremony is set for 6 p.m. today (June 20) on the south side of the school.
Crews are carefully sawing through the concrete and steel reinforced beams from the breezeway walls in order to cleanly separate the middle-high and elementary schools.
An excavator will come in and carefully remove the current breezeway between the schools and the necessary classrooms from the middle-high school without damaging the existing structure.

School project groundbreaking/see page 3



Mavis Fodness photo/0620 School Project June 2019
Joel Farrell (left) and Jim Houten with Gil Haugan Construction of Sioux Falls position the 48-inch saw blade into position Thursday morning, June 13, at the Luverne Middle-School High School.

Luverne School District to hire Phelps as middle school principal

By Mavis Fodness
A new Luverne Middle School principal will be in place this fall, provided board members approve the hiring of Jason Phelps at tonight's (June 20) meeting.
Phelps has been the principal at Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary School for the past five years.
Phelps is coming into the new position with some familiarity with LMS.
Luverne was his first teaching position after graduating from South Dakota State University in Brookings.

He taught social studies to middle and high school students for 15 years before receiving his principal licensure in 2013.
In 2014 he became principal at Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary, a position he filled until accepting the position in Luverne.
Phelps begins his new duties July 1 at a salary of \$99,500.
The middle school principal po-



Jason Phelps

sition was eliminated 15 years ago, but the Luverne School Board reinstated the position on May 9 on recommendation from current administrators for a principal to work directly with junior high students.
The district received 19 applications for the principal position with four people interviewed, according to Superintendent Craig Oftedahl.

Current middle-high school principal Ryan Johnson will serve as high school principal.
Administrators have now extended contracts to fill all the open licensed teacher positions for the 2019-20 school year.
"It's been a very busy few weeks," said Elementary Principal Stacy Gillette.
"We've had good candidates and good interviews."
Meanwhile, Hills-Beaver Creek School Board met in special session

Tuesday night and accepted Phelps' resignation as its elementary principal.
The agenda also included action on a proposed district administrative restructuring plan, according to Superintendent Todd Holthaus.
Tonight's Luverne School Board meeting follows the 6 p.m. groundbreaking ceremony on the south side of the school.
Community input is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. followed by the 7 p.m. board meeting.

Great Planes Travel celebrates 20 years

By Mavis Fodness
Great Planes Travel is celebrating a new location and 20 years of business during a ribbon-cutting this afternoon in Luverne.
Owner Sue VerSteeg moved her travel agency to the former Rock County Eye Clinic location on Freeman Avenue this year, and the event from 1 to 3 p.m. will offer tours of the new location and background on her travel experience.
VerSteeg said many things have changed since the business opened in 1999, but not her dedication to the career she chose after graduating LHS in 1986.
"I love it. I can't wait to get up and come to work," she said. "I never know where I am going."
One moment she could be planning a February cruise and the next she could be answering questions



Mavis Fodness photo/0620 Great Planes Travel
Sue VerSteeg began Great Planes Travel in Luverne in 1999. The agency is celebrating 20 years in business at its new location on North Freeman Avenue next to Rock County Eye Clinic.

Great Planes 20 years/see page 3

SW Mental Health Center shares suicide information

By Lori Sorenson
The Southwestern Mental Health Center is helping more clients than ever, yet the workload continues to increase, according to CEO Scott Johnson who said suicide in the Midwest is a crisis.
"We're doing more than ever before, but mental health needs at times overwhelm what we're able to provide," he said Thursday morning.
"So, we're reaching out to build all kinds of partnerships around suicide, because it's more than we can do ourselves."
Johnson presented information about the Southwestern Mental Health Center Thursday morning during a Chamber "Love the Business" event, which helps Chamber members to learn about each other's businesses.

SWMHC Inc. is a private, non-profit agency, licensed by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. It was established in 1959 by Cottonwood, Jackson, Nobles, Pipestone and Rock counties and now has office locations in each of those counties.
At that time, the maximum number of cases the agency could handle was 30.
Johnson said the number of active cases among the multiple locations has risen from 3,000 in 2013 to 5,000 in 2018.
"The whole time we've been watching the suicide rate and deaths by suicide continue to increase every year," Johnson said.
Nationally the number has risen from nearly 37,000 in 2009 to more

SWMHC suicide/see page 5



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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Parkinson's Support Group will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, June 20, at St. John Lutheran Church.

Beaver Creek Cemetery Association will meet at the First Presbyterian Church in Beaver Creek for their annual meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 20.

Caregivers Support Group will meet from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 25, in the Mary Jane Brown Home conference room in Luverne. All caregivers, family and friends are invited to participate. Call ACE at 507-283-5064 with questions.

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

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

Alanon meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the second and fourth Thursdays in Sanford Luverne. 507-449-1246.

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

Highway 23 project extended to June 22

The lane closure on Highway 23 just outside Jasper's northern city limits has been extended through June 22. Motorists can anticipate short delays when flagging operations are present. The lane closure occurs when the railroad receives shipments to repair a bridge at the site and requires space to unload materials onto the shoulder.

Fair open class information online

The Rock County Fair Open Class premium information can be found online at www.rockcountyfair.org or at the Luverne Chamber and Rock County Library. Call Lynette Jauert 507-227-1526 with questions.

Free food giveaway June 20

New Life Celebration Church will offer free produce, bread and meat from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 20, at the Generations building at 319 East Lincoln Street in Luverne for those having trouble putting food on the table. Bring your own bags and boxes. Call 507-283-3466.

Family Night at the Plaza June 20

A Family Game Night is planned for 5-7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 20, at the outdoor plaza area of the History Center on East Main Street. The Rock County Historical Society will offer a meal of barbecue, chips, cookie and drink for \$4.

Hospice memorial service June 24

Sanford Luverne Hospice will host its Hospice Memorial Service at 7 p.m. Monday, June 24, in the American Reformed Church, Luverne, for family members and friends to remember the 76 people who died under hospice care in the past year. There will be a short program, and refreshments will be served. Call 507-283-1805 with questions.

Summer theater camp starts June 24

Area youth, grades 6-9, are invited to participate in a 7-week summer theater arts camp beginning June 24 and will meet from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Quartziter Community Center in Jasper. Participants will learn about theater through the "Lion King" experience. Performances are set for Aug. 11, 12, and 13 at Hiawatha Pageant Park in Pipestone. Register at <https://amp.mymusicstaff.com/Youth-Musical-Summer-Camp> or call 605-695-8626 or email pipestonecamp@gmail.com for more information.

Free meal at UMC June 26

A free meal served by St. Catherine's at the United Methodist Church on West Main Street in Luverne will begin at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 26. The meal is open to the public.

Rock River water trip set for June 29

Register now for the water trip down the Rock River Saturday, June 29. Cost is \$25 per person or \$40 with canoe or kayak. Trip includes transportation, breakfast and snack on the river. An "After Row" party will follow at Take 16. Rain date is July 6. Call the Luverne Chamber at 507-283-4061 or email luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.

Register for VBS at Bethlehem

Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Hills will offer a free Vacation Bible School program titled "To Mars and Beyond" from Sunday, July 7, through Thursday, July 11, for children ages 3 through eighth grade. Classes will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. with supper served every night. Register by July 1 by calling Kari Kueter at 507-962-3656 or email kjueter@alliancecom.net.



Lori Sorenson photos/0620 relay

Rock County Relay for Life cancer survivors release balloons at the end of Thursday's Block Party event at Take 16 Brewing Co.

Relay for Life celebrates with block party format

By Lori Sorenson

The 2019 version of Rock County's Relay for Life unfolded under pleasant weather conditions with healthy participation at its new location at Take 16 Thursday night.

"I hope everyone enjoyed the change to a block party," said Lisa Ehlers, local Relay for Life chairwoman.

"It was nice to have everything close together and not so spread apart like at the park. We know we'll have some things to change for next year, but all in all we think it was a hit."

She said more than 200 people attended the event that raised an estimated \$20,000 for the American Cancer Society.

Luverne's Kim and Maggie Schmidt were the honored Relay for Life survivor and caregiver, and they shared their stories from the microphone inside the Take 16 event center.

"We decided cancer was not going to beat us," Kim said about his throat cancer diagnosis. "We went into positive mode and it worked."

He said his type of cancer is proof of the value of research. When he started his cancer



Lori Sorenson photos/0620 relay

Kids' Zone activities like the mechanical bull were popular at the Relay for Life block party Thursday night, June 13, at Take 16 Brewing Company. Pictured is Seth Ehlers.

treatment in 2012, doctors said he had an 85 percent chance of survival. Five years

prior to that, people with the same diagnosis were given a 5- to 10-percent chance of successful treatment.

Now in his fifth year of remission, he said cancer has taught him to live gratefully.

"We learned through our battle with cancer to appreciate," he said. "Appreciate the gift of life, of family — Maggie and our sons Isaac and Aaron, friends and community."

Kim also spoke about the value of support.

"The community, the church ... it was crazy. The love and support were overwhelming," he said.

"As we battle, we don't do it by ourselves. We need support and lots of it. My amazing wife, Maggie, was my biggest cheerleader. She gave every-

thing to the battle."

At Thursday's event, Maggie shared her perspective as a caregiver for Kim and how she appreciated those who supported both of them.

"Everyone was just so good to us," she said, mentioning co-workers, church members, medical professionals, friends and family.

"We will never be able to repay all the people who called, emailed, sent cards and food, etc."

Ehlers said 92 people participated in the Relay for Life Glow Run and Walk that closed out the event at the end of the night.

More information about the 2019 event is at RelayForLife.org/RockCountyMN or 877-957-7848.



Luverne's Kim and Maggie Schmidt were the honored Relay for Life survivor and caregiver, and they shared their stories from the microphone inside the Take 16 event center.



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• Land Surveying

Health and Human Services returns to better fiscal standing

By Mavis Fodness

More than a year of belt-tightening measures brought positive news May 21 from Southwest Health and Human Services officials.

SWHHS director Beth Wilms and fiscal manager Sarah Kirchner updated county commissioners on the organization's financial progress over the past 18 months.

"Our cost-saving measures continue," Wilms said.

"The goal Sarah and I have set for ourselves is to have \$8 million in reserves. That's a big goal and it is certainly not done overnight."

Wilms took over the SWHHS helm in 2017 with no budget reserve and a projected budget shortfall of \$2 million by June 2018.

However, the shortfall did not materialize. In its place was a positive \$1.6 million balance.

In April the SWHHS balance grew to \$2.6 million, bringing the six-county agency to 2016 levels but well below the \$8 million it had in December 2014.

"We are basically back to where we were at the same time in 2016," Kirchner said.

"You can see we are going in the right direction and we hope to continue those balances."

Several measures were immediately put into place at Wilms' arrival, including a new hiring process.

Each staff vacancy is examined and paperwork submitted to the finance committee outlining how the position would be financed, something not previously done.

No finance committee existed prior to Wilms' arrival.

In 2018 SWHHS employed 233 people, up from 220 in 2014 but down from a high of 247 in 2017.

Each area of SWHHS has undergone scrutiny and resulted in cost savings for

the agency:

- Twenty-two of the agency's 35 vehicles are now leased rather than owned.
- Kirchner said she continues to examine the specific savings of leasing versus owning.
- However, having newer models results in employees using agency vehicles rather than their own, dropping mileage reimbursement from \$60,412 in 2014 to last year's \$18,744.
- A centralized supply location was initiated, dropping order costs \$87,388 from 2014 to 2018.
- Copier costs saw a savings over a year's timeframe of \$46,313. "No color copies, unless absolutely necessary," Kirchner said.
- Outside staff training was limited, saving \$76,580 from 2017 to 2018.
- Updating equipment was put on hold and is under evaluation for a new replacement program, saving \$119,447 from 2017 to 2018.

Kirchner said the importance of time reporting has been stressed with employees. Time reporting determines SWHHS reimbursements from state and federal agencies.

In 2018 revenue from time reporting increased to \$3.9 million, up from \$3.6 million in 2017 and \$3.3 million in 2014.

SWHHS provides social services to Rock, Pipestone, Lyon, Murray, Lincoln and Redwood counties.

A 7.93-percent increase was requested from member counties last year to further develop SWHHS reserves.

Rock County will pay \$1.385 million in 2019.

SWHHS expenditures for 2018 were \$26.2 million.

"(We) asked for a 7-percent increase last year because we were trying to be as true to our budget as we possibly could be," Wilms said.



Mavis Fodness photo/0620 School Project June 2019

Luverne school building classroom walls were completely removed in the second floor of the west wing.

School construction project/continued from page 1

Crews needed a 48-inch saw blade to get through the 24-by-24-inch steel-reinforced concrete beams.

"They are solid," said site superintendent Dave Mulert.

Construction work began inside in early March when crews started demolition in the middle-high school auditorium for the new music education suites.

Demolition has been completed in the auditorium and crews began laying brick for the new classroom walls.

Since classes ended May 20, crews have been preparing the west wing for demolition, including removing asbestos-containing materials from the building.

Mulert said asbestos crews were initially expected to be on site for two to three weeks.

A month into the project, the crews never left.

"We're finding asbestos in places that were not accessible until the demo," Mulert said.

Pipe wraps, floor tile, glue, acoustic tile and any other materials suspected to contain asbestos were tested. Most have come back positive.

The middle-high school building was originally constructed in 1956 with additions added in 1965 and 1975.

"We've had some ups and downs (during the construction process) but taking care of these things now basically solves the problems for the next three pieces," Mulert said.

Those "pieces" include construction of the performing arts center, and the two-story classroom addition on the middle-high school's north wing.



Classroom walls are removed in the first floor of the west wing in Mark Lundgren's former classroom on the north side of the hallway.

The groundbreaking ceremony comes as the project adds new construction to the workload.

"It's exciting to get to this point in the process," said School Board Chairman Jodi Bosch. "You can see progress almost on a daily basis."

Bosch serves on the district's facility committee and has been involved with the project since 2016, when the board began looking at updating its long-term facilities plan.

In November 2017, voters approved a \$23 million referendum to remodel the middle-high school and add a performing arts center between the elementary and middle-

high school buildings.

The project was delayed in mid-2018 when bids for the project exceeded referendum dollars. Board members voted to rebid the entire project.

"It was absolutely the right thing to do," Bosch said.

Groundbreaking was originally planned for the fall of 2018. The rebid process (which brought costs in line with the budget) pushed the groundbreaking to this summer.

"I don't think we lost a lot of time," Bosch said.

Instead of December 2020, the project is expected to be finished in April 2021.



Mavis Fodness photo/0620 Brown Bag Plaza

Plaza hosts Brown Bag Lunch Concert

The Brown Bag Lunch Concert Series debuted Tuesday at The Plaza at the corner of Main Street and McKenzie Avenue. In addition to an evening activity, a late morning/early afternoon plaza event was suggested, and organizers arranged for Ron and Jane Cote of Luverne to provide the entertainment for the two-hour event. About 100 people attended the event under partly cloudy skies and upper 60-degree temperatures. According to Luverne Area Chamber Director Jane Wildung-Lanphere, more concert series will depend on finances and availability of local entertainers.

Great Planes Travel celebrates 20 years/continued from page 1

about renewing a passport.

As expected, the area's snow and cold weather cause the agency's busiest months. "The winter months are crazy," she said.

Mexico, the Caribbean, Florida and Arizona are common winter vacation destinations, but in the summer her clients consider Europe or an Alaskan cruise.

Regardless of the destination, VerSteeg's job is to make sure all the travel to and from the clients' homes goes without a hitch.

Common hitches include canceled flights or a last-

minute change in hotels. "We are always here for our clients," VerSteeg said.

Because of her interest in travel, many of the clients' destinations are places VerSteeg and/or her family have visited personally.

"I have a love for adventure," she admitted. "We've been to places many times."

She travels with her husband, Chad, and children, Chase, Connor and Olivia.

But some adventures are solo and only shared with her mother, Becky, (and in the past, her father, the late Dwayne Christensen) after a safe ar-

rival home.

VerSteeg grew interested in travel during high school geography classes in Magnolia and later in Luverne.

After graduation she attended the now defunct McConnell Travel School.

After achieving her license as a travel agent, VerSteeg started her career with Ken Hirsch Travel in Sioux Falls, later coming to Round Wind Travel in Luverne.

She opened her own agency in 1999.

Whether it's the day of the week for best flight availability or the booking at four-star ho-

tels, VerSteeg keeps budgets in mind.

"No matter the client, we try to get the best deal," she said.

VerSteeg's agent team includes Kennedy Gonnerman and Crystal Tiesler in the Luverne office with Melissa Voge and Jennifer Wipf working out of their Edgerton and Pipestone homes respectively.

Days in the office are often a whirlwind of travel activity.

"Every day I go home, I think, 'Where did I go?'" she said.

The answer is, "I went 'everywhere.'"

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Garnmeister

Sunday, June 23
2 to 4 p.m.
St. John Lutheran Church
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Bridal Shower
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bride to be of Mike McFarland

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Its thyme to right a column

Eye am the proof-reader, the won whose hear at the sight of the Star Herald every weak to peak at the articles



that are already too go. I don't get complements two often because eye don't get things write all the thyme.

Ewe mite all ready sea there are two many weighs to spell write. Eye can't bear to miss things because won or to of my coworkers peel with laughter when things are mist.

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Inn another addition, wee reed that a person fell down the stares to stairs of passersby. He mist a step because he was looking at a sail flyer too sale two Bermuda.

Then they're was the thyme when a farmer bread his heard and seamed perplexed when won heifer couldn't bare her calf. He kneaded help and through his pickup in gear while he scent a text two the

LUV MY JOB

By Esther Frakes, copy editor

sheriff to get out of his weigh.

Eye no its hard to believe but eye was once on the city counsel. Eye reported that the counsel will meat next weak and work on a knew policy for waist removal. Sum members seamed sew miffed.

Dew to my roll on counsel, eye wood sometimes boar my colleges hear at the office with knew items of counsel matters. Eye no some things were hare-raising tails!

Our neighbors two the east of hear have too complicate things four me, two. The Thier name goes threw computer spellcheck and becomes Their. Most of the thyme eye sea it.

Sum stories from Tails from the Graves were scent to hour paper and kneaded to bee formatted. Eye through myself into the work and seamed to dew well until eye wasn't sure weather we were to respect the passed or respect the past and weather we were to tell one tail at a thyme or one tale at a thyme. Oh, wail!

When eye have enough knew stuff, eye mite knead to rite again. Four now, eye don't want two ware ewe out. Its thyme to quit and make myself sum tee, have a role and lye in the son - unless its reigning.

Hindsight is 20-20, but thank goodness for leadership in housing development

The construction of the Minnesota Veterans Home in 1991 marked a distinct turning point in the history of Luverne's economic development.

The multi-million dollar facility with its dozens of high-paying jobs was a big deal all on its own, and there are many progressive leaders from the day who can be credited for bringing it to town.

But the development of several residential subdivisions that followed was a direct result of good planning and teamwork among local leaders.

Nobody dwelled on it during the Veterans Home 25-year celebration, but these peripheral housing developments didn't just happen automatically.

Some brave souls risked their political necks to suggest the city continue spending money (gulp) in order to capture larger returns down the road.

And they did so amid hard push-back and loud criticism from local

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

taxpayers who hadn't yet recovered from the mid-1980s farm crisis.

Indeed, spending more hard-earned taxpayer dollars wasn't popular, and city leaders could have easily rested on the laurels of securing the Veterans Home in Luverne and called it a day.

As usual, hindsight is 20-20, and instead of looking back and wishing we'd done more, we are now looking back feeling grateful for what we did.

In the past two decades, we've seen the development of Veterans Addition, Evergreen and Evergreen Second Addition, Sybesma Subdivision and Manfred Heights Addition offering 239 new vacant lots.

To date, 182 parcels have been developed with new homes and the cumulative estimated market value of those homes totals more than \$53 million.

As the Minnesota Veterans Home observes its 25th anniversary, we as a community can also celebrate good leadership, foresight and the bravery to pursue future gains.

And, as we stand poised for Luverne's next stage of growth, we would do well to look back on the type of leadership that has served us well in the past and continue with progressive, thoughtful approaches to necessary housing development.

Administration must stop sacrificing agriculture

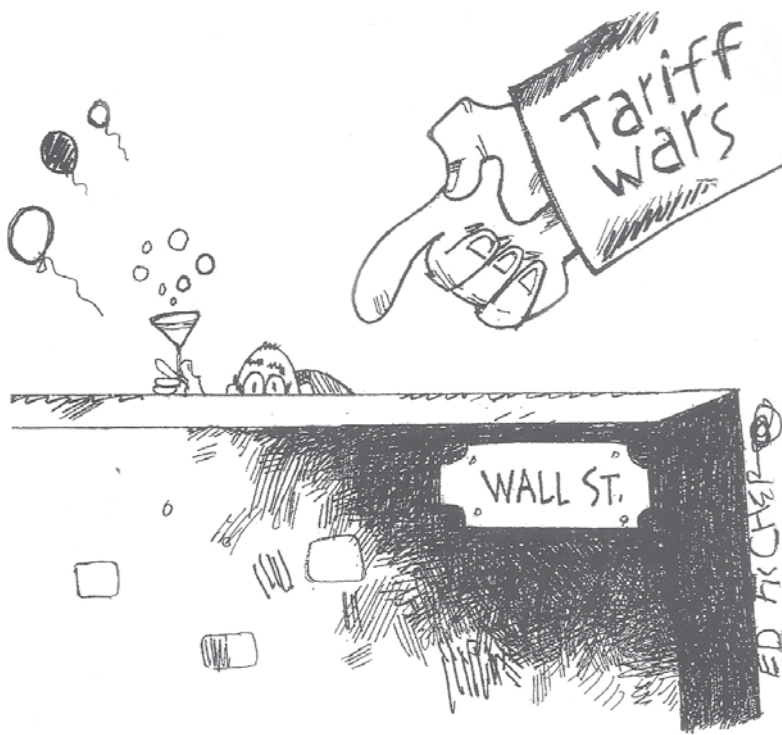
To the Editor:

I appreciated Lori Sorenson's June 13 article on the meeting that Congressman Hagedorn held to discuss agricultural issues. I also attended that meeting June 7.

It was really surprising to hear a "conservative" Republican defend federal payments to farmers as the solution to markets impacted by trade tariffs. Most farmers don't want handouts; they just want their markets back. It's discouraging to have the Administration sacrifice the ag sector of the economy to help "solve" trade issues for high tech companies.

It was also very disappointing to have Congressman Hagedorn discuss "problems" at the southern U.S. border in his attempts to answer questions about health care costs. It's going to be important to continue watching his voting record.

George W. Shurr, Ellsworth



Can a passenger in a moving camper drink in transit? Trooper says 'No'

Question:

Can a person have an alcoholic beverage while operating a boat on a lake?

How about if you are a passenger in the back of a motor home?



Answer: It is against the law for any person to consume alcohol in any vehicle while on a public road. Public highways are any road, paved or not, that are open to the public for vehicular traffic.

The law also applies to open alcohol containers that are accessible to the driver and passengers. To transport open alcohol containers legally, it must be kept in the trunk or an area that is not readily accessible to occupants of the vehicle.

The driver of a motor vehicle can be cited for allowing an open bottle, even if they are not in possession themselves.

The same law applies in a motor home. No person may legally consume alcoholic beverages whether they are the driver or passenger, regardless of where they are in the motor home, while on a public road.

ASK A TROOPER

By Sgt. Troy Christensen, Minnesota State Patrol

All occupants must use good judgement when in a motor vehicle. An open alcohol container is a clue we look for when investigating a possible DWI. An operator of a motor vehicle can be arrested for DWI anywhere within the state of Minnesota if found to be under the influence.

Drinking and driving could have a deadly outcome for you, your passengers and other motorists sharing the road.

The following motorized vehicles are exempt from Minnesota's open container law:

- Off-road vehicles (ATVs) — unless they are being operated on roadways or shoulder of a roadway that is not part of a grant-in-aid trail or trail designated for that vehicle.
- Motorized boats.
- Buses operated by a hired driver.
- A vehicle providing limousine service.

Boat operators are exempt

from this law as they are not being operated on a public road; however, if you are consuming alcohol on the water, the best practice is to have a sober driver because alcohol impairs judgement.

There have been many tragic stories on our lakes and rivers where an impaired boat operator has caused a fatal or serious crash. It is important to note that boat operators can be cited for operating under the influence.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson — Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

Graduation parties show newspapers are still relevant; Thanks for news clippings

By the time most of you read this, I'll be back in town from a three-day golf trip to Breezy Point, courtesy of my son.



He had won the trip on, of all things, a radio station promotion. So I was happy to enjoy a few days of golf, fine eats and an adult beverage or two on a radio station's dime.

Over the past 35 years in the newspaper business, first in Worthington, then Redwood Falls, and now here in Luverne, I always enjoyed a great working relationship with the local radio station.

With the onslaught of social media outlets, the mainstay of community journalism and information and the coverage that both the local newspaper and radio station have provided for decades is often minimized.

I can't tell you how good I felt about my industry this past graduation season as Mary and I attended graduation receptions here and in Adrian.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, General Manager Tollefson Publishing

At every reception there were pictures and highlight of the graduates' years in school. Their diploma was front and center on display, surrounded by pictures.

The pictures in many cases were from the first day of school to their last. There were medals, trophies and certificates of achievement of one sort or another — and in every case on the memory table there were newspaper clippings to document those accomplishments.

No social media post, no tweets of any kind — just good old-fashioned newspaper clippings.

So thanks to the Redwood Falls radio station for the golf trip, and thank you to the parents who still appreciate the role newspapers fill in documenting their children's school years.

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

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

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

June 7
•Complainant on West Hatting Street reported a burglary alarm.
•Complainant on East Barck Avenue reported some sort of audible alarm.
•Complainant on East State Street in Magnolia reported an issue with a former employee.
•Deputies checked on warrant in Hardwick.
•Deputy reported debris on road at South Kniss Avenue and West Hatting Street.
•Complainant reported driving complaint on County Road 4 and County Road 3 near Magnolia.
•Complainant near Kanaranzi reported a tractor and cultivator was broken down and farmer went to get parts.
June 8
•Complainant on North East Park Street and West Bishop reported a suspicious person.
•Complainant on Main Street reported a white male with red hair driving a blue Impala around.
•Complainant reported a motor vehicle accident eastbound on Interstate 90, between mile markers 5 and 6 near Beaver Creek.
•Complainant on South East Park Street reported a tree down.
•Complainant near Luverne reported a cow out.
•Dispatch reported suspicious activity on West Main Street.
•Deputy conducted a curfew check on Adams Street.
June 9
•Deputy out with vehicle on Highway 75 and 151st Street.
•Deputy conducted follow-up on South Kniss Avenue.
•Complainant reported cattle out on Highway 75 and 231st Street near Hardwick.
•Deputy arrested subject on warrant.
•Complainant on Edgehill Street reported a van has been parked for at least a couple of days. Seems suspicious.
June 10
•Deputy reported an abandoned vehicle on County Roads 4 and 6 near Beaver Creek.
•Complainant requested assistance with gas and hotel room voucher.
•Complainant reported to have found three cows on 91st Street and 90th Avenue.
•Complainant reported train blocking location at 41st Street and 50th Avenue near Hills.
•Complainant on Brown Street reported suspicious activity.
•Complainant reported people driving by on a golf cart on Cedar Street.
June 11
•Complainant near Hardwick

reported a bonfire at location.
•Complainant on South Kniss Avenue reported a vehicle parked in lot for more than two days.
•Complainant on South West Park Street reported a civil issue.
•Complainant reported disorderly subject at location on West Warren Street.
•Complainant on North McKenzie Street reported drug activity.
June 12
•Deputies checked on warrant on North Cedar Street.
•Complainant on West Hatting Street conducted a warrant check.
•Deputy completed a follow-up on Kniss Avenue.
•Deputies checked on warrant at West Luverne Street location.
•Complainant near Hardwick reported an order for protection violation.
•An outage was reported at location on Blue Mound Avenue.
•Complainant reported thefts.
June 13
•Accident reported west-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 2 near Beaver Creek.
•Complainant on 70th Avenue reported lambs out.
•Complainant on West Warren Street reported an abandoned vehicle.
•Complainant on West Luverne Street reported a noise complaint.
•Complainant on South Kniss Avenue and West Mead Court reported a needle was found.
•Complainant on North Cedar Street reported a runaway.
•Complainant on North McKenzie Street reported an abandoned bike.
•Deputy on South Kniss Avenue reported an abandoned bike.
•Deputies checked on warrant on Main Street.
•Hills Fire Department reported all trucks out for training in Hills.
•Complainant requested a portable breath test (PBT).
•Deputy conducted a curfew check on East Adams Avenue.
June 14
•Complainant west-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 16.5, requested a deputy pull a deer off the road from a deer accident.
•Complainant on Oak Drive reported a lift assist.
•Complainant on East Barck Avenue requested lift help.

In addition, officers responded to 6 escorts, 14 ambulance runs, 4 paper services, 8 animal complaints, 2 fingerprint requests, 5 burn permits, 2 drug court tests, 4 purchase to carry, 10 traffic stops, 4 abandoned 911 calls and 2 tests.



Lori Sorenson photo/0620 tall grass guitar class

Scott Johnson (left), Dave Ermler and Dan Mahar are working to bring Tall Grass Guitar Class to Luverne.

Tall Grass Guitar Class/continued from page 1

Pat Donohue and Verlon Thompson will offer guitar lessons and jam sessions to class registrants, followed by the Sunday evening, Oct. 20, public benefit concert in the Palace Theatre.
“I’m still kind of pinching myself,” Johnson said about the musicians coming to Luverne. “I’m just astonished.”
He also introduced his friend and colleague, child psychiatrist Dr. Dave Ermler, who is also helping with the October event.
The three men, all from Sioux Falls, have guitar appreciation in common, and both Johnson and Ermler — and Ermler’s daughter — studied guitar under Mahar, who offers lessons in Sioux Falls.
Ermler pointed out the potential economic impact for Luverne. “These big deal artists are coming in, and they’re going to talk to their big-artist friends,” he said. “There are going to be a lot of people in town.”
Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere said Luverne will be ready. “We’re honored they chose Luverne for this, and we look forward to hosting it as a community.”
Mahar said he and Johnson and Ermler have been discussing the potential guitar event for several years and they also considered where to debut it.
“We thought about the Black Hills, Sioux Falls and other places, but Luverne is the perfect place to do this,” he said, referring to facilities available and the attraction of the historic Palace Theatre.

“I chose to live here in the Upper Midwest because of the people — everyone around here is helpful and they’re happy you’re here. ... It became patently clear that this is the place to do this. It’s a gut instinct, but I think this will give the musicians a good experience as well as the students who come to learn from them.”
Ermler said the first year will be an important base for future annual versions of the event.
“The dream is that this will be really big,” he said. “There’s something about coming to a small community and getting away from the rat race of a big city.”
South African filmmaker Etienne Nesser, also Mahar’s friend, will record the three-day event for a professional video that will help promote the next year’s Tall Grass Guitar Class in Luverne.
Planners likened Tall Grass Guitar classes to a baseball fantasy camp in which athletes spend time with professional players during the day and then watch a game at night.
“It’s like a guitar players’ fantasy camp,” Mahar said. “You get to play with them for awhile and then watch a game.”
He said the musical stars are friends of his and they have fans nationwide, some of which have already registered for the limited number of guitar lessons in Luverne.
“There are a lot of people who aspire to perform,” Mahar said. “We want them to have a chance

to learn from the masters.”
The three guitar artists will each offer two-hour classes limited to 20 students per class — up to 60 students total — in the morning and in the afternoon.
Mahar said anyone can register for the sessions, but at \$1,400 per person, the concept will appeal to hard-core fans of the artists and to those dedicated to learning unique approaches to guitar training.
Included in the registration is a Friday night reception, as well as three two-hour guitar sessions with each of the three artists, a Saturday night performance by Mahar, meals and lodging for all three days, observation access to the Sunday afternoon sound checks for the Sunday concert, and admission into the Sunday evening concert.
Sunday’s Oct. 20 performance for the public to benefit SWMHC cost \$30 per ticket, available at the Palace Box Office and online.
Concert proceeds will benefit SWMHC children’s mental health services.
“We look at this event as a way to say ‘thank you’ to Luverne and southwest Minnesota for 60 years of partnership and support,” Johnson said.
“We have great partnerships and support from our county commissioner boards and Family Service agencies, our communities, Avera, Sanford, law enforcement, landlords and other organizations, and this will be a way to call attention to them.”
See swmhc.org and tallgrassguitarclass.com for details.

Southwest Health and Human Services suicide prevention/continued from page 1

than 47,000 in 2017.
Locally suicide is gaining attention as the farming economy continues to falter.
“We’re in kind of a bull’s-eye here,” Johnson said. “The person at highest risk for suicide right now is a middle-aged man, and the highest-risk occupation is farming.”
Johnson said banks and other businesses that work with farmers have been getting involved with helping farm families.
“They’re calling us asking, ‘What can we do? What are you doing for farmers?’ We’re losing people,” Johnson said.
“Our own board members are telling us, ‘Hey, I lost a neighbor last night. What are we doing about this?’ We’re hearing it from all over ... our farmers are in trouble.”
He added that the toll of suicide on family members and communities has a multiplier effect.
“Every one of those stories is sad and tragic and it severely impacts everyone around them. ... They’re twice as likely themselves to commit suicide and have mental health problems of their own in response to the trauma,” Johnson said.
“Studies have shown that for every suicide, up to 100 others are affected, even with serious health impacts. For these folks in a small, tight-knit community, the effect of suicide is heightened even more.”
He said the impact of suicide is even broader than was previously believed.
“If we can prevent one of

these, we’re literally protecting a hundred others,” Johnson said.
“It keeps percolating to the forefront right in our own area. We know we’re in a high-risk area at a very high risk time.”
He said professionals in mental health have learned that early action is paramount in saving lives.
“People have these feelings of hopelessness, and they’re (most vulnerable) in the first 5 to 10 minutes,” Johnson said.
“It’s such an impulsive thing ... and we’ve got to get to people and their families before we get to this point.”
Johnson told the Chamber group gathered at the SWMH Thursday that he and his colleagues are focusing more attention on suicide and part-

nering with Avera and Canvas Health out of the Twin Cities.
Johnson said the need for crisis intervention is driving up mental health costs. The SWMHC is working to raise money for suicide prevention measures.
The organization hosted an event last week in Worthington that raised over \$20,000, and Johnson is working with Sioux Falls singer and songwriter Dan Mahar on an event this fall in Luverne to thank the community for 60 years of partnership and to benefit mental health services. (See the related story)

In addition to providing general outpatient mental health services, (psychiatric, psychological, counseling), SWMHC also staffs a 24-hour mobile crisis response team and crisis hotline at all its office locations.
The SWMHC 24/7 crisis hotline number is 1-800-642-1525 or text MN to 741741. Avera’s Farmer Stress hotline is 1-800-691-4336.
The organization is observing its 60th anniversary with the theme, “Seeds of Hope,” and the helpline numbers are printed on wildflower seed packets, which are being distributed free throughout the community.

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CELEBRATIONS

Birth

A boy, Kohen David, weighing 8 pounds, 10 ounces, and 21 inches long, was born Saturday, June 1, 2019, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to **Clint and Stephanie Roozenboom** of Steen.

He joins a sister, Hadley, 3. Grandparents are Dave and Eunice Roozenboom, Sioux Falls, and Chuck and Norma Van Wyhe, Luverne.

Open houses

An open house baby shower for **Adria Benson** will be from 10 a.m. to noon

Saturday, June 22, at the First Presbyterian Church in Luverne. A book is requested in lieu of a card.

A bridal shower for **April McClure**, bride-to-be of **Mike McFarland**, will be from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, June 22, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Luverne.

Verna Garnmeister will celebrate her 95th birthday with an open house from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, June 23, at St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne.

BISTRO MENU

Monday, June 24: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, bread, pineapple. Program: 1 p.m. Pinochle.

Tuesday, June 25: Barbecued pulled pork with bun, potato salad, cauliflower, fruit crisp. Program: 9 a.m. Board Meeting. Half-Price Day sponsored by Security Savings Bank.

Wednesday, June 26: Tator tot hotdish, corn, fruit salad, bread, pudding. Program: 9 a.m. Bone Builders.

Thursday, June 27: Lemon pepper fish, macaroni and

cheese, peas and carrots, pears.

Friday, June 28: Chicken salad, marinated vegetable salad, fresh fruit, bun, blondeie. Program: 9 a.m. Bone Builders.

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

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

Call Lauree Teunissen at 283-9846 to make dining reservations or for home-delivered meals.

SCHOOL NEWS

U of M Duluth names honor students

The University of Minnesota Duluth has announced the Spring 2019 dean's list. To be eligible, students must achieve a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Named to the dean's list are Samantha Ykema, Jasper, a junior majoring in biology; Mark Robinson, Luverne, a junior majoring in stats and actuarial science; Megan Rogers, Luverne, a sophomore majoring in psychology; and Brandon Winter, Luverne, a junior majoring in civil engineering.

Area students named to MW dean's list

Minnesota West Community and Technical College has named several area students to the Spring 2019 dean's list. Students must earn 12 graded credits with a minimum of a 3.5 GPA to qualify. The following students were named:

Adrian: Christopher Christians, Qingyuan Oiao, Allison Richards, Alexandria Roloff; Beaver Creek: Avery Van Roekel; Hardwick: Dayne Niemeyer; Luverne: Jason Aanenson, Laura Kastner, Carlos Lira Cardona, Ashley Monier, Annabell Petronek; Rushmore: Kirby Brandy.

Luverne grad earns doctorate degree

Matthew Oehlerts, graduated May 11, from Briar Cliff University, Sioux City, Iowa, with a Doctor of Physical Therapy Degree. He is a 2012 graduate of Luverne High School and the son of Gregg and Kris Oehlerts.

Mount Marty awards degrees May 11

Andrea Roberts, Luverne, received a Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice degree at spring commencement at Mount Marty College in Yankton, South Dakota, on Saturday, May 11.

MSU Moorhead lists honor students

Area students were named to the Spring 2019 dean's list at Minnesota State University Moorhead. To qualify, students must earn a 3.25 GPA or higher with 12 graded credits.

Named to the dean's list were H-BC graduates Riley Boese, communications studies, and Grace Holthaus, speech/language/hearing science; and Bryana Thorson, Luverne, theater arts.

Jelken honored at Northwestern

Christopher Jelken, Luverne, has been named to the dean's list for the Spring 2019 semester at Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa. To be named, students must earn a 3.50 GPA or higher with a minimum of 12 graded credits. Jelken, a junior, is majoring in business administration/international business. He is the son of James and Paula Jelken, Luverne.



Lori Sorenson photos/garden tour hobbit house sandy

The hobbit house is a favorite stop at the home of Gerald and Sandy (pictured) Johnson northwest of Beaver Creek on the state line. Their acreage is the featured stop on the 2019 Rock County Garden Tour Tuesday evening, June 25.

Garden tour shares 'magic' of Red Rock Manor, sparks imagination

By Lori Sorenson

People who join the annual Rock County Garden Tour next week are in for a rare private viewing of one couple's pursuit of artistic expression and stretch of imagination.

The Gerald and Sandy Johnson home on the state line northwest of Beaver Creek is an otherwise ordinary acreage that's been transformed into an extraordinary space reflecting their creativity and flair for unique details.

"It's a feast for the senses ... It's sensory overload, actually," said Sandy Johnson, who has led dozens of tours of the acreage in the past decade.

"What you see here you won't find anywhere else."

Her next one will be Tuesday evening, June 25, when a Luverne Community Education bus arrives with curious tour registrants.

Highlights on their 10-acre property include a refurbished barn, manmade pond, solar-lighted fairy garden and a hobbit house, among other notable features.

The retired contractor and elementary teacher didn't set out to be wedding and event planners.



Sandy Johnson said it's hard work to keep up the yardwork on their 10-acre Red Rock Manor, but she enjoys sharing it with others.

"It started with the barn in 2010," Sandy said. "It was falling in disrepair and we didn't want it to fall down."

Gerald dug a pond, and the dirt that wasn't used in the barn restoration was pushed into a berm that

eventually the hobbit house was built into.

Its walls were reinforced with silo staves, which also formed the front patio, and the heavy round wooden door was built with trees that once lined the roadside.

"There's nothing out here that you can find at Menard's, Home Depot or Fleet Farm," Sandy said. "It's all handmade or recycled."

A sign inside the hobbit house offers a hint at the couple's aspirations. "We hope the magic we had tried to create at at Red Rock Manor inspires your imagination and encourages you to act on your dreams and use your gifts to enrich your lives and those of others."

Eventually the barn featured a dance floor, second-story loft and bridal suite. The project was completed at the height of shabby-chic popularity, and they were asked to host wedding dances.

"In eight summers we hosted 33 weddings and 18 other events," Sandy said. "That was too much; we slowed down after that."

They did it for friends and family,

Rock County Garden Tour/page 8

It's fungus season; protect trees, shrubs and flowers

We are into the right temperature and moisture conditions for lots of fungus issues to attack our plants.



KNOW IT AND GROW IT

By George Bonnema, Luverne Horticulturalist

For roses, black spot is a serious disease that shows up first as a black spot on the rose leaf. The leaf then turns yellow and falls off. This fungus normally starts on the lower leaves where the foliage is fuller, thus restricting air movement so the leaves stay wet longer when we have heavy dew, which is about every morning. Left untreated, this disease can defoliate a plant in just a week or two, thereby weakening the plant and certainly making it look unsightly.

Select a fungicide labeled

for black spot and spray the bush now to prevent your roses from becoming infected. Prevention is always much easier than trying to stop the progression of the fungus once it's present. Also, remember that an application of fungicide doesn't make the disease go away; it can only stop the progression by protecting the new foliage.

Flowering crab trees and certain apple varieties are susceptible to a disease called apple scab. This fungus causes spots on the leaves and a sooty

black "scab-looking" blotch on the fruit. Once the foliage is infected, it falls, so unless you spray to prevent it, you can have an ongoing mess of dead leaves on your lawn for most of the summer if you have a variety that is not resistant to scab. Again, use a fungicide labeled for apple scab and get that done before the symptoms appear.

Blight on tomatoes will also become apparent soon if you didn't plant a variety that is resistant. I recommend Daconil to prevent the blights

because it's a broad spectrum fungicide. It is labeled for black spot on roses and scab on crabapples, but not labeled for trees with edible fruit.

Yeah, I know, we hate that chore of the spray thing, but we live where we live and the weather conditions are what gives us all these challenges. That being said, we have soil that gives the potential of the most productive gardens and beautiful flowers of anywhere in the country, so we just deal with the issues and appreciate the results.

So I am attempting to encourage you by giving you the information you need to know to meet the challenges because success is its own reward.

Bonnema is a gardening enthusiast and former greenhouse owner. He can be reached at flowersgb@iw.net.

Luverne High School Class of 1969 gathers for reunion

Members of the Luverne High School Class of 1969 celebrated their 50th reunion Friday, June 7, in Take 16 Brewing Company in Luverne. Pictured are (front, from left) Rick Olson, Laura Bowen Olson, Stan Tofteland, Harold Tilstra, Glenda Bremer, Lorna Siebenahler Bryan, Darlene Heckt Gyberg, Donna Hansen Dibbern, Dennis Stoteran, teacher Keith Erickson, teacher Tom Haugen, (second and third row) Glenn Brower, David Fick, Jim Petty, Linda Maxwell Maras, Debbie Bakalyar Miller, Shirley Buss Anderson, Marian DenBesten Henningson, Carolyn Buss Voog, Bonnie Gangestad Carlson, Nancy Walgrave Friedrich, Sandra Davis Smith, Marilyn Swanson Olson, Nelva Ott Boergerhoff, Sue Deuschle Vedder, Mary Carter-Hintz, Nan Serie Skattum, Tom Skattum, Ric Toft, Janine Jordahl Papik, Allan Dale, Gary Papik, (back) Debi Boelman Ringkob, Dave Leffert, Sandi Jensen Schmidt, Laurelyn Schmidt Gangestad, Keven Jansen, Becky Aanenson Anderson, Mike Foerster, Gordon Mulder and Mike Sedlacek.



Special NRCS program signup announced: Cover crops for fallow fields

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in Minnesota is offering a special Environmental Quality Incentive Program signup for farmers who couldn't plant their crops because of flooded or wet fields.

The deadline to sign up is Friday, July 12. This EQIP signup is an opportunity for farmers to plant a cover crop which they could later cut for hay or graze.

It provides an alternative to letting fields go fallow and uncovered. Landowners should coordinate with other USDA farm agencies when participating in related programs.

The goal of the program is to encourage farmers to plant cover crops to increase water

quality, suppress weeds, and improve soil health on areas not planted to crops.

Cover crops also bring soil vitality by adding nutrients and organic matter. Many fields that are saturated for a long time face a loss of soil organisms.

Cover crop roots reestablish soil health and create pathways for air and water to move through the soil, which is key to restoring it.

To apply for this special EQIP, contact your local NRCS office.

The deadline for signup is Friday, July 12. Applications will be ranked based on environmental benefits.

For more information contact your local NRCS office and see this fact sheet.

Luverne students claim two of eight Boys State positions

By Jason Berghorst

Luverne High School was very well represented at the American Legion Boys State of Minnesota last week at St. John's University in Collegeville.

Gunnar Oldre, sponsored by the Hardwick American Legion, and Jordan Winter, sponsored by the Luverne American Legion, both were elected to statewide offices at the annual event.

Oldre was also selected to be the senior senator from Minnesota at Boys Nation in Washington, D.C., July 19-26.

Each state sends two boys who demonstrate outstanding leadership and involvement during their Boys State experience to the national event.

Boys State is a weeklong program that provides selected high school juniors the opportunity to experience how government works.

This year, 252 boys from around Minnesota attended Boys State.

Of those 252 delegates, eight were selected as statewide officers by the end of the week. Oldre and Winter were two of the eight.

Winter was elected secretary of state and Oldre was elected associate justice of the



Gunnar Oldre (left) and Jordan Winter, were elected to statewide offices at the annual Boys State event last week in Collegeville. The Star Herald will follow up on Oldre's experience at Boys Nation in Washington, D.C.

Minnesota Supreme Court.

The boys first ran for city and county positions earlier in the week. Oldre was elected mayor of his hypothetical city.

Winter and Oldre then had to give speeches and participate in debates and interviews as they ran for their

statewide positions.

"To have two delegates from the same high school elected to statewide office is pretty cool," Oldre said.

Winter echoed his classmate's sentiments. "It was just a great experience and a really fun week," he said.



Eventually the renovated barn featured a dance floor, second-story loft and bridal suite. The project was completed at the height of shabby-chic popularity, and they were asked to host wedding dances. "In eight summers we hosted 33 weddings and 18 other events," Sandy said. "That was too much; we slowed down after that."

(submitted photo)

Rock County Garden Tour/continued from page 6

and frequently former students.

"We never charge," Sandy said, admitting that entertaining is a natural way to show off their hard work and artistic ingenuity.

"It's a way of giving back for all the good fortune we've had. ... and by that I don't mean money; I mean the good things we've enjoyed, like our grandchildren."

And she hopes their generosity and creativity will rub off on their grandchildren.

"That's the legacy we hope to leave them with ... It's better to give than to get," Sandy said. "We truly believe that you get what you give."

Since the first project started nearly a decade ago, the creative additions and personal touches have continued accruing to the point where it takes nearly three hours for Sandy to offer a thorough tour of their property.

"I take it for granted, because I see it every day," Sandy said Monday night.

"But when I see it through the eyes of someone who has never seen it before, I realize we've done something special."

The tour includes a stop at Oak Ridge Nursery in Brandon for "Keeping your Plants Looking Great Through the Heat of the Summer."

Registration is necessary to secure a seat on the bus, which departs from the Luverne Community Education parking lot. Fee is \$10 prepaid by June 20 or \$15 after that. Call 507-283-4724.



Lori Sorenson photos/0620 garden tour johnson

Highlights on the Gerald and Sandy Johnson 10-acre property include a refurbished barn, manmade pond, solar-lighted fairy garden and a hobbit house, among other notable features. The retired contractor and elementary teacher didn't set out to be wedding and event planners. "It started with the barn in 2010," Sandy said. "It was falling in disrepair and we didn't want it to fall down." Gerald dug a pond, and the dirt that wasn't used in the barn restoration was pushed into a berm that eventually the hobbit house was built into.

Pictured above is a firepit room made with recycled and refurbished materials. At right is the interior of the hobbit house showing some of the hand-made details on the walls.



H-BC announces Quarter 4 and Semester 2 Honor Rolls

Semester 2 A Honor Roll

Seniors: Amber Bos, Grace Bundesen, Sidney Fick, Mary-Frances Ladd, Luke LaRock, Garrett Raymon, Josie Scholten, Madison Spath, Bailey Swan, Preston Wilhelmi.

Juniors: Josie Bartels, Whitney Elbers, Larinda Kellenberger, Kailey Rozeboom.

Sophomores: Abby Knobloch, Allison LaRock, Jacob Sheppard, Lauren Tatge, Austin Wilhelmi.

Freshmen: Austin Allen, Taylor Durst, Kenadie Fick, Danette Leenderts, Samantha Moser, Tara Paulsen, Liam Raymon, Tess Van Maanen, Mackenzie Voss.

Eighth grade: Devon Dysthe, Jenifer Martinyuk, Brayden Metzger, Leif Tollefson, Joshua Wiersema.

Seventh grade: Grace Anderson, Peyton Bennett, Sylvia Fick, Taylor Gehrke, Ty Leuthold, Brynn Rauk.

Quarter 4 A Honor Roll

Seniors: Amber Bos, Grace Bundesen, Sidney Fick, Mary-Frances Ladd, Luke LaRock, Garrett Raymon, Josie Scholten, Bailey Swan, Preston Wilhelmi.

Juniors: Josie Bartels, Whitney Elbers, Larinda Kellenberger, Kailey Rozeboom.

Sophomores: Abby Knobloch, Allison LaRock, Lauren Tatge, Austin Wilhelmi.

Freshmen: Austin Allen, Taylor Durst, Kenadie Fick, Danette Leenderts, Samantha Moser, Tara Paulsen, Liam Raymon, Tess Van Maanen, Mackenzie Voss.

Eighth grade: Devon Dysthe, Jenifer Martinyuk, Brayden Metzger, Leif Tollefson, Joshua Wiersema.

Seventh grade: Grace Anderson, Peyton Bennett, Sylvia Fick, Taylor Gehrke, Aiden Kerkhove-Brandt, Ty Leuthold, Brynn Rauk.

Semester 2 B Honor Roll

Seniors: Alexia Boltjes, Ana Hagen, Oana Ela Hagen, Levi Vandenbosch.

Juniors: Joslyn Birger, Easton Harnack, Larissa Kruid, Jo-Hannah Ladd, Jax Wysong.

Sophomores: Annie Bos, Chase Bosch, Thomas Dysthe, Calvin Erickson, Hannah Fick, Ethan Gray, Taryn Rauk, Jacey Vanden Hoek, Gavin Wysong, Zander Wysong.

Freshmen: Troy Durst, LeeAnna Gaugler, Weston Kellenberger, Ethan Kruger, Daniel Martinyuk, Dallas Page, Max Scholten, Aliyah Stoltenberg.

Eighth grade: Tyrae Goodface, Britton McKenzie, Cody Moser, Elisha Taubert.

Seventh grade: Layla Deelstra, Lanae Elbers, Cooper Gehrke, Kyler Hartz, Aiden Kerkhove-Brandt, Tahliya Kruger, Damion Meinerts, Taylor Spykerboer, Larissa Steinhoff, Avril Susie, Olivia Susie.

Quarter 4 B Honor Roll

Seniors: Alexia Boltjes, Ana Hagen, Oana Ela Hagen, Tyler Jess, Madison Spath, Levi VandenBosch.

Juniors: Joslyn Birger, Easton Harnack, Larissa Kruid, Jo-Hannah Ladd, Jax Wysong.

Sophomores: Annie Bos, Chase Bosch, Thomas Dysthe, Calvin Erickson, Hannah Fick, Ethan Gray, Emilee Kodet, Taryn Rauk, Jacob Sheppard, Jacey Vanden Hoek, Gavin Wysong, Zander Wysong.

Freshmen: Troy Durst, LeeAnna Gaugler, Weston Kellenberger, Ethan Kruger, Drew Leenderts, Daniel Martinyuk, Dallas Page, Max Scholten, Aliyah Stoltenberg.

Eighth grade: Tyrae Goodface, Britton McKenzie, Cody Moser, Elisha Taubert, Sophia VanSurksum.

Seventh grade: Lanae Elbers, Cooper Gehrke, Tahliya Kruger, Damion Meinerts, Taylor Spykerboer, Larissa Steinhoff, Avril Susie, Olivia Susie.

Community Education offers summer activities

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

"Crit Happens" at Coffey Contemporary Arts is for all practicing artists, ages 17 and older, to bring a completed work to be critiqued at the professional level with the large group. **Free of charge, but requires registration**--call 283-4724. Meet at 7 p.m. on July 12, July 26, Aug. 9, Aug. 23.

Take your skills further **at Google 102 on June 20** when you learn tips and tricks for getting more out of your google account. Fee is \$5. Supported in part by Blandin Broadband Community grant.

Reclaimed Wood Art participants (grades 2 and older as attended during 18-19 school year), bring a short verse on **June 20** to use on your wood to create a unique piece for home. Fee is \$18.

Join the Rock County Master Gardeners on their annual **Garden Tour on June 25**. Fee is \$10 prepaid by June 19 or \$15 after that.

Tick Tack Toe participants (grades 2 and older as attended during 18-19 school year) will make their own game and then have fun playing the game with Poplar Creek residents on **June 25 & 27**. Fee is \$25.

Upcoming chartered bus trips include:
*Minnesota Twins Trip is July 21. Fee is \$92.
*Guys and Dolls Guthrie Theatre on Aug. 24. Fee is \$113.

Trap championship sees three perfect Luverne scores/continued from 9

Luverne finished 23rd out of 27 teams who competed Saturday. The team ended with a 443.

Badger-Greenbush-Middle River High School had the day's highest team score of 488.

Luverne Box Score					
Varsity	R1	R2	R3	R4	T
Dammann	20	21	21	25	87
Dohlmann	22	22	19	19	82
Gangestad	19	24	19	20	82
Knips	24	23	18	24	89
Loosbrock	18	21	16	23	78
H.Overgaard	19	20	19	17	75
Schomacker	21	25	24	20	90
Watts-Boll	23	20	23	22	88
Wenzel	21	23	23	22	89
Wynia	20	22	21	22	85

Jr. Varsity	R1	R2	R3	R4	T
Arends	21	20	20	25	86
A.Henning	20	23	20	21	84
J.Henning	21	23	19	18	81
Kopp	20	22	18	21	81
C.Overgaard	19	17	17	15	68

Novice	R1	R2	R3	R4	T
Wieneke	19	18	16	15	68

Hills-Beaver Creek competes for first time

The H-BC trap shooting team had two of its 30 members participate at the Trap Shooting Championships.

This is the team's second year in high school competition and its first year at the championship.

Brandon Taubert, a sophomore, shot a 64 out of 100 (tied for 353rd) in the varsity class.

Freshman Journey Dwire completed a 64 (tied for 38th) in the junior varsity female shooter class.

H-BC did not have enough members to participate in the team competition.

HBC Box Score	R1	R2	R3	R4	T
Taubert	14	17	21	19	71
Dwire	19	13	19	13	64

Perfect scores during regular season

The high school trap-shooting practice began in late March.

The five-week regular season began in late April and extended through the week of May 19.

As a virtual league, each high school team competes at their local gun clubs, instead of traveling to an opponent's



Submitted photo

Sixteen members of the Luverne High School trap shooting team competed in the 2019 Trap Shooting Championship Saturday in Alexandria. Pictured (from left) are coach Joe Loosbrock, Grant Wieneke, Mitchell Schomacker, Trygve Gangestad, Jaden Knips, Jacob Henning, Cooper Arends, Mason Wenzel, Holden Overgaard, Chase Overgaard, Marshal Dammann, Austin Watts-Boll, Carter Loosbrock, Justin Dohlmann, Leah Wynia, Camron Kopp, Austin Henning and coach Scott Loosbrock.

course.

Scores from each week of competition are entered online. Each shooter competes in two 25-shot rounds each week.

Online scores reflect overall standings, perfect 25/50 rounds and top 25 shooters statewide.

No local students reached the top 100 by the end of the 2019 season.

The best season average for trap shooting ranged from 23.70 to 24.9, according to the scoring website.

Luverne junior Colton Schutz recorded a perfect 50-straight during week 5 and three 25-strights in other weeks.

"With that he had a 50-straight and a 75-straight," said Coach Loosbrock. "Colton was the first one in Luverne to



Mavis Fodness photo/0620 Trap Shoot Practice 2019

Leah Wynia (right) takes aim during last week's practice at the Rock County Sportsman's Club.

shoot a 50 and a 75."

Schutz missed participation in the Trap Shooting Championship because he

enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard and is attending basic training.

Freshman Hunter Ahrendt

and junior Jaden Knips recorded 25-strights in week 4 and week 2 respectively.

Redbirds continued from page 9

game by scoring three runs in the top of the first. Two of the runs were courtesy of a double by Ben Serie.

Luverne scored once more in each of the second and third innings.

Gaige Nath and Logan Norman each scored two runs for Luverne.

Connor Crabtree pitched 3 2/3 innings for the Redbirds. Andrew DeBoer pitched the rest of the game.

Box score	AB	R	H	BI
Nath	3	2	1	0
Reisdorfer	5	0	0	0
Beers	5	1	1	1
Wenninger	4	0	1	0
Norman	4	2	1	0
Serie	4	0	1	2
Crabtree	2	0	1	0
Loosbrock	4	0	0	0
Lundgren	4	0	1	1

Golf continued from page 9

"The kids played well from tee to green," Williamson said. "We struggled with putting, though."

Brock Henning represented the Dragons in the boys' state tournament.

The eighth-grader carded a 90 in round one and a 92 on the second day.

His 182-stroke total placed 54th overall in Class A boys' competition.

Reid Brett of Willmar Community Christian was the boys' medalist with a 145-stroke total.

Williamson said Adrian's four individuals was the most golfers the program has sent to state and the seventh year in a row that Adrian golfers have qualified for the meet.

"We've done pretty well," he said.

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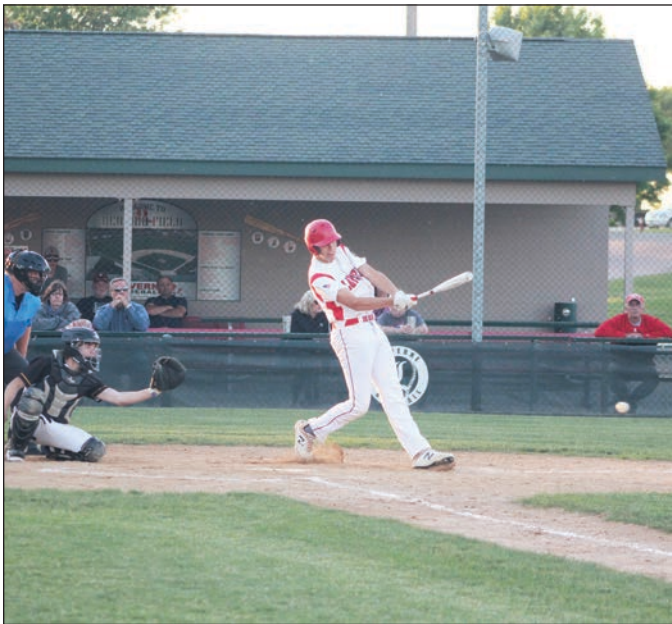
Lori Sorenson photo/0620 Legion
Quinn Buss pitched two innings in Luverne Legion's 10-2 victory over Adrian.

Luverne Legion baseball opens season with win over Adrian

Host annual tournament this weekend

By Jason Berghorst
The Luverne American Legion baseball team opened its season Thursday, June 13, at Redbird Field in Luverne. The start of the season was delayed because of the high school team's playoff run. The hosts started out on a winning note with a 10-2 victory over Adrian. Luverne played in Tracy on Tuesday (June 18) and will host their annual home tournament this weekend at Redbird Field.

Luverne 10, Adrian 2
Luverne took a 2-0 lead in the first inning against Adrian and didn't look back en route to a 10-2 victory. The hosts increased their lead by scoring three runs in the third inning and four more in the fourth inning before scoring their final run in the sixth. Ben Serie hit a bases-clearing double that scored three of those runs in the fourth inning. Jake Haugen had two hits



Lori Sorenson photo/0620 Legion
Luverne's Isaiah Bartels makes contact with the ball during the Legion team's debut at Redbird Field June 13.

and two RBIs for Luverne while Serie and Gaige Nath scored three runs each. Jacob Van Dam started the game on the mound for Luverne, pitching four innings and giving up the two runs. Quinn Buss pitched the next two innings and Cade Wenninger was on, the mound for

the final inning of the game.

Box score	AB	R	H	BI
Nath	1	3	1	0
Serie	1	3	1	3
Beers	3	2	0	0
Bartels	3	0	0	0
Haugen	3	0	2	2
Lundgren	2	0	0	0
Reisch	2	0	0	0
Sterrett	2	1	0	0
Beyer	2	1	0	0

Junior Legion team suffers 7-6 loss in Worthington during quiet week

By Jason Berghorst
After playing seven games in one week, the Luverne Junior Legion baseball team had a much quieter week. Luverne played just one game, losing 7-6 in Worthington Monday night. The team is now 6-3 on the season and plays in Sioux Falls

tonight (Thursday). Luverne is scheduled to host Marshall Orange Monday. **Worthington 7, Luverne 6** Luverne lost a close contest in Worthington Monday. The Junior Legion team lost 7-6. Down 6-2 at the top of the

sixth inning, Luverne made a game of it. The visitors took six consecutive walks and scored four runs in the sixth to tie the game. Worthington answered with a run in the bottom of the seventh to retake the lead, and that was all the hosts would need to secure the victory.

Six earn all-conference honors

LHS leads league in post-season baseball selections



Haugen



Lundgren



Nath



Serie



Crabtree



Bartels

By Jason Berghorst
The Luverne High School baseball team won the Big South Conference Small Schools division this spring. With that success came a host of post-season honors for the Cardinals. Six Luverne players were named to the Big South All-Conference Baseball team, the most of any team in the 13-school league. Seniors Jake Haugen, Ben

Serie, Derek Lundgren and Gaige Nath and juniors Colby Crabtree and Isaiah Bartels all graced the list. Lundgren was also named to the All-Conference team last year as a junior. Other members of the 2019 Small School Division All-Conference team include Josh Tinklenberg, Reid Homann, Isaiah Byrnes, Matt Enger and

Carson Wipf from Pipestone. Windom was represented by Kobe Lovell, Conner Redman and Alex Borsgard on the All-Conference team. Cole Woodford and Bryant Haas of Redwood Valley were also named to the list. St. James' Jacob Brey and Zach Neal of Jackson County Central Conference round out the All-Big South baseball team for the small school division.

Cardinal softball players named to Big South All-Conference Teams

By Jason Berghorst
Luverne placed four athletes on the Big South Conference Softball Small School Division All-Conference Team. The Cardinals had their most successful season in program history, finishing 19-6 overall, and were Big South Conference and Section 3AA runners-up. The all-conference team includes seventeen athletes from BSC schools. Luverne seniors Rylee Olson and Halle Hough, junior Sydne Johnson and freshman Billi Connell all made the all-conference list. Senior Courtney Nath was also honored with an all-conference honorable mention by the Big South Conference.



Olson



Hough



Connell



Johnson

The Pipestone Arrows, who won the small division conference and Section 3AA titles, also had four athletes on the BSC Small Division All-Conference team. The Arrows' Mandi Miller, Paige Ahrendt, Kaitlyn Draper and Mara Taubert graced the list. Jackson County Central was represented by Blaney

Johnson, Keylee Rossow and Abigail Turner on the all-conference team. The team also includes St. James' athletes Renata Hernandez, Torri Mohwinkel and Addie Bowers. Ellie Maricle and Kaitlee Huska of Windom and Redwood Valley's AJ Guggisberg round out the small division all-conference team.

Luverne athletes receive recognition on All-Big South Conference tennis list

By Jason Berghorst
Three Luverne Cardinal tennis athletes were recognized with post-season honors. Juniors Cole Stoltenberg and Matt Sehr were named to the Big South Conference West Division All-Conference tennis team. Junior Jordan Winter received an Honorable Mention to the same team. Stoltenberg and Sehr were doubles partners who also earned the opportunity to compete at the state boys' tennis individual tournament June 6 in Minneapolis. As a team, Luverne captured



Stoltenberg



Sehr

its tenth consecutive Section 3A championship and competed at the state team tournament June 4. In regular-season conference play, Luverne finished third in the BSC West Division

behind St. James Area and Worthington. As conference champs, St. James Area led the league with four players on the All-Conference team. The Saints' listed include Lucas Doll, Benji Foss, Sawyer Evans and Josue Solorzano. Three Worthington players made the all-conference list. Trojans honored were Blaine Doeden, Sullivan Merrigan and Kipton Jenson. Redwood Valley's Rikard Wilkens and Pipestone's Jackson Winter complete the BSC All-Conference West Division team.



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**SOFTBALL**

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Section 3AA Runners-up

**BASEBALL**

21-4 season record
Section 3AA Runners-up



(Front from left) Griffin Jarchow, Blake Frahm, Kyle Ferguson, Chance Tunnisen, (middle) Elliot Stoltzenberg, Colin Schoeneman, Pierce Cunningham, Seth Bose, (back) Coach Greg Antoine, Graham Cunningham, Cole Stoltzenberg, Matthew Sehr, Jordan Winter, Matthew Jelken, Carson Ehde



(Front from left) Jake Von Tersch, Gaige Nath, Quinn Buss, Mark Sterrett, Jaden Knips, (middle) Colby Crabtree, Derek Lundgren, Charlie Reisch, Ben Serie, Jade Smith, Noah Herman, (back) Coach Phil Paquette, Coach Jon Schomacker, Jake Haugen, Isaiah Bartels, Nathan Nekali, Coach Mike Wenninger, Coach Connor Hoffman



(Front from left) Jordyn Cleveland, Anna Boltjes, Reghan Bork, Jacey Smith, Averill Sehr, Sadie Reisdorfer, Maddie Schmuck, (second row) Kaitlyn Huiskes, Leah Wynia, Brynn Thier, Macie Swenson, Carly Olson, Brenn Siebenhaller, Olivia Huisman, (third row) Alyssa Campbell, Ainslie Robinson, Kendall Buss, Shelby Kracht, Chandra Javner, Halle Hough, (back) Coach Brooks Mauer, Courtney Nath, Billi Connell, Rylee Olson, Roz Oye, Sydne Johnson, Nicole Aanenson, Coach Caylee Tennis



(Front from left) Mallory Thorson, Brooke Ver Steeg, Autumn Nath, Regan Feit, Ivy Hudson, (middle) Jed Dooyema, Jadynd Anderson, Tenley Nelson, Tiana Lais, Gracie Zewiske, Dalton DeSollar, Jordy Thone, (back) Nick Kiers, Gabrielle Ferrell, Mallory Oye, Sydney Biever, Ashton Sandbulte, Jonah Friedrichsen, Austin Winter, Brayden Totteland



(Front from left) Josie Golla, Giulia Cilleni, Anna Huisman, (middle) Elise Ferrell, Cheyenne Schutz, Morgan Gonnerman, Paige Sandbulte, (back) Jocie Mann, Deziree Nath, Lauren Hansen, Mallory Nelson, Morgan Ahrendt, Abby Anderson and McCall Stegenga



(Front from left) Henry Hartquist, Carter Stemper, Chase Overgaard, (middle) Cooper Arends, Carter Loosbrock, Colton Schutz, Jacob Hansen, (back) Isaac Eidem, Gunnar Oldre, Russell Aanenson, Nathan Overgaard, Jackson Golla and Brody DeBates

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