

Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Year 2018 ends on a white note

By Lori Sorenson

Rock County didn't enjoy a white Christmas, but it did end up with several inches of snow later in the week from a major storm system that included rain, slush, snow and blustery wind.

It was first forecast to hit just after Christmas Day, just as holiday travelers hit the road.

But light snow showers presented only minor travel concerns, and rain continued through the night Wednesday as temperatures remained above the freezing point.

It wasn't until Thursday afternoon that the promised white Christmas arrived in Rock County, albeit two days late.

Falling temperatures turned raindrops into sleet and then snow, eventually producing pancake-sized flakes that produced 4 to 5 inches of accumulation on the ground.

Rock County's neighbors to the north and east weren't so fortunate after the storm tracked northward dropping nearly eight inches in some parts of southwest and west central Minnesota before heading east across the state.

By the time it was over, nearly 5 inches of snow had accumulated, and a strong north wind made for reduced driving visibility Thursday night into Friday morning.

Temperatures dropped dramatically into the single digits, creating a drastic shift from moderate 30s earlier in the week.



Pancake-sized flakes Thursday afternoon produced 4 to 5 inches of accumulation on the ground. Below left, John Hert scrapes ice and snow from his windshield Thursday evening when strong north winds produced blizzard conditions.

Star Herald photos by Lori Sorenson



Rock County farmers hang on for better days

By Lori Sorenson

The 2019 farm financial outlook is even bleaker than it was going into 2018, and local ag lenders are seeing some Rock County farmers at the breaking point.

"A few of our farmers are feeling extreme financial hardship," said Minnwest Bank President Isaac DeBoer.

"We're seeing a percentage of producers who are exiting farming operations or will be exiting in the coming year or two."

He said they're leaving either through retirement, sale (by choice so they don't further erode equity) or through bankruptcy.

"This has been occurring already in the past year or so," DeBoer said. "I would guess that the percentage of local producers that will exit is less than 10 percent."

In addition to several years in a row of low commodity prices, health insurance costs are pinching farm budgets and an ill-timed global tariff war has contributed to negative — or at best, break-even results.

"We're not at crisis level yet, but we've reached a point where we've been burning through liquidity and burning through equity at varying degrees," DeBoer said.

"We can keep that up for only so long."

He said a large segment of local producers — about 30 to 40 percent — are at this point.

"They may need to restructure debt or liquidate some non-essential, non-income-producing assets," DeBoer said.

He said a combination of factors is contributing to a dismal farm economy.

"For 2019 the net income situation is looking worse than it was a year ago, as key inputs such as fertilizer are up over 20 percent, while at the same time prices for corn and soybeans are down 10 percent or more from a year ago at this time," DeBoer said.

"Every producer is feeling the strain of low — or no — profit margins. Our dairy producers are especially hard hit. Nothing is looking profitable for 2019 at this time."

The good news locally, DeBoer said, is that many Rock County farmers are well-positioned to weather the current rough conditions.

"About 50 to 60 percent are doing just fine," he said. "They've made decisions when times were good that are helping them now."

He said many operators who have been in business long enough have learned to save, reduce debt load, and keep a watchful eye on their ef-

State of farm finances/see page 2

Gravel tax generates additional dollars for county in 2018

By Mavis Fodness

Eight gravel pit operators paid a combined \$138,995 in aggregate taxes to Rock County over the past year.

The amount is \$30,550 more than 2017, in which \$108,455 was collected.

The collected taxes are split four ways.

The county road and bridge fund received \$56,119 for 2018, special

reserve fund \$19,806, townships \$56,119, and administrative fees \$6,949.

Six townships split the amount collected in the township fund based on where the aggregate originated.

Vienna Township received the highest amount (\$16,599), followed by the townships of Mound (\$15,156), Battle Plain (\$13,196),

Denver (\$6,848), Luverne (\$3,060) and Clinton (\$1,257).

The remaining townships of Beaver Creek, Kanaranzi, Magnolia, Martin, Rose Dell and Springwater each received \$500 from the administrative fund to offset the gravel tax expenditure.

This is the second year the state-mandated aggregate tax was

increased from 7 cents to 15 cents per ton of removed material in the county.

From 2003 to 2016, Rock County had an exemption to charge half the state amount or 7 cents per ton.

The exemption was granted because no neighboring counties opted to charge an aggregate tax.

Pipestone County adopted an aggregate tax in 2016 to begin in 2017.

Russian nutcracker joins Luverne collection — now third-largest in world

By Lori Sorenson

A new nutcracker has joined the ranks among thousands of others in the Rock County History Center in Luverne.

The wooden, handcrafted, hand-painted Russian nutcracker arrived in the mail several weeks ago from a woman in Massachusetts.

It was sent from a UPS store in Saugus and included a postcard featuring the "Famous Boston Subway System."

A handwritten X marks the location on the subway map of a gift store where the nutcracker had been purchased.

"I know people here don't care much about the nutcrackers, but they don't realize that people who aren't from here really do appreciate them."

— Betty Mann, Historical Society

"When I saw it I just had to get it for you," said the sender, who signed only her first name,

Russian nutcracker/page 10



A Massachusetts nutcracker fan donated this Russian piece to the History Center collection in Luverne.

Magnolia councilman dies, DeGroot appointed to seat

By Mavis Fodness

Magnolia residents lost a city leader Christmas Day when councilman Gary Lee died of cancer.

He was 62 years old.

For 12 of those years, Lee served on the Magnolia City Council, according to city clerk Glenda Schomacker.

Lee was recently re-elected in November to a fourth term.

In his candidate profile published in the Oct. 25 Star Herald, Lee indicated he had lived in Magnolia for more than 40 years.

He wrote his reason for continuing his public service was "to see to



Gary Lee

the needs of the city and keep the city presentable. (I've) been on the council for a few terms and I know how it works."

Lee's concern for the Magnolia community and its residents was noticed by those he worked with.

"He was quiet," Schomacker said. "But when he said something, he was serious. He was a good businessman ... from his years at the elevator."

Lee was employed with CHS Inc., a 43-year career he began with the

Gary Lee/continued on page 10



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Luverne Senior Citizens organization will meet at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, at the Luverne Senior Citizens Building. All are welcome to attend.

Blue Mound Quilters will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, at the Luverne Library. Call Dianne at 507-530-3307.

Vienna Township Board will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, at the Kenneth Community Center.

Lady Luverne Red Hats will meet at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 11, at Luverne Senior Dining for "Bring a Friend Day." RSVP by Jan. 7 for yourself and a friend to Connie at 283-8470 or Senior Dining at 283-9846. George Bonnema will present a program about future plans for the Senior Center.

Stateline Cemetery Association will have its annual meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14, at the Rock Rapids Pizza Ranch.

MS Support Group will meet at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, at the Luverne Pizza Ranch. All persons with MS, family and friends are invited. Call 283-2069 with questions.

Narcotics Anonymous meets at a new time: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays in the basement of St. Catherine Catholic Rectory, 203 E. Brown St., Luverne. Use east door. Call 507-220-0137 with questions.

Hardwick Goal Seekers meet every Monday in Hardwick City Hall for the purpose of support and encouragement for weight loss journeys. Weigh-in begins at 6 p.m., and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Call Glenda, 449-0568, 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.

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

Bank Nite movie 'Small Foot' Jan. 3

The free Bank Nite movie, "Small Foot," rated PG, will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3, at the Palace Theatre in Luverne. Sponsored by First Farmers & Merchants National Bank and Papik Motors, a free, family-friendly movie is shown on the first Thursday of every month as it was done for "Bank Nite" in the 1930s. A cash prize drawing will follow the movie. Must be present to win.

Candlelight Hike State Park Jan. 12

The Blue Mounds State will host a Candlelight Hike from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, starting at the north picnic area. Enjoy the crisp night air along a 2-mile candlelight trail for all ages and abilities. The event includes a bonfire, hot beverages and refreshments. Call 507-283-6051.

Grades 5-6 basketball tournament

Luverne Community Education will host an invitational basketball tournament on Saturday, Jan. 26, for grades 5-6 boys' and girls' basketball teams. Register your team at www.isd2184.net (select Community Ed under "schools") or call 507-283-4724. Cost is \$125 per team payable with registration.

Community Ed

Contact Luverne Community Education at C.Arends@isd2184.net or 507-283-4724.

Cabin Fever Reliever on Jan. 3 gives children birth to 5 years and a parent a change of scenery to enjoy free activities at 9 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) classes for children birth to age 5 and their parents begin a 17-week session Jan. 8.

Indoor Playtime on Jan. 14 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Catherine gym gives children birth to 5 years and a parent a large space to run off some energy with free activities.

Mike Frisch School of Fish will teach anglers grades 3 and older about ice fishing on Feb. 2. For \$30 each child leaves ready to fish with a new rod and reel with tackle. Each child can invite one adult at no extra cost.

Participants 7-12 years old will learn to play off instruments at a 16-week **Melodious Mallet Class** that begins Jan. 15. Fee is \$40.

A six-session **Yoga** class begins on Jan. 21. Fee is \$48.

Track Those Creatures on Jan. 24 is for children ages 5 through grade 3 who want to learn how to identify animal tracks around their yards. Fee is \$5.

Snowballs and Snowmen Kids in the Kitchen class for students grades K-6 will be Jan. 28. Fee is \$18.

Pottery Wheel Throwing, a basic intro class, will be four Mondays beginning Feb. 4. Fee is \$40, plus a \$10 material fee.



Mavis Fodness photo/0103 Meals On Wheels Delivery

Thursday's meal delivery continues through rain, sleet and snow

Rock County Commissioners volunteered their time Thursday, Dec. 27, to the Meals on Wheels program, delivering 37 meals in Luverne.

All five commissioners participated in the noon delivery including Stan Williamson (pictured above), who carried an insulated cooler to the Centennial Apartments on North Spring Street during one of two meal routes with Sherri Thompson and Jody Reisch. Gary Overgaard (left) and Greg Burger load meals into a pickup for delivery to homes throughout Luverne.



State of farm finances in Rock County/continued from page 1

"We're not at crisis level yet, but we've reached a point where we've been burning through liquidity and burning through equity at varying degrees. We can keep that up for only so long."

— Isaac DeBoer, Minnwest Bank President

iciency during good times in order to brace for hard times of little to no profitability, so they can stay in business for the next profitable cycle.

"The above-average producers are proactive and not reactive to market conditions and overall levels of profitability, understanding the overall cycles in production agriculture and in the specific commodity (corn, soybeans, cattle, hogs, wheat, dairy, etc.) that they raise," DeBoer said.

The hard times can be difficult for all producers no matter how prepared they may be, and many independent farmers may find it difficult to seek help, according to financial and mental health professionals.

According to the University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, help is available for farmers in distress; they just have to know when — and whom — to call.

Services such as farmer-lender mediation, mental health hotlines and teams, and farm financial counseling are free and strictly confidential, but for most farmers, asking for help is the hardest part,

according to Bev Durgan, Extension dean.

"We know that sometimes the help available in programs through Extension and MDA can make a difference for farmers, both in their operations and their well-being," Durgan said.

Available resources include

•Minnesota Farm and Rural Helpline, 833-600-2570, ext.1 is free, confidential and available 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Calls are answered by trained staff and volunteers in Minnesota. Call if you or someone you know is struggling with stress, anxiety, depression or suicidal thoughts. Sometimes it's easier to talk to somebody you don't know.

•Minnesota Farm Advocates has been supported by the MDA since 1984. There is no charge or fee. Farm Advocates share their expertise and help farmers understand lender policies, bankruptcy laws, mediation, tax laws, USDA's Farm Service Agency's loan programs, Farm Credit Services and all other government programs affecting agriculture.

Farm Advocates have a network of attorneys, accountants, human service professionals, educators and other sources of information and services.

•Farmers can find information and referrals for mental health counseling, financial counseling, mediation, and many others at www.minnesotafarmstress.com.

[minnesotafarmstress.com](http://www.minnesotafarmstress.com).

•Extension offers free, confidential one-to-one counseling for farmers experiencing financial stress. To set up a confidential appointment with an experienced Extension farm financial analyst, call the Farm Information Line at 1-800-232-9077.

•Extension's farm finance website has many tools for managing a farm business, including negotiating rent, farm transition planning, crop budget tools and machinery cost estimates.

•Farmer-Lender Mediation (FLM) is an Extension program that provides trained, neutral mediators work to find solutions to financial issues between farmers and their lenders. The mediation is confidential. More details on FLM are available by calling 218-935-5785.

"We recognize that farmers are under all kinds of pressure right now," said Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson.

"That's why we want to make sure farmers — and farm family members — know where they can get help when they need it."

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 steve.dis@midconetwork.com

• Land Surveying

County levy to increase 4.25 percent — not 6 percent as originally proposed

By Mavis Fodness

Rock County's levy will increase by only 4.25 percent — not 6 percent as originally proposed for taxes payable in 2019.

At their Dec. 27 meeting, Rock County Commissioners unanimously agreed to set the levy at \$5,872,592, which comprises 47.7 percent of the county's proposed \$12.293 million budget.

Commissioners were able to certify the levy at a lower amount after trimming nearly \$100,000 from county reserves and from the road and bridge fund.

Commissioner Stan Williamson recommended reducing the preliminary levy, due to the tight agricultural economy.

Properties classified in Rock County as agricultural comprise more than 82 percent of the taxable property in the county.

"It's been on the back of my mind since we started the budget process," Williamson said after the meeting.

"I am a strong believer in reserves and hated to see taking funds away from Mark (County Engineer Sehr) because we need good roads. It's tough to maintain good roads if we don't raise the levy a little bit."

Commissioners reduced the original \$127,572 reserve budget to \$79,000 and the road and bridge fund was reduced \$50,000 to \$950,000.

The budget cuts were tempered by the fact that the county still has eight months worth of reserves to operate, and the road and bridge fund will be padded by gravel tax revenues of roughly \$56,000.

The 4.25-percent levy increase helps to cover a 3-percent salary and step increases in 2019. The county employs 82 full- and part-time employees.

In other business, commissioners approved:

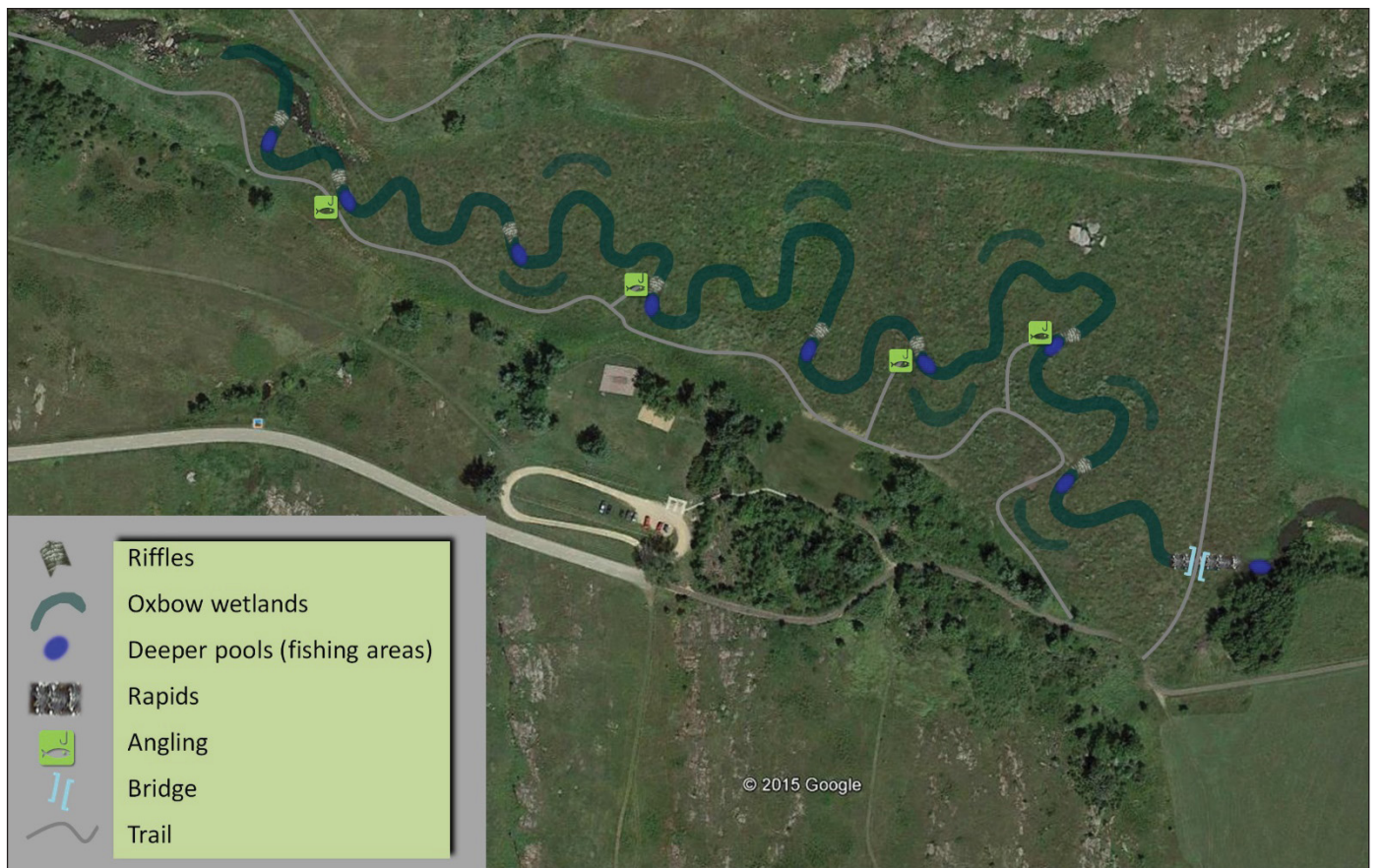
- a 3-percent increase in commissioner salaries to \$10,035. Per diem rate for meetings stayed the same at \$100 per day, which was increased in January 2018.

- a one-year, 5-percent salary increase for Sheriff Evan Verbrugge to \$92,342.

- a two-year wage increase of 2 and 2.5 percent for Land Records Director Tom Houselog to \$102,824 and \$104,881 respectively for 2019 and 2020. Houselog will also receive compensation for 100 hours of accrued vacation.

Houselog exceeded the 192-hour vacation limit as a result of staff shortages and employee training within the Land Records Office.

- approved a resolution for Rock County Engineer Mark Sehr to advance \$959,166 from the 2020 County State Aid Highway Fund for county projects slated for completion in 2019.



The scope of the work includes channel design, removal of the dam and spillway, an accessible trail to the creek, and a pedestrian bridge across the former spillway. Below is Mound Creek facing west toward the park.

Major projects transform the Blue Mounds

Mound Creek restoration started; drinking water is connected

By Lori Sorenson

The Blue Mounds State Park has been a busy place over the past year with two major projects underway.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources officials have approved construction work on the restoration of Mound Creek.

Meanwhile, drinking water will soon be available now that Rural Water connections are almost complete.

Mound Creek restoration:

The final design phase of the Mound Creek restoration project has begun.

The Minnesota DNR has hired Barr Engineering of Minneapolis to design the stream restoration project. Engineering crews have visited the park to evaluate the site and gather information that will guide the final plans.

The scope of the work includes channel design, removal of the dam and spillway, an accessible trail to the creek, and a pedestrian bridge across the former spillway.

The project was prompted by 2014 flooding that blew out the dam and drained the lake.

Rather than rebuild the dam to es-



tablish another man-made lake, state officials opted instead to restore the water area to its natural state.

Plans call for a creek to meander through native grasses that will provide new water recreation opportunities in the park as well as improved fish and wildlife habitat.

Construction workers have started the dam removal process, which will preserve some of the Sioux quartzite pieces for use in the new project.

Work will continue through 2019.

Potable water access

The Minnesota DNR and Rock County Rural Water have been working to connect clean water to the park.

Work began this spring, but the fall completion date was missed due to wet weather and easement issues.

The goal for the water project completion was Fall 2018, but tap water won't be accessible in the park until after the start of the new year.

Work will start soon to upgrade existing pipes within the park.



Heavy equipment lines up at the construction site of the Mounds Creek restoration during Christmas break. Lori Sorenson photos/0103 blue mounds state park creek restoration project

Gary Lee/continued from page 1

Magnolia-Kanaranzi Farmers Co-Op Elevator in 1975.

"Gary had a love for the grain industry that went with an understanding of the customers he dealt with," said co-worker Brad Skattum.

"He was a big man with a big heart."

Lee became assistant general manager at the co-op in 1980 and by 1994 he was named general manager.

During the merger with SWMN Farmers Co-Op a year later, Lee was the assistant general manager.

SWMN Farmers Co-Op merged with CHS in 2008.

At the time of his death, Lee was CHS area grain and feed group manager, headquartered in Luverne. He began that role in 2010.

Matt Mostad with the CHS finance staff respected Lee for his longtime service.

"This history gave Gary not only a great handle on the

grain business but also a calm perspective in turbulent times," he said.

Lee submitted his resignation from the Magnolia City Council in November, effective on Dec. 31.

At their Dec. 10 meeting, the council appointed Jeff DeGroot to fill Lee's term for the next two years. Lee's seat will be open for the next general election in 2020.

DeGroot was one of four people vying for the two open council seats on the November 2018 general election ballot.

Lee earned 37 votes for re-election to one of the seats. Incumbent Melanie Madison and DeGroot tied with 24 votes apiece. The tie was broken through a card draw when Madison drew the higher card.

Lee supported offering DeGroot his seat on the council, city clerk Schomacker said.

Lee's obituary appears on page 7.

ENTERTAINMENT & DINING

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, Jan. 6
9am - 1pm

Adults \$7.00 10 & Under \$3.00

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WINTER SENIOR ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

McCall Stegenga

Sport: Hockey
Position: Forward
Parents: Brett & Wendy Stegenga
Favorite Subject: Math
Extra Curricular Activities: Volleyball, hockey, golf, BPA, FFA, CEO, peer helping
Future Plans: Go to college to major in business management and be happy.



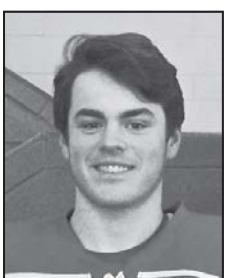
Gaige Nath

Sport: Hockey
Position: Forward
Parents: Matt & Lisa Nath
Favorite Subject: Phys. Ed
Extra Curricular Activities: Baseball, hockey, hunting
Future Plans: Go to college for game warden.



Ben Serie

Sport: Hockey
Position: Center
Parents: Dan & Christal Serie
Favorite Subject: Phys. Ed
Extra Curricular Activities: Football, baseball, hockey
Future Plans: Attend college for sports management.



PALACE THEATRE UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday Jan. 3 6 p.m. Bank Nite FREE Family Movie "Small Foot" Sponsored by Papik Motors and First Farmers & Merchants Bank

Jan. 4-5 7 p.m. **Jan. 6 2 p.m.** Movie "Ralph Breaks the Internet"

Jan. 11-12-7 p.m. Jan. 13-2 p.m. **HELD OVER** **Jan. 18-20** Movie "Mary Poppins Returns"

Saturday Feb. 9 8 p.m. **Greg Hanson & The Backroads** \$25 tickets on sale at the Palace Box Office or www.palacetheatre.us (public on sale date: January 7, pre-sale: January 2)

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Snowflakes bring memories of Christmas vacation, sledding and disregard for one's safety

Watching snowflakes the size of pancakes splat onto the deck brings to mind the wonderful, glorious days of Christmas vacation I had as a child.



THE NORTHVIEW

By Brenda Winter, Columnist

Watching snowflakes the size of pancakes splat onto the deck brings to mind the wonderful, glorious days of Christmas vacation I had as a child.

I was the middle pup in a litter of three. My parents had three children in three years just to get it over with. Whatever price my mother paid in overwhelm we three kids spent having fun during Christmas vacation riding plastic snow saucers behind a Honda three-wheeler.

(When I was a kid, four-wheelers only had three wheels. Four wheels hadn't been invented yet.)

After tying one or two saucers with a rope to the three-wheeler, my brother became the driver. He had one job — to almost kill us. My sister and I, clinging to the rope while lying on the saucer, also had one job — to not die.

We made a racetrack around the farm that included the driveway, between the machine sheds, around the house and between the trees.

It was "between the trees" where not dying became a challenge.

My brother — using his best calculations — would drive at the speed and angle required to make the saucer almost hit one of the trees.

My sister and I — using our best calculations — would either bail off of the sled just before it hit the tree, thus keeping our faces, but not our pride, intact, or we could proudly cling to the sled and die stuck to the base of an old elm tree.

There were other obstacles to overcome.

Hanging on to the sled with frozen hands, for example, was a challenge. Calculating the distance to the tree with snow flying into one's eyes was another hazard. Losing a boot was always possible.

Once, I think we considered using a hog feeder lid as a sled, but the likelihood of beheading seemed high.

The three-wheeler itself was, of course, a death machine, but when I was a kid we didn't have things like "safety." We had fun.

Turn a three-wheeler too late and you'll hit the garage. Turn a three-wheeler too sharply and you'll roll like a prairie tumbleweed.

Turn a three-wheeler just right and you'll make your sisters flying behind you on the sled almost hit the tree.

Park a three-wheeler by the front door. Go inside and have a cup of Mom's homemade cocoa mix.

Jump back on the three-wheeler and sled to continue another glorious, wonderful day of Christmas vacation.

Remind elected officials of their environmental protection responsibilities

GUEST EDITORIAL

By Scott Rall, Outdoors columnist

I often wonder how the outcomes of elections will affect those who care about the outdoors.

There have been two changes on the Minnesota political scene that I think will result in some measurable changes in the future of natural resources.

On the local front the first of those is the fact that the Democrats now have the majority in the Minnesota House of Representatives.

The vast majority of the House Republicans were not even close to being sportsman-friendly when they held the majority for the past two years. In fact, I wrote last year that we had the least friendly House Legislature toward sportsman and conservation support than at any time I can remember in the past 25 years.

There were a few House member exceptions and a number of solid sportsman supporters in the Senate, but the Republican majority in the House last session had an outward negative bias against public lands.

These are lands that are owned by the citizens of Minnesota and who then entrust the management of those lands to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

There were bills introduced that wanted to end the acquisition of additional public lands, and it was easy to tell what side of the conservation fence most House Republicans were on.

When Gov. Dayton busted on the scene with his clean water buffer bill proposal, it was quite a shock. This happened in March of 2015. The buffer proposal was supposed to start a process of events that would help clean up the state's waters.

The EPA came out with a study

that said there were no swimmable or fishable waters in southwest Minnesota. Gov. Dayton was going to try to go down in history as the clean water governor, and the Republicans in the Minnesota House did everything they could to either repeal this bill completely or water it down to the point that it would be ineffective.

They were successful in removing private drainage ditches from the required protections, but the problem with that is that almost all of those private ditches drain into a public ditch or public water. There have been two legislative sessions since then where the law has been tweaked by Republicans and the resulting law is now well vetted for all sides.

What about roadside habitat

There was also a change in the way the rules regarding road ditch mowing would take place.

There is an old rule that says that a road authority cannot mow a road ditch before Aug. 1 unless it is for safety reasons in order to protect pheasants and other birds during the nesting season. This has been on the books for years.

Those in power (Republicans) were successful in killing that rule enforcement ... so that the DNR would no longer be able to enforce the rules in place to protect our natural resources.

We now have a new governor and

new House leadership that I think will influence the future of natural resource management in Minnesota.

So, what does all of this mean? I can't say for sure, but I wonder just what was the effect of so many disillusioned sportsmen.

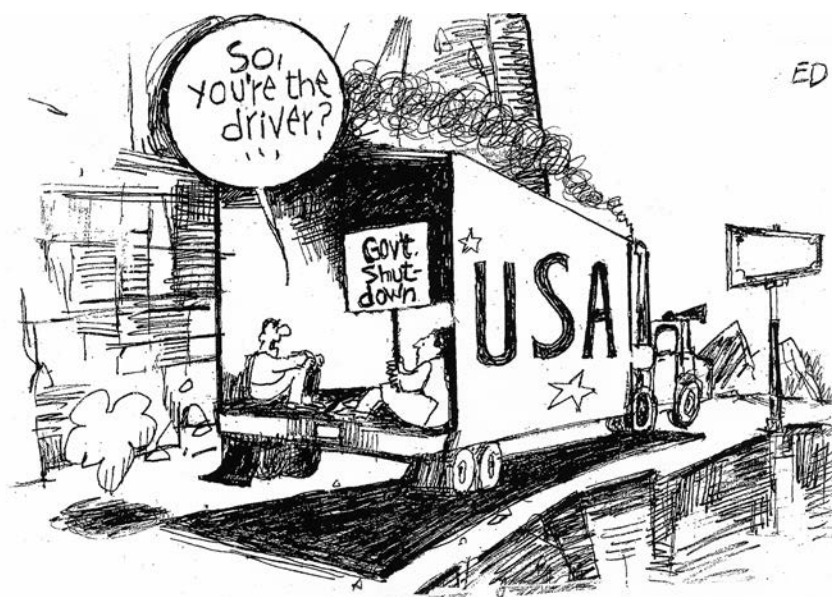
Was it the unhappy hunting and fishing constituency that turned the tide in the last election? Will the Democrats see and understand that the folks who love and care about the outdoors, who were unsatisfied by current leadership, might have been the ones who put them in power?

Will the Republicans see that their anti-sportsman agenda was the reason they no longer chair all of the important committees in the House Legislature and lost them the governorship?

I certainly don't know the answer. It seems pretty clear to me sportsmen and women have the votes to affect the outcome of a state election.

I hope we can move forward with a conservation agenda that is sound, robust and has bi-partisan support. If there is a message I would tell every elected official, it would be, "You represent us all, not just the ones who can write you a big check."

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



Thanks to everyone who helped host the Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener

Like many of you I had to pause today and ask myself, "Wow, where did 2018 go?"

I can't help but look forward to the new year without thinking about all the great projects that are already underway and will pick up speed and be in full swing by summer.

For new construction, whether it's commercial or residential, 2019 could be a record year for Luverne.

But before we move on from 2018, I would like to thank everyone that played a part in hosting the Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener one more time. I can't tell you how proud I am to have been a part of that event, and so, from the bottom of my heart, thank you all.

So, have you ever wondered where the saying "from the bottom of my heart" came from? Well after typing it in the last paragraph, I wondered that myself, so I googled it and



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, General Manager
Tollefson Publishing

this is what I found out.

The meaning is "with sincere and deep feeling." ... When thinking of the heart as the seat of emotion, people may conceive of it as a (metaphorical) container that fills up with feeling, so that "from the bottom" means the heart is filled through-and-through with love or gratitude or whatever, not just partly filled.

So back to 2019, let's hope for better construction weather this year. Some of the projects include

construction work on tru Shrimp, The National Guard Armory, Premium Pork, development on the former Sharkee's/China Inn site, residential townhomes popping up, the school project, another leg of the bike path and the electrical substation that is underway right now ... and I might add that it's interesting to watch the progress on that project.

All in all, 2019 is shaping up to be a banner year for Luverne. Happy New Year!

Trooper explains mirror placards

Question: I know on the handicap placards it is stated that they must be removed from hanging while driving, but yet I see MANY hanging from mirrors every day. I know you can't hang fuzzy dice or other things from the mirror so I was just wondering about the handicap placards, since I see so many people driving with them hanging.

Is there a fine if somebody gets pulled over for not removing them from the mirror or is it just that ... a warning?

Answer: Minnesota law prohibits any objects suspended between the driver and the windshield other than sun visors, rearview mirrors, global positioning systems or navigation systems when mounted or located near the bottommost portion of the windshield. If you have a disability parking certificate, it must be taken down while the vehicle is in motion. The certificate can only be suspended when the vehicle is parked.

Having an object attached to the windshield or hanging from the rearview mirror can obstruct the driver's view and result in a dangerous situation. The driver might not be able to see a vehicle, animal, pedestrian or bicyclist.

Hanging other items such as air fresheners and fuzzy dice from the mirror is against the law. Law enforcement can and will conduct traffic stops when an object is blocking the driver's view. A citation or warning may be issued.

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).

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Rock County
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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.

CELEBRATIONS

Card showers

Lorraine Klooster will celebrate her 90th birthday on Monday, Jan. 14. Greetings may be sent to her at Parkview Manor, 308 Sherman Ave., Ellsworth, MN 56129.

MENU

Monday, Jan. 7: Creamy vegetable soup, turkey sandwich, peaches, crackers, cookie.

Program: Senior meeting.

Tuesday, Jan. 8: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, carrots, bread, fruit cup.

Program: Pastor of the Month - Pastor Palmquist of Bethany Lutheran; Half-Price Day sponsored by Main Street Financial.

Wednesday, Jan. 9: Cubed roast beef in gravy; mashed potatoes, peas, dinner roll, pudding dessert.

Thursday, Jan. 10: Chicken lasagna, tropical fruit, broccoli raisin salad, garlic bread, bar.

Program: Half-Price Day.

Friday, Jan. 11: Meatballs with gravy, mashed potatoes, country blend vegetables, bread, ice cream.

Program: Red Hats; Half-Price Day.

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.

LIBRARY NEWS

Contact the Rock County Library at rocklibrarystaff@gmail.com or 507-449-5040 for more information or to register for events.

Help us find out what kinds of programs, events and activities you'd like to see from the library. Complete the survey at rockcountycitylibrary.org. Paper copies are available at the library counter. Deadline to complete the survey is Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019.

The **2019 Winter Reading Program** has begun and continues until March 31. Participants who read/listen to 12 books over the three-month timeframe earn a prize. Reading logs/punch cards can still be picked up at the circulation desk. This year's theme is "Winter Reads" and is open to patrons ages 16 and older.

Trivia Night at Take 16, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3. One to four people make up a team. Register at Take 16 from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Winter Story Time begins Jan. 18 and will be each Friday from 10:30 to 11 a.m. through April 12.

DIY Minnesota String Art at the Library at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, for ages 12+. Registration required.

Bad Art Night at Take 16 at 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, at Take 16 Brewing Company. A competition will determine who can make the worst piece of art with the provided materials. Registration required.

Learn How to Swing Dance at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28. Bring a partner to learn the basic steps and work up to basic spins and dips. Registration required.

DIY book page banner, 6 p.m. Thursday, March 21. Use old books to choose a word or phrase to make a banner with the supplies provided. Registration required.

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



Mavis Fodness photo/Bob Wratz

A lifelong passion for reading is evident in Bob Wratz's Luverne apartment by bookshelves filled with hundreds of books. Two of those books are collections of Wratz's original poems.

Love of literature leads Luverne man to publish works of his own

By Mavis Fodness

Poetry writing became a retirement routine for Bob Wratz's several months ago and now the Luverne man is a published author.

"Just one day I felt like writing a poem and I posted it to Facebook," he said. "I got some good feedback, so the next day I wrote another, then another and another one; next thing I have two books."

His first book, "Fortune Smiles Poems," is a collection of 82 original works on 108 pages, published after Wratz began his daily poem writing in July.

His second book, "The Road to Somewhere Poems," went on sale online shortly before the holidays.

The 110-page book includes 68 poems but ends with the original prose composition that earned Wratz first place at the 2012 Scribe of Siouxland Prose and Poetry contest.

The previously unpublished "Solmund's Daughter" was Wratz's six-page entry in the adult prose category.

He also entered a poem. While his prose generated very few criticisms from the judges, Wratz's poetry critique included a list of improvements followed by the message, "Try again."

Wratz took the criticisms in stride. "I like to say the only thing I know about poetry is that I like it," he said.

Wratz spent 30 years as a computer programmer, working locally with organizations like the Good Samaritan Society Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne and businesses such as the former Glen's Food Center until retiring three years ago.

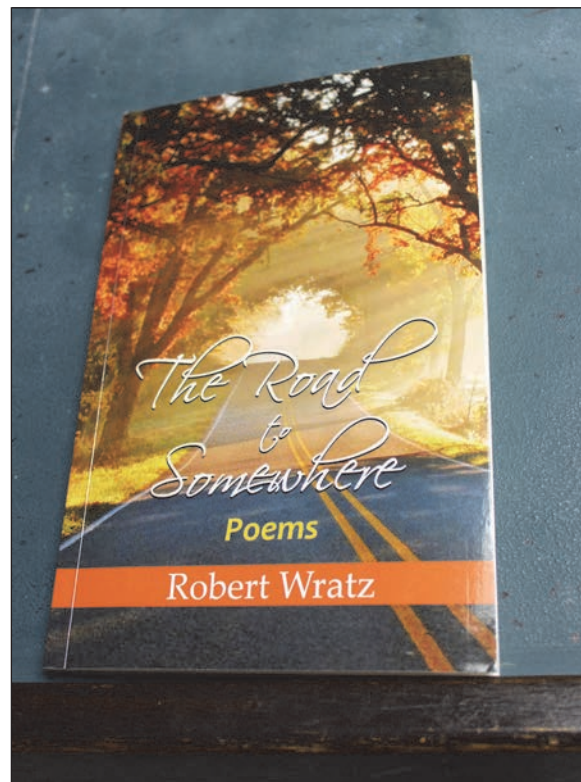
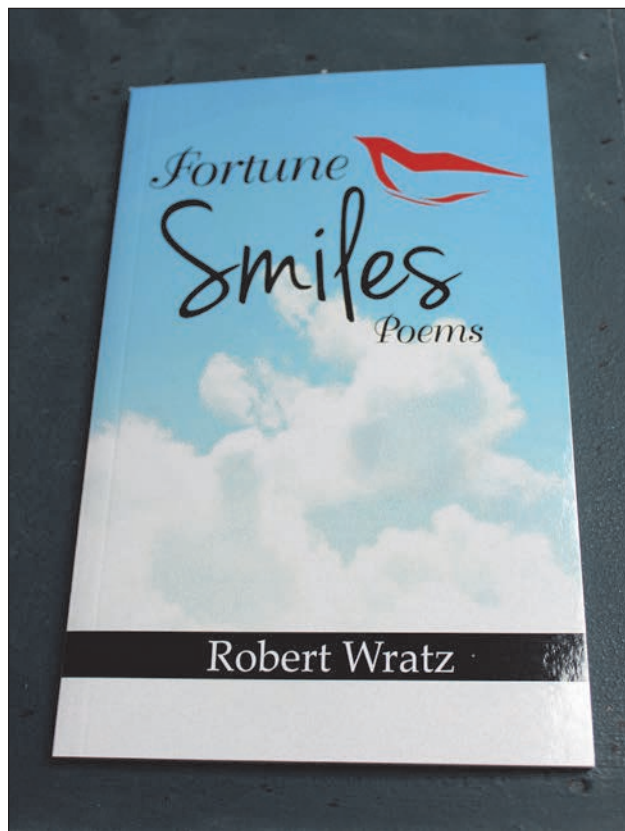
An avid book reader, Wratz said his passion for literature began with a free hour while a student at O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, when he picked up "To Kill a Mockingbird."

"I just loved it," he said. "I just kept reading from there."

Now at age 65, Wratz finds himself drawn to reading non-fiction books before turning to his evening poetry writing.

He said his technique is unique and maybe a little unorthodox of turning to the computer with no particular poem topic in mind other than a time limit.

"I bet I never spend more than a half hour writing a



"Fortune Smiles Poems" (pictured below) was the first book by Bob Wratz followed by "The Road to Somewhere Poems."

poem," he said. "A number of poems would be better if I spent more time on them."

Several of Wratz's poems include personal experiences or imaged experiences integrated with undertones of his religious faith.

One poem, "Celestial Child," was written with his son, Ryan, in mind.

The poem begins with images of an innocent boy looking to heaven.

"I just believe — it's a religious belief — that children who are unaccountable are heirs to the Kingdom," Wratz said.

The poem reflects back to Ryan's birth and his later diagnosis of autism, which ends Wratz's poem "... but he couldn't know, that the wicked witch of the west had dropped a house on your head ... soon, we knew, we weren't in Kansas anymore."

Wratz's first book was dedicated to Ryan, who lives in a group home in Stillwater, and his other son, Christopher, who lives in Sioux Falls with grandson Thomas to whom the second book is dedicated.

"Pure Joy (for TDW)" reflects back to Thomas' birth and ends in a game of hide 'n' seek with the young boy. Wratz's experience ends the poem, "You're pure joy, Thomas. Never forget that, always remember."

Friends encouraged Wratz to publish his poems, directing him to Cyberwit.com.

For a fee, the company, based in India, publishes original written works from authors like Wratz around the world.

Each published work promotes the company's ideals of peace, love, beauty and freedom through creative expression.

Wratz's books are also sold on Amazon.com.

He continues to write his daily poems, but he is uncertain whether or not a third publication is his future.

"It's just something I always wanted to do," he said.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2009)

•"Doom," "gloom" and "ugly" were three words often repeated at Tuesday's meeting of the Rock County Board of Commissioners as they discussed the impact of state finance woes on Rock County.

One result of the state's projected \$5 billion shortfall for 2009-2010 is an "unallotment" of \$74,995 for Rock County in 2008.

County administrator Kyle Oldre said, "That money has already been spent. In 2008 we don't have any time to make that up. We are already funding Family Services out of reserves."

Commissioners expressed frustration with the state's plan to cause cities and counties to deplete their reserve funds. "We're being penalized for doing a good job," Board Chair Ron Boyenga said.

Commissioner Ken Hoime said, "2009 has the potential to be a real bad year for us. Reserves will only take us so far. We don't know what happens if we deplete the reserves in county government. This creates a major need for change."

25 years ago (1994)

•The No. 1 news story of the year is the water itself. All in all, Rock County received nearly 41 inches of rain this year — about twice as much as this area saw in 1992, which was already a wet year.

The long- and short-term effects of all this water resulted in the second and third biggest news items of the year. The most obvious effect of 41 inches of water is damage to personal and public property.

After several attempts to bail out Luverne's city park, crews gave up and decided to close it for the remainder of the year.

Roads and bridges all over the county were damaged and, in some cases ruined. Attempts by highway department workers to repair routes to passable conditions were impeded by repeated rains.

50 years ago (1969)

•Luverne retail stores will be open Thursday nights starting Jan. 23 it was announced this week by the Retail Committee of the Luverne Chamber of Commerce.

A recent survey of retail establishments, which are normally open for business Friday nights, revealed that a decline in patronage on Friday nights gave an incentive to try a different night.

A vote was taken by those who were open only on Friday nights. The result included 31 in favor of trying Thursday as a shopping night in place of Friday, one vote was for Monday night and two voted to remain open Friday nights.

75 years ago (1944)

•Plans to have the city of Luverne free of bonded indebtedness by March 1 were made by the city council here Tuesday night when they voted to call in the remainder of the city's diesel bonds on that day, outstanding at the present time at \$8,000 worth of the securities.

When the new bond issue was made in 1941, the indebtedness was \$65,000. Since then it has been reduced annually to the present amount.

When it is finally paid, Luverne will be one of the few cities of its class in the debt-free category.

100 years ago (1919)

•For the first time in thirty-two years the Luverne Fire Department will, on New Year's Eve, fail to give their annual grand ball. While the influenza epidemic in Luverne is favorable to public gatherings, Dr. C. L. Sherman, city health officer, feels that the conditions in the county as a whole are such that it would be inadvisable to allow a public dance. The firemen have accordingly made no arrangements for their annual terpsichorean event.

OBITUARIES

Wallace Schmuck

Wallace Alvin Schmuck, 90, Luverne, died Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018, at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne.

A funeral service was Wednesday, Dec. 26, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Luverne. Burial was in Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.



Wallace Schmuck was born on June 21, 1928, to Henry and Selma (Krumheuer) Schmuck in Luverne. He was confirmed in 1951 at Rose Dell Lutheran Church in Jasper. He attended school in Luverne.

At age 15, Wallace began raising cattle, farrowing pigs, milking cows and farming the land with his 17-year-old brother, Don. On April 19, 1946, at the age of 17, Wallace enlisted in the United States Navy. He spent 14 months in San Diego decommissioning ships and then was sent to Pearl Harbor. He was honorably discharged on Feb. 17, 1948.

On Oct. 6, 1948, Wallace married Verna Swenson at the parsonage of Bethany Lutheran Church in Luverne.

For the first 18 months of their marriage, they lived with Wallace's parents on the farm. In 1950 they moved to Hardwick. Three years later they moved back to the family farm. In 1999 the couple moved into Luverne where he became involved with Retired Seniors Volunteer Program and volunteered as a driver when needed. He continued to live in his home in Luverne

until June of 2018 when he moved to the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne.

Wallace attended Bethany Lutheran Church. He was on a bowling league, member of the Hardwick Legion, and belonged to a couple of local pinocle card clubs for over 60 years. Wallace enjoyed dancing, his favorite being the waltz. Other hobbies included wood working, painting by number and vegetable gardening.

Wallace is survived by his wife, Verna; three children, Ronald (Diane) of Alexandria, Sandra (Les) Nath of Jasper, and Lonette (Joe) Colwell of Rushmore; one daughter-in-law, Stacey (Brad) Hustoft; 13 grandchildren, Jason Nath, Jessica Schroeder, Andrea Godsave, Ryan Schmuck, Kiley Metz, Kane Colwell, Kelsie Colwell, Kalis Colwell, Britany Vandeweerd, Matthew Schmuck, Monaya Hustoft, Zayna Hustoft, and Jacinda Hustoft; 14 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Judy (Jim) Hagen of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a son, Todd Schmuck; a sister, Helen (Frank) Gamsby; brothers Herbert (Delores) Schmuck, Henry (Lorraine) Schmuck Jr., Robert (Kiako) Schmuck and Donald (Viola) Schmuck.

Arrangements were provided by Hartquist Funeral Home Luverne Chapel, www.hartquistfuneral.com. (0103 F)

Gary Lee

Gary Lee, 62, Magnolia, died Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2018, at the Hospice Cottage in Luverne.

A celebration of life will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Harvest for Hunger in Gary's name.



Gary Lee was born on June 12, 1956, to Walt and Lila (Herschberger) Lee in Luverne. He graduated from Magnolia High School in 1974. Gary farmed for a year with his dad and then went to work for the Magnolia Elevator.

Gary married Vickie Sickles on Dec. 6, 2002, on the pier in Fort Myers, Florida. The couple lived in Magnolia where Gary managed the elevator. Gary worked for the elevator for 42 years. In 2008 the Southwest Minnesota Farmers Co-op merged with CHS. Gary's position moved to Luverne in 2010 when he became the general manager of the Eastern Region of CHS. He was still employed by CHS at

the time of his death.

Gary enjoyed traveling and fishing. He liked to travel to different areas of the world. His favorite times were getting together with friends. Gary was fortunate to have gotten to work with his friends and customers. He also was a member of the Magnolia Fire Department and served on the Magnolia City Council for 12 years.

Gary is survived by his wife, Vickie, Magnolia; one brother, Mark (Jo) Lee, Dell Rapids, South Dakota; two sisters, Terry (Vic) Rueb, Luverne, and Patty (Bill) Creamer, Moore, Montana; two nephews and one niece.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents.

Arrangements are provided by Dingmann Funeral Home & Cremation Services in Luverne, www.dingmannandsons.com. (0103 F)

1954: New postal truck receives escorted welcome

The following appeared in the Rock County Star Herald on January 14, 1954.

200 On Hand To View New Postal Truck

About 200 persons viewed the interior of the new highway post office when it stopped here Monday on its inaugural trip.

The bus-like vehicle was escorted into the city by the police patrol car, and the mayor, city councilmen, and civic leaders were on hand to greet it when it stopped at the post office.

Hereafter, it will make two trips to Luverne daily, coming from Sioux Falls at 1:18 a.m. and at Magnolia 1:33 a.m., east bound, and Beaver Creek at 6:08 a.m., west bound.

Star route trucks will continue to bring the daytime mails. East bound star route leaves here at 12:38 p.m. and the west bound will leave here at 3:52 p.m.

Pickups and distributions at the local post office will be done on the same schedule as in the past.

Highway post offices have been in use in the United States since February, 1941, when the first route was established between Washington, D. C., and Harrisonburg, Va. At the present time, service such as will be provided here is now being provided to some 2,500 post offices in the United States.



City officials, civic leaders and businessmen were on hand to herald the arrival of the new highway post office, which began a new era in postal service here Monday. The above photo shows Alderman Lloyd Rapp, Mayor H.P. Van Roekel, Elmer J. Bornhoeft, general superintendent of the postal transportation service, St. Paul, Postmaster Martin E. Jensen and Alderman Magnus Christensen. (Star Herald, Jan. 14, 1954)

Donations to the Rock County Historical Society can be sent to the Rock County Historical Society, 312 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156.

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to manmade@iw.net.



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

DEATH NOTICE

Marian Lorenzen

Marian Lorenzen, 87, rural Hardwick, died Friday, Dec. 28, 2018, at her home.

A funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 2, at Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick. Burial will be at Memory Gardens Cemetery near Luverne. Visitation will be from 3-7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 1, at Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne.

Arrangements are provided by Hartquist Funeral Home Luverne Chapel, www.hartquistfuneral.com. (0103 DN)

Lorraine Klooster
90th Birthday
Monday, January 14
Greetings may be sent to:
Parkview Manor - 308 Sherman Ave.
Ellsworth, MN 56129

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2016 Chevrolet Colorado
28K • Stock #174362Z
\$28,990

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Star Herald CHURCH

Page 8 January 3, 2019

St. Catherine Catholic Church

203 E. Brown St., Luverne
St. Catherine Ph.: 283-8502; email: stcatherine@iw.net
Saturday, Jan. 5: 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Catherine. Sunday, Jan. 6: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Catherine. CLW. 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Leo.

Luverne Christian Reformed Church

605 N. Estey St., Luverne
Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982
www.luverncrc.com — office@luverncrc.com
Roger Sparks, Pastor
Sunday, Jan. 6: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. 10:50 a.m. Sunday School and Catechism classes. 6:30 p.m. Worship.

First Baptist Church

1033 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne
Ph. 283-4091; email: fbcluv@iw.net — www.fbcluverne.org
Walt Moser, Pastor
Thursday, Jan. 3: 6 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 8 p.m. Worship Service on Channel 3. Sunday, Jan. 6: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Morning Service with Communion. 6 p.m. Evening Service. Monday, Jan. 7: 7 p.m. Constitution Review Team Meeting. Tuesday, Jan. 8: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 7 p.m. Deacons Meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 9: 6:30 p.m. Awana / Double Share Friend Night. Thursday, Jan. 10: 6 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 8 p.m. Worship on Channel 3.

Grace Lutheran Church

500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4431; www.graceluverne.org — graceluverne@iw.net
Ron Nichols, Pastor
Thursday, Jan. 3: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Friday, Jan. 4: 6:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Saturday, Jan. 5: 5:30 p.m. Worship with Communion. Sunday, Jan. 6: Noisy Sunday. 8:15 a.m. Radio broadcast. 9 a.m. Worship with Communion. 10 a.m. Fellowship Coffee. 10:15 a.m. Adult Study and Sunday School. 11 a.m. Call meeting. Monday, Jan. 7: 4:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Tuesday, Jan. 8: 9 a.m. Staff meeting; GLCW Executive Meeting. 6:45 p.m. Ministry meetings. 8 p.m. PPC meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 9: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 3:30 p.m. Faithweavers. 5:15 p.m. Youth Supper. 6 p.m. Woven Worship with Communion. 7 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal; Grades 6-8 Confirmation. 7:30 pm. Grade 9 Confirmation. Thursday, Jan. 10: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action.

Bethany Lutheran Church

720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 507-449-0291 or 605-215-9834
pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com
Sunday, Jan. 6: 10:15 a.m. Worship. No Sunday School or Bible Class. Tuesday, Jan. 8: Pastor of the Month at Senior Dining. Wednesday, Jan. 9: 3:45 p.m. Catechism classes. Thursday, Jan. 10: 2 p.m. Ladies Aid.

American Reformed Church

304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne
Ph. 283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org
Mike Altna, Pastor
Friday, Jan. 4: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. 4:30 p.m. REFIT Fitness. 10 p.m. Senior High Youth Group Lock-in. Saturday, Jan. 5: 10 a.m. REFIT Fitness. Sunday, Jan. 6: 9:30 a.m. Worship; Installation of Elders, Deacons and Care Shepherds. 10:50 a.m. Family Education. Noon Care Shepherd dinner. Monday, Jan. 7: 7 p.m. Esther Circle. Tuesday, Jan. 8: Noon Staff meeting. 1:30 p.m. Rebecca Circle. 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Bible Study Fellowship. 7 p.m. Consistory Meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 9: 4:30 p.m. REFIT Fitness. 5:30 p.m. Midweek Meal; Ladies Night Out. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Clubs; Junior and Senior Youth Group. 7 p.m. Rachel Circle; Praise Team.

First Assembly of God Church

1075 110th Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4
Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School. 10 a.m. Morning Worship. 6:30 p.m. School of the Holy Spirit. Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Kids Connection; Men's Bible Study with Pastor Ken; Women's Bible Study with Pastor Gloria.

St. John Lutheran Church

803 N. Cedar St., Luverne
Ph. 283-2316; email: stjoh@iw.net
www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org
Gary Klatt, Pastor
Thursday, Jan. 3: 2 p.m. Women's Society. Saturday, Jan. 5: 5:30 p.m. Worship. Sunday, Jan. 6: 9 a.m. Worship. 10:15 a.m. Christian Education Hour. 11:15 a.m. Junior Choir. Monday, Jan. 7: 9 a.m. Winkel at Trosky. 6 p.m. Take down decorations. 6:30 p.m. Mom's Night Out. 7 p.m. Elders meeting. Tuesday, Jan. 8: 1:30 p.m. Communion at Hills. 7 p.m. Guild. Wednesday, Jan. 9: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study. 6 p.m. Youth dinner. 6:30 p.m. Catechism. 7 p.m. KFC/High School Youth Group; Senior Choir. Thursday, Jan. 10: 1:30 p.m. Communion at Mary Jane Brown Home. 2:15 p.m. Communion at Poplar Creek. 3:30 p.m. Communion at Veterans Home. 6:30 p.m. Chancel Guild.

United Methodist Church

109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4529; email: luvernumc@iw.net
Dorie Hall, Pastor
Thursday, Jan. 3: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf. Saturday, Jan. 5: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Sunday, Jan. 6: 9 a.m. Coffee Hour and Adult Sunday School. 10 a.m. New United Church Service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible Study. 6 p.m. ALIVE Youth Group — movie night. Monday, Jan. 7: 6:30 p.m. M&M Meeting. 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Tuesday, Jan. 8: 9:30 a.m. Sanctuary Care Meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 9: 6 p.m. FUEL and Confirmation. 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Thursday, Jan. 10: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf.

First Presbyterian Church

302 Central Lane, Luverne
Ph. 283-4787; email: Firstpc@iw.net — www.fccluverne.com
Thursday, Jan. 3: 10 a.m. PW Executive meeting; Worship Service on Channel 3. Sunday, Jan. 6: 9 a.m. Sunday School. 10:15 a.m. Worship. Tuesday, Jan. 8: 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship Service on Channel 3. Wednesday, Jan. 9: 3:30 p.m. Youth Club. 5:30 p.m. Bells. 6 p.m. High School Fellowship. 6:15 p.m. Choir. 7:30 p.m. Deacons and Session. Thursday, Jan. 10: 10 a.m. Worship Service on Channel 3.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

305 E. 2nd St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick
Thursday, Jan. 3: 3:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Friday, Jan. 4: 3:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Sunday, Jan. 6: 10 a.m. Mentor program. 10:30 a.m. Worship. Thursday, Jan. 9: 3:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3.

Ben Clare United Methodist Church

26762 Ben Clare Ave., Valley Springs, S.D.
igtwb@WOW.net
Bill Bates, Pastor
Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages.

First Lutheran Church

300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.
Ph. (605) 757-6662
Laura Phillips, Pastor
Sunday, Jan. 6: 10:30 a.m. Worship Service.

Palisade Lutheran Church

211 121st St., Garretton, S.D.
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Laura Phillips, Pastor
Sunday, Jan. 6: 10:30 a.m. Worship Service.

First Presbyterian Church

201 S. 3rd St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek
Ph. 507-935-5025
Email: lori.firstpres@gmail.com
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship.

Magnolia United Methodist Church

501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia
Church Ph. 507-483-2492; email: admagumc@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/adrianmagnoliaumc
Sundays: 9 a.m. Magnolia Worship Service. Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m. Confirmation.

Steen Reformed Church

112 W. Church Ave., Steen
Ph. 855-2336
Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship; service broadcast on KQAD. 10:45 a.m. Sunday School. 6 p.m. Youth Group. Evening worship at 6 p.m. first and third Sundays. Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Midweek.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pastor Maggie Berndt-Dreyer
112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 962-3270
e-mail: bethlehmluth@alliancecom.net
Sunday, Jan. 6: 9 a.m. Communion at Tuff Chapel. 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Communion at Bethlehem. Tuesday, Jan. 8: 2:30 p.m. Bible study at Tuff. 3:15 p.m. Bible study at Village. Wednesday, Jan. 9: 9 a.m. Quilting. 6:30 p.m. Confirmation; Deacons meeting.

Hills United Reformed Church

410 S. Central Ave., Hills
Office Ph. 962-3254
hillsurc@alliancecom.net
Alan Camarigg, Pastor
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship Services.

Anna, Simeon reflect

One of the great things about the Gospel according to Luke is that he doesn't rush us away from Christmas. Luke takes some time to tell us a little bit about what happened after Jesus was born. The story of his presentation in the Temple in Luke 2:22-40 helps us to further understand Jesus' identity and what lies ahead for him. Also, the presence of Simeon and Anna offers inspiration about how to respond to Jesus Christ. I encourage you to take a moment to read the above passage from Luke and then consider these things about Simeon and Anna:

Simeon and Anna reflect:

1. *What it means to believe in the promises of God.* Luke tells us that "it had been revealed" to Simeon that he would see the Messiah. Simeon believed God would fulfill this promise, even though much time has passed. Anna worshiped "in the temple constantly." This is Luke's way of telling us that Anna also believed God would keep promises made about a Savior entering the world. She was on the lookout!

2. *Openness to the Holy Spirit's leading.* As Christians, we believe that God is still active and the Holy Spirit is at work. Luke makes sure to point out that Simeon was "guided by the Holy Spirit." There were probably many children in the temple that day, but Simeon was very directly and certainly drawn to Jesus. He had spiritual insight into who Jesus was and that Jesus is the one he had been waiting for.

3. *The importance of long-term faithfulness.* Luke loves to share details and he makes sure we know that Anna was

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Jason Cunningham, First Presbyterian Church, Luverne

84 years old. She had held onto her faith in God for a long time; it had been a guiding light for her entire life. We aren't told Simeon's age, but the sense of the passage is that Simeon is also advanced in years. Both have been faithful for many years, consistently and constantly. Christianity is a marathon not a sprint.

4. *The value of worship.* Notice where this encounter takes place. Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Simeon, and Anna intersect at the temple in the course of going about religious practice, ritual, and worship. While living out the ritual aspect of faith, a spiritual encounter happens and God's word is enlightened. This passage serves as a call to worship for us.

5. *Simeon and Anna proclaim the fulfillment of a Savior while Jesus is still a child.* As a result, the words and actions of Simeon and Anna are considered prophetic. Also, this episode reveals how God was revealing the light of the world and the gift of salvation — through the birth of a child born in low estate. Yet, Jesus is the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Imagine Mary and Joseph's surprise when Anna proclaimed the "redemption of Jerusalem" as she spoke about the child Jesus.

6. *Finally, both Simeon and Anna reflect faith:* believing where they have not seen, but knowing God is dependable.

Living Rock Church

500 E. Main St., Luverne
Ph. 449-0057; www.livingrockswmn.org
Billy Skaggs, Pastor
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship; Kids Rock Children's Ministry. 6 p.m. Youth Ministry. Life groups meet throughout the week.

New Life Celebration Church

110 N. Oakley, Luverne
Ph. 449-6522; email: newlifecelbation@gmail.com
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship at 110 N. Oakley. Every third Thursday: 4:30 p.m. Food give-away at Senior Citizens Center. Bible Study groups meet at various times and days.

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Luverne Dist. 2184 seeks bids for asbestos abatement

REQUEST FOR BIDS LUVERNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Luverne School District is requesting bids for Asbestos Abatement at the High School, Luverne, Minnesota. Bids will be received by Independent School District No. 2184 until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 22, 2019, at the office of the Superintendent of Schools, Luverne, Minnesota.

Bid documents will be available at the bidders meeting and building inspection to be held in the District Office at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2019.

Each bid must be made on a form furnished by MacNeil Environmental and must be accompanied by a bid bond, cash deposit, cashier's check or certified check equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid payable to the Independent School District No. 2184. The bidder to whom the contract is awarded shall provide a performance bond and payment bond.

The Independent School District No. 2184, Luverne, MN, reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any irregularities in Bids

Shelley Sandbulte
Clerk
(1-3, 1-10)

ISD #2184 School Board meets Nov. 26

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

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, ISD #2184, was held in the MS/HS Media Center on November 26, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Katie Baustian, Jodi Bosch, Colleen Deutsch, Eric Hartman, Tim Jarchow, and Reva Sehr. Absent: Shelley Sandbulte. Also present: Craig Ottedahl, Marlene Mann, Ryan Johnson, Stacy Gillette, Jed Dooyema, and Mavis Fodness - Rock County Star Herald.

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

Administrative reports were given.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Sehr, to approve the October 25, November 1, and November 15 School Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Jim Gilman representing Conway, Deuth and Schmiessing, LLP, presented the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Audit. He noted three large items that impacted this audit report: passing of the building improvement bond issue, the requirement to include OPEB reporting, and the PERA and TRA actuarial change in assumptions that are required to be included in the report. Mr. Gilman reported the school district is in good financial standing. Motion made by Hartman, second by Bosch, to approve the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Audit Report as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Business Manager Marlene Mann reviewed the school district bills with the School Board. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Jarchow, to approve payment of the bills as presented in the amount of \$1,148,241.45. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Hartman, to receive the Student Activity Report showing the balances as of October 31, 2018. Motion unanimously carried.

Business Manager Marlene Mann reviewed the District Revenues and Expenditures Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 and FY 2019 as required by Minnesota Statute. It was noted that the FY 2018 Operating Cost per ADM is \$11,570.30. Motion made by Bosch, second by Sehr, to approve this report as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Discussion was held regarding the Cooperative Agreement with Adrian Public Schools for boys and girls hockey. Motion was made by Deutsch, second by Sehr, to continue the agreement for four years to allow the current freshmen, junior and senior to finish out their high school hockey participation. It was noted that the Adrian School District will be billed and it will be that School District's responsibility to reimburse the Luverne School District. Motion unanimously carried.

Karen Willers, Community Education Director, had requested the School Board to set the 2019 Driver's Education fees at \$335 per student which reflects a \$10 increase from 2018. Discussion was held. Motion made by Bosch, second by Jarchow, to set the Driver's Education fee at \$335 per student for 2019. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Hartman, second by Sehr, to approve Lance Ripka as volunteer wrestling coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Jarchow, to approve Chris DenHoed as volunteer boys hockey coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Bosch, to approve the hiring of Brian Snyders as MS boys basketball coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Hartman, to approve the change of Adam Geraets from MS boys basketball coach to 9th grade boys basketball coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Hartman, second by Deutsch, to approve the hiring of Christian Mader as MS Social Studies teacher effective November 8, 2018, at a salary of \$28,192.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Committee reports were given. The upcoming meeting dates were reviewed. It was noted that the School Board meeting would be adjourned and the school board members would then move to the Elementary Media Center for a showcase presentation by Tina Petronek and Susan Beers.

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

Dated: November 26, 2018

Shelley Sandbulte, Clerk
(1-3)



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Two-bedroom apartment with heat and water included, on-site laundry, off street parking. Close to downtown, the Post Office and senior center. No pets. Call 507-290-0266. (tc)

Large apartment upstairs, downtown Luverne, utilities paid, stove and refrigerator included. References required, no pets, no smoking. Call 507-227-1589. (tc)

For Rent: one-bedroom apartment near downtown Luverne. \$290 per month. No pets. Call 605-201-6427. (tc)

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Russian nutcracker at History Center/continued from page 1

Adele. "Thanks for the wonderful tour."

Rock County Historical Society President Betty Mann said the colorful wooden nutcracker, about 6 inches tall, is a rather rare piece valued at \$200 to \$300.

"I was just flabbergasted," Mann said. "It was such a surprise gift."

Now she's looking for a way to acknowledge receipt of the package, which was addressed to "Betty Elves" in care of "the Luverne Museum."

The return label lists "Adele Ford" at the address of the UPS store in Saugus, Massachusetts, where the package was mailed.

"We don't know when she was here or what her connection is to Luverne," Mann said.

Collection grows to 4,000 pieces — third largest in the world — and draws visitors from around the world

Mann said the surprise gift is a reminder of the broad, national appeal the nutcracker collection holds for those who come to see it.

"It's just wonderful. It goes to show we have no idea how much this is reaching out from here," Mann said.

"I know people here don't care much about the nutcrackers, but they don't realize that people who



The nutcracker was mailed from a UPS store in Saugus and included a postcard featuring the "Famous Boston Subway System." A handwritten X marks the location on the subway map of a gift store where the nutcracker had been purchased.

aren't from here really do appreciate them."

That's why she donated her personal nutcracker collection to the History Center when it opened late in 2017.

After entertaining tour buses at her home in Luverne, Mann donated the collection as a way to draw tourists into the History Center and to the community.

The guest ledger at the door now contains names of visitors from nearly every state in the nation.



The back side of the nutcracker shows the lever that moves the jaw up and down.

"About 75 percent are coming to see the nutcrackers," Mann said. "They come through the door and ask where the nutcrackers are."

The guest book also contains names of visitors from Africa, Australia, South America, England, France, Germany and other international places.

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

- Dec. 21**
- Complainant on North Kniss reported a fire alarm.
 - Complainant requested pickup of transients at mile marker 18 on I-90 near Magnolia.
 - Erratic driver was reported on I-90, mile marker 9 eastbound.
- Dec. 22**
- Wrong-way driver was reported westbound at Highway 75 and 141st Street.
 - Suspicious activity was reported on 70th Avenue.
 - Subject sleeping in car at business on South Kniss.
 - Vehicle with loud exhaust was reported on 121st Street.
 - Possible burglary reported at South Summit in Hills.
 - Complainant turned in lost property.
 - Complainant reported driving complaint on I-90 eastbound, mile marker 12.
 - Complainant on South Freeman reported vault alarm.
- Dec. 23**
- Complainant reported subject with warrant.
 - Complainant reported theft.
 - Complainant on North Freeman reported a vehicle break-in.
 - Complainant reported a 15-year-old driving drunk coming from South Dakota 138 near Garretson.
- Dec. 24**
- Complainant reported malfunction at the carwash on South Kniss.
 - Complainant reported finding a wallet at 1001 South Kniss.
 - Deputies conducted warrant check.

- Complainant on 150th Avenue reported a fire.
- Dec. 25**
- Complainant on 40th Avenue near Beaver Creek reported subject is on property and will not leave.
- Dec. 26**
- A vehicle theft was reported on West Luverne Street.
 - Complainant reported a burglary on 40th Avenue near Hills.
 - Complainant in Steen requested a welfare check.
 - A vehicle was reported stalled on Highway 23 at mile marker 15.
- Dec. 27**
- Complainant reported his wife's vehicle is stuck in the driveway on East Christensen Drive.
- Dec. 28**
- Complainant reported theft of scrap items.
 - Follow-up.
 - Complainant reported service crew at East Barck Avenue in response to outage.
 - Complainant on 71st Street near Magnolia reported possible emergency.
 - Complainant on West Warren Street reported a snowmobile driving on their property.
 - Complainant found a black hitch clevis at North Kniss Avenue and West Dodge.
- In addition officers also responded to 2 motor vehicle accidents, 1 deer accident, 1 vehicle in ditch, 2 transports, 8 escorts, 28 ambulance runs, 4 paper services, 3 animal complaints, 1 fingerprint request, 4 drug court tests, 8 permit to purchase/carry applications, 20 traffic stops, 4 abandoned 911 calls, and 3 tests.

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United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota
In re Diocese of Winona-Rochester, Case No. 18-33707

DIocese OF WINONA-ROCHESTER

If you were sexually abused by any person connected with the Diocese, a parish in the Diocese, a school in the Diocese, or have any claim against the Diocese, you must file a claim by April 8, 2019.

For more information, visit www.dowr.org

For U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Minnesota information, visit mnb.uscourts.gov

For advice about your rights, contact an attorney