

Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, February 10, 2022

Get Hooked Fishing Derby set for Feb. 19

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne's seventh annual Get Hooked Ice Fishing Derby is from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, at The Lake in Luverne with over \$6,000 worth of prizes on deck for winners.

According to Luverne Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere, the 2021 tournament drew 376 registered anglers on a frigid, overcast day.

"It was unbelievable," Lanphere said following last year's derby.

"It just blows my mind that we had that many people down there at The Lake. ... I would bet we had 175 to 200 who had never fished the tournament before."

Weather permitting, the 2022 Get Hooked Ice Fishing Derby will be as popular as ever, with permanent and temporary ice houses allowed.

Preregistered anglers can save \$5 on their entry fee and be entered in a drawing for \$100 cash.

Contact the Chamber at 507-283-4061 to register, or sign up through www.luvernechamber.com.

Registration on Saturday opens at 11 a.m. when concessions by Howling Dog also opens. Free rods and reels will be given to youth until supplies run out.

Fishing starts at 1 p.m.

Prizes for largest fish in both adult and child categories are \$500 cash.

Announcements and prizes will be on Facebook, "Get Hooked Derby" and on FM 89.9.

Vietnam War veteran honored with surprise gift from Hero Haven group



Alan Harnack was 19 years old when he started as an infantryman in Vietnam in 1968.

By Mavis Fodness

Alan Harnack of Beaver Creek received a special thank you for his military service 50 years after he returned home from Vietnam.

Harnack and his family will spend four days at Holbrook Farms Retreat near Detroit Lakes, a trip sponsored through Hero Haven Adventures.

The trip was presented to Harnack as a surprise in early December during the first "Hero Ball" at the Gettysburg, South Dakota, High School.

Harnack and his wife, Zoe, attended the Hero Ball with their sons, Chris, Eric and Scott and their spouses.

"It was a really cool experience," Harnack said. "We've never really been together without the grandkids present. It was just the eight of us."

The ball was a fundraiser for Hero Haven as well as a special celebration for the first group of heroes, military or law enforcement, who received a pheasant hunting outing near Gettysburg, South Dakota.

Hero Haven President and H-BC High School graduate Wade Blomgren was the night's master of ceremonies. He made the announcement of the second trip Hero Haven Adventures would sponsor.

Blomgren, with fellow military service members Dean Hall and Justin Gallagher, created Hero Haven and Hero Haven Adventures in 2021 to thank those who have served and protected the country.

Their gift: connecting honored veterans with various outfitters tailored for personal enjoyment.

"You don't know this, Al, but you shaped this organization," Blomgren said from the podium. "We had three

things in mind: pheasant hunting, fly fishing and ATving. He (Harnack) doesn't do any of these."

"Create Your Own Adventure" is now one of the Hero Haven selections that allows honorees to feel rewarded for

Harnack honored by Hero Haven/Continued on 2A

"We can't wait for you to feel a little bit of respect you deserved in the late '60s and early '70s."

Wade Blomgren, Hero Haven, speaking to Alan Harnack



Lori Sorenson photos/0210 bridal fair

Jill Thielbar (at podium) introduces models during Saturday afternoon's Luverne Bridal Fair at Big Top Tents and Events and describes their gowns by First Comes Love and Barbara Kay's Bridal, two recently opened bridal boutiques in Luverne.

Luverne Bridal Fair nets 35 brides, over 100 guests

By Lori Sorenson

With Valentine's Day on Monday and wedding season just around the corner, Luverne's Bridal Fair was well-timed Saturday at Big Top Tents and Events.

According to Luverne Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere, the fair attracted 35 brides and nearly 100 guests.

"This first-ever show was a big suc-

cess," she said.

"It was great to see all the people there. For their first show the number of brides was amazing."

The event was organized by Stacey Smidt of Big Top Tents and Events and Barbara Weber-Friese of Barbara Kay's Boutique Bridal.

"Hats off to these two wonderful women for all the work and time they put into this big event," Lanphere said.

"I am sure it is something that they will build on next year. They already scheduled the date for Feb 4."

The event, which charged no admission, included vendor demonstrations and a bridal fashion show on a raised runway for models.

The show featured fashions by Luverne shops Barbara Kay's Boutique

Luverne Bridal Fair/continued on 2A

LHS speech team looks to rebuild in 2022 season

By Mavis Fodness

This season is one of rebuilding for the Luverne speech team as the regional program transitions from last year's virtual season to this year's in-person format.

Days before this year's season began Saturday, the decision to compete in person was formally announced, provided that students remain masked when not competing.

"We planned to mirror what the state meet would be like so the kids would be practicing the same way," said head coach Gavin Folkestad.

Team captains and seniors Luke Thorson, Mia Wenzel and Chance Tunnissen have participated in speech since the seventh grade.

Among their duties are pre-tournament pep talks about what being a part of a team has given to them and lessons they have learned through the years.

For Tunnissen, a three-time state speech participant, it's about never giving up.

"If you're a younger member, you might not be good your first year," he said. "I remember my first year I was really down on myself. Dylan (Thorson) was my mentor and I didn't hardly place at all. As the year went on, I learned more and practiced a lot more, and I got better."

For Luke Thorson, speech is a family tradition (having followed in his brother Dylan's footsteps and mom, Caroline, is an assistant speech coach). He's also found speech is a path for personal growth.

"I always saw it as something I would really

LHS speech team 2022/continued on 3A



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Battle Plain Township Board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 14, in the conference room of Edgerton Ag, 1300 Mechanic Street.

Hospice Dinner and Auction planners will meet at noon Thursday, Feb. 10, in the Sanford Luverne Medical Center. Anyone interested in helping with the April 23 event should sign up by Feb. 7 at 507-283-1805 or helen.saum@sanfordhealth.org.

Free tax preparation at library

AARP volunteers will offer free tax preparation for low-income and seniors at the Rock County Library on Mondays through April 15. Call 507-449-5040 for appointments. Bring documents, including last year's tax return and a form of identification to document social security number. Masks are required.

Free bake-at-home pizzas distributed Feb. 12

The Christian Motorcyclist Association will offer free back-at-home Luverne Pizza Ranch pizzas at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 12, at Living Rock Church on East Main Street in Luverne. The drive-through-style event is CMA's gesture to "share the love of Jesus" with the community. More than 400 pizzas are available until gone. No signup necessary. Call 605-366-9942 with questions.

New Life food giveaway moves to ATLAS Feb. 17

New Life Celebration Church's third Thursday monthly food giveaway is now at the ATLAS building at 101 W. Maple Street in Luverne. The next distribution is at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17.

Enter from Maple Street and stay along the WEST side of the building. (Do not block the Redeemed Remnants parking lot.)

Food will be loaded into vehicles which will then exit via the alley going WEST toward Estey Street. Call 507-283-4366 with questions.

Food for seniors Feb. 17

Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS) 60 and older, sponsored by A.C.E. of SW MN, will distribute food from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, drive-thru style in the parking lot at 319 E. Lincoln, Luverne. Call 283-5064 to register.

Goehle gym open Sundays

The Hugo Goehle gymnasium in Hills is open for public recreation from 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays now through March 27.

Rock Ranch tack swap March 5

A tack swap benefit is planned from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 5, at Rock Ranch near Hills. Organizers are seeking individuals in selling horse-related items or sharing business or service information by reserving a booth. The event is a fundraiser for two area 4-H families: Mark and Lisa Ehlers of Luverne and Wyatt and the late Tanya Fey of Woodstock. Call Kris Vanderbrink at 507-350-9209 to reserve a booth.

Winter Carnival set for March 5

Luverne Music Boosters Winter Carnival, which was scheduled for Jan. 22, is tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, March 5.

Online mental health classes

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) will offer free online mental health classes in February. The classes are designed for family members and caregivers, persons living with mental illness, service providers and also for the general public. Go to namimn.org and click on "classes."

A.C.E. respite care available, volunteers needed

A.C.E. of SW Minnesota (A.C.E.) offers respite care services in Rock County for those needing a break from caring for a loved one.

The respite program offers short-term (1-3 hours), temporary care for families and caregivers by providing a brief period of reprieve from the daily cares they provide to their loved one. Volunteers provide non-professional supportive services to caregivers to give them time for themselves, relieve their stress and help them remain healthy.

Respite care volunteers are also needed. Trained A.C.E. volunteers provide respite care to family caregivers of adults age 60 and older who are suffering from long-term health conditions. Contact Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064 or ace.rock@co.rock.mn.us.

Alan Harnack honored by Hero Haven/continued from page 1A

servicing their country.

"We can't wait for you to feel a little bit of respect you deserved in the late '60s and early '70s," Blomgren said.

Hero Haven was formed in early 2021 with the first adventure this fall.

While meant as a thank you, the adventures also bring together groups of public service people — military, law enforcement, firefighting — in ways that have additional benefits.

"By their professions, they enjoy the outdoors," said Blomgren. "When we put them in the outdoors, they blossomed."

The first adventure was filled with participants reconnecting as a group, enjoying the adrenaline of the hunt and laughing outside the realm of their professions.

Harnack's adventure is the first Hero Haven organized for an individual.

Blomgren read a poem written by Harnack titled "The Experience," which brought tears to the eyes of those in attendance.

The poem detailed Harnack's military experience in the Vietnam War as a 19-year-old in 1968.

Harnack said he turned to poetry writing more than 50 years ago due to his admiration of lyrics created by songwriters like Bob Dillon and Paul McCartney.

Poetry for Harnack is a cathartic release, as he found it difficult to talk about his military experiences.

"It was hard to talk with people, and poetry was a way to get things off my mind," he said.

The announcement as the first individual Hero Haven Adventure recipient surprised Harnack.

"I never expected me, a Vietnam infantryman, to ever be recognized for my service," he said. "It was a night I'll never forget."



Vietnam Veteran Alan Harnack fights tears during the Hero Haven Ball in which he was honored for his service.

The Experience

Poem written by Alan Harnack, Vietnam '68-69

I was born in the midwest,
of four children, I was one.
And I was always proud to claim,
I was my parents' son.
But as I grew, world hatred grew,
soon I heard from Uncle Sam.
So, in '68, at age 19,
I was off to Vietnam.

My family took me to the plane, on that
chilly winter's day.
I told them not to worry,
that I thought I'd be okay.
But needing some assurance,
I asked, "don't forget to pray."
I climbed upon the airplane,
and quickly flew away.

The plane touched down in Bein Hoa,
beneath the blistering, shiny sun.
My knees began to tremble,
and my heart was on the run.
They assigned me to my unit,
and handed me a gun.
A "chopper" dropped me in the field,
and "the experience" had begun.

They sent us on an "ambush,"
on that Holy Christmas Night.
But, the peace of the season
ended in a "fire fight."
A thought occurred to me,
that at any other time,
the boy we just shot
could have been a friend of mine.

We met a yellow child,
on a jungle trail, alone.
We couldn't help but wonder,
why he was not at home.
Soon, we realized, by the satchel on his lap,

he was sent there by the Viet Cong,
he was a human booby trap.
Fear set in, and we jumped back,
and shot that yellow kid.
Then I fell down, upon the ground,
and cried for what we did.

Bombs kept falling, boys kept dying,
as the waters turned to red.
Confusion of the situation,
began to cloud my head.
Couldn't understand why
he would not respond to what I said;
then I realized,
that my closest friend was dead.

Fourteen months had come and gone,
and it was time for me to leave.
Said "hi" to my replacement,
saw the heart upon his sleeve ...
I turned around and walked away,
not to see him anymore.
He was too young, oh much too young,
to face what was in store.

The next day on the West Coast,
we landed on the ground.
There were protest signs, and
demonstrators,
standing all around.
Guilt filled our heads, and
numbed our minds,
we must have done the crime.
So, near to tears, the next twelve
years,
we humbly did the time.

We don't want any sympathy,
and there's nothing you can do.
But, maybe now you understand,
why we're not quite like you.



Becky Schuurmans models a gown by First Comes Love Bridal Boutique. At right, models wait their turn for the runway.



Lori Sorenson photos/0210 bridal fair

Luverne Bridal Fair draws big crowds/continued from page 1A

Bridal and First Comes Love Bridal Boutique, with hair designs and makeup by Salon 75 and

Spa. Other vendors at Saturday's Bridal Fair included caterers, bakers, photographers, florists, printers,

music DJs and more.

Lanphere said the popularity of Saturday's bridal fair bodes well for bridal

business in Luverne.

"Luverne is destined to become a stop for wedding planning," she said.

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Community Education offers classes, activities

Call Cindy at Luverne Community Education, 507-283-4724, to register for classes. Community Ed's website is www.isd2184.net, select Luverne Community Education under schools.

Children ages 2-5 with a parent will enjoy **Open Gym** on Feb. 11. It's free, but advance registration is required.

Register now for the **Defensive Driving Refresher** class to be held on Feb. 17 at 5:30 pm. \$28.

Grade 5 through adult can learn about clay on a pottery wheel at Give Spinning a Try on Feb. 12. for \$15. To take a piece home, pay instructor \$10

Register by Feb. 25 for **Footloose at the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre** on March 26. Fee is \$115/person for this chartered bus trip.

Family Game Time for kindergarten through Grade 12 is Feb. 24 at the Library. Fee is \$10 per family.

Students in grades 5 – 8 that are interested in acting or working behind the scenes can sign up for **Intro to Theatre** on Feb. 24. \$12.

Ambulance Tour & CPR Class is Feb. 28. Hands-only CPR training will also be taught during class. Fee is \$5.

Rock County Library announces happenings

For more information about library happenings, call 507-449-5040 or email rockcountystaff@gmail.com

The 2022 **Winter Reading Program, "Catch a Keeper at your Library,"** is currently under way and goes through March 31.

Read or listen to 12 books checked out from the Rock County Library and win a fabulous prize. Winter Reading Bingo will also be played. Bingo sheets are available now at the library.

Who says kids get to have all the fun? **An Adult Show and Tell** will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17, at Take 16. Bring an item (or items) to tell us about or perhaps a story or two. It will be a fun and relaxing evening of sharing tales of local brews.

Bring your creative selves to **Bad Art Night** at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 17, at Take 16, and compete to see who can make the worst piece of art with provided supplies. The less artistic ability you have, the better. Prizes will be awarded.

Trivia Night is at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of every month at Take 16 in Luverne. Team registration begins at 6 p.m.

Reminiscence Kits are available featuring various topics such as gardening, pets, baking, sewing, farming and hunting.

The kits are designed to use with a loved one experiencing memory loss, encouraging the loved one to open up about activities they once loved in the past.



Mavis Fodness photo/0204 Pillar Removal

Ver Steeg Excavation of Luverne works to remove six former railway pillars in the Rock River south of the Luverne City Park. Pictured below are the block sandstone pillars before excavation work began.

Sandstone block pillars removed from Rock River

Chad Ver Steeg with Ver Steeg Excavation of Luverne spent several days over the past two weeks removing six former railway pillars in the Rock River south of the Luverne City Park.

The project was a collaborative effort between the Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the city of Luverne and two private landowners to restore the river back to its natural course. Cost of the project was \$25,000.

The pillars were constructed in the early 1900s as a railroad bridge over the Rock River.

The railroad ceased to exist in the 1940s and the bridge deck, rails and railroad ties were removed. The pillars, made from blocks of sandstone, remained, causing water currents to erode a "scour hole" in the east bank of the river.

Ver Steeg said the pillars were more solid than he thought, withstanding decades in the elements and flowing water fairly well. Due to the current low river water levels, Ver Steeg was able to drive the excavator onto the sandbar that developed in front of the pillars. He used the sandstone block to create a rip-rap along the scour hole area to lessen the developing bank erosion. Ver Steeg's bid to complete the work was the lowest of three submissions.



All 17 LHS speech team members earned individual awards Saturday in Worthington along with the first-place team trophy. Pictured are (front, from left) Chance Tunnissen, Burke Johnson, Luke Thorson, Rylee Anderson, Mia Wenzel, (second) Brooke Vos, Makayla Oechsle, Jessika Tunnissen, Brianna Kinsinger, Alex Perkins, Nicole Arevalo, (back) Nardy Merida, Ashlie Gonzalez, Xavier McKenzie, Parker Carbonneau, Zander Carbonneau and Leigha Ehlers.

Speech takes first at first meet of year

By Mavis Fodness

The Luverne speech students are picking up where they left off in 2021 by winning their first tournament of 2022 Saturday in Worthington.

The defending Section 3A champions competed against 14 teams and 130 students, and all 17 of Luverne's team members received individual honors. Results by category are:

- Discussion: Burke Johnson, third; Makayla Oeschle, blue ribbon.

- Dramatic interpretation: Brianna Kinsinger, red ribbon.

- Extemporaneous Reading: Brooke Vos, red ribbon.

- Extemporaneous speaking: Parker Carbonneau, first; Chance Tunnissen, third; Zander Carbonneau,

fourth.

- Great speeches: Riley Anderson, first; Nicole Arevalo, fifth.

- Humorous interpretation: Luke Thorson, first; Leigha Ehlers, red ribbon.

- Informative speaking: Jessika Tunnissen, fifth; Xavier McKenzie, red ribbon; Nardy Merida, red ribbon

- Original oratory: Ashlie Gonzalez, red ribbon.

- Poetry reading: Mia Wenzel, first; Alex Perkins, third.

Blue and red ribbons signify one and two places out of the medals respectively.

The next tournament is Saturday when Luverne serves as host.

Assistant speech coach Caroline Thorson said the

teams were excited to be competing in person.

"We are also thrilled to be hosting in our newly renovated building and hold our awards ceremony in the performing arts center," she said.

"We are proud of our updated facilities and know it will be a comfortable and inviting space in which to perform and compete."

"I want them to be in-

Luverne Township Notice

At the Luverne Township 2021 Annual meeting. It was resolved that the application of dust control products on Township roads is prohibited without prior written Board approval.

Luverne Township Board

LHS speech 2022/continued from page 1A

enjoy doing," he said. "I knew it was something I could always do better and always strove to do better and I did get better."

Thorson, who competes in humorous interpretation, earned his first state trip last year.

He is optimistic that the team can be Section 3A champions again and qualify more individuals for the state tournament.

"No matter what happens, we will give it our all even if we don't make it," Thorson said. "We will look back on these years as fun."

Luverne has developed a tradition of winning, which Wenzel, as a young speech student, watched with envy as the older teammates earned trophies and ribbons for the team.

"(I) wanted to be a part of that team that won," said Wenzel, who switched between speech categories, including entering more than one category at a tournament. She found a niche in poetry interpretation.

"You can switch if you want to switch — find that piece in which you're comfortable," she said.

This season Luverne fields a team of 25 students, about half the number of two years ago.

Getting younger students involved in speech is a goal of the captains so that they will return the following year.

"I want them to be in-



Mavis Fodness photo/0210 Speech 2022

Luverne TV student reporter Eli Radtke (far left) interviews this year's speech team captains (from left) Luke Thorson, Chance Tunnissen and Mia Wenzel Thursday afternoon, Feb. 2, in the performing arts center with cameraman Casey Sehr. The speech team students opened their 2022 season with a team win Saturday at the Worthington Invitational.

spired no matter how they do," Wenzel said.

"I want them to be happy that they showed up. They're going to realize they've just been accepted into a giant family that will be with you for the rest of your life."

The team spends Saturdays competing at different schools as well as hosting their own home tournament in a season that's three months long.

Sections are on April 9 with the top three individuals from each of the 13 speech categories advancing to the state tournament, April 22-23.

"We are a very competitive section with several other big teams," coach Folkestad said.

"However, we do have many returning veterans, so I am hopeful we will be able to add to our collection of trophies."

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Groceries replaced by farm supply purchases for this empty nester

Trips to the grocery store were frequent during my days as a mother of four growing children. Now, as an empty nester, weeks go by before I need to refill the cupboards and freezer.



RUMINATIONS

By Mavis Fodness, Reporter

left at home.

I now remember to buy treats for the dog and to give one to her almost daily. The cats are fed at least once a day, and the horses receive twice-a-day personal care.

Instead of picking up clothes off the kids' bedroom floors, I now clean the horse barn daily.

Instead of buying new school clothes, I now search for bargains of new horse blankets and masks to keep the flying insects at bay.

And now Bomgaars has become a weekly stop for cat, dog or horse food.

The weekly feed bill is now larger than those years-ago trips to the grocery store.

While no mother ever admits to her kids that she may have a favorite, around the farm I definitely have my favorites.

The horses and the dog receive the more expensive, name-brand food, but the cats receive meals of the large 50-pound generic bag variety.

Despite my attempts to coax the cats to self-sufficiency and venture away from the farm, they seem content to stay at home and live with their "parents."

I find myself grabbing a scoop of cat food, and as they flood the barn, I mutter, "Good morning, kids," with the underlying thought of "When are you ever going to leave home."

I've noticed, however, the previous several-times-a-week stops at the grocery store are now replaced with several-times-a-week stops to the farm supply store.

It turns out my other "kids," the ones of the four-legged variety, are now receiving extra "motherly" attention.

Previously I gave little thought to the daily care of the cats, dogs, rabbits, calves, sheep, pigs, ducks and chickens on the farm. The kids took care of them. (I rarely had to clean the animals' pens then — maybe twice a year at most.)

And my husband would take care of the horses and cattle, regularly tractoring large round hay bales into their feeders.

For years my chores meant taking care of the little humans with meals, laundry, errands and transportation to activities.

Now all of those previous daily activities are down to me occasionally fixing a meal, weekly instead of daily laundry duties, a few errands, and once-in-a-while transport of the hubby somewhere.

Life without kids at home has certainly become ... well ... boring.

My attention has gradually turned to the remaining horses, cats and the farm dog

It's National School Counselors Week: Their work matters

This week, Feb. 7-11, is National School Counselors Week, a time to consider the unique contribution of school counselors in U.S. school systems.

National School Counseling Week, sponsored by American School Counselors Association, highlights the significant impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career.

The 2022 theme is "School Counseling: Better Together," and our local school counselors are working toward better outcomes for the local student body.

Numerous research studies have quantified the impact of school counselors on student development and success, as well as on school climate and K-12 education in general.

For example, research shows school counselors play an important role in improved ACT and SAT scores, more informed college decision-making, fewer disciplinary actions, improved attendance and more.

School counselors can play a critical role in ensuring that stu-

dents get opportunities to have safe, enriching experiences in and out of school, and in helping prepare students for postsecondary success — all in ways that meet their individual needs.

A growing body of research indicates comprehensive, data-driven school counseling programs improve a range of student learning and behavioral outcomes.

Following are a few takeaways from those studies:

- Students who have greater access to school counselors and comprehensive school counseling programs are more likely to succeed academically and behaviorally in school; this is particularly true for students in high-poverty schools.

- School counselors can help elementary-aged students increase their knowledge of occupations, raise their desire to pursue

postsecondary education and learn more about themselves, their education and the world of work.

- High school students who have more access to school counselors and related college and career counseling services are more likely to graduate and less likely to have behavioral problems.

- School counselors can help with early identification and prevention of high school students with depression and suicidal thoughts.

- Expanding school counseling services in elementary schools is associated with improvements in student learning, behavior and mental health.

This week, take time to thank a school counselor for impacting your life or your child's.

We all are better off when our students are in a better place for learning and succeeding.



Fix before redesigning our existing highways

A recent edition of the online Morning Brew cited a government report last week that 31,720 people had been killed in motor vehicle crashes in the first nine months of 2021.

That is the highest nine-month total in 15 years. It's also 12 percent higher than the same time frame in 2020, making it the biggest percentage increase over a nine-month period since records began in 1975.

One might think the spike over 2020 might be due to lower numbers of traffic deaths in 2020 when Covid kept us home and off the road.

Well, think again. U.S. traffic fatalities that year jumped to their highest levels since 2007 even though vehicle miles driven in 2020 dropped by 13 percent.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) suggests more reckless driving since the pandemic began, including drivers not wearing seatbelts and blowing through speed limits.

I'll add a couple of my own:



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, general manager

cell phones, drunk drivers, young drivers, old drivers, foreign drivers, congested dash boards, road rage and just poor driving habits.

However, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg calls the rise in traffic deaths a "national crisis" and thinks blaming the human drivers won't solve anything.

All I can say is, "You've got to be kidding me."

According to our Secretary of Transportation, the way to bring down traffic deaths is to redesign roads to be safer, boosting safety standards for vehicles, and incorporating technology like automated

braking into vehicles.

What good are safety standards if you mandate seatbelts and humans don't wear them, you require blinkers and humans don't use them, you mandate cruise control and humans don't use it and blow past the speed limit.

You have laws against drinking and driving and humans still do it, you have hands-free cell phone laws and humans still drive with one hand on the wheel and one holding the phone to their ear.

Before we start redesigning roads, how about we fix the one we have?

Fick: 'We can disagree and still be friends'

To the Editor:

My opinion, as I see it. Is lack of knowledge and misinformation costing our country thousands of lives?

How many lives have died from the Covid vaccine? Never heard.

A vaccine is not 100 percent effective, but lessens the seriousness of a disease.

Where has our respect for our authorities gone? What are we teaching our youth by example?

Has lying, even under oath, become a very powerful tool? Even in our government, destroying our democracy.

Difference of opinion and compromise are good for society, normally resulting in intelligent results. Since when are death threats needed as a source of persuasion?

We gave our previous administration four plus years to get us

where we are. Is it fair to expect the current administration to have everything back in order in one year.

It seems to me our representatives in Washington should live by our rules, be intelligently productive or you get your two-week notice.

We should expect our medical problems be taken care of by trained scientists, doctors and nurses. We should expect our trained and experienced mechanics to take care of our mechanical problems. We should expect our trained electricians to take care of our electrical problems. We should expect our news media to present facts, not rumors.

What would I say if I learned an electrician would be my heart doctor?

We can disagree and still be friends.

Robert Fick, Luverne

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

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

Jan. 28

•Subject was arrested on warrant on S. Kniss Avenue and requested assistance.

•Complainant on N. Freeman Avenue reported being locked out of house.

•Complainant on N. Summit Avenue, Hills, reported threats.

Jan. 29

•An abandoned vehicle was reported at location on 180th Avenue, Hardwick.

•Complainant on S. Donaldson Street reported catalytic converter stolen.

•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported a vehicle in handicapped spot with no placard.

•Complainant on W. Maple Street reported a vehicle parked at location.

•Complainant reported a security camera outage.

•Complainant at mile marker 1 on Highway 75 reported an erratic driver.

•Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, on ramp at mile marker 4, Beaver Creek, reported a wrong way driver in lane of traffic.

Jan. 30

•Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 13, Luverne, reported a deer in lane of travel.

•Complainant on 171st Street, Luverne, reported an active break-in.

•Dispatcher reported 911 outage issue.

•Complainant requested to speak with a deputy about a drone issue.

Jan. 31

•Complainant on N. Spring Street reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant on E. War-

ren Street reported a parking issue.

•Complainant on N. Freeman Avenue reported a scam.

Feb. 1

•Complainant on N. Elmhurst reported a scam call.

•Complainant in Worthington requested RCSO assistance in locating suspect.

•Complainant on S. Estey Street reported suspicious activity involving garbage containers.

•Complainant requested to meet with the sheriff.

Feb. 2

•Complainant on 1st Street E., Jasper, reported daughter being bullied at school.

•Deputies searched residence on N. Estey.

•Complainant on Rapp Street and Blue Mound Avenue reported a stop arm violation.

•Complainant on S. Donaldson Street reported theft of a cell phone.

•Minnehaha County sheriff's office requested assistance in locating a suspect on W. Mead Court.

•SFPD requested RCSO assistance with identifying suspects.

In addition, officers responded to 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 vehicle in ditch, 1 escort, 7 ambulance runs, 2 paper services, 2 animal complaints, 1 fingerprint request, 12 burn permits, 2 background checks, 2 alarms, 2 drug court tests, 9 purchase and carry permits, 4 stalled vehicles, 17 traffic stops, 1 abandoned 911 call, 4 tests, 1 welfare check and 1 report of cattle out.



Out with the old to make room for the new

Crane operator Bryan Barnhart, Luverne, lifts a 1960s transformer from the city power plant lot Tuesday, Feb. 1, to make room for a new one coming this spring as part of an \$11 million upgrade underway at the power plant. It's the transformer that the existing Worthington generator utilized to connect its power to city circuits. It is being replaced with a new one because it's showing signs of internal aging. Also coming soon are two new additional transformers, one for each of the new Caterpillar generators coming to the power plant as part of the project. The transformer was sold to T&R Electric, Colman, South Dakota, for \$10,000.

Mavis Fodness photo/0210 power plant transformer

Concentrate money and energies where they can do the most good

It happens every year around this time. We finally have enough snow to cover the ground and folks start to think automatically that wildlife is on the verge of starving to death.

The calls start coming in as to where they can find some corn to feed this destitute wildlife.

It is true in years with heavy snow cover and below zero temperatures for extended periods that wildlife will start to show signs of distress.

That is not the case this winter.

Much of the state has had very little snow cover until about two weeks ago, and since that time much of that snow has melted or gone away.

In the 12 counties of southwest Minnesota most of the fields are about 50 percent clear of snow cover.

These counties represent the majority of the traditional pheasant range in the state.

Pheasants do exist in other counties not included in the 12 but in smaller population numbers.

Natural resource research has been well-



THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall, outdoors columnist

documented over the past 50 years and shows conclusively that pheasants rarely ever starve to death. Most folks think thick snow prevents the birds from finding food.

Pheasant losses can occur from deep snow, but starvation is not the primary cause of this.

When winters of deep snow do occur and start early in the winter season, lingering well into April, a small percentage of wildlife suffers some mortality.

The primary reason wildlife suffers from extended cold winters with deep snow is predation.

When there is little snow, birds and other wildlife can spread out across the landscape and survive in areas considered marginal cover.

Population densities are lower, and wildlife is less

congregated.

When deep snow makes marginal cover uninhabitable, wildlife seeks better cover. When wildlife congregates, predators like raptors, foxes and to a smaller extent coyotes will also move to those areas as the pickings are much easier to find and easier to capitalize on.

Pheasant feeding, as I see most often, is done very poorly. People will pour corn on the side of the road, and many birds get killed by traffic.

Others will feed far from the cover birds need to survive cold temperatures. This makes them fly longer distances and consume more energy to reach the free meal.

It also requires them to be exposed and out of the cover for longer periods of time.

Feeding wildlife as explained by a recent report I read from the Nebraska Game and Fish Department does not reach a large enough percentage of the population to make any noticeable difference in game populations the following fall after another reproductive cycle.

Feeding can carry over small numbers of birds in very limited areas if done right.

The report I mentioned earlier has been published at least 100 different times over the 50 years. Feeding and its limited effects have been well-documented across North America.

Feeding elk in the Rocky Mountains to help keep herd numbers higher than the land can support them might be a different story.

If those who think

wildlife feeding is really important took all of those energies and money spent and redirected them to better and more abundant quality wildlife habitats, populations of fish and game would be better off in the long term.

Now with all that said, there are those who will expend lots of time and energy to feed wildlife anyway.

If you are one of those people, then at least feed wildlife in ways that do more good than harm.

First of all, once you start feeding, you need to keep feeding. Once pheasants or other wildlife get used to your offering, they will become dependent on that offering.

They will not be searching for other food sources and will spend all their time scratching in the last spot you dropped corn.

Second, feed close to quality wildlife habitat. This means you'll need snow shoes or other transportation to get away from the road and close to adequate thermal winter cover. This is hard work if you have to go on foot.

Deer feeding is illegal in

many parts of the state, so be sure you are not breaking any laws, or your good intentions might end with getting a ticket.

This winter has been very mild so far. Wildlife in general is doing quite well.

Spend your money on a ticket to a conservation banquet and support more and better habitat to make wildlife feeding an experience that is no longer needed or beneficial.

I have harvested roosters in the late season when I thought there was three feet of snow over all the food sources, and yet when I cleaned those birds, their crops were full of corn.

I don't have any idea where they found it, but pheasants haven't existed in North America since the late 1800s without being tenacious survivors.

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

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Sale is subject to approval by the Heirs of James Klein. For further details and an information packet contact Douglas Eisma, Eisma & Eisma, Attorneys at Law, (507) 227-2829.



Thorson, Schmuck reign as LHS Snow Week king, queen



Above: Luverne High School student council members Lauren Hansen and Ross Bergman (far left) announce the crowning ceremony for the Snow Week activities Monday afternoon in the school's performing arts center. On stage are this year's 2022 candidates (from left) Luke Thorson, Casey Sehr, Griffen Jarchow, Trygve Gangestad, Pierce Cunningham, Trista Baustian, Mary Opitz, Madee Schmuck, Hope Thorson and Brooklynn Versteeg. **At left:** Seniors Luke Thorson (left) and Madee Schmuck are the 2022 LHS Snow Week king and queen, selected by staff members for their positive leadership in the classroom, in Cardinal activities and in the community during their four years at LHS. **Below:** Queen candidate Hope Thorson (fourth from left) points out the royal stocking hat in the box of newly announced queen Madee Schmuck (center). Other queen candidates include (from left) Trista Baustian, Mary Opitz and Brooklynn Versteeg.



1902: Luverne's first settler returns for visit

The following appeared in *The Rock County Herald* on Jan. 10, 1902.

After Twenty-Seven Years

William F. Brown, the First Settler to Prove Up on a Rock County Claim, Visits the Scene of His Early Residence

Residents of Rock county, enjoying as they do more of the advantages and benefits of a well settled, cultured and prosperous community than many older communities, are apt to forget how short a time ago it was that the virgin prairies of this county had upon them no white habitation, when natural grasses grew where now are bluegrass pastures, luxuriant meadows, or rich, highly cultivated fields dedicated to the



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president
Rock County Historical Society

production of corn and other cereals, and the territory now rich with fertile farms, comfortable homes and thriving towns was marked upon the maps as part of the great, unexplored American desert. Man nowhere engages upon labor more exciting and arduous and rigorous than that of reclaiming from nature the soil that has lain for aeons in its natural state, and except with great and unusual energy the period

of the reclamation must be a very long one. That Rock county should be visited now in 1902 by the man who was first of all others to "prove up" on his claim and the second in the county to file a homestead claim is a striking reminder of the comparatively short time since the settlement of this section of the state began and the great energy and perseverance exerted by its early residents in bringing the county to its present state.

William F. Brown, brother of E. A. and cousin of James Brown, of this place, arrived last week from Seattle, Wash., for a visit with relatives and old friends and to view again the country of which he was a resident thirty-two to twenty-seven years ago. He had come to Rock county in June of 1870—thirty-two years ago—from Wisconsin, preceding his parents and other members of the family. He filed upon the east half of the northwest quarter, section 14, Clinton township, and was the first in the county to prove up on his claim. The life of the settler was a hard one and gave little indication of the comforts and wealth so soon to come. Mr. Brown resided

Bits, continue on page 7A

GENERATIONS MENU

Monday, Feb. 14—Happy Valentine's Day: Chicken wild rice soup, broccoli, pineapple, cookie, dinner roll.

Activities: 8:30 a.m. Quilters. 10 a.m. SAIL class.

Tuesday, Feb. 15: Tater tot casserole, French cut green beans, warm peachies, dinner roll, cookie.

Activities: Bring Valentine item for a prize. 12:30 p.m. Pinochle and Bingo.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Sanford.

Wednesday, Feb. 16: Meatballs, mashed potatoes, carrots, bread, dessert.

Activities: 10 a.m. SAIL class.

Thursday, Feb. 17:

Barbecued pork on a bun, baked beans, spiced pears dessert.

Activities: 1 p.m. LSS frozen meals.

Friday, Feb. 18: Roast turkey with gravy mashed potatoes, peas, sage dressing, birthday cake.

Activities: 10 a.m. SAIL class.

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

Call Lynette Hoiland at 283-9846 to arrange to pick up a dinner or for home-delivered meals.

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

COLLEGE NEWS

Anderson on Arizona State dean's list, earns architectural design award

Jadyn Anderson was named to the Dean's List at Arizona State University Herberger Institute for Design for the Fall 2021 semester. To qualify, students must maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher with 12 credits or more.

Anderson (pictured right) also received the Design of Excellence Award for Fall 2021 for her architectural studio project.

Each semester the Design of Excellence is awarded to one project per class.

Anderson is a 2019 Luverne High School graduate and the daughter of



Chad Anderson and Paula Bloemendal, both of Luverne.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Farmers Mutual Hail recognizes Shirley Top as top-producing agent

Shirley Top with Kozlowski Insurance Agency and Financial Services Inc. of Luverne has recently been recognized as a top-producing crop insurance agent for Farmers Mutual Hail Insurance Company (FMH).

FMH recognizes the top-producing agents in total premium each year.

Top has been recognized as placing 47th in the company's Top 50 Agents in Crop Hail Premium list.

In addition, Top ranked fifth in the state of Minnesota for combined Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) and Crop Hail premium in 2020 with FMH.

2022 will mark 35 years in the crop insurance business for Top. "I love working with

farmers," she said. Top said the most important part of her job is working with clients, helping them understand their options, and assisting clients in weather and price-related claims.

"I also have to credit the amazing job our adjusters — especially FMH adjuster Brian Fick — did this year with the enormous number of acres hit with wind," she added.

"In 2021 my farm clients had 23,792 acres protected with green snap and wind coverage. FMH adjusters did an amazing job getting out to the fields before and after the farmers harvested to determine percentage of loss, giving the farmers ample time to complete their fall tillage."

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2012)

•Luverne High School senior Lauren Christensen joined a select group of former Cardinal girls' hockey players during the course of Thursday's home game against the Sioux Falls Flyers. When Christensen lifted a wrist shot into the net to account for Luverne's first goal in a 7-5 win, she became the fourth LHS player to enter girls' hockey program's 100-goal club.

Natalie Domagala, a 2005 LHS graduate, is the program's all-time leader in goals scored with 272.

25 years ago (1997)

•Josh Winkelman, a seventh grade student at Luverne Middle School, is being published two times this winter. His short essay, "The Song of the Country," is included in the junior high edition of the February 1997 High School Writer. Later this year, one of his book reviews will be published in *Voices in the Middle*, a publication for middle school English teachers. Teacher Elizabeth Petersen said students use journals to do what she calls quick writes. To stimulate thought, she reads a poem or a short story to the students. They listen and start writing, responding to what they have heard. Petersen said

she is continually amazed at the way the students articulate their thoughts.

50 years ago (1972)

•Mrs. James Juhl, home economics teacher in the Magnolia School system, has been selected as "Teacher of the Year" by the Magnolia Board of Education, Supt. Lloyd Fandrich announced this week.

Mrs. Juhl is in her fifth term in Independent School District No. 669 and has had teaching experience in Hills, Jackson, Luverne and Hazel Park Junior High in St. Paul before beginning at Magnolia. She also served as president of the St. Paul Home Economics Teachers Association.

75 years ago (1947)

•The new Chevrolet for 1947 is now on display at Connell Chevrolet here.

E. L. Connell, owner, states that this new model has been made bigger and better looking than the 1946 model, and is offering a greater measure of big car quality at lowest cost than ever before.

Combining all the popular features of the 1946 model with a number of added features, both inside and out, this newest Chevrolet must be seen to be appreciated, Connell said.

100 years ago (1922)

•During the month ending with Wednesday, the city of Luverne had paid a total of \$4,563.23 as freight on coal shipments for that period for the municipal light and power plant.

This represents about one-half the cost of the coal, the price ranging close to \$7.87 a ton, whether it is purchased at the head of the lakes, from the Southern Illinois coal fields or elsewhere. The freight rate from Duluth is \$3.37½, and from Southern Illinois \$4.79½, but the difference in freight is made up by a greater charge for the coal secured at Duluth. The kind of coal being bought is two-inch screenings.

On January 10th the coal bunkers at the municipal plant were virtually empty, but since that time a total of twenty-four carloads has been received, and it is on this number of cars that \$4,563.23 has been paid for freight.

It is estimated that the coal now on hand will last the city for about two months.

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A working AED in the Christian Reformed Church saved Don Bork's life in 2021. Don shares "More AED's should be in our community considering what they can do. If they end up hanging on the wall and never getting used that's great, but if they are available for that one incident like mine they are invaluable."

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star-herald.com

Late winter ideal time to prune trees

Pruning is a great way to prevent spread of diseases like oak wilt and other ailments

Late winter is the ideal time to prune branches on trees, according to experts with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. When done correctly, pruning in the winter is less risky to tree health.

"Now through early March — just before trees

come out of dormancy — is a great time to get outside and prune your trees," said Jennifer Teegarden, DNR cooperative forestry outreach specialist. "As trees become active in spring, they are able to quickly heal the pruning wound."

Wintertime pruning minimizes the risk that an

open pruning wound could invite pests or diseases. Pruning oak trees should be avoided from April through July, when beetles that can spread oak wilt are feeding on tree sap, which is present at new wounds.

Tree pruning tips:

- Trim branches before they grow to 2 inches in diameter to minimize wound size and damage to the surrounding bark.

- Don't cut flush to the trunk. Preserving the branch collar (the area where the trunk slightly bulges around the branch) allows the wound to heal quickly and not decay.

- Use the three-cut method for larger branches to minimize damage to the bark. Information on this method can be found on the pruning trees and shrubs page of the University of Minnesota Extension website (tinyurl.com/2p8c7bhv).

Pruning trees benefits yards and homes by:

- Reducing the need for a larger pruning job in the future and improving the tree's health.

- Helping trees survive storms with fewer dropped branches and less damage.

- Improving safety by removing branches that overhang or block walkways or roads.

- Maintaining the aesthetic of yards and enhancing the beauty of the tree.

More tree care tips are available on the tree planting and care page of the DNR website (mndnr.gov/treecare).

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Angela Kennecke
 KELO-TV News Anchor

Angela founded "Emily's Hope" after her daughter died of fentanyl poisoning



Monday Night
 February 28, 2022
7:00 PM
 Luverne High School
 Performing Arts Center

This event is free of charge. Donations can be made to Emily's Hope

This event is open to the public and will be livestreamed at www.youtube.com/luvernecardinalvision
 Questions: Call 507.227.1978

Thank you to #Luv1LuvAll and the Southwestern MN Opportunity Council for organizing this event through the Health Resources and Services Administration's Rural Communities Opioid Response Program



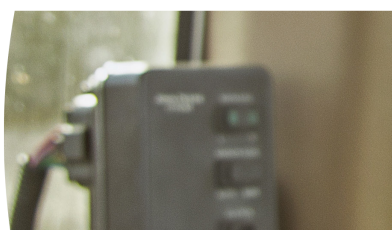
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LHS gymnasts get final season win leading into section meet

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne gymnasts closed out the 2021-22 season with another win and their highest scores on two of the four events.

The Cardinals posted a team score of 130.525 against the Saints (100.275) with the highest scores of 30.7 on the uneven bars and 34.65 on the floor exercise through the nine-meet season.

'We are focusing on putting together our best performances — which means cleaning up our routines.'

— Coach Phoebe Flom about preparing for Saturday's section meet

Coach Phoebe Flom is proud of her team's performance.

"We added some new skills in our final meet, so it helped our floor scores,"

she said. "Vault was definitely not our best night. Overall, I thought the girls did a good job."

They finished their season with a 7-2 record.

The LHS gymnasts commanded the meet against St. James Area, taking the vault (34.275 to 31.125), bars (30.7-19.125), beam (30.9-24.65) and

floor (34.65-25.375).

Individually, the Cardinals received the top four scores in each event except in the all-around when St. James' Anna Bogle took fourth place with a 28.45.

Luverne's Ella Reisdorfer took first in all five events: all-around (34.85), vault (8.975), bars (8.1), beam (8.6) and floor (9.175). Sarah deCesare was second in the all-around

(31.45), third on bars (7.5), third on beam (7.45) and third on floor (8.4). Amira Cowell was third in the all-around (31.45), third on vault (8.4) and fourth on beam (7.15). Addyson Mann finished second on beam (7.7) and fourth on floor (8.225). Kianna Winter finished fourth on the vault (8.35) and second on

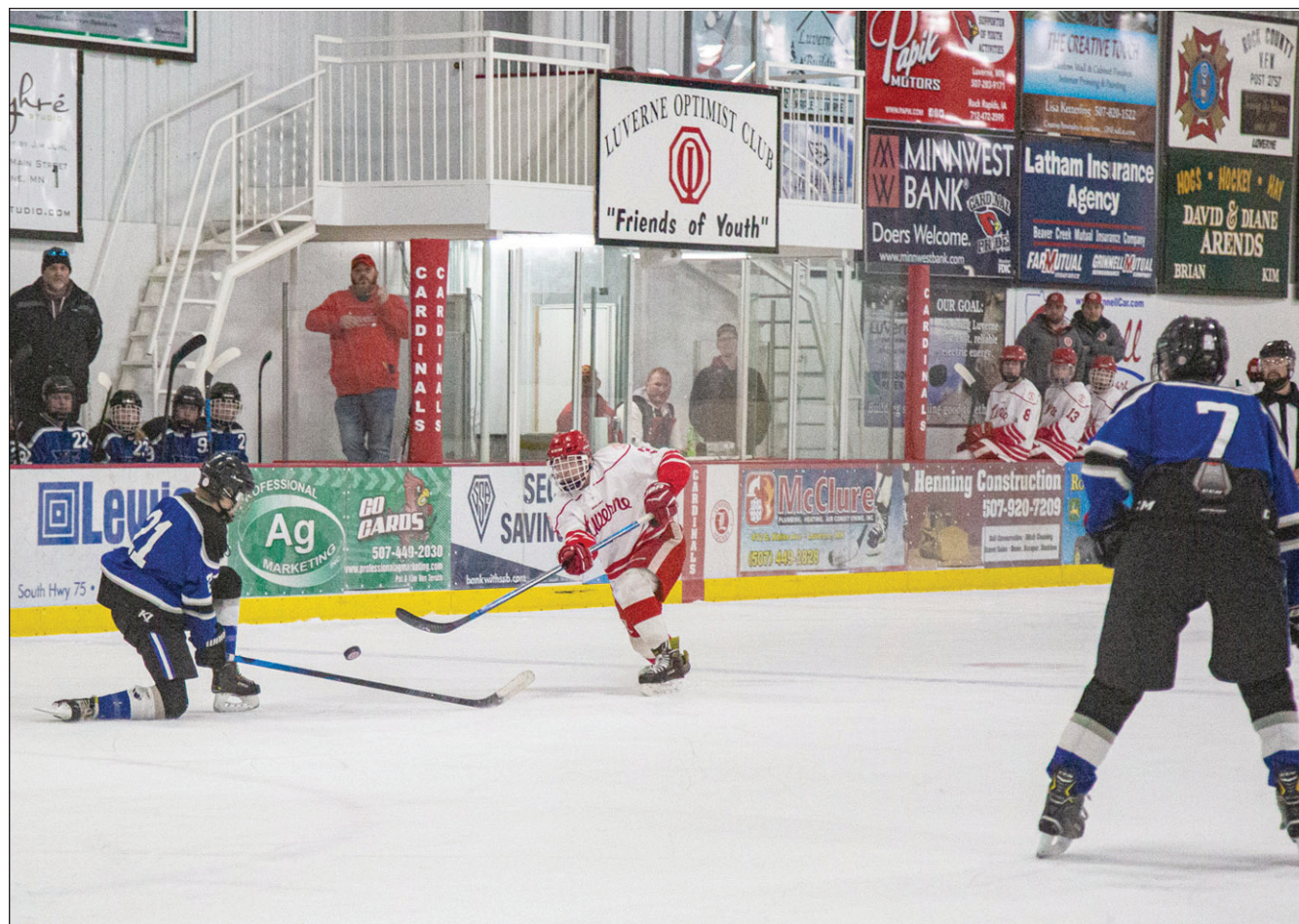
Gymnastics, go to 2B

Cardinals upend Tigers, Storm and Eagles to up hockey season record to 11-9

By Matt Lais
For the Star Herald

The Luverne Cardinals boys' hockey team advanced to 11-9 on the season, picking up wins against Marshall Tuesday, Feb. 1, Morris Benson Area Saturday, Feb. 5, and Windom Monday, Feb. 7.

The Cardinals were scheduled to play Fairmont on the road Tuesday, and they'll host Minnesota River Friday at Blue Mound Ice Arena before traveling to Le Sueur Saturday for a make-up game against Minnesota River.



Images by CD photo

Luverne's Kaleb Hein takes a shot on goal against the Morris Benson Area Storm Saturday afternoon at the Blue Mound Ice Arena in Luverne. The Cardinals won the game over MBA 6-3.

Luverne 4, Marshall 2

The Cardinals headed to Marshall Tuesday, Feb. 1, for a Big Section 3, Big South Conference rivalry game.

Luverne got on the board first when sophomore Elliot Domagala beat Marshall's goalie Ezra Maurice at 13:57 of Period 1. The assist went to Patrick Kroski.

Luverne goalie Tyler Arends stood tall, keeping Marshall off the scoreboard in the period by making 12 saves. Marshall had a 12-8 advantage in shots on goal in the

opening period.

Marshall answered back with two goals in the first 6:30 of Period 2 to take a 2-1 lead.

Luverne senior Jack Schlosser evened the score at 2 with a power play goal with the assist going to Kroski.

Luverne and Marshall had opportunities in the second period, but Arends and Maurice

would keep the game knotted at 2-2 after two periods.

Luverne had the 11-10 advantage on shots on goal in the second period.

Owen Sudenga took a feed from Brock Behrend to break the tie and give the Cardinals a 3-2 lead with 4:30 remaining in the final period.

Kroski added an unassisted

goal a little over a minute later to secure the win for the Cardinals 4-2.

Luverne had a 10-8 advantage in shots on goal in the final period. Arends finished with a solid 28 saves in the game.

Luverne 6, Morris Benson

Cardinal hockey, go to 2B



Images by CD photo

Jocelyn Hart puts a shot up to the basket against the Worthington Trojans Feb. 3 in a home matchup, where the Cardinals avenged one of their early season losses.

Cardinal girls' basketball team defeats Trojans and Eagles

By Jason Berghorst
For the Star Herald

The Luverne girls' basketball team won two more games this week to advance their record to 15-4 on the season.

The Cardinals avenged one of their four losses when they defeated the Worthington Trojans 64-51 Feb. 3 in Luverne.

The Cards then bested Southwest Minnesota Christian one night later 51-41 in Edgerton.

Luverne was scheduled to play in Pipestone Tuesday (Feb. 8) and will travel to Windom tonight (Thursday).

On Saturday, the Cardinals will face Montevideo in a 5 p.m. game at Southwest Minnesota State University in

Marshall.

The Windom and Montevideo games are part of girl-boy doubleheader games.

LHS 64, Worthington 51

Luverne's first loss of the season was to the Worthington Trojans (50-45) in Worthington on Dec. 21.

Six weeks later the Cardinals avenged that loss with a 64-51 victory at home in the Luverne classic gym Feb. 3.

Luverne never trailed in the game and led 33-16 at halftime. The Cardinals led by as much as 22 points (54-32 and 56-34) late in the second half before the

Cardinal girls, continued on 3B

Patriot boys claim back-to-back wins

By Dalton Bass
For the Star Herald

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team improved to 6-5 in Red Rock Conference play and 8-8 overall after a couple of solid victories in the past week.

The Patriots took down Westbrook Walnut Grove 70-62 in Westbrook Thursday, Feb. 3, and beat Red Rock Central 64-48 the following night in Hills.

The Patriot boys will look to extend their winning ways to three in a row when they travel to Adrian Thursday, Feb. 10.

H-BC 73, WWG 62

Just seven days after falling to the Chargers at home 70-62, the Hills-Beaver Creek went on the road and won 73-62 Thursday night in Westbrook.

The win ended a two-game skid for the Patriots who jumped out to an early lead in a first half that saw multiple lead changes. It was the Patriots, though, who saw a lead as they went into the break with a 36-34 advantage.

The Pates started to pull away in the second half, led by senior Drew Leenderts, who had 21 points and knocked down four three-pointers in the game.

Cole Baker also added 20 points and six rebounds as the Patriots came away with a 73-62 victory.

Oliver Deelstra and Ty



Samantha McGaffee photo/0210 hbc boys bb

H-BC sophomore Brayden Metzger fights through a screen against the Redrock Central Falcons Friday night in Hills.

Bundesen also contributed 15 and 10 points respectively.

The Pates assisted on a remarkable 25 of their 29 field goals in the game. Bundesen, Leenderts, and Baker each had six assists while Deelstra added five.

Baker 6 1 5-7 20, Deelstra 6 1 0-0 15, Raymon 0 0 0-0 0, Harnack 0 1 0-0 3, Page 0 0 0-0 0, Leenderts 4 4 1-3 21, Bundesen 3 1 1-2 10, Gehrke 0 0 0-0 0, Metzger 0 0 0-0 0, Taubert 0 0 0-0 0, Tatge 0 0 0-0 0, Durst 2 0 0-0 4, Scholten 0 0 0-0 0, Harris 0 0 0-0 0, Wiersema 0 0 0-0 0

Team stats:
H-BC: 29 of 52 (56 percent), 7 for 12 free throws (58 percent), 27 rebounds, 13 turnovers.
WWG: 26 of 59 (44 percent), 3 of 5 free throws (60 percent), 27 rebounds, 13 turnovers.

H-BC 64, RRC 48

It was the second game of the Patriots playing back-to-back nights as the boys took down the Red Rock Central Falcons 64-48 Friday night in Hills.

H-BC boys, go to 2B

Patriot girls claim big win over RRC, fall to Dells and WWG

By Dalton Bass
For the Star Herald

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team picked up a huge conference win over Red Rock Central 63-49 in a packed gym on Friday night in Hills.

That was after the Lady Pates fell to Dell Rapids St. Mary's 64-49 Monday, Jan. 31, in Hills and Westbrook Walnut Grove 49-44 Thursday, Feb. 3, in Westbrook.

The Lady Pates improved to 8-3 in the conference and 9-9 overall. They will host Southwest Christian on Tuesday night in Hills.

DRSM 64, H-BC 49

Senior Kenadie Fick's 29 points wasn't enough for the Lady Pates to take down Dell Rapids St. Mary's last Monday night in Hills.

St. Mary's is a tough, young team that was able to knock down 12 three-pointers in the contest.

They put pressure on the Patriots up and down the court and played a physical game.

Despite digging themselves into a 19-point halftime deficit, the Patriots went on to outscore St. Mary's 34-30 in the second half as the game ended 64-49.

Fick not only scored well over 50 percent of the Patriots' points, she also added 10 rebounds.

Sam Moser had six points and five rebounds for the Lady Pates while MacKenzie Voss, Olivia Deelstra and Larissa Steinhoff each added four.

Box score:
Fick 4 6 3-4 29, Rauk 1 0 0-0 2, L Deelstra 0 0 0-0 0, Voss 1 0 2-4 4, Bork 0 0 0-0 0, Steinhoff 2 0 0-2 4, Anderson 0



Samantha McGaffee photo/0210 hbc girls bb

H-BC sophomore Layla Deelstra attempts a block against a Falcon shooter during the Lady Pates' 63-49 win over Red Rock Central Friday night on their home court in Hills. H-BC is now 8-3 in conference play.

0 0-0 0, O Deelstra 2 0 0-0 4, Elbers 0 0 0-0 0, Fagerness 0 0 0-0 0, Moser 3 0 0-3 6, Spykerboer 0 0 0-0 0, Harris 0 0 0-3 0, E Deelstra 0 0 0-0 0

Team stats:
H-BC: 19 of 43 (44 percent), 5 for 14 free throws (36 percent), 32 rebounds, 23 turnovers.
DRSM: 25 of 57 (44 percent), 2 for 6 free throws (33 percent), 21 rebounds, 13 turnovers.

WWG 49, H-BC 44

The Lady Pates' five-game winning streak against Red Rock

Conference opponents came to an end Thursday night in Westbrook.

In a low scoring matchup, the Patriots' nine-point halftime deficit was too much to overcome.

The Chargers led 26-17 headed into the break before the Patriots went on a 10-0 run to start the second half to take a 27-26 lead.

The next 12 minutes featured back-and-forth scoring before the home team pulled away late for a 49-44 victory.

Senior Kenadie Fick led the way for the Patriots with 13 points, and MacKenzie Voss added nine points and six rebounds.

It was sophomore Layla Deelstra's first game back in over a month as she added six points for the Patriots in only eight minutes of play.

Box score:
Fick 2 3 0-0 13, Rauk 0 1 0-0 3, L Deelstra 0 2 0-0 6, Voss 4 0 1-2 9, Bork 0 0 0-0 0, Steinhoff 1 0 0-0 2, Anderson 0 0 0-0 0, O Deelstra 0 0 0-0 0, Elbers 1 1

0-0 5, Fagerness 0 0 0-0 0, Moser 2 0 0-2 4, Spykerboer 0 0 0-0 0, Harris 0 0 0-0 0, E Deelstra 0 0 0-0 0

Team stats:
H-BC: 18 of 48 (37 percent), 1 for 4 free throws (25 percent), 27 rebounds, 14 turnovers.
WWG: 18 of 47 (38 percent), 9 of 16 free throws (56 percent), 22 rebounds, 8 turnovers.

H-BC 63 RRC 49

The Patriot girls picked up a huge conference win over Red Rock Central in a packed gym on Friday night in Hills.

Not everything went smoothly, however, as the Lady Pates found themselves in a 29-20 hole at half time.

Coach Dylan Gehrke's pep talk at half time woke up the Patriots' offense, which went on to knock down eight three-pointers in the second half on the way to a 63-49 victory.

Eighth-grader Abbie Harris (10 points) hit three threes in a row at one point, while senior Kenadie Fick (23 points) had four of her own in the game.

Sophomores Brynn Rauk and Layla Deelstra (10 points) each had timely three-pointers of their own late in the second half.

MacKenzie Voss also had a big game for the Patriots with seven points and 12 rebounds.

Box score:
Fick 3 4 5-8 23, Rauk 0 1 0-4 3, L Deelstra 2 1 3-3 10, Voss 2 0 3-3 7, Bork 1 0 0-0 2, Steinhoff 2 0 0-0 4, Anderson 0 0 0-0 0, O Deelstra 0 0 0-0 0, Elbers 0 0 0-0 0, Fagerness 0 0 0-0 0, Moser 1 0 0-1 2, Spykerboer 0 0 0-0 0, Harris 0 3 1-4 10, E Deelstra 0 0 0-0 0

Team stats:
H-BC: 21 of 57 (36 percent), 12 for 23 free throws (52 percent), 35 rebounds, 15 turnovers.
RRC: 18 of 50 (36 percent), 6 for 18 free throws (33 percent), 33 rebounds, 22 turnovers.

Cardinal girls/continued from page 1B

Trojans narrowed the lead to 15 points at the end of the game.

Sophomore Kira John led the Cardinals in both points (22) and rebounds (eight).

"It was a good win. It was exciting to play well, and it's always good to win against a tough team like Worthington," she said.

"My shots didn't seem to want to fall in some previous games, but in this game, once the first one fell, the others seemed to come easier."

Elizabeth Wagner added 17 points and seven rebounds in the game. Christina Wagner totaled 12 points.

Box score:
C. Wagner 3 1 3-4 12, Beyer 0 0 0-0 0, Ver Steeg 2 0 2-2 6, Sehr 0 0 1-2 1, E. Wagner 6 0 5-5 17, Jocelyn Hart 2 0 0-1 4, John 10 0 2-2 22, Schmuck 1 0 0-0 2

Team stats:
Luverne: 25 of 53 (47 percent), 13 of 17 free throws (77 percent), 36 rebounds, 19 turnovers
Worthington: 18 of 48 (38 percent), 13 of 22 free throws (59 percent), 27 rebounds, 25 turnovers

Luverne 51, SWC 41

The Cardinals picked up their second win in 24 hours when they traveled to Edgerton to play Southwest



Images by CD photo

Christina Wagner (center) handles the ball against a wall of Worthington Trojans Feb. 3 at home in the Luverne High School gymnasium. Luverne won the game 64-51.

Minnesota Christian Friday, Feb. 4.

Luverne won its 15th contest of the 2021-22 campaign 51-41 over the Eagles.

Southwest Christian jumped out to an early lead before Luverne took a 10-9 lead with about 10 minutes remaining in the first half. The Cardinals led 25-22 at halftime.

The Cards outscored the Eagles 26-19 in the second half to earn the 10-point victory on the road.

Elizabeth Wagner led all scorers with 21 points. Christina Wagner added 12 points along with six rebounds.

Kira John totaled nine rebounds in the game.

Box score:
C. Wagner 2 2 2-2 12, Beyer 0 0 0-0 0, Ver Steeg 1 0 2-3 4, Sehr 0 0 2-2 2, E. Wagner 10 0 1-3 21, Jocelyn Hart 0 0 1-3 1, John 5 0 1-2 11

Team stats:
Luverne: 20 of 39 (51 percent), 9 of 15 free throws (60 percent), 31 rebounds, 27 turnovers
SWC: 16 of 49 (33 percent), 7 of 13 free throws (54 percent), 26 rebounds, 26 turnovers

Wrestlers/from page 1B

After a forfeit at 152 and a pin at 160, the Dragons climbed closer, making it 32-18. Jacob Madison, wrestling at 170, beat Adam Hulscher in a 4-2 decision, but Garretson's Luke Pershing received a forfeit at 182.

At 195, Luverne's Ayden Bonnett pinned Martin Welch, securing the Cardinal team victory.

Two forfeits followed at 220 and 285, but after winning all but one contested match, the Cardinals finished with a quality team victory.

"I'm proud of these boys going out and getting a hard-fought win," said head coach Jordan Kopp.

"Just look at the box score; we wrestled well that night."

Luverne 42 Elk Point-Jefferson 33

Against Elk Point-Jefferson the Cardinals won their second consecutive match 42-33.

Luverne's Brody Kopp, Rayden Boyenga and Leif Ingebretson each received forfeits before Hudson Hough at 132 and Noah Mehlhaff at 138 each pinned their opponents.

Braydon Ripka took a forfeit at 152 followed by a forfeit and pin by EP-J.

Jacob Madison received a forfeit at 170, securing the Cardinal victory.

The Huskies won two more forfeits and a decision, but after a double forfeit at 285, the Cardinals secured their second win of the night.

"The wins feel really good, and we came a long way this season," said Cardinal senior Ayden Bonnett.

"I'm proud of the team as we have matured and improved since we first started a couple of months ago."

Beresford 45, LHS 27

Despite wins by Rayden Boyenga, Leif Ingebretson, Noah Mehlhaff, Braydon Ripka and Jacob Madison, the Cardinals only came up with 27 points against the host school's 45, ending Luverne's night 2-1 as a team.

"Our guys wrestled the best night of their entire season as a team, and I am proud of them," Kopp said.

PALACE THEATRE UPCOMING EVENTS

The King's Daughter PG
Friday, February 11 7:00 pm
Saturday, February 12 7:00 pm
Sunday, February 13 2:00 pm
Tickets: \$5 for kids age 3 - 12th grade, \$7 for adults

AFTER-NOON ESCAPE MOVIE TBD
Thursday, February 17 2:00 pm
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Glenda DeBoer and family
(2.10-2.12)

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Car for sale: 2003 Buick Park Avenue; runs well. Call 507-935-2027. (1.27-2.12)

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EMPLOYMENT

Nobles County Community Services is looking to fill the position for a Licensed/Registered Dietician. If you have a passion for public health and serving the community this could be the career for you! Nobles County is seeking a licensed or registered dietician to join our public health team. The majority of the time, this position will provide nutrition education and health assessments through our Women, Infants, and Children's Nutrition Program (WIC). Primary responsibilities include assessing nutritional risks, screening for program eligibility, and providing nutrition education to children and families. Weekends and Holidays off! Bilingual candidates encouraged to apply. **APPLY TO:** Nobles County Administration Office. Visit our website at www.co.nobles.mn.us for application and to view full job description and benefit sheet. **Deadline: Open until filled, first review date February 28, 2022.** EEO/AA Employer (2.5-2.24)

Blue Mounds State Park is hiring a seasonal Building and Grounds Worker. Applicants must be 18 years old to apply. This position will work each year from early March to late October. Starting pay is \$16.43/hr and partial medical and dental insurance is provided. To read the position description and apply, visit: <https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/search-for-jobs/>. Under the "external applicants" window, click on "Search for Jobs now". Search for job #52246. (1.27-2.12)

RENTALS

Room for rent in a four-bedroom house. Finished basement, fenced yard, expansive kitchen, laundry 1.5 bath. Roommate is a woman with one dog. Potential renter must be a woman. \$450 month to month. Call 503-933-5459. (2.10-2.12)

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EMPLOYMENT

Nobles County Community Services is looking to fill the position for a Public Health Nurse/Registered Nurse If you have a passion for public health and serving the community this could be the career for you! Join our public health service unit and you'll be part of a skilled, caring, and knowledgeable professional team whose talents and contributions promote, strengthen and protect the health of individuals, families, and communities in Nobles County. Working in programs such as: Women, Infant, Children's Nutrition Program (WIC), Child and Teen Check Ups, and Public Health Preparedness, you can make a difference. Weekends and Holidays off! **Public Health Nurse:** provides direct care needs assessment, education, and recommendations for services based upon the needs identified when working with individuals and families in the community. **Registered Nurse:** under general supervision performs professional nursing duties to ensure administration and coordination of established public health programs. **APPLY TO:** Nobles County Administration Office. Visit our website at www.co.nobles.mn.us for application and to view full job description and benefit sheet. **Deadline: Open until filled, first review date February 15, 2022.** EEO/AA Employer (2.5-2.10)

Nobles County Community Services is looking to fill the position for a Dental Innovations Coordinator. Nobles County is seeking a full time Dental Innovations Coordinator to work in the Southern region to promote healthy lifestyles, close the gap of health inequity, and educate on prevention of diseases caused by lack of access to dental services. This position will work with communities, schools, individuals, target groups, dental providers, and other health care professionals to expand access to dental service across our region. Primary service area includes: Nobles, Cottonwood, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, Rock, Pipestone, and Redwood Counties. If you have a passion for public health and serving the community this could be the career for you! Weekends and Holidays off! Bilingual candidates encouraged to apply. **APPLY TO:** Nobles County Administration Office. Visit our website at www.co.nobles.mn.us for application and to view full job description and benefit sheet. **Deadline: Open until filled, first review date February 28, 2022.** EEO/AA Employer (2.5-2.24)

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CCSI is an EEO/AA Employer

EMPLOYMENT

CARING HANDS DENTAL CLINIC
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Great Plains Processing
in Luverne is looking to hire a **Packaging Technician**

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Luverne Public Schools is seeking a full-time Agricultural teaching position.

This job has a heavy component of teaching in the shop, working on welding and small engine projects. The high school building and shop area have recently gone through large renovations and machinery improvements. The position would also be heavily involved in coordinating our FFA chapter and working with students on their projects. Applications should be submitted to Superintendent Craig Oftedah.

The certified application can be found on our district website at: https://www.isd2184.net/about_lps/open_employment. If you have questions about the position, please contact Superintendent Oftedah at c.oftedah@isd2184.net, or High School Principal Ryan Johnson at r.johnson@isd2184.net.

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The **Rock County Star Herald** in Luverne, Minnesota, is looking for the right person to help navigate the fast-paced world of **community sports reporting**. Our weekly award-winning newspaper covers two local districts and their high school sports teams, along with community outdoors and recreational activities. We're working to enhance our daily presence with social media posts, sports column/blog and occasional streamed coverage with athletes, coaches and fans. Our vision is to be on the local scene of whatever sports-related news is happening — whenever and wherever it occurs — and share that experience with sports fans to read and watch on social media and to enjoy in print and online pages. **If you share the same vision of a local sports news presence, and if you're passionate about sports with the ability to write about it and share it with others, you may be the person we're looking for.** We're accepting applications now for this **full-time position**. Sports reporting and photography experience is preferred, along with some knowledge of InDesign, PhotoShop and social media platforms.

Email cover letter, resume and work samples to Rick Peterson, general manager, at rick@star-herald.com.

RATE INCREASE NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR CENTERPOINT ENERGY MINNESOTA CUSTOMERS

CenterPoint Energy has asked the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to approve an increase to natural gas rates for distribution service. The requested increase is for about 6.5 percent or \$67.1 million per year. The requested increase would add about \$4.05 to a typical residential customer's monthly bill.

The MPUC may either approve or deny the requested changes, and may approve a lesser or greater increase than was requested for any customer class or classes of service.

The MPUC will likely make its decision on our rate request in the fourth quarter of 2022. If final rates are lower than interim (temporary) rates, we will refund customers the difference with interest. If final rates are higher than interim rates, we will not charge customers the difference. If you move before a refund is issued and we cannot find you, your refund may be treated as abandoned property and sent to the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Unclaimed Property Unit. You can check for unclaimed property at www.missingmoney.com. To make sure we can send you any refund owed, please provide a forwarding address when you stop service.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly will hold two in-person public hearings and two virtual public hearings so that customers have an opportunity to comment on the company's request. Any CenterPoint Energy customer or other person may attend or provide comments at the hearings. You are invited to comment on the adequacy and quality of CenterPoint Energy's service, the level of rates, or other related matters. You do not need to be represented by an attorney. The hearings will begin at their scheduled time and adjourn after everyone present has had an opportunity to comment or ask questions.

Bad weather? Find out if a hearing is canceled — call (toll free) 855-731-6208 or 651-201-2213 or visit mn.gov/puc.

Date	Time	Location
February 22, 2022	6:00 p.m.	Golden Valley Library 830 Winnetka Ave N Golden Valley, MN 55427
February 24, 2022	6:00 p.m.	EVENT CENTER 10 Civic Center Plaza Mankato, MN 56001
March 1, 2022	1:00 p.m.	Virtual WebEx
March 1, 2022	6:00 p.m.	Virtual WebEx

Virtual Public Hearings

Public hearings have been scheduled as follows to be held via video conference.
March 1, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Attend by Internet Connection (Audio and Video)

To join the virtual hearing using a computer, tablet or smart phone, where you will have audio and video capability, go to: <https://minnesota.webex.com>. In the gray box where it says, "Enter Meeting Information," type the Event Number in the box to the right for the public hearing date you are attending.

March 1, 2022 1:00 p.m.	March 1, 2022 6:00 p.m.
Event Number: 2492 340 7866	Event Number: 2483 405 3637
Event Password, if needed: MnPUC!	Event Password, if needed: MnPUC!

Directions for Appearing via WebEx.

- Log on 5 to 15 minutes before the hearing begins. You will be asked to join the hearing through a Webex application or through a plug-in for your web browser.
- Enter the Event Number shown in the box above.
- Next you will be asked to enter your name, your email address, and an event password (if required). After entering this information, click "Join Now" and you will be granted access to the virtual hearing.
- When you enter the hearing, your microphone will be muted. If you would like to ask a question or make a comment during the meeting, use the chat function to send a message to the meeting moderator, who will place you in the queue to comment. When it is your turn to comment, your name will be called and your line will be unmuted. You will then be able to ask questions or make a comment.

To Attend by Telephone (Audio Only)

If you do not have access to a computer, tablet, or smart phone, or if you would prefer to attend the hearing via audio only, you may join using any type of telephone. You do not need internet access to call into the hearing, however, you will only be able to hear (not see) the speakers.. You will still be able to comment and ask questions.

Use the information in the box to the right to dial into the hearing. You will be asked to enter the access code for the hearing, as set forth in the box to the right.

March 1, 2022 - 1:00 p.m.	March 1, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.
Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Access Code: 2492 340 7866	Phone: 1-855-282-6330 Access Code: 2483 405 3637

If you would like to ask a question or make a comment during the hearing, **press *3** on your telephone.

You will then be placed into the queue to comment. When it is your turn to speak, the last few digits of your telephone number will be announced by the moderator and your line will be unmuted, allowing you to be heard.

Public Hearing and Process Information

Administrative Law Judge Ann O'Reilly will preside over the public hearings and will provide the Commission with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations after the conclusion of the evidentiary hearing. The purpose of the public hearings is to receive public input on the proposed rate increase. At the public hearings, interested persons have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of the utility and agency staff, and (2) offer verbal and written comments on the merits of the proposed rate increase. Members of the public may participate without needing to intervene as a party. Representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required. Please note that the public hearings will end when all attendees present have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded. You are encouraged to join the meeting at the scheduled start time to be placed on the queue to comment. Commenters will be called in the order they enter the queue. Therefore, it is advantageous to arrive at the beginning of the hearing.

Written comments may be submitted during the comment period before and after the public hearings.

Follow the instructions below to provide written comment.

Please contact Charley Bruce at 651-201-2251 or charley.bruce@state.mn.us or Tera Dornfeld at 651-201-2195 or tera.dornfeld@state.mn.us if you have questions on how to participate or have trouble accessing the public hearing using telephone or internet

WRITTEN COMMENTS TO THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

You can still submit comments even if you do not attend a public hearing. Comments will be

Comment Period

Comments will be accepted through **April 11, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.**

- Comments must be received by 4:30 p.m. on the close date.
- Comments received after the comment period closes may not be considered.

How to Submit a Written Comment

Written comments can be submitted via: (1) the Commission's eComments website; (2) electronic mail; (3) U.S. Mail; or (3) facsimile. To learn how to submit a comment in any of these ways, please visit mn.gov/puc, select "Consumers" from the dropdown menu on the right side of the page, then select "Public Comments and How to Participate." This will take you to the Public Comment page, where you will find a list of ways to comment. Be sure to reference PUC Docket No. 21-435 in the subject line of your comment.

If you do not have access to the internet, you may send or deliver your comment to:

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place East, Ste. 350

St. Paul, MN 55101

For assistance in submitting comments, or if you have questions, contact the Commission's Consumer Affairs Office at:

Phone: 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782

Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

Be sure to reference Docket Number 21-435

Important: Comments can be reviewed by the public on the MPUC's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The MPUC does not edit or delete personally identifying information or any other information from comments received.

EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS

Formal evidentiary hearings on CenterPoint Energy's proposal will be held on **April 6, 7, and 8, 2022**, starting at **9:30 a.m.** each day. The evidentiary hearing will be held in Courtroom 1 at the Office of Administrative Hearings at **600 South Robert Street, St. Paul, Minnesota**. Individuals who cannot attend in person, may attend via Microsoft Teams (Teams), a video conferencing platform. Members of the public who wish to attend the hearing through Teams may request an electronic invitation by contacting Judge O'Reilly's legal assistant at michelle.severson@state.mn.us. The purpose of the evidentiary hearing is to allow CenterPoint Energy, the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Division of Energy Resources, the Minnesota Office of Attorney General – Residential Utilities Division, and parties who have formally joined the contested case, to present testimony and to cross-examine each other's witnesses on the proposed rate increase. If you wish to formally intervene in this case, as a party to the litigation, you must serve and file a Petition to Intervene, pursuant to Minn. R. 1400.6200.

TO LEARN MORE

CenterPoint Energy's current and proposed rate schedules are available at:

CenterPoint Energy

505 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis MN 55402

Phone 612-372-4727 or 800-245-2377

Web <http://www.CenterPointEnergy.com/RateCase>

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101

Phone: 651-539-1534

Web: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/Efiling/search.jsp> Select (21) in the year field, type (435) in the number field, select Search, and the list of documents will appear on the next page.

Questions about the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's review process?

Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

121 7th Place East, Suite 350

St. Paul, MN 55101

Phone: 651-296-0406 or 800-657-3782

Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us

Anyone with hearing or speech disabilities may call through their preferred Telecommunications Relay.

The table below shows the effect of both the interim and proposed rate changes on monthly bills for residential, commercial and industrial customers with average natural gas use.

Customer Type (usage in therms)	Avg monthly usage in therms	Avg monthly bill: current rates	Avg monthly bill: interim rates	Avg monthly bill: proposed rates
Residential				
	74	\$68	\$71	\$72
Commercial/Industrial				
up to 1,500/year	67	\$69	\$72	\$80
1,500 to 5,000/year	255	\$210	\$219	\$230
5,000 or more/year	1,440	\$1,096	\$1,131	\$1,136
Small Volume Dual Fuel Sales Service				
up to 120,000/year	3,971	\$2,310	\$2,382	\$2,482
120,000 or more/year	15,567	\$8,903	\$9,152	\$9,490
Large Volume Dual Fuel Sales Service				
	42,091	\$23,466	\$23,981	\$24,403
Large General Firm Sales Service				
	41,602	\$23,085	\$23,776	\$24,480
Demand charge (per Peak Day)				
	3,110			

