



# Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, February 24, 2022

## Kennecke to bring story of 'Emily's Hope' to Luverne

*Grieving mother warns of opioid dangers; urges end to stigma, help for those addicted*

By Lori Sorenson

Sioux Falls news anchor Angela Kennecke is turning heart-break into action by telling the story of her daughter, Emily, who died at age 21 from fentanyl-laced heroin in 2018.

Kennecke started the non-profit, Emily's Hope, to help people struggling with addiction get help. She's bringing her message to Luverne Monday night, Feb. 28.

The local Luv1LuvAll Brain Health group and local sponsors arranged for the event, which starts at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center of Luverne Public Schools.

Kennecke calls attention to addiction as a disease of the brain, and she sheds light on the toll the opioid epidemic is taking on families and communities.

Despite her personal loss, she said Emily's story is worth telling in order to increase awareness, promote prevention and end stigma.

"I have to psych myself up to tell Emily's story again and again because it takes me right back to the moment I lost her and the intense pain," Kennecke said Monday.

"I continue to tell her story because it is truly a way for me to turn heartbreak into action. I know that people have sought help after hearing Emily's story. I also know it enables people who are struggling to feel less alone. Plus, if just one kid stays away from drugs after hearing Emily's story, it is worth it to me."

She said a student in Michigan approached her after a speaking engagement to say she attempted suicide a year earlier.

"After hearing my talk, she truly understood the pain her mother would have experienced by losing her and she told me she never wanted to hurt her mom in that way," Kennecke said.

"There are direct and indirect benefits from me sharing Emily's story. My daughter's death was

'Emily's Hope'/see page 3A



## Get Hooked Ice Fishing Derby draws big crowds, big fish, big smiles



The Tieslers (above, from left) Matt, Kayla, Dorothy and Jacob from Beaver Creek shelter against the elements in their portable fish house Saturday. In the center photo, Gavin Smidt (left) and Cody Raddle brave the conditions outdoors. At right, Colin Schoneman brings in a bass to be weighed on shore. Below left, volunteer Chris Nath weighs a bucket fish brought in by Jesse Petersen — 20 in all weighing 66.6 ounces. Below, these Edgerton girls (from left) Kya Post, Payten Dale-Lingen, Lilly Mertens and Kimber Wiekeraad enjoy skating (and falling) on the ice.

The Seventh Annual Get Hooked Ice Fishing Derby Saturday drew 155 registered youth and 150 adults from 53 different zip codes to The Lake in Luverne where anglers snagged nearly 135 pounds of fish in the tournament. Josh DePyper caught the largest fish among adults, Ivan Petersen caught the largest fish (a 52-ounce bass) among the youth, and Tyson Uithoven caught the largest game fish. (Lori Sorenson photos)



## Volunteers work on 2022 county fair

Funds needed to support extras, like 'Donkey Ball' celebrity races

By Lori Sorenson

The Rock County Fair is more than five months away, but local fair board members are working now to make sure they can pay for all the fair offerings this summer.

Letters went out this week seeking support for the 2022 lineup of fairground attractions.

"Because of the increased costs of entertainment, we are asking for your help to continue to offer items for free or at a minimal cost," the letter states. "With your sponsorship dollars, we will be able to continually improve the fair."

According to Fair Board vice president Lee Sells, there's money set aside for projects, repairs and structures on the grounds, but the budget

relies on sponsorship dollars to support the "extras" on the fairgrounds.

"Every dollar helps to make the fair what it is," Sells said. "We're able to bring in new things each year because of the support the community gives us."

For example, the Wednesday night grandstand event is a free meal and Dairyland Donkey Ball, with "celebrity" donkey races beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Local teams of businesses, government offices, organizations or private groups are encouraged to sign up for the "race," which consists of staying on the donkey as long as possible as it travels a portion of the dirt track.

Rock County Fair fundraising/see page 2A

## Hagedorn dies from cancer

Special election Aug. 9 to fill vacancy in First Congressional District

By Mavis Fodness

A special election Aug. 9 will determine who will fill out the remaining term of Congressman Jim Hagedorn, who died Feb. 17 of kidney cancer.

Rock County is part of Minnesota's First Congressional District, which extends across southern Minnesota from Rock County to Houston County.

Secretary of State Steve Simon issued a press release Friday.

"I want to offer my condolences to the family and friends of Congressman Hagedorn. He served the people of his district with admirable passion. May his memory be a blessing," the release stated.

"His passing created a vacancy in the office of U.S. Representative for the First Congressional District, which by law will be filled by special election."

Hagedorn dies/see page 2A



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Meetings

**Springwater Township Board** will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 1, at the township hall.

**Blue Mound Quilters** will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, March 7, at the Rock County Library. Exchange Day — books, fabric, etc. — and Show and Tell following the meeting.

**Beaver Creek Township Board** will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 7, in the township hall.

**Parkinson's support group** will meet at 2 p.m. Monday, March 7, at Poplar Creek Care Center for a speaker on physical therapy. Masks are required. Call Diane Karlstad, 507-530-3307, for more information.

### FFA breakfast set for Feb. 25

The Luverne-Adrian FFA Chapter is planning a community appreciation pancake breakfast from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 25, at the American Reformed Church.

### Community meal is Feb. 23

The Free Community Meal will be at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 23, at the Luverne United Methodist Church, 109 N. Freeman Ave. A pick-up option is available. Contact the church office at 507-283-4529.

### Blood drive Feb. 22 in Luverne

The American Red Cross will conduct a blood drive from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 22, in the Living Rock Church fellowship hall. NOTE the new location. To schedule an appointment call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit Red-CrossBlood.org and enter: LuverneMN.

### Mobile dental clinics scheduled

Mobile dental clinics will be in Luverne Wednesdays, March 9 and April 6 and Thursday, April 7, at the Rock County Health and Human Services community room.

These clinics provide dental care for adults and children ages infant through age 17. Call 612-746-1530 to schedule an appointment. All forms of insurance accepted. The clinics are organized by the #LuvLuvAll initiative, Rock County Oral Health Task Force.

### 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 interested 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.

### Community Ed

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.

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.

**Weight Lifting Intro** will have class instructor Courtney DeBoer introduce various entry/moderate level lifts and exercises along with proper technique. Class is Thursday, Feb. 24, and conducted in the new middle-high school weight room. Cost is \$10.

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.

# Speech team returns to Marshall, places third

### Two LHS students qualify for national tournament

**By Mavis Fodness**

Twelve Luverne students competed in the mini spectacular Saturday at Marshall High School — a first for LHS students.

"We never attended since it is usually in January," co-coach Caroline Thorson said. "Ten of the 12 from our team made it into finals."

The Luverne speech team placed third overall. Students competed in three rounds before competing in the final round. Top six finishers included:

- Discussion: Burke Johnson, first.
- Creative expression: Brianna Kinsinger, third.
- Extemporaneous speaking: Chance Tunnissen, first; Zander Carbonneau, second.
- Great speeches: Rylee Anderson, fifth.
- Humorous interpretation: Luke Thorson, first.
- Informative speaking: Jessika Tunnissen, fourth; Lizzy Mulder, sixth.
- Poetry: Mia Wenzel, first; Alex Perkins, fifth.

Seniors Luke Thorson and Chance Tunnissen



Ten Luverne High School speech team members finished in the top six Saturday at the mini spectacular at Marshall High School. Pictured in front (from left) includes Jessika Tunnissen, Brianna Kinsinger, (second row) Lizzy Mulder, Mia Wenzel, Alex Perkins, Burke Johnson, (back) Zander Carbonneau, Luke Thorson, Rylee Anderson and Chance Tunnissen.

qualified for the National Individual Events Tournament of Champions. They are the first Luverne students to receive a bid for

the national event in May. "This meet constituted a qualifier for the NIETOC," Thorson said. "Competitors need to receive two bids

throughout their season to qualify for participation. We have never sent anyone to this national competition before."



Star Herald file photo

U.S. Rep. Jim Hagedorn talks with visitors in Luverne during a January 2020 town hall meeting at Grand Prairie Events.

### Hagedorn dies/from page 1A

The governor's office announced Tuesday the start of the two-week filing period begins March 1 and will close March 15. Filing take place with the Secretary of State office.

A special primary for the Dist. 1 Congressional seat will be May 24. Early voting begins April 8.

The special election on Aug. 9 coincides with the statewide primary election. Absentee voting will begin June 24.

The winner of the special election will serve Hagedorn's remaining term, set to expire in January 2023.

Winner of the November general election will serve a two-year term beginning in January 2023.

Hagedorn was first elected to the U.S. repre-

sentative seat in 2018. He revealed a year later his diagnosis of advanced kidney cancer. He was re-elected to the two-year seat in 2020, with 64 percent of Rock County voters supporting Hagedorn.

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar also released a statement Friday.

"I'm saddened to hear about the passing of Rep. Hagedorn. He was a fighter for his constituents and a friend to so many including me," she stated.

"Through his battle against cancer, he showed a level of determination that should inspire us all. My condolence to (spouse) Jennifer (Carnahan) and all his family."

Hagedorn grew up in rural Truman and made his home in Blue Earth.

### Fair fundraising/from page 1A

"It's a hoot," Sells said. "It's really fun to watch."

Returning grandstand favorites are the GSP Tractor Pull on Thursday night, July 28, a County Fair Rib Cook-off and free band, "Undercover," are Friday night, and the Enduros close out the grandstand lineup Saturday night.

Free events (thanks to sponsorships) on the fairgrounds this year include the return of pirate impersonator Jack Sparrow, 5R Alpacas, the Wizard of Oz show, a Green Earth Players skit, the Ag Adventure Barn, a glassblower, Kent's Family Circus, Great Lakes Log Show and more.

Live musicians include the Barn Flies Band, Prairie Home Rebellion Band, Mogen's Heroes and others.

All these attractions cost money, and sponsors and donors play an important role in funding them, Sells said.

"We are very grateful for the support we've received from the community," he said.

The four-day event also relies on an army of volunteers.

"We have a huge board that puts in a lot of time in the off season," he said. "There are over 30 board members who work to make sure the fair is what it is."

According to Fair

Board treasurer Bob Remme, there will be something for all ages this year and he hopes fairgoers attend all four days July 27-30.

"Each year the board tries to find and bring in different items to make the Rock County Fair a great family tradition," Remme said.

"Besides the carnival rides and great fair food, there will be so many other items to truly see or take part in."

Remme said it's hard work to raise money and organize the fair each year, but it's always worth it in the end.

"To see the grounds packed and people walking around, laughing, smiling and having a good time on a beautiful summer night with family and friends is so rewarding," he said.

Sponsors at the \$250, \$500, \$750 and \$1,000 levels will get special recognition at the fair and in the announcer. Sells and Remme can be reached at 507-220-1725 and 507-220-0177, respectively.

Direct donations to support local fair efforts can be mailed to the Rock County Ag Society at PO Box 623, Luverne, MN 56156. Donation forms are available at the Luverne Area Community Foundation office.

For updates, follow the "Rock County Fair" on Facebook.

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**Kennecke/from page 1A**

senseless, and I am trying to make sense of it by sharing it with others in hopes that it makes a difference.”

She said she has spoken to dozens of audiences across the region and the nation, including 5,000 high school students at the Dolby Theater in Los Angeles for the Drug Enforcement Administration’s Opioid Awareness Youth Summit.

“Even then, you can tell that kids are affected by Emily’s story,” Kennecke said. “They can relate to her, and they don’t think death is really possible for someone like Emily. I know Emily’s life and how she died are making a huge difference and saving lives.”

She said an important message she hopes to convey Monday night is that deadly fentanyl is in all of the illegal drug supply.

“So, any use — even experimental use, is playing Russian roulette,” Kennecke said. “The minuscule amount of fentanyl that it takes to kill someone is terrifying.”

Also, she said the age of a person who first uses a mind-altering substance is important to consider.

“The younger you are when first trying something like weed or alcohol, the greater your risk of addiction,” she said.

Meanwhile, she said her charity, Emily’s Hope, is starting to have an impact.

“We’ve helped more than 150 people go through treatment, and we are now helping fund partial treatment scholarships for adolescents who suffer from substance use disorder,” Kennecke said.

*“So, any use — even experimental use, is playing Russian roulette. The minuscule amount of fentanyl that it takes to kill someone is terrifying.”*

— Angela Kennecke

“Emily’s Hope is also developing a prevention education curriculum for the elementary school level to help kids understand what happens to their brains on substances.”

While her message is geared for young people, she said she hopes to reach the community at large.

“Monday night’s program is for everyone, because all of our lives are touched by addiction in some way, whether it be a family member, friend or co-worker,” Kennecke said.

“The audience will gain a better understanding of substance use disorder through Emily’s story and what we can all do to try to end this overdose epidemic.”

Livestream locations for Kennecke’s talk will be at the Worthington Memorial Auditorium and the Minnesota West Pipestone Campus.

Questions can be directed to 507.227.1978 or 612.220.2904.

LuvLuvAll and the Southwest Minnesota Opportunity Council organizing the event through the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Rural Communities Opioid Response Program.



Children’s author Julia Cook talked to each of the grade levels at Luverne Elementary School on Wednesday, Feb. 16, in the school performing arts center. The afternoon session spent on secrets to good writing.

**Visiting author offers Luverne students more than writing tips**

By Mavis Fodness

Visiting children’s book author Julia Cook connected with Luverne elementary students Wednesday, Feb. 16, in the performing arts center.

With her two chihuahuas named Tommi and Kirby, she offered once-you’re-out-of-high-school advice.

“You don’t have to like to write but if you know how to do it right, you’ll go a long way,” she said.

“Writing is the hardest thing to teach and writing is the hardest thing to learn.”

Cook said learning to write is like making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. The two slices of bread the beginning and end of the story, and the flavor layers in the middle can be as thick as the writer desires.

“You have the bread, the beginning, then the middle, middle, middle, middle and bread for the end,” she said.

Cook said she begins writing by identifying “where, when, who, how, what and why” with descriptions of smells, tastes, sounds, feel and feelings.

With that information, she begins making the sandwich.

Cook has authored 137 children’s books since 2006.

The Fremont, Nebraska-based author is a former math teacher and became an elementary school counselor who often used children’s books to enhance her classroom lessons.

With the kindergarten and first-grade students she used her dogs to demonstrate how strangers use the animals to lure children away from their families.



Mavis Fodness photos/Author Julia Cook

Nebraska author Julia Cook talks to her two chihuahua dogs, Tommi and Kirby, Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 16, in the Luverne schools’ performing arts center with elementary students in the audience. Cook’s shirt, which reads, “Nice is the New Cool,” was purchased at a downtown business and fit into her focus of showing young readers how to be lifelong problem solvers.

The simple “stranger danger” message prompts a better understanding of often hard to explain social-emotional topics.

Student mental health has been a focus at Luverne Elementary since the coronavirus pandemic began in 2020, said elementary principal Stacy Gillette, and books are becoming tools in the classroom.

“A story is a great way to introduce some of these topics and sometimes difficult issues to talk with children about,” Gillette said.

Each elementary teacher received Cook’s “A Flicker of Hope”

book.

“This book reminds children that dark clouds can be temporary and asking for help is always OK,” said elementary school counselor Marie Atkinson-Smeins.

“We all have times when we need to borrow a little hope from someone else. When your clouds get too dark and too heavy to push away, reach out and ask ‘Can I borrow some light?’ Everybody needs somebody, sometimes, to help find their way.”

Cook’s visit was supported by the school’s PPIE (Parents, Partners in Education).

**USDA funding available to help low-income individuals, families buy or repair homes**

USDA Rural Development has funding available for very low- and low-income individuals and families seeking to purchase or repair a home in a rural area.

The Direct Home Loan program offers financing to qualified very low- and low-income applicants that are unable to qualify for traditional financing. No down payment is required, and the interest rate could be as low as one percent with a subsidy.

Applicants must meet income and credit guidelines and demonstrate repayment ability. The program is available in rural communities of generally 35,000 people or less.

The maximum loan amount is \$20,000 at a one-percent interest rate, repayable for a 20-year term and can be used to improve or modernize homes and do essential repairs. Grants of up to \$7,500 are available to homeowners 62 and

older and must be used to remove health or safety hazards, such as fixing a leaking roof, installing indoor plumbing, or replacing a furnace.

Time is limited to receive funds for the current fiscal year.

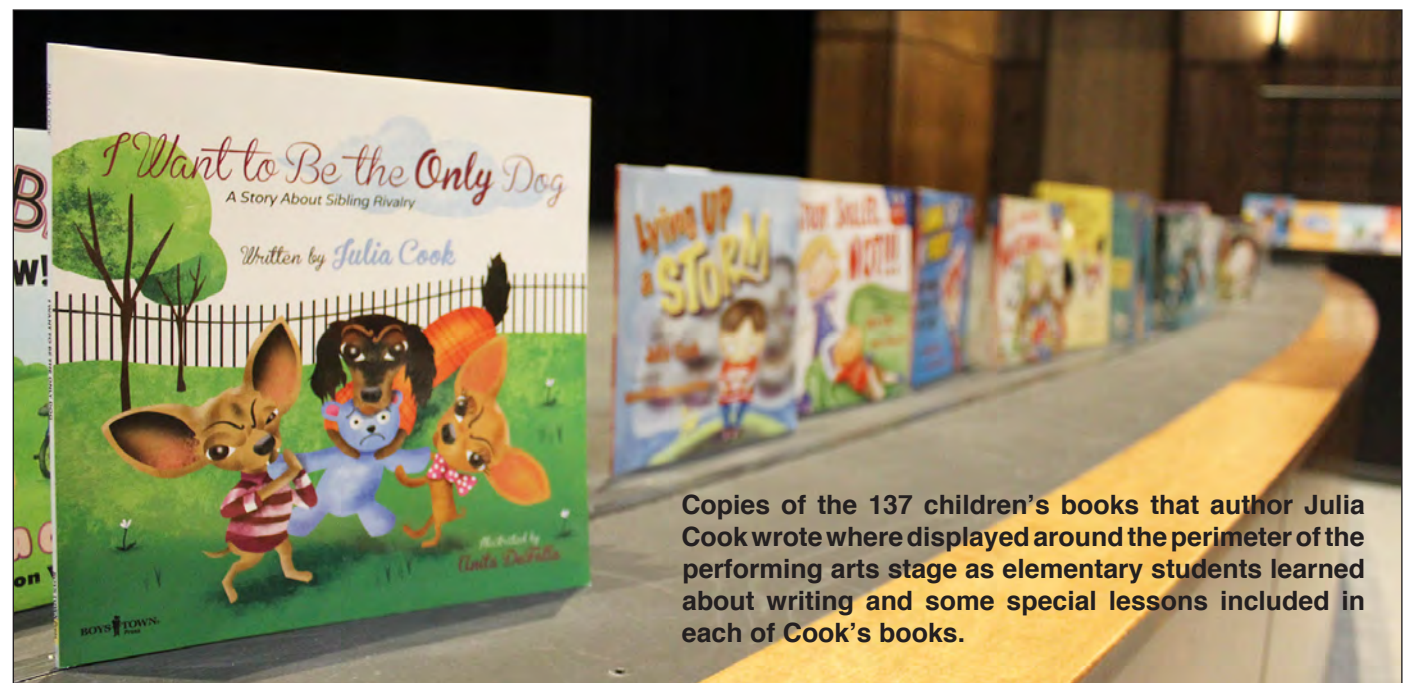
In southwest Minnesota the USDA Rural Development Housing Specialists are located in Marshall and Worthington.

For Marshall call 507-537-1401 ext. 4. In Worthington the number is 507-372-7783 ext. 4

USDA Rural Development loans and grants provide assistance that supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community services such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural areas.

For more information, visit [www.rd.usda.gov/mn](http://www.rd.usda.gov/mn).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Copies of the 137 children’s books that author Julia Cook wrote were displayed around the perimeter of the performing arts stage as elementary students learned about writing and some special lessons included in each of Cook’s books.

**REQUEST FOR BIDS**  
**VIENNA TOWNSHIP IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR**  
**Road Grading**  
 Please submit bids by Monday, March 7, 2022. Bids will be opened Tuesday, March 8 at 7 p.m. at the community hall in Kenneth.  
**Bids may be sent to:**  
**Brad Skattum**  
 1397 160th Ave  
 Luverne, MN 56156  
**Vienna Township Board**

**REQUEST FOR BIDS**  
 Class 5 crushed gravel, pit run and crushed rock to be spread on  
**Martin Township roads.**  
 Submit bids on or before  
**Monday, March 7**  
 to Allen Nuffer  
 363 60th Ave, Hills, MN 56138  
 605-521-6624

**GRAVEL BIDS:**  
**BEAVER CREEK TOWNSHIP**  
 Class 5, pit run, and screened to be spread on Beaver Creek Township roads. Bids will be expected on or before the monthly meeting on  
**Monday, March 7, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.**  
 at the township hall.  
 Bids may be sent to:  
**Beaver Creek Township: JoEllen Benson, Clerk**  
 PO Box 67, Beaver Creek MN 56116  
 JoEllen Benson, Township Clerk

**GRAVEL BIDS:**  
**VIENNA TOWNSHIP**  
 Class 5, pit run, and screened to be spread on Vienna Township roads. Bids will be expected by Monday, March 7, 2022.  
 Bids opened Tuesday, March 8 at 7 p.m. at the community hall in Kenneth.  
**Bids may be sent to:**  
**Vienna Township**  
**Brad Skattum**  
 1397 160th Ave  
 Luverne, MN 56156  
**Brad Skattum**  
 Chairman

**REQUEST FOR BIDS**  
**VIENNA TOWNSHIP IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR**  
**Snow Removal**  
 Please submit bids by Monday, March 7, 2022. Bids will be opened Tuesday, March 8 at 7 p.m. at the community hall in Kenneth.  
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## Time to lose weight

Marlene and Darlene return to the stage at Generations' new location

You may remember actresses and sisters Marlene and Darlene from Leota, Minnesota. (They drive to Luverne in their Toyota.)



### THE NORTHVIEW

By Brenda Winter, columnist

*Will Darlene be successful? Will Marlene ever get out of her post-Covid funk, clean up her house and lose all that weight?*

DJ Luethje and I created the elderly characters who performed a show, "Marlene and Darlene Present the Nutcracker," at Luverne's Palace Theatre in December of 2018.

It was a fundraiser for the construction of a new senior citizens building.

The show raised \$15,000 in spite of the fact that Darlene put out a "suggestion" box instead of a "donation" box. It was considered a success.

A lot has changed since then. A few short weeks after the fundraiser the Palace closed, as did the senior center.

Marlene blamed herself.

She spent the next two years in a Dorito-fueled depression. Her formerly Dutch-lady clean house filled with empty Doritos bags, Edgerton Bakery wrappers and the used Kleenexes she generated watching the Hallmark Channel.

She gained 50 pounds.

Darlene, always spunky and looking at the bright side of things, has had enough of her sister's dark mood. "Oh, for Pete's sake! It was Covid, not you, that closed the Palace! Go outside! You'll feel better."

Marlene remains unmoved.

At wit's end, Darlene has hatched a scheme to get Marlene to join a fitness class at the senior center, now known

as Generations, in the former Grand Prairie Events.

Will Darlene be successful? Will Marlene ever get out of her post-Covid funk, clean up her house and lose all that weight?

The answer to these questions will be revealed at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 28, and at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 1, at Generations when we bring our characters back to the stage.

The goal is to raise (another) \$15,000 for Generations.

Stay tuned for more information and answers to additional questions, such as, "Will the building even be open on April 28?" "Will George Bonnama donate a carrot cake?" and, "Will Marlene fall off the stage attempting a fitness move?"

I'm just as curious as you are.

## Sen. Weber shares update as session gets underway

### GUEST EDITORIAL

By Bill Weber (R-Luverne)  
Representing Rock County in Senate District 22

This year's legislative session will be about getting Minnesota back on the right track. My priorities will be to tackle the tax infrastructure, the state's education system, and public safety.

#### Surplus

With a \$7.7 billion surplus in the Minnesota state budget, there are a lot of opinions about what to do with all this extra money.

Before I discuss what we should and should not do with the money, I would like to briefly discuss the glaring problem that you probably noticed yourself — the fact that we have a \$7.7 billion surplus.

Simply put, Minnesota government has taxed you too much. Governor Walz recently proposed a solution to give a small refund of \$150 to \$350, which would only total around \$700 million of the \$7.7 billion surplus.

We can do better than that. First, we need to adjust all our tax rates, especially the income tax rate, where we are doing a targeted, permanent income tax relief to all families.

Second, we can also eliminate social security from the state's income tax with this budget surplus. You, the taxpayers, have paid tax on the money that went into the social security program. You should not have to pay for it again.

Third, we can also pay off the \$1 billion unemployment tax loan we owe the federal government with

this budget surplus. With this loan paid off, we will not have to charge businesses additional unemployment tax, thereby reducing the cost of doing business.

Finally, we can address our infrastructure issues throughout our state. With this money, we can repair many of Minnesota's aging roads, bridges, and buildings.

There is also a major need in our nursing homes and adult care facilities for help. We must avoid the closing of more facilities and we should consider a program to be of assistance.

#### Education

The school closures due to Covid have been a terrible experience for the children and parents. The school policies enacted during the pandemic have left many children behind from Covid learning loss.

To also add to that trouble, school classrooms in some places have become a place of political activism that has cost the children their education.

I will focus on bringing schools back to the basics, a place where chil-

dren learn and meet their math and reading scores. I am also committed to bringing increased transparency and accountability in schools. This means parents should know what their kids are being taught and have a say in the students' education.

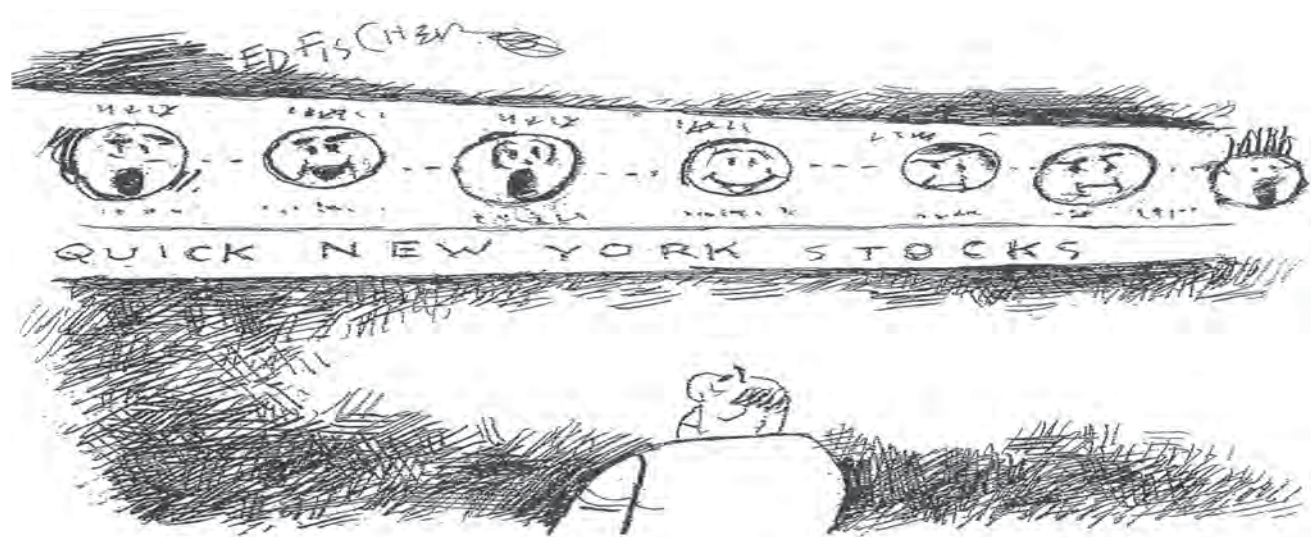
#### Public safety

Every Minnesotan deserves to live in a safe community. The best way to ensure this is by supporting our local law enforcement and giving them the resources they need to do their job.

With activism in our state that seeks to disparage our law enforcement officers, we have seen a significant uptick in crime. Along with this uptick in crime, we have seen a lot of officers quit and retire early.

This antipolice activism has discouraged people from applying to become peace officers, and departments across the state have seen a significant decrease in applications compared to years before.

We need to support our law enforcement and increase their presence on the streets and highways of Minnesota.



## 'The new norm' comes with good surprises

The phrase "the new norm" has gained popularity since the pandemic starts to wind-down.

Personally, I am not a fan of most of the new norms. Maybe over time I'll start to warm up to people working from home or a new supply shortage of the week.

I really struggle with going to the store, any store for that matter, and not always finding what I went there for.

I was killing time before a grandson's basketball at a Running store in Windom last week. I was meandering down the aisle when I found myself in the spray paint section.

The shelf was darn near empty. Not just one color was missing, but the entire section was bare.

I asked the clerk what was up with the spray paint section? She replied that she really didn't know, but it's probably like everything else — we never really know what will or won't show up on the delivery truck.



### FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, general manager

So, that took a while to get to my "new norm" experience.

A little over a week ago our daughter Emily and her fiancé Steven celebrated a combination early and belated 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party for themselves.

They sent out invitations and hosted a backyard barbecue-themed party at Big Top Tents and Events here in Luverne.

The "new norm" thing was that while nearly all the guests thought they were coming to a 40<sup>th</sup> birthday party, they discovered upon entering the building it was an indoor backyard barbecue-themed surprise wedding.

Only a handful of people who

were sworn to secrecy knew of the surprise and they pulled it off. Guests were completely surprised, thrilled for the couple and had a great time.

I am not sure this will really become the "new norm" for weddings, but in this case it was awesome.

Stacey and Jordan Smidt and their crew at Big Top Tents and Events were a joy to work with and did an outstanding job helping us host the event.

Like I mentioned earlier, it's taking me some time to warm up to new norms, but the surprise wedding idea gets two thumbs up from me.

## Krueger: Township residents should attend annual meeting

#### To the Editor:

Township Day is Tuesday, March 8

All township residents have a direct voice and a direct vote with their local government. On Tuesday, March 8, townships will hold their annual meetings on "Township Day." Make sure to attend to make your voice heard!

The tradition of a town meeting has roots in colonial America. New England town meetings gave citizens a way to exercise local authority. Those meetings were especially important in the development of democracy because it emphasized problem-solving through group efforts.

Growing from this historic background, we are still effective as

### VOICE OF OUR READERS

'grassroots government.' Residents participate in discussion and a direct vote on the tax levy, and many townships will be electing new officers.

We encourage every township resident to attend your annual meeting — together we'll shape the future. Mark your calendar for March 8 and find the location and time by checking your local newspaper or contacting your township clerk and invite your neighbors to the annual meeting on Township Day.

Jeff Krueger,  
St. Michael

E-mail: editor@star-herald.com Web site: star-herald.com  
Phone: 507-283-2333 Fax: 507-283-2335

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Office assistant: Jennifer Nelson Mavis Fodness, reporter  
Production: Heather Johnson Esther Frakes, copy editor  
Production: Brooke Huisman Sports inquiries:  
editor@star-herald.com

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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.



Lori Sorenson photo/0224 generations 10,000 gift

## Generations receives \$10,000 gift from Compeer

Compeer Financial donated \$10,000 to Generations Friday to support the remodeling work at Grand Prairie Events, which will be the new Generations home this spring. Pictured are (from left) Barb Bork, George Bonnema, Carlene Boll, Connie Frahm, Janet Majerus, Ken Vos, Marlys Nelson, Pat Barnett, Judy Fenske, Roger Henderson, Marion Schneckloth and Lynette Hoiland. The money will be used to support construction costs associated with retrofitting the prep kitchen at Grand Prairie to a full kitchen and also for an office for A.C.E of Southwest Minnesota.

## LHS-AHS FFA NEWS

### Luverne-Adrian FFA attends Ag Bowl

Nine members of the Luverne-Adrian FFA Chapter traveled to Marshall Feb. 11 for the Southwest Minnesota State University Ag Bowl.

Participating in the ag sale contest were A.J. Ossefoort, Jaden Reisch and Rydell Uithoven. Ossefoort tallied the high score for the team.

Three first-year members participated in the Best Informed GreenHand con-

test. They included Maren Stegenga, Andrew Kinsinger and Andrea Luitjens. Stegenga had the high score for the team.

Fish and wildlife contest participants included Chris Aning, Harrison Uithoven and Ryan Vos. Aning posted the team's high score.

Stegenga and Andrea Luitjens entered the small animal/vet contest. Luitjens came away with the high score.

### Luverne-Adrian FFA competes at Region 6

Luverne-Adrian FFA's traveled to Tracy High School Feb. 18 for the Region 6 career development events.

Nine Luverne-Adrian FFA's competed in the event.

The fish and wildlife team of Ryan Los, Chris Aning, Harrison Uithoven and Layke Miller placed 12th out of 19 teams. Individually, Aning posted the team's

highest score finishing 24th out of 78 participants.

Andrea Luitjens, Julia Hoogland, Maren Stegenga, Morgan Bonnett and Emma Deutsch comprised the small animal/vet team, placing 10th out of 18 teams.

Luitjens finished 28th individually out of 70 participants to lead the team with Hoogland, 33rd, and Stegenga, 37th.

## ON THE RECORD

### Dispatch report

**Feb. 11**  
•Complainant on W. Hating Street reported a shop-lifter.

**Feb. 12**  
•Complainant on E. State Street, Magnolia, filed a trespassing complaint.

•Complainant in Lyon County, Rock Rapids, requested assistance from another department.

•Complainant on E. Luverne Street reported a scam.

**Feb. 13**  
•Complainant east-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 8.5, Beaver Creek, reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant on W. Main Street reported an assault.

•Complainant on 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Luverne, reported smoke coming through vents.

**Feb. 14**  
•Complainant on 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Garretson, reported a child locked in vehicle at location.

•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported all locks were cut off storage units.

•Complainant on 101<sup>st</sup> Street, Luverne, notified sheriff of termination of services.

•Complainant reported scam calls.

•Complainant at Redbird Field reported a vehicle left near snow dump.

•Complainant on E. Main Street reported a suspicious person in bank lobby.

**Feb. 15**  
•Complainant on S. Donaldson Street reported an altercation at location.

•Complainant on W. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Hardwick, reported a break in and theft.

•Complainant on 201<sup>st</sup>

Street, Luverne, reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant reported suspicious activity on 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Hardwick.

•Complainant on S. Cottage Grove Avenue reported property damage.

**Feb. 16**  
•Deputy was out with vehicle at location on County Road 9, south of County Road 1, Ellsworth.

•Complainant on W. Bishop Street reported suspicious activity.

•Suspicious activity was reported at location on E. Main Street.

**Feb. 17**  
•Complainant on N. Freeman Avenue reported phone was stolen.

•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant on E. Warren Street reported a noise complaint at location.

•Complainant on E. Warren Street reported disturbance at location.

**Feb. 18**  
•Complainant east-bound on Interstate 90, Valley Springs, reported debris on the road.

•Complainant on E. Minnesota Avenue, Steen, reported HRO violation.

In addition, officers responded to 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 deer accident, 1 vehicle in ditch, 14 ambulance runs, 3 paper services, 6 animal complaints, 2 fingerprint requests, 11 burn permits, 1 gas drive-off, 2 alarms, 2 drug court tests, 5 purchase and carry permits, 2 stalled vehicles, 10 traffic stops, 9 abandoned 911 calls, 1 test, 1 welfare check and 3 follow-ups.

## With spring coming, houseplants need TLC

January is behind us and that means we are closer to spring. That is good news. The days are getting longer and the sun gives more warmth.

Plants notice that just as much as we do. So those wonderful houseplants are gearing up to put out some new growth. That means this is a good time to repot if they are growing out of proportion with their current pot. Generally we recommend moving to the next size larger pot.

This is also a good time to take cuttings of plants that you want to propagate. African violets are a good illustration. They are propagated from leaf cuttings.

You cut off a mature leaf stem and set it in a container with about one inch of water. Keep the cutting in the same light setting as it has been growing in.

It usually takes about four to six weeks for it to develop roots. At that time, pot the rooted leaf stem in a small container and again keep it in bright light.



## KNOW IT AND GROW IT

By George Bonnema, Luverne Horticulturalist

In six to eight weeks baby violet plants will peek through the surface of the potting material, and there often are several of them. Let them grow until they are large enough to handle easily.

Then gently remove the plant from the growing medium and carefully separate the individual plants. Pot each one individually.

African violets are a bit finicky about light and water. For best blooming, they demand bright light but not direct sun. Water only when the growing medium is dry on the surface.

They also bloom best when they are somewhat root-bound, so don't

be too eager about shifting them to a larger size pot ... wait until their growth makes them appear out of proportion with their pot and then only shift them to the next size larger pot.

Too large a pot and keeping the soil moist will result in a large, robust plant with no flowers.

So if you have been counting the weeks of this process, you know we are talking about three months ... March, April, May ... new plants growing well but not yet blooming. However, now that we are having long hours of daylight, they will have flower bud development faster than any other time of the year.

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## Notice of Annual Township Meetings & Elections

Notice is hereby given that the following townships will hold their annual meeting and elections on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. COVID-19 precautions will be in place. In case of inclement weather, they will be held one week later on March 15, 2022.

**Battle Plain Township**  
Justin Prins' farm - 1941 231st St., Edgerton. Meeting at 7 pm

**Beaver Creek Township**  
Beaver Creek Township Hall. Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Clerk 2-year term. Anyone interested in attending the meeting via zoom can contact the clerk at 507-227-2061.

**Clinton Township**  
Business meeting at the Township Hall. 4-5pm Voting from 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Clerk for 2-year term

**Denver Township**  
Hardwick City Hall. Meeting 7 pm

**Kanaranzi Township**  
Kanaranzi Elevator. 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Clerk for 2-year term

**Luverne Township**  
Luverne Pizza Ranch. Monthly Meeting 3-4 pm, Annual Business Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term

**Magnolia Township**  
Arends Farm 1581 121st Luverne. Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Clerk 2-year term

**Martin Township**  
Township Building 598 51st St Hills. Meeting at 8 pm.

**Mound Township**  
Keith Schmuck shop 1292 141st St, Luverne. Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term

**Rosedell Township**  
Township Hall. 4-5 pm Business Meeting

**Springwater Township**  
Town Hall 594 141st Luverne. Business meeting 3:00 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Clerk / Treasure 2-year term.

**Vienna Township**  
Kenneth Community Hall. Business Meeting 7 pm

**Rock County Township Association**  
Teresa Kramer, Secretary/Treasurer

**Tack Swap Benefit**  
for the Mark & Lisa Ehlers the late Tanya Fey families

Food stand available on grounds.  
Sponsored by: 4-H Horse Project and Western Heritage families

★ Silent Auction  
★ Education activities by 4-H members.  
★ Booths featuring items for sale or services available in the area.

Admission is FREE  
Free will donations accepted. 100% of proceeds will be split between the families.

**Saturday, March 5**  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Rock Ranch  
355 40th Ave., Hills, MN

Ad sponsored by the Rock River Wranglers Saddle Club  
For more information contact Kris VanDerBrink 507-350-9209



Luverne FCCLA member Macie Swenson (left) plays princess bingo with princesses Claire Loosbrock and Gemma Zix, who cover the squares with marshmallows (which they ate after the game was finished.)

## FCCLA students host 'Pretty Princess Gala'

### Story and photos by Mavis Fodness

A special fundraiser last week allowed elementary-aged students to feel like princesses.

Participants at the Feb. 15 Pretty Princess Gala event came dressed in gowns and received tiaras to wear at the event and take home with them.

They made magic wands, had their fingernails painted and hair styled by Luverne High School students in the local Family, Career and Community Leaders chapter.

Adviser Carmen Thompson said 42 preschool- through third-grade students joined one of two sessions ranging from 45 minutes to one hour.

FCCLA raised about \$400 with the Princess Gala.

"They were excited with how the event went and want to do it again next year," Thompson said.

The FCCLA members organized the first-time event and worked with Luverne Community Education to handle Pretty Princess Gala's registration.

The FCCLA members also wore dresses as they helped the little princesses decorate sugar cookies, play princess bingo, and drink tea (apple juice) from china cups.

Each participant had an opportunity to be photographed in Rapunzel's castle tower.

### What is FCCLA?

FCCLA is a student leadership organization that focuses on youth, peer education and family.

The group empowers high school students to be active leaders in their families, schools and communities by addressing personal, family, work and societal issues.

Contact c.thompson@isd2184.net for more information.



**Above left:** Each sugar cookie at the Princess Gala received a generous layer of frosting before sprinkles were applied, as demonstrated by Presley Vortherms. **Above right:** Isabella Nolz colors a picture of Princess Ariel. **Below left:** FCCLA member Bridget Thielbar (left) checks to see if McKinlee Gillette's nails are dry before applying another coat of polish. **Below right:** Levcy Boyenga poses as Princess Rapunzel in the bell tower while FCCLA member Janica Oeschle takes a quick picture.



## MENU

### Monday, Feb. 28:

Chef choice entrée, vegetable, fruit, bread, dessert.

**Activities:** A.C.E. of SW MN-Rock Co.: 8:30 a.m. Quilters. 10 a.m. SAIL class.

### Tuesday, March 1:

Ham with raisin sauce, au gratin potatoes, green beans, dinner roll, dessert.

**Activities:** 12:30 p.m. Pinochle; Dominos.

### Wednesday, March 2:

Roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, California Normandy, bread, dessert.

**Activities:** A.C.E. of SW MN-Rock Co.: 10 a.m. SAIL class.

### Thursday, March 3:

Sausage egg bake, broccoli, cinnamon applesauce, homemade muffin/coffee

cake.

**Friday, March 4:** Beef stroganoff with egg noodles, mixed vegetables, mandarin oranges, dessert.

Half-Price sponsored by American Reformed Church.

**Activities:** A.C.E. of SW MN-Rock Co.: 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/nutrition](http://www.lssmn.org/nutrition).*

## 1902: By-laws adopted by Breeders Association

*The following appeared in The Rock County Herald on Feb. 21, 1902.*

### Breeders Association Officers Elected and By-Laws Adopted—Next Meeting March 15

The meeting of the Breeders' association was held at the court room last week, when constitution and by-laws were adopted and an executive committee elected.

J. B. Dunn was elected vice president and N. R. Reynolds recorder. Members of the executive board were elected as follows: Kanaranzi township, Wm. Martin; Clinton township, James Fitzgerald; Martin township, J. R. Wright; Beaver Creek township, A. B. Price; Luverne township, R. E. Moreland; Magnolia township, I. Krimball; Vienna township, Kittel Olson; Mound township; Ira Sanders; Springwater township, W. P. Noble; Rose Dell township, Alexander Mitchell; Denver township, E. T. Thorson; Battle Plain township, not represented and member from there will be elected at the next meeting.

The following section of the by-laws was regarded with more interest than any other provisions:

Section 5—It shall be the duty of the recorder to provide himself with a suitable book in which to record horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry which is eligible to or has been registered in the various standard or



## BITS BY BETTY

**By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society**

national registers of this kind. The parties offering such stock for record must furnish such proof of purity as that required by the rules of the various associations and to the satisfaction of the recorder; also to pay for each entry a recording fee of 25 cents for horses and cattle and 10 cents each for sheep, hogs or poultry, above fee to include transfers by sale.

The association had more than fifty members at the time of the meeting last week. The next meeting will be held Saturday, March 15.

*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 [mannmade@iw.net](mailto:mannmade@iw.net).*

## REMEMBER WHEN

### 10 years ago (2012)

The Luverne Area Chamber will host its second annual Price is Right Night Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Blue Mound Banquet Center.

An appetizer buffet will be served from 6-7 p.m. with the game show beginning at 7 p.m.

Chamber Director Jane Lanphere said the event's 250 tickets were sold out well in advance.

More than \$6,850 in prizes donated by Luverne Area Chamber member businesses. That's nearly \$1,800 more than was awarded last year.

Game show host Ryan DeBates and announcer Kyle Oldre will host the event being billed "as a great night of fun."

All prizes not awarded to game show contestants will be raffled off for the general audience.

### 25 years ago (1997)

Local contractors and the Luverne Economic Development Authority may build six moderately-priced houses in the Evergreen Second Addition this summer.

The subdivision, located in the northeast edge of Luverne, was platted and furnished with streets and utilities by LEDA in 1996. ...

City Administrator Matt Hylen said if the houses can't be built at the target prices of \$85,000 to \$110,000, LEDA will not go forward.

Hylen said he knows it can be done because Luverne contractor Okie Honken has already completed a new home in the target price range in the Sybesma Addition.

In addition to local builders, the city would use, whenever possible, local plumbers, electricians and suppliers for the houses.

### 50 years ago (1972)

Fred Cox, Minnesota Vikings kicking specialist, will be one of the headline guests in Luverne this Saturday and Sunday for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes' "Weekend of Champions." Their agenda of activities features a basketball game on Saturday evening with area coaching staff members. Purpose of their appearance is to raise funds to send school athletes to summer conference champs. For complete details on their visit and activities here see the story inside this week's issue of the Star-Herald.

### 75 years ago (1947)

Ten men have made applications for the position of county veterans' service officer.

Included in the list are:

Stanford Remme, Luverne; Eugene McCardell, Magnolia; James R. Mitchell, Luverne; Harold Jordahl, Luverne; Gerit Devries, Luverne; Elmer K. Thon, Jr., Luverne; George W. Fried, Luverne; Karl Heiden, Luverne; Raymond Nelson,

Hills; and Lewis McEldowney, Luverne.

Just when the new officer will be named has not been definitely determined by the county board. The board will hold their next regular meeting next Monday.

### 100 years ago (1922)

Lightning, thunder, rain, sleet and snow enumerate the elements that contributed to the freak storm that swept this section this week, leaving everything ice coated, but fortunately with only a light blanket of snow.

The storm started with a light drizzling rain Tuesday afternoon and was followed in the evening by an electrical storm that lasted throughout the night. Frequently heavy showers of rain accompanied the electrical storm. Intermittent showers of rain and sleet continued most of Wednesday, and towards evening the wind switched from the northeast to the northwest and was accompanied by a miniature blizzard and rapidly falling temperature. The blizzard was the edge of a heavy snow storm that engulfed the northern part of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. ...

The greatest inconvenience experienced in Luverne as a result of the storm was interruptions in electrical service. The lightning was so heavy throughout the night Tuesday that the automatic switches at the power house were continually being thrown out of a contact and required practically the undivided attention of one person to throw them back into contact.

## OBITUARIES

### Gary Akkerman

Gary Akkerman, 73, Luverne, died Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022, at Sanford Luverne Hospice Cottage in Luverne.

Visitation will be Wednesday, Feb. 23 from 4-8 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne. Funeral service will be Thursday, Feb. 24 at 1 p.m. at the church with burial at Maplewood Cemetery following the service.

Gary Allen Akkerman was born on Sept. 3, 1948, to Clarence and Etta (Huisken) Akkerman in Worthington.

Gary grew up on a farm near Lismore. He attended Adrian High School in Adrian. In his youth he enjoyed playing football, working on cars and helping on the farm.

On June 3, 1967, Gary was united in marriage to Shirley Gehrke at Trinity Lutheran Church in Jasper. The couple made their home in Luverne where they raised their two sons, Lenny and Jesse. Gary worked at Hanson Silo and later at IBP. He then started driving truck for Sathers and from there drove for American Freight, D & J Transfer, Degroot Trucking and other small trucking companies. In 1998, he became employed by Dedicated Logistics, Inc. and would remain with them until his retirement in April of 2021.

Gary was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne. His hobbies in-

cluded guns, dirt track racing, hunting, shooting trap, reloading and working on cars. He loved his jeeps. He enjoyed farming and driving for Ahrendt Farms and Knutson Farms. Gary will be remembered for being such a hard worker, always willing to help others, and a man that was dedicated to the love of his life, Shirley, and their family. If you knew Gary, you likely heard the following sayings more than once: "it's junk," "cut it up" and "wonderful."

Gary is lovingly remembered by his wife, Shirley Akkerman of Luverne; two sons, Lenny (Angie) Akkerman of St. Michael, and Jesse (Candyce) Akkerman of Luverne; grandchildren, Nick (Aspen) Akkerman of Rogers, Makayla (special friend, Caleb Hultman) Akkerman of St. Michael, Brielle Waters, Masyn Akkerman, and Kane Akkerman of Luverne; sister-in-law, Sandy (Jim) Loose; and many other family and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Etta Akkerman; his beloved dog, Abbie; parents-in-law, Harvey and Cora Gehrke; sister-in-law, Kari Hamann; brother-in-law, Gar Gehrke; and nephew, Joshua Frey.

Arrangements were provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, hartquist-funeral.com.

(0224 F)

### Bryan Fransen

Bryan J. Fransen, age 66, of rural Luverne, died Thursday, February 17, 2022, at the Sanford Luverne Hospital as a result of a heart attack.

Visitation will be Monday, February 21, from 9:00 - 10:45 a.m., followed by a funeral service at 11:00 a.m., all at the American Reformed Church in Luverne. Burial will follow at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne. To sign an online registry, please visit [www.hartquist-funeral.com](http://www.hartquist-funeral.com).

Bryan Jay Fransen was born on April 20, 1955, to John and Velma (Cook) Fransen, Jr., in Pipestone, Minnesota. He grew up on the family farm in Edgerton as "the favorite" spoiled sibling. He milked cows every morning before school and participated in band, basketball and cross country. He also served on school patrol and attended Legionville camp. He was a great big brother and spent time chauffeuring his younger brother before he could drive. Bryan graduated from Edgerton Public School in 1973. He then attended Canby Vocational and Technical School where he studied Ag Business. He returned home to Edgerton and worked at Simplot in Hatfield, Minnesota. When he was living at home, his mom would wake up at midnight when he came home from work to fix him a meal - adding to his "favorite" status. On March 14, 1981, he married Darla Erickson at Bethany Lutheran Church in Luverne, Minnesota. The couple lived in Edgerton and then moved to an acreage outside of Luverne in 1987. They were later divorced. Bryan continued to reside on the acreage. He worked with Simplot for over twenty years before taking jobs with various other seed companies. He married Peggy Johnson on November 27, 2010 at the American Reformed Church in Luverne. The newlyweds made their home out on the



acreage. Bryan retired from seed sales in 2018. He then began driving for community transit and enjoyed meeting new people and learning their stories. On Thursday, February 17, 2022, Bryan had a heart attack while at his home and was taken to the Sanford Luverne Hospital where he died at the age of 66 years, 9 months and 27 days.

Bryan was an active member of the American Reformed Church where he served as a Deacon and Elder. During most of the summer, you could find Bryan outside in his garden. He loved the process of planting, tending the garden and sharing his produce with family and friends. He liked to travel, go camping, do wine tastings and read. In the last several years, he began doing genealogy research and traced his family tree back through six generations. He also recently started studying the Spanish language. Above all else, Bryan was a devoted family man from the time he was a son and big brother to being a husband, father, grandfather, step-father and step-grandfather. He cherished time spent with all of his kids and grandkids.

Bryan is lovingly remembered by his wife Peggy Fransen of Luverne; children, Darren (Melissa) Fransen of Marshall, MN, Brent (Heather) Fransen of Winona, MN, Tyler (Peggy) Johnson of Luverne, Travis (Stephanie) Johnson of Sioux Falls, SD and Meghan Johnson of Sauk Centre, MN; siblings, Gene (Kaye) Fransen of Owatonna, MN, Karen (Bob) VanEssen of Edgerton, and Dean (Ardeth) Fransen of Edgerton; 14 grandchildren, Caiden, Cora, Addison, Asher, Eli, Isaac, Brendan, Shawn, Rayna, Clara, Connor, Camryn, Maci and Remy; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

(0224 V)

### Donald Erstad

Donald Dean Erstad, 93, Alexandria, died Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, at his home on Lake Ida.

A memorial service was Saturday, Feb. 19, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Alexandria with a military salute following the service.

Donald Erstad was born on Dec. 11, 1928, in Garretson, South Dakota, to Elmer and Alma (Steen) Erstad, who predeceased him. He grew up with his mother and sister, Carol Amdahl, as his father was killed in an automobile accident when he was 10 years old.

Don graduated from Jasper High School in 1946 and enlisted in the Army at age 17 with his mother's signature. He served in the Army of Occupation in Japan and was honorably discharged.

He applied the G.I. Bill to attend South Dakota State University for one year. He then attended the Minnesota School of Business in Minneapolis where he graduated in May 1951.

After graduation, Don sold vacuum cleaners door to door.

Don married his sweetheart Yvonne Remme on October 28, 1951. Don and Yvonne raised their three children in Davenport, Iowa.

Don took a position with International Milling selling Robin Hood Flour. He transferred his family to Davenport where he literally became the face of Robin Hood Flour, donning green tights, bow and arrow, and a pointed hat with a red plume, for public appearances.

Don was a driven professional with an unmatched work ethic. He took a new

### Glenn Overgaard

Glenn Allen Overgaard, 67, Ellsworth, formerly of rural Luverne, died Friday, Feb. 18, 2022, at the Parkview Manor in Ellsworth.

A memorial service was Tuesday, Feb. 22 at the Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne with burial at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne following the service.

Glenn Allen Overgaard was born on June 29, 1954, to Gordon and Alice "Mabel" (Tofteland) Overgaard in Luverne. He grew up on the family farm near Kanaranzi and attended country school through the sixth grade. He then rode the bus into Luverne to finish school. During his younger years, Glenn participated in FFA, raised and showed Suffolk sheep, and was a member of the debate team. While in high school, he took on the nickname, "Too Tall." Glenn graduated from Luverne High School in 1972. He then attended Kansas State University for Ag Education until he was forced to drop out due to illness. While at college he was given the nickname, "Tree." It was also during college that he met Dawn Hedges. The couple was married on November 15, 1975, at Scott City, Kansas. The couple later divorced. Glenn was employed various places during his working life, including for Luverne Oil Company and IBP in Luverne. He worked road construction, which included work on I-90 by Luverne and throughout North Dakota. He also lived and worked in Arizona for a year in food wholesale. In his early 40s, Glenn was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. He remained actively working until he was forced to



position with International Playtex in 1966 and was an unprecedented National Sales Rep of the Year, three times. Playtex honored Don's retirement in 1993 after 27 years of dedicated service with an induction into the Playtex Hall of Fame.

Don and Yvonne retired in 1994 to their lake home in Alexandria. He volunteered numerous hours to help protect and preserve the beauty of Lake Ida and attended community meetings for Ida Township.

In October of this last year, Don and Yvonne celebrated 70 years of marriage.

Don enjoyed hunting and fishing and celebrating "Fun in the Sun Days" at the lake.

Don was the ultimate sports fan. He could remember games, meets, stats and times for his children from 50 years ago! He was an unwavering Gopher enthusiast. But his greatest joy was watching and supporting his grandkids and their activities. There was no one more proud than Grandpa Don.

Don is survived by his wife, Yvonne of 70 years; his three children, Denise (Bob) Falls, David (Susan) Erstad, and Diane (Todd) Achterkirch. His pride and joy were his grandchildren, Jennifer (Brandon) Hyland, Tyler (Hayley) Erstad, Lindsay Erstad, Emily Achterkirch, and Alana Achterkirch.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his sister. Memorials are preferred to Knute Nelson Hospice or American Cancer Society.

Arrangements were provided by the Anderson Funeral Home. [www.andersonfuneral.net](http://www.andersonfuneral.net).

(0224 F)



retire due to health. In June 2016, he became a resident at the Parkview Manor in Ellsworth.

Glenn was a member of Grace Lutheran Church where he was baptized and confirmed. He enjoyed racing cars, particularly in the endurance races, collecting coins, hunting, riding motorcycle cross-country, bowling and playing softball. Later in life, he took to vegetable gardening and was helpful in the Luverne Farmer's Market. He volunteered frequently at the Eagle's Club. Glenn struggled with alcohol and gambling during his life. He joined Alcoholics Anonymous, where he was able to share his personal story and help others with their battles with addiction. He could be a bit stubborn at times, but Glenn will be remembered for always being good hearted, telling jokes and having a fun time.

Glenn is survived by his two daughters, April Kempen of Morrison, Colorado, and her sister; three grandchildren, Aiden Kempen, Ethan Kempen, and Colin Leuthold; mother, Mabel Overgaard of Luverne; four siblings, Gary Overgaard of Magnolia, Marcia (Darrel) Johnson of Corcoran, Mark (Amy) Overgaard of Luverne, Loren (Julie) Overgaard of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; numerous relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Gordon Overgaard; and sister-in-law, Emily Overgaard.

Arrangements were provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, hartquist-funeral.com.

(0224 F)

### Donald Odland, Jr.

Donald (Mark) Odland, Jr., 71, of Carlos, Minnesota, passed away on February 18, 2022.

Visitation will be 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 27 at the Anderson Funeral Home in Alexandria. Visitation will continue at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 28 at Calvary Lutheran Church with a memorial service at 11 a.m.

Mark was born on October 26, 1950, to Donald and Mary Odland in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and grew up in Luverne, Minnesota, where he was an outstanding four sport athlete. After graduating from Luverne High School in 1968, he went on to attend Augustana College where he played basketball and, like his father before him, studied pre-med. After college, he enlisted in the National Guard. Mark went on to graduate from medical school at the Autonomous University of Guadalajara and completed his internship and residency in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

In 1974, Mark met Patricia Johnston. They wed in 1975. After Mark completed his medical training, he and Pat moved to Alexandria where they fulfilled their dream of building a home on Lake Carlos. Mark joined the Alexandria Clinic where he practiced family medicine and served as an on-call physician at Douglas County Hospital for 15 years. He helped generations of countless families and delivered hundreds of babies. In 2000, he transitioned to full-time emergency medicine at the hospital where he served for the remaining 20 years of his career. Mark retired in 2020.

Mark's expertise and calm, caring demeanor was felt by the staff and patients recounted that when Mark entered the exam room, he had confidence that "everything was going to be okay." The ER staff viewed him as a mentor, a friend, and a father

figure. EMTs expressed feeling reassured when Mark was working. A colleague and friend shared, "Everyone here likes Mark. No, they love him." His patients remember him as a caring physician who made time for them and really

listened to their concerns. Through the years, he answered phone calls from concerned patients at any hour. Mark made many house calls for friends and neighbors and showed genuine compassion for those he served.

He loved the outdoors and had a passion for hunting pheasants and waterfowl, especially with his sons and brothers. Mark was an avid fisherman, eagerly anticipating his annual trips to Canada for over fifty years. He enjoyed countless hours of activities on Lake Carlos with his family. Mark found serenity being surrounded by nature. He once shared with Pat his love for solitary moments watching the sun rise at the farm.

Despite his quiet manner, Mark enjoyed playing practical jokes on his family, friends, and co-workers. He was an enthusiastic fan at his sons' sporting events and other school activities, and in recent years, "Papa Mark" cherished his ten active grandchildren. He loved spending time with them and felt pride and joy as he watched them grow.

Mark was preceded in death by his father, Donald Mark Odland, Sr., and his mother, Mary. Mark is survived by his wife Pat, their three sons; Mark, (Rachel), Matthew (Kristin), and Anthony (Ashley), and his ten grandchildren; Brooke, Oliver, Charlotte, Jack, Magdalena, Isabelle, Evangeline, Henry, Barron, and Thea. He is also survived by his siblings; David (Sharon), Paul, Steven, and Debra, and his nieces and nephews.

(0224 v)

More obituaries on page 8A

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## COLLEGE NEWS

### Kruse named to St. Mary's dean's list

Kasyn Kruse was named to the Fall 2021 semester dean's list at St. Mary's University of Minnesota in Winona. To be eligible, students must earn at least a 3.6 GPA on a 4.0 scale. Kasyn is the son of Jason and Karla Kruse of Luverne.

### Students named to WSU's dean's list

Jessica Anderson, Luverne, Nicole Hoogland, Luverne, and Julia Ferguson, Steen, were all named to the Fall 2021 semester dean's list at Winona State University. To be eligible, students must earn at least a 3.5 GPA with a minimum of 12 graded credits.

### Jarchow makes dean's list at Drake

Ben Jarchow, Luverne, was named to the Fall 2021 dean's list at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. To qualify, students must earn a minimum of a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

### Wendland named to dean's list at Luther

Courtney Wendland, Luverne, has been named to the Fall 2021 dean's list at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. To be named, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale with at least 12 graded credits.

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Title: TBD  
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## OBITUARIES

### Raymond Van Wyhe

Raymond Van Wyhe, his honorable discharge in age 90, of Luverne, Minnesota, died Saturday, February 19, 2022, at the Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Visitation will be Friday, February 25, from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., followed by a funeral service at 11:30 a.m., all at First Presbyterian Church in Luverne. Burial to follow at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne. To sign an online registry, please visit [www.hartquistfuneral.com](http://www.hartquistfuneral.com)



Raymond Van Wyhe was born on October 15, 1931, to James and Fannie (Zwart) Van Wyhe on a small family farm in Rock County, Minnesota. He was baptized and confirmed at the Steen Reformed Church in Steen, Minnesota.

He attended school through the eighth grade. Ray enlisted in the United States Army in 1951 and received

his honorable discharge in 1952. On October 9, 1953, Ray was united in marriage to Carol Burtch in Hills, Minnesota. Together they raised three children, Judy, Rick, and Connie.

Ray was a life-long farmer who took great pride in work. Carol preceded him in death on June 17, 1989. On May 4, 1991, Ray was united in marriage to Carol Mulder in Ellsworth, Minnesota. Ray retired in September of 1998 and the couple moved to Luverne on October 15, 1998. On Saturday, February 19, 2022, Ray died at the Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota at the age of 90 years, 4 months, and 4 days.

Ray was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Luverne, Minnesota. Previously, he held positions as deacon and elder at Zion Presbyterian Church in Ells-

worth. Ray served on the Kanaranzi Township Board, a member of the Kanaranzi Lions Club, served on the Rural Water Board and was involved with the Cattlemen's Association. He was also a member of the Ellsworth American Legion Post 0196.

Ray enjoyed fishing, camping, mowing their acreage, and playing cards. He loved hauling hogs even in retirement. He could often be heard saying 'just one more' cookie. He loved spending time with his children and grandchildren. He will be remembered for Grandpa's special cough medicine – blackberry brandy, the way he would wiggle his ears and flip his teeth around in his mouth, and set off the smoke detector with his pipe tobacco.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Carol Van Wyhe of Luverne; children, Judy (fiancé, Tim Helmers) Top of Sibley, Iowa, Rick Van Wyhe of Cottonwood, Ari-

zona, Randy (Marcia) Mulder of Luverne, Pamela (Drew) Likness of Fargo, North Dakota, Melissa (Mark) Ayers of Estherville, Iowa, and Tony (Julie) Mulder of Estherville; 9 grandchildren, Candi, Kelly, Brittany, Taylor, Abigail, Ben, Alyssa, Logan, and Hallie; 13 great-grandchildren, Brooke, Carter, Riley, Dylan, McKenly, Knox, William, Jace, Aubree, Morgan, Sawyer, Jaxon, and Grayson; and a sister, JoAnn Westra of Hull, Iowa.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Carol; daughter, Connie Van Wyhe; parents, Jim and Fannie Van Wyhe; brothers, Henry Van Wyhe and Clarence Van Wyhe; son-in-law, Bill Top; sisters-in-law, Clazina Van Wyhe and Arlene Van Wyhe; and brother-in-law, Stan Westra.

Arrangements were provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, [hartquistfuneral.com](http://hartquistfuneral.com). (0224 V)

### Frederick Claussen

Frederick William "Bill" Claussen, age 80, of Staples, Minnesota, formerly of Hardwick, Minnesota, passed away on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at Reflections at Lakewood Health Systems in Staples.



Memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at the Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hardwick, Minnesota, with a visitation one hour prior to the service at the Church. Inurnment will follow at the Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

In Lieu of flowers memorials can be sent to the Alzheimer's Association, [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org). Arrangements have been entrusted to the Hartquist Funeral Home – Luverne Chapel. To sign an online registry, please view [www.hartquistfuneral.com](http://www.hartquistfuneral.com)

com.

Frederick William "Bill" Claussen was born on February 14, 1942, to Eldra and Eunice (Arp) Claussen in Luverne, Minnesota. He was baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick, Minnesota. Bill was raised by a village which included his grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. He graduated from Luverne High School in 1960. Bill lived in or near Hardwick throughout his life. He owned his own excavating business for a number of years and also drove cement trucks for Pronk Ready Mix. Later in his life he was united in marriage to Alice on March 7, 1992, at the Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick. They were married for five years until her passing on June 27, 1996. Bill passed away on

Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at Reflections at Lakewood Health Systems in Staples, Minnesota, at the age of 80 years.

Bill was a lifelong member of Zion Lutheran church in Hardwick. He also served on the fire department, and was a member of the Arthur Moeller American Legion Post #478 in Hardwick. Bill enjoyed hunting, fishing, skeet shooting, and going on motorcycle trips. He especially enjoyed socializing and spending time with his family and friends who he thought the world of. He was extremely caring and helped his mother when her health declined. Bill will be remembered for his very kind personality and always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Bill will be deeply missed.

Bill is survived by his sister, Marlee (John) Melville of St. Cloud, Minne-

sota; sister-in-law, Jackie Claussen of Pace, Florida; step daughters, Julie (Tim Haugen) Pater of Wirock, Minnesota, and Jayme (Dave) Palmer of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; his very special great nephew, Christopher Thomas; and many nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, and step grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Alice; his parents; and his brother Lee Claussen.

The family of Bill would like to thank the Good Samaritan Communities of Pipestone and Reflections at Lakewood Health Systems for the wonderful care they gave Bill. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association, [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org).

Arrangements were provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, [hartquistfuneral.com](http://hartquistfuneral.com). (0224 V)

### Jessie Wenzel

Jessie Lorraine Wenzel, 91, Luverne, formerly of Hardwick, died Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, at the Sanford Luverne Hospice Cottage.



Afuneralservice was Saturday, Feb. 19 at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hardwick with burial at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne following the service.

Jessie Lorraine Wenzel was born September 10, 1930, in Luverne to John and Della (Lewis) Ellefson. She was baptized and later confirmed at the Rose Dell Lutheran Country Church east of Jasper. She attended country school through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

On June 30, 1948, Jessie was united in marriage to Arnold "Bud" Wenzel at her home church, the Rose Dell Lutheran. The couple moved in December of that same year to the farm where they lived all their married

life together and raised their four children. In addition to her farm work life, Jessie cleaned homes for several people. She also worked as a cook at the Blue Mound Inn in Luverne, the Calumet Hotel in Pipestone, the Mary Jane Brown Nursing Home in Luverne, and lastly at the Luverne Community Hospital, as a dietary aide. She retired from the hospital in July of 1999.

Bud preceded her in death on November 28, 2015 after 66 1/2 years of marriage. Jessie later became a resident of Poplar Creek Assisted Living in Luverne.

Jessie was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick, where she was involved in the L.W.M.L., Ladies Circle, and the Zion Quilting Group. Jessie enjoyed helping others in need and doing mission work for Zion Lutheran. An important part of that mission to her

was encouraging the faith journey of those around her, particularly the younger generation. She was very proud to see members of the church growing in their faith and developing their relationship with Christ. She did quilt work for both missions and her family and truly loved serving her family. From baking to helping move, Jessie was always ready to lend a hand. She is remembered for having a great sense of humor and a wonderful partnership with her husband Bud. The two made an excellent team, working together at the church and catering. Jessie was very organized and motivated to get things done but made sure people paused to enjoy the little things, as long as they weren't whispering.

Jessie is survived by her four children, Dean (Linda) Wenzel of Luverne, Richard (Deb) Wenzel of Garretson, South Dakota, Patricia (David) Swenson of Beaver Creek, and Paulette (Randy) Richters of Luverne; seven grand-

children, Robert (Bronwyn) Wenzel, Joseph (Randi) Wenzel, Jennifer (Don) Luitjens, Dustin (Kayla) Richters, Devin (Liz) Richters, Dylan (Brenna) Richters, and Jessica Richters (special friend, Zach Briggs); nine great-grandchildren, Mason and Madilyn Wenzel, Elle and Eli Richters, Jaxon and Xander Richters, Kyia and Riley Wenzel, Sawyer Richters; and other family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arnold "Bud" Wenzel; son, Robert James Wenzel; parents, John and Della Ellefson; four sisters, Mattie Peterson, Ruby Dibern, Darlene Ruud, and infant sister LaVon Ellefson; and parents-in-law, Karl and Frieda Wenzel.

Memorials may be directed to McCrossan Boys Ranch, Zion Quilters, or Sanford Luverne Hospice.

Arrangements were provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, [hartquistfuneral.com](http://hartquistfuneral.com). (0224 F)

### Viola Peterson

Viola Lillian Bjerk Peterson, 95, Sioux falls, South Dakota, died February 18, 2022, and was finally reunited with her best friend and husband, Paul.

A funeral service will be 11 a.m., Monday, Feb. 28 at First Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with an hour of

visitation prior at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Media Ministry in Viola's name.

Arrangements were provided by Miller Funeral Home. For full obituary, please visit [www.millerfh.com](http://www.millerfh.com). (0224 F)



## DEATH NOTICE

### Barbara Brinkhous

Barbara Brinkhous, 63, Hardwick, died Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022, under hospice care at her home.

Visitation will be Wednesday, Feb. 23 from 5-7 p.m. at Rock River Community Church, rural Luverne. A funeral service will be at the church on Thursday, Feb. 24 at 1:30 p.m. with a light luncheon served beforehand at noon with burial at the Holland Cemetery, Holland, following the service.

Arrangements are with Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne. (0224 DN)



## Luverne girls' hockey team tops New Ulm and claims Section 3A Championship

Seeded No. 5, LHS takes on South St. Paul Wednesday

By Matt Lais  
For the Star Herald

The Luverne girls' hockey team met rival New Ulm Tuesday, Feb. 15, for the Section 3A Championship in New Ulm where the Cardinals emerged with a hard-fought 3-2 victory.

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

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

Three periods in regulation were not enough to settle the contest. It would take two extra periods before Luverne scored in the second overtime to win a trip back to the Xcel Energy Center for the third consecutive year.

The game opened with back-and-forth play, both teams controlling their nerves shift by shift in the first period.

At 4:18 into the title tilt New Ulm struck first. After a flurry of saves by Luverne senior goalie Cheyenne Schutz, New Ulm's Mad-di O' Connor got a rebound goal past a sprawling Schutz.

After one period in New Ulm, it was the Eagles holding the 1-0 lead.

Shots on goal were 14-9 in favor of the Eagles. Schutz was huge for the Cardinals making 13 saves in the period.

Luverne would get on the board 56 seconds in the period when a Payton Behr breakout pass found Reghan Bork who passed to Kamryn Van Batavia who deked around a New Ulm defender for



Luverne girls' hockey players celebrate after beating New Ulm 3-2 Feb. 15 Section 3A Championship game in New Ulm. Pictured are (front, from left) Emma Saarloos, Brenn Siebenahler, Mallory Nelson, Reghan Bork, Kamryn Van Batavia, Cheyenne Schutz, (second row) Hannah Woodley, Payton Behr, Anika Boll, Mallory Von Tersch, (third row) assistant coach Ellen Wenninger, Zariah Holmgren, Billi Connell, Macie Edstrom, Ella Apel, coach Tony Sandbulte, (back) Greta McClure, assistant coach Matt McClure and manager Morgan Gonnerman.

LHS girls keep winning, earn top seed in upcoming Section 3AA tournament

By Jason Berghorst

The Luverne girls' basketball team wrapped up its regular season with a 20-4 overall record and a perfect 11-0 record in Section 3AA.

That accomplishment is enough to earn the Cardinals the No. 1 seed in the Section 3AA-South tournament, which begins Saturday, Feb. 26.

Luverne will host the No. 8-seeded Redwood Valley Cardinals (1-25) in the Luverne Classic Gym Saturday at 7 p.m. Luverne defeated Redwood Valley by scores of 87-28 and 67-14 earlier in the season.

With a win, LHS will face the winner of Jackson County Central and St. James Area Tuesday at 6 p.m. at a neutral location to be determined.

Fairmont (20-3) is seeded second in the South sub-section.

In the North sub-section, Montevideo (20-3) received the top seed with New London-Spicer (21-3) the No. 2 seed.

According to Luverne head coach TJ Newgard, the section tournament should be competitive.

"I think seven or eight teams have a legit chance of coming out of Section 3AA," Newgard said.

"With that much parity, I think it makes it really fun knowing you have a chance if you can string together four good games."

The Cardinals won their final two regular sea-

LHS girls', go to 10A

Girls' hockey, go to page 14A



Minnesota State High School League photo Luverne High School coach Phoebe Flom (back, left) stands by as LHS gymnast Ella Reisdorfer completes a pike Tsukahara off the vault Saturday night at the state gymnastics tournament.

## Reisdorfer finishes gymnastic season at state meet

By Mavis Fodness

Uncharacteristic falls from the balance beam and uneven bars prevented Luverne gymnast Ella Reisdorfer from reaching the awards podium at the Minnesota Class A State Girls Gymnastics Tournament

The LHS freshman (who turns 15 this week) competed in the all-around competition at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium Saturday night in St. Paul.

She accumulated a score 32.95 on the four apparatuses, placing 22nd out of 24 all-around competitors.

Coach Phoebe Flom said Reisdorfer didn't compete to the best of her abilities at Saturday's individual event.

"She was just not herself at all. I am not sure if it was nerves or what. I am, however, very proud of her — to compete with the top gymnasts in the state is quite an honor. She went up there and gave it her all," Flom said.

Gymnastics, continued on page 14A

## Cardinals, Patriots meet in cross county contest

By Dalton Bass  
For the Star Herald

The Luverne boys came away with a victory over Hills-Beaver Creek in the second matchup between these two teams Thursday night in Luverne.

The Cardinals claimed a 48-32 victory in a low scoring matchup the first time around in a game in which each team was missing one of their top scorers. Gannon Ahrendt from Luverne and Oliver Deelstra from H-BC were both out with injuries.

The scoring notably picked up in the second matchup as Luverne got out to an early lead and went into the break with a 43-32 advantage.

The Patriots battled back in the second half, outscoring the Cardinals 29-26 after halftime.

The game stayed within single digits for most of the game, and the Patriots cut it to 71-66 with just under 3 minutes remaining.

That's the closest it would get before Luverne pulled away for a 79-71 victory.

Ahrendt was the leading scorer in the game with 31 points. Connor Overgaard (14 points and 9 rebounds) and Casey Sehr (12 points) were also contributors for the Cardinals

Cole Baker led the way for the Pates with 19 points while Ty Bundesen had 15 points and 9 rebounds. Deelstra added 14 points, 9 rebounds, and 6 assists.

**HBC Boxscore:**  
Baker 4 2 5-7 19, Deelstra 2 2 4-6 14, Raymon 3 1 0-0 9, Harnack 0 0 0-0 0, Page 0 0 0-0 0, Leenders 1 2 0-0 8, Bundesen 2 3 2-4 15, Durst 3 0 0-1 6, Scholten 0 0 0-0 0, Harris 0 0 0-0 0

**Luverne Boxscore:**  
Cole-Kraty 3 0 0-0 6, Schoeneman 1 2 2-9, Sehr 6 0 0-0 12, Radtke 1 0 0-0 2, DeBeer 1 1 0-0 5, Ahrendt 11 3 0-1 31, Overgaard 6 0 2-2 14

**Team Statistics**  
HBC: 25 of 56 (45 percent), 11 for 18 Free Throws (61 percent), 33 Rebounds, 18 Turnovers

Luv: 35 of 67 (52 percent), 3 for 5 Free Throws (60 percent), 28 Rebounds, 9 Turnovers



Luverne's Gannon Ahrendt dunks the ball Thursday night, Feb. 17, against Hills-Beaver Creek in Hills, where Ahrendt achieved his 1,000th basket.

Ahrendt reaches 1,000-point milestone, is only second boys player in LHS history

By Jason Berghorst

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

Ahrendt becomes just the second boys' basketball player in Luverne High School history to reach the milestone.

Brett Heronimus was the first in 2013. Heronimus holds the school record with 1248 total points. Ahrendt, as a junior, has 1017 as of Feb. 21.

"It is very impressive to reach 1,000 points anytime, but as a junior it is even more impressive," said LHS head coach John Sichmeller.

"Gannon would probably already be the school's all-time leading scorer if we wouldn't have had a shortened season last year and had he not broken his leg this year."

Ahrendt, who began seeing varsity time during his eighth grade season, recognizes the significance of the milestone.

"This means a lot to me as there has been only one other 1000 point scorer in Luverne history," Ahrendt said.

"My basketball career has been successful. I've had a few injuries and setbacks, but I've been able to overcome them."

# Patriots take down Coyotes on home court

**By Dalton Bass  
For the Star Herald**

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team had a busy stretch of games over the past week when they faced several conference foes at home and away.

They rolled to an easy 75-54 win over Heron Lake Okabena-Fulda on Feb. 15, but fell to the Luverne Cardinals Feb. 17 (see the related story) and Mountain Lake Area 68-61 Feb. 18.

The Patriots are 10-10 overall and 8-6 in the conference.

They were scheduled to face Southwest Christian (19-4) in Edgerton Tuesday night and RTR at home Friday before hosting the Edgerton Dutchmen Monday.

## HBC 75, HLOF 54

The Patriots were in control from start to finish Tuesday night, Feb. 15, in Hills when they took down Heron Lake Okabena-Fulda 75-54.

Seniors Cole Baker (23 points) and Liam Raymon (19 points) helped lead the Pates past the Coyotes.

The game started slow, but it picked up when Baker hit two threes in two-straight possessions to give his team an 8-6 lead.

The Patriots never looked back from there as they worked themselves into a 34-21 halftime lead.

The second half was more of the same, although the Coyotes did cut the lead to 7 points with just over five minutes remaining in the game.

The Patriots would end the game on a nice little run to come away with a 75-54 victory.

Oliver Deelstra (11 points and 8 rebounds) and Andrew Harris (10 points) each scored in double digit for the Patriots who hit 8 of their 19 three-point attempts in the contest. Ty Bundesen also contributed for the Patriots with 9 rebounds and 7



Samantha McGaffee photo for the Star Herald  
H-BC's Andrew Harris goes to the basket Feb. 15 against Heron Lake-Okabena/Fulda. The Patriots went on the win 75-54 in the home contest.

assists.

**Baker 3 5 2-8 23, Deelstra 2 0 7-8 11, Raymon 6 2 1-1 19, Harnack 1 0 0-0 2, Page 0 0 0-0 0, Leenderts 0 1 0-0 3, Bundesen 1 0 0-0 2, 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 1-2 1, Harris 4 0 2-4 10, Wiersema 0 0 0-0 0**

**Team statistics**  
**HBC: 27 of 59 (46 percent), 13 for 23 Free Throws (57 percent), 41 Rebounds, 7 Turnovers**  
**HLOF: 18 of 63 (29 percent), 13 for 18 Free Throws (72 percent), 32 Rebounds, 11 Turnovers**

## MLAC 68 HBC 61

It was the Wolverines who ultimately came out on top after a tightly contested game Friday night in Hills.

Drew Leenderts (5 points) hit a 3 pointer from 5 feet behind the line just before time expired to tie the game at 24-24 headed into halftime.

Mountain Lake pulled away a little bit in the second half but the Patriots managed to keep it within single digits for most of the game.

The lead did grow as large as

15 but the Patriots pulled within 5 points after a three pointer by Liam Raymon (15 points) with just over 2 minutes remaining.

The Wolverines were able to put the game away at the free throw line to come away with a 68-61 victory.

Seniors Cole Baker and Oliver Deelstra also scored in double digits for the Pates with 18 and 12 respectively. Deelstra also had 9 rebounds and 6 assists while Ty Bundesen had 5 rebounds.

The Patriots (10-10) fall to 8-6 in conference play. They travel to Edgerton Tuesday night to take on the Southwest Christian Eagles (19-4).

**Baker 5 2 2-4 18, Deelstra 3 0 6-7 12, Raymon 1 4 1-1 15, Harnack 0 0 0-0 0, Page 0 0 0-0 0, Leenderts 1 1 0-0 5, Bundesen 2 0 1-2 5, 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 1 0 0-0 2, Scholten 0 0 0-0 0, Harris 2 0 0-2 4, Wiersema 0 0 0-0 0**

**Team Statistics**  
**HBC: 22 of 57 (39 percent), 10 for 16 Free Throws (63 percent), 32 Rebounds, 18 Turnovers**  
**MLAC: 25 of 60 (42 percent), 14 for 31 Free Throws (45 percent), 35 Rebounds, 13 Turnovers**

# Cardinal boys' team upset Arrows, fall to JCC

**By Jason Berghorst  
For the Star Herald**

The Luverne Cardinal boys' basketball team won its fifth and sixth games in a row before losing last week for the first time since Feb. 3.

The home victories included a 14-point upset of rival Pipestone Area Feb. 15 and a second win over Hills-Beaver Creek Feb. 17 (see related story). The loss was on the road at Jackson County Central.

The Cardinals, now 9-12 on the season, were scheduled to host the Worthington Trojans on Feb. 22 after this edition of the Star Herald went to print.

Luverne will wrap up the regular season with a game in Minneota Friday night.

Currently Luverne is 4-7 against Section 3AA teams and in the sixth spot among the eight Section 3AA-South teams.

Seedings for the section tournament will be determined this weekend with opening round games scheduled for March 5.

## Luverne 53, Pipestone Area 39

The Pipestone Area Arrows came to the Luverne Classic Gym Feb. 17 with an impressive 17-4 overall record.

Luverne was ready for the challenge, however, upsetting their rivals from the north 53-39 for their fifth consecutive win.

After a brief 3-1 Arrow lead two minutes into the game, Luverne led the entire contest. The Cardinals took a 26-12 lead into the locker room at halftime.

After the break, Luverne increased its lead to as much as 19 points with a balanced offense and stifling defense.

The Cardinals scored 16 points off of 18 Arrow turnovers.

Gannon Ahrendt tallied 20 points, while Connor Overgaard scored 12.

Nathaniel Cole-Kraty collected ten rebounds for Luverne and Overgaard had eight.

"This was our biggest win of the season," said LHS head coach John Sichmeller.

"It showed our kids how good they can be when they lock in and give maximum effort," Sichmeller said, "They executed our defensive game plan perfectly and it was fun to watch."

**Box Score:**  
**Cole-Kraty 3 0 2-4 8, Schoeneman 1 1 2-4 7, Sehr 0 0 1-2 1, Radtke 0 1 2-3 5, DeBeer 0 0 0-0 0, Ahrendt 7 1 3-3 20, Overgaard 4 0 4-7 12**

**Team Stats:**  
**Luverne: 18 of 39 (46 percent), 14 of 23 free throws (61 percent), 32 rebounds, 14 turnovers**  
**Pipestone Area: 15 of 46 (33 percent), 2 of 5 free throws (40 percent), 23 rebounds, 18 turnovers**

## JCC 55, Luverne 42

The old saying "all good things must come to an end" came true for the Cardinals in Jackson Friday night.

After winning six consecutive games, LHS fell to the Jackson County Central Huskies 55-42.

The Huskies led the entire game on their home court as Luverne was unable to produce the efficient offense that had maintained the recent win streak.

JCC outscored the Cards 27-18 in the first half and 28-24 after halftime.

Connor Overgaard led the scoring for the Cardinals with 11 points. Gannon Ahrendt totalled eight points.

**Box Score:**  
**Cole-Kraty 1 0 1-2 3, Schoeneman 0 2 0-0 6, Sehr 1 0 1-2 3, Radtke 0 1 2-2 5, DeBeer 0 2 0-0 6, Ahrendt 4 0 0-0 8, Overgaard 4 0 3-6 11**

**Team Stats:**  
**Luverne: 15 of 30 (50 percent), 7 of 12 free throws (58 percent), 18 rebounds, 16 turnovers**  
**JCC: 21 of 34 (62 percent), 9 of 13 free throws (69 percent), 21 rebounds, 8 turnovers**

# LHS girls/

from page 9A  
son games of the season last week by defeating Adrian-Ellsworth 64-27 Feb. 15 and Jackson County Central 57-47 Friday night.

## Luverne 64, A-E 27

Luverne was able to mix up the usual lineup and offer significant playing to a variety of players during a comfortable 64-27 win in Adrian on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

"Our regular starters only played five minutes," Newgard said.

The Luverne lead was 10-0 three minutes into the game when the starters were first replaced with five new players. The Cardinals led 29-2 when the starters left the game for the last time.

In all, 11 Cardinals scored in the contest and 13 players received playing time.

LHS led Adrian-Ellsworth 43-10 at halftime.

Emma Beyer led the balanced scoring effort with nine points. Dennie Sandbulte, Elizabeth Wagner and Madee Schmuck had eight points each.

Sandbulte also led the team with six rebounds.

**Box Score:**  
**C. Wagner 1 0 0-0 2, Beyer 3 1 0-0 9, Ver Steeg 2 0 2-2 6, Sehr 0 0 0-0 0, E. Wagner 4 0 0-2 8, Stegenga 2 1 0-0 7, Sandelte 2 0 2-3 8, John 0 0 2-2 2, Smith 0 0 0-0 0, Serie 3 0 0-0 6, Hansen 0 2 0-0 6, Schmuck 4 0 0-0 8, Jadyn Hart 1 0 0-0 2**

**Team Stats:**  
**Luverne: 27 of 49 (55 percent), 6 of 9 free throws (67 percent), 30 rebounds, 14 turnovers**  
**Adrian-Ellsworth: 10 of 43 (23 percent), 7 of 16 (44 percent), 31 rebounds, 20 turnovers**

## Luverne 57, JCC 47

The Cardinals won their seventh game in a row when they defeated the Jackson County Central Huskies 57-47 in Jackson Friday night.

It was a close contest in the first half, with the teams tied at 20 with three minutes remaining before half time before the Cardinals took a 23-20 lead into the locker room.

Luverne outscored the Huskies 34-27 in the second half to secure the victory in the regular season finale.

Brooklynn Ver Steeg led the offense for LHS with 17 points. Christina Wagner and Beyer added nine points each.

Kira John collected 16 rebounds and scored eight points in the game.

"We played through some foul trouble and picked up a nice conference win on the road," Newgard said of the victory over JCC.

**Box Score:**  
**C. Wagner 3 1 0-0 9, Beyer 4 0 1-1 9, Ver Steeg 3 1 8-10 17, Sehr 2 0 1-4 5, E. Wagner 3 0 0-1 6, Stegenga 0 1 0-0 3, John 4 0 0-0 8, Hansen 0 0 0-1 0, Schmuck 0 0 0-0 0**

**Team Stats:**  
**13 of 59 (22 percent), 16 of 27 free throws (59 percent), 33 rebounds, 12 turnovers**

## Section 3AA-South Tournament Round 1

All games Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.  
#8 Redwood Valley at #1 Luverne  
#5 St James Area at #6 Jackson County Central  
#6 Windom Area at #3 Minnesota Valley Lutheran  
#7 Pipestone Area at #2 Fairmont



Images by CD photo  
Brady Bork sets the puck for the Luverne Cardinals as he prepares for a pass into the middle at the Feb. 10 match against New Ulm.

# Cardinal boys fall to Eagles Thursday, pick up No. 3 seed in Section 3 tourney

**By Matt Lais  
For the Star Herald**

The Luverne boys' hockey team fell to New Ulm 5-2 Thursday, Feb. 10, at the Blue Mound Ice Arena during the final regular season game before section play begins this week.

The Cardinals came out blazing fast in the first period when Owen Sudenga received a breakout pass and chipped a pass around a New Ulm fore-checker that ended up in Brock Behrend's hands.

Behrend and Blaik Bork came in on a 2-on-1 that resulted in a pretty backdoor pass to Bork to give the Cardinals a 1-0 lead just 35 seconds into the game.

New Ulm responded with two first period goals in the next five minutes to take the 2-1 lead into the first intermission.

New Ulm outshot Luverne 20-6 in Period 1. Luverne goalie Tyler Arends made 18 saves.

The second period saw a lot of action but only one goal.

There were 28 total shots on goal between the Eagles and Cardinals. New Ulm capitalized on a Luverne penalty and got a power play goal past Arends to take the 3-1 lead in the game.

Luverne outshot New Ulm 17-11 in the period.

The final period started with Behrend cutting the Eagles' lead to 3-2 when he buried the puck with assists from Sudenga and Patrick Kroski.

The Eagles would get two more goals midway through the final period to increase their lead to 5-2 and escape Luverne with the victory.

Third period shots on goal were in favor of the Eagles 10-5 and 41-28 in their favor for the game. Arends ended the game with 36 saves.

The Cardinals drew the No. 3 seed in the Section 3A Tournament that starts Thursday night when the Cardinals host the No. 6 seed, the Worthington Trojans.

# Lady Pates win in Slayton, lose in Mountain Lake

**By Dalton Bass  
For the Star Herald**

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls split two basketball games on the road in the past week nudging their record to 11-13 overall and 10-6 in the conference.

The Lady Pates rolled past the Rebels 64-37 in Slayton on Feb. 14, but lost a close match in Mountain Lake 52-45 on Feb. 17.

Monday night's game with Adrian was postponed to Tuesday (Feb. 22).

The Patriot girls drew the No. 3 seed in Section 3A South, and will play No. 6 seed Heron Lake-Okabena-Fulda Saturday in Worthington. Game time is 4 p.m.

## HBC 64, MCC 37

The game was still within single digits at halftime, but the Patriots blew it open in the second half Monday night, Feb. 14, in Slayton.

The Lady Pates just couldn't quite break the game in the first half, but 36 second-half points helped lead them to a 27-point victory.

The Patriots also turned up defense after halftime holding the Rebels to just 17 points.

Senior Kenadie Fick led the way with 23 points, nine rebounds and seven steals.

The Patriots as a team had 22 steals and forced Murray County Central into 36 turnovers. Sophomore Brynn Rauk added four steals also for the Lady Pates.

Eighth-grader Abbie Harris contributed nine points and two steals while sophomore Lanae Elbers had eight points and five rebounds.

**Fick 4 5 0-0 23, Rauk 0 1 0-0 3, L Deelstra 1 1 0-2 5, Voss 1 0 2-2 4, Bork 0 0 0-0 0, Steinhoff 0 0 2-6 2, Anderson 0 0 0-0 0, O Deelstra 1 0 0-0 2, Elbers 1 1 3-5 8, Fagerness 0 0 0-0 0, Moser 3 0 0-2 6, Spykboer 0 0 0-0 0, Harris 1 2 1-3 9, E Deelstra 1 0 0-0 2**

**Team statistics**  
**HBC: 23 of 64 (36 percent), 8 for 20 Free Throws (40 percent), 34 Rebounds, 22 Turnovers**  
**MCC: 14 of 45 (31 percent), 5 for 16 Free Throws (31 percent), 33 Rebounds, 36 Turnovers**

## MLAC 52, HBC 45

**Lady Pates, continued on page 14A**

## St. Catherine Catholic Church

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

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

## Luverne Christian Reformed Church

605 N. Estey St., Luverne  
Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982  
www.luvernerc.com — office@luvernerc.com

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

## First Baptist Church

103 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne  
Ph. 283-4091; email: [fbcluv@iw.net](mailto:fbcluv@iw.net) — [www.fbcluverne.org](http://www.fbcluverne.org)  
Walt Moser, Pastor

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

## Grace Lutheran Church

500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne  
Ph. 507-283-4431; [www.graceluverne.org](http://www.graceluverne.org)  
[graceluverne@iw.net](mailto:graceluverne@iw.net)  
Ann Zastrow, Pastor

Dave Christenson, Interim Pastor  
Thursday, Feb. 24: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Sunday, Feb. 27—New Member Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship Service with 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Milestone. 10 a.m. Pancakes and Sausage Youth Fundraiser. 10 a.m. Sunday School. 5 p.m. Worship. 6 p.m. Junior high Mystery Night. 6:30 p.m. Transitional Task Force meeting. Tuesday, March 1: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, March 2: 7 a.m. Men's Bible study. 3:15 p.m. Faithweavers. 6:45 p.m. Ash Wednesday service with Holy Communion. 7:45 p.m. Voices of Grace rehearsal. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are available. Online: Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website [www.graceluverne.org](http://www.graceluverne.org), click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

## Bethany Lutheran Church

720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne  
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 605-215-9834

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

## American Reformed Church

304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne  
Ph. 283-8600; email: [office@arcluverne.org](mailto:office@arcluverne.org)

Thursday, Feb. 24: 5:30 p.m. Tumbling Tykes. Friday, Feb. 25: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible study. Sunday, Feb. 27: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. 10:50 a.m. Sunday school. Monday, Feb. 28: 2 p.m. Movie Monday. Tuesday, March 1: 12 p.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, March 2: 5:30 p.m. Midweek Meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Club. 6:30 p.m. Jr. and Sr. High youth groups. 6:30 p.m. Connection Team meets. Thursday, March 3: 9 a.m. Cookie Crew. 5:30 p.m. Tumbling Tykes. Services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

## Rock River Community Church (formerly First Assembly of God)

1075 110<sup>th</sup> Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4  
Ph. 612-800-1255; email [info@rockrivercommunity.church](mailto:info@rockrivercommunity.church)  
Bob Junak, Pastor; Annette Junak, Assistant Pastor

Sundays, 9 a.m. Sunday school; 10 a.m. worship service. Children's church for ages 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade and nursery for ages 0-3 provided during our services. Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Worship service. All services are in-person and all are welcome.

## United Methodist Church

109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne  
Ph. 283-4529

Saturday, Feb. 26: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Sunday, Feb. 27: 9 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 9:15 a.m. Coffee. 10:30 a.m. Worship service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible study. Monday, Feb. 28: 6 p.m. Worship and music meeting. Tuesday, March 1: 3:30 p.m. God's Circle. Wednesday, March 2: 6:15 p.m. FUEL. 6:30 p.m. Confirmation. 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday service with First Presbyterian. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Live streamed on Facebook and radio.

## First Presbyterian Church

302 Central Lane, Luverne  
Ph. 283-4787; email: [Firstpc@iw.net](mailto:Firstpc@iw.net)

Sunday, Feb. 27: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 10:30 a.m. Sunday school.

Monday, Feb. 28: 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Quilters. Wednesday, March 2: 5:30 p.m. Bells. 6:15 p.m. Choir. 7:15 p.m. Committee meetings. In-person Worship service and live on Facebook. Our Facebook page can be found under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne. We are also on the local Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

## St. John Lutheran Church

803 N. Cedar St., Luverne  
Ph. 283-2316; email: [stjohn@iw.net](mailto:stjohn@iw.net)  
www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Booe, Pastor

Saturday, Feb. 26: 5:30 p.m. Worship Service. Sunday, Feb. 27: 9 a.m. Worship Service. 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible class; Sunday School. Wednesday, March 2: 9:30 a.m. Bible study. 6:30 p.m. Kids for Christ; 6:30-8 p.m. Confirmation. 7:30 p.m. High School Youth Group. Services will be available on the Vast Channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, [cityofluverne.org](http://cityofluverne.org).

## Living Rock Church

500 E. Main St., Luverne  
Ph. 449-0057; [www.livingrockswmn.org](http://www.livingrockswmn.org)  
Billy Skaggs, Pastor

## New Life Celebration Church

101 W. Maple, Luverne

Ph. (605) 368-1924; email: [newlifecelebration@gmail.com](mailto:newlifecelebration@gmail.com)

Food mission every third Thursday.

## Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

305 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick  
Ph. (507) 669-2855; [zionoffice@alliancecom.net](mailto:zionoffice@alliancecom.net)

Jesse Baker, Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 27: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Bible study. Worship service on Luverne cable at 3:30 p.m. every Thursday and Friday.

## First Lutheran Church

300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.  
Ph. (605) 757-6662

Mark Eliason, Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 27: 9 a.m. Worship at First Lutheran. 10 a.m. Sunday school. Wednesday, March 2: 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday service at Palisade Lutheran. Masks are strongly recommended, but not required, even if fully vaccinated. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFU4>

## Palisade Lutheran Church

211 121<sup>st</sup> St., Garretton, S.D.  
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — [firstpalisade@alliancecom.net](mailto:firstpalisade@alliancecom.net)

Mark Eliason, Pastor

Sunday, Feb. 27: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship at Palisade Lutheran. Wednesday, March 2: 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday service at Palisade Lutheran. Masks are strongly recommended, but not required, even if fully vaccinated. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook. Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFU4>

## First Presbyterian Church

201 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek  
Ph. 507-935-5025

email: [lorig.firtpres@gmail.com](mailto:lorig.firtpres@gmail.com)

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

## Magnolia United Methodist Church

501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia  
Ph. 605-215-3429

email: [magnoliannumc@gmail.com](mailto:magnoliannumc@gmail.com)  
Nancy Manning, Pastor

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

## Steen Reformed Church

112 W. Church Ave., Steen

Ph. 855-2336

Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor

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

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

112 N. Main St., Hills

Ph. 962-3270

Sunday, Feb. 27: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 10 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion. 9 a.m. Sunday School. 7-8:30 p.m. Youth group meets. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website [blchills.org](http://blchills.org). Tuesday, March 1: 2 p.m. Tuff Home Bible study. 3:30 p.m. Tuff Village Bible study. Wednesday, March 2: 9 a.m. Quilting. 6 p.m. Confirmation. 7 p.m. Social/dessert time. 7:15 p.m. Wednesday night worship service.

## Hills United Reformed Church

410 S. Central Ave., Hills

Office Ph. 962-3254

[hillsurc@alliancecom.net](mailto:hillsurc@alliancecom.net)  
Alan Camarigg, Pastor

## Encouragement

My father was killed in an accident when I was 11 years old.

My mother was never a happy person prior to his death, so you can imagine what she was like after. As I grew older, she never gave me a single compliment or any encouragement.

It wasn't until one of my high school teachers encouraged me and helped me plan my future. That was the first time I could remember anybody helping me.

I didn't know how to react to an emotion I had never experienced before — to be encouraged, amazing!

Encouragement can bring brightness to your day. But being discouraged can make you feel dark and empty.

In scripture, Job was hearing this from his friends.

Job's buddies ganged up on him believing he had challenged the justice of God.

Job is getting even more discouraged when Eliphaz started raising doubts about his wisdom.

Soon, this became a war of words between Job and his friends. This war of words goes back and forth between Job and his buddies taking even more from Job's spirit.

Just prior to this, God had allowed Satan to take his wealth and family away from him. Job is hearing: "This is your fault", "You deserve this."

Eliphaz thought they were bringing comfort to Job. However, they were discouraging him, not giving a single word of encouragement.

Job 16:1-4:  
1. Then Job spoke again: 2. "I have heard all this before. What miserable comforters you are!" 3. Won't you ever stop blowing hot air? What makes you keep on talking? 4. I could say the same things if you were in my place. I could spout

## BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Bob Junak, Rock River Community Church, Luverne

off criticism and shake my head at you.

Job told these guys, "I've heard what you're saying a thousand times. So why don't you just shut up!"

It's so easy to pile up a fake narrative against others just as these guys did to Job, knowing that he was already discouraged. Job is letting them know his position, if you were in my situation, and I in yours, I could criticize you for hours in what you have just said.

We now live in a day where discouragement is all around us. We can't go a single day without running into someone who is complaining, being negative or is discouraged.

Often I find myself being that person too.

I think Job, in his wisdom, knew this and he chose to encourage because we are so easily discouraged. And who likes to be discouraged?

But when we are encouraged, we start to live the way God has designed us to live, we live with hope.

Job, being a man of integrity says in verse 5, "But if it were me, I would encourage you. I would try to take away your grief."

What an amazing gift we can offer to others, bringing life to them through encouragement!

Encouragement can help to strengthen someone so they can move forward to their next goal.

Let's fill others with encouragement instead of emptying them with discouragement!

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

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Mortgage foreclosure sale
set for March 25

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL
CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS
ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that default has occurred in the conditions of the following
described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: July 31, 2009
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$142,300.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Jimmie H. Lafrenz and Janice M. Larson, two single persons
MORTGAGEE: Minnwest Mortgage Corporation
LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON
THE MORTGAGE: Minnwest Mortgage Corporation
SERVICER: Specialized Loan Servicing LLC
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Filed August 3, 2009, Rock County Recorder, as
Document Number 171866

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Mortgage Electronic Registration
Systems, Inc; Dated: July 31, 2009, filed: September 3, 2009, recorded as document
number 171867; thereafter assigned to Specialized Loan Servicing, LLC; Dated: February
1, 2018 filed: April 26, 2018, recorded as document number 192552

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:

That part of the SE 1/4 of Section 35, Township 102 North, Range 46 West of the
5th p.m. described as follows: Commencing at the Southeast corner of Section
35; Thence South 89 degrees 57 minutes 35 seconds West (Geodetic bearing)
along the South line of the SE 1/4 of said Section a distance of 717.00 feet to
the point of beginning; Thence North 00 degrees 02 minutes 26 seconds West a
distance of 50.00 feet to a point; Thence continuing North 00 degrees 02 minutes
26 seconds West a distance of 425.00 feet to a point; Thence South 89 degrees
57 minutes 35 seconds West a distance of 655.00 feet to a point; Thence South
00 degrees 02 minutes 26 seconds East a distance of 425.00 feet to a point;
Thence continuing South 00 degrees 02 minutes 26 seconds East a distance of
50.00 feet to said South line; Thence North 89 degrees 57 minutes 35 seconds
East along said South line a distance of 655.00 feet to said point of beginning.
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 783 71st St, Beaver Creek, MN 56116
PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 02-0191-000
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF
THE NOTICE: \$136,819.12

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action
or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by
said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described
property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: March 25, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Main Office, West Side Sheriff Dept, Front Step,
Luverne, MN 56156

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the
costs and disbursements, including attorneys fees allowed by law, subject to redemption
within 6 months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s) the personal representa-
tives or assigns.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied,
single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which
the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property, if the mortgage is not reinstated under section
580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23, is 11:59 p.m. on September
25, 2022, or the next business day if September 25, 2022, falls on a Saturday, Sunday
or legal holiday.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE
MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED
TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA
STATUTES SECTION 582.032 DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE
MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF
LESS THAN 5 UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION,
AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: January 27, 2022
Specialized Loan Servicing LLC
Assignee of Mortgagee
LOGS LEGAL GROUP LLP
BY

Melissa L. B. Porter - 0337778
Gary J. Evers - 0134764
Joseph M. Rossman - 0397070
Attorneys for Mortgagee
LOGS Legal Group LLP
12550 West Frontage Road, Suite 200
Burnsville, MN 55337
(952) 831-4060

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR
(02-03, 02-10, 02-17, 02-24, 03-03, 03-10)

Faber probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA PROBATE COURT
COUNTY OF ROCK DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

In Re: Estate of Francis Faber Deceased
ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING
FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
IN SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 21st day of March, 2022,
at 8:30 O'clock A.M., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Rock
County Courthouse, Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument
purporting to be the will of the above named deceased, dated November 8, 2002, and
for the appointment of Timothy Dale Ackerman, whose address is 912 S. Kennedy
Avenue, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57103, as personal representative of the estate
of the above named decedent in supervised administration, and that any objections
thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, said
personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets,
pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property,
and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the
representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the
estate to the persons thereto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are
required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator
within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Date Filed: February 7, 2022 /s/ Terry S. Vajrt District Court Judge

Douglas E. Eisma /s/ Natalie Reisch Attorney for Petitioner Court Administrator

Eisma and Eisma (COURT SEAL) 130 East Main Luverne, MN 56156 (507) 283-4828 I.D. #158343

(02-17, 02-24)

Mortgage foreclosure sale
set for April 7

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL
CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS
ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the
following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: September 11, 2008
MORTGAGOR: Tracy J. Renken, a single person.
MORTGAGEE: Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation.
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING: Recorded September 11, 2008 Rock County
Recorder, Document No. 169790.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: JPMorgan Chase Bank
N.A. Dated September 11, 2008 Recorded September 11, 2008, as Document No.
169791. And thereafter assigned to: Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC. Dated
January 13, 2014, Recorded February 3, 2014, as Document No. 183425.

TRANSACTION AGENT: NONE
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON
MORTGAGE: NONE

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE:
Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: Carrington Mortgage Services LLC
MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 418 E Maple St, Luverne, MN 56156
TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 201079000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY:
The N.57 feet of Lots 10 and 11 in Block 3 in the Original Plat of the City of
Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota.

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$64,400.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE,
INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$49,886.05

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required
by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to
recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above
described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 7, 2022 at 10:00 A.M.
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Office, Main Entrance, Law Enforcement Center,
1000 North Blue Mound Avenue, Luverne, MN

to pay the debt then secured by said Mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises,
and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to
redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their
personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat.
§580.07.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-
occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or
before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not rein-
stated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is
11:59 p.m. on October 7, 2022, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday,
in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to
5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None
THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE
MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED
TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA
STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS,
THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL
DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

Dated: February 1, 2022
Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

LIEBO, WEINGARDEN, DOBIE & BARBEE, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
85 - 22-001342 FC
IN THE EVENT REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW: THIS IS A COMMUNICATION
FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

(02-10, 02-17, 02-24, 03-03, 03-10, 03-17)

Sandbulte brings forth
land patent benefit

We, Dale and Jodi Sandbulte, are bringing forth our Land Patent Benefit. If
interested see www.minnesotaaassembly.net/public-notice.

(02-10, 02-17, 02-24, 03-03, 03-10, 03-17, 03-24, 03-31)



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MISCELLANEOUS

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MISCELLANEOUS

THE COVID CRISIS

has cost us all something. Many have
lost jobs and financial security. Have
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deductible, free tow, all paper-
work taken care of 844/220-9501

H-BC School Board
meets Jan. 24

Hills-Beaver Creek Dist. 671
Minutes
Jan. 24, 2022

The Hills-Beaver Creek School Board met for its semi-monthly meeting
at 7:01 p.m. in the H-BC Secondary School Board room, 301 N Summit Ave,
Hills, MN.

Board members and Administration present were Fransman, Gehrke,
Knobloch, Rauk and Rozeboom. Superintendent Holthaus, Principal Kellenberger
and Business Manager Rozeboom were also in attendance. Board members
Bosch and Harnack were absent.

Motion by Rozeboom, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve
the agenda. No Visitors to the meeting

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PATRIOT PRIDE:

- Paraprofessional Recognition Week January 24-29
-1st H-BC Robotics Competition held this past week
-Mock Trial Victory in 2nd Competition
-Honor Band in Mankato 1/28/22—Tess VanMaanen, Tara Paulsen, Dallas
Page, Danette Leenderts, Tyrae Goodface, Lexi Drake
Board Committee Meeting Reports:
-Building/Grounds to meet 1/26; Personnel/Finance meets after
Board Meeting 1/24/22
Motion by Fransman, second by Rauk, and carried to approve Consent Agenda:
-Minutes—01/10/2022
-Bills and Imprest Cash
-Student Accounts
-Additional Special Needs Route time
DISTRICT NON-ACTION ITEMS:
-Secondary Principal Report
-Superintendent/Elementary Principal Report

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Regular Board Meeting, Monday, February 14, 2022
-Regular Board Meeting, Monday, February 28, 2022
Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Tamara Rauk, Clerk
(02-24)

Zwaan probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF ROCK

In Re: Estate of Carol Ann Zwaan, a/k/a Carol Zwaan, Deceased

PROBATE COURT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No. 67-PR-22-33

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING
FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
IN SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 21st day of March, 2022,
at 3:30 O'clock p.m., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Rock County
Courthouse, Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting
to be the will of the above named deceased, dated February 23, 2001, and for the appoint-
ment of Monte Zwaan whose address is 591 160th Avenue, Luverne, Minnesota 56156,
as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in supervised
administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper,
and no objections are filed, said personal representative will be appointed to administer the
estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real
and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the
administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distrib-
ute the estate to the persons thereto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate
are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Ad-
ministrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.
Date Filed: February 7, 2022 /s/ Terry S. Vajrt District Court Judge

Douglas E. Eisma
Attorney for Petitioner
Eisma and Eisma
130 East Main
Luverne, MN 56156
(507) 283-4828
I.D. #158343

/s/ Natalie Reisch
Court Administrator

(COURT SEAL)

(02-17, 02-24)

## CARDS OF THANKS

The family of Jessie Wenzel thanks you! Because of your love, support and shared memories; our family was witness to a beautiful celebration of her life. Thank you for sharing in this journey. Your kindness through prayers, visits, food, cards, flowers, etc. was greatly appreciated! May God Bless you all.  
**Dean (Linda)**  
**Richard (Deb)**  
**Patricia (David)**  
**Paulette (Randy)**  
 (2.24-2.26)

## RENTALS

**NOW LEASING CENTENNIAL APARTMENTS**  
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## EMPLOYMENT

**HELP WANTED**  
 Age 55+ workers needed for part-time light custodial work at the Adrian & Beaver Creek rest areas on I-90  
**Contact Green View 651-639-1913**

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](http://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)

## EMPLOYMENT



**Schwartz Farms**  
**Together, we're family.**

We are looking for family members to join us as Animal Care Specialists (FT) and Loading Specialists (PT – you chose your hours!) in the Luverne area. Provide care for pigs from 3 weeks of age to market. Provide care to your team through integrity, respect, excellence, innovation and adaptability. For more information, call (507) 794-5779, email [hr@schwartzfarms.net](mailto:hr@schwartzfarms.net), or complete an application online at [www.schwartzfarms.com/careers](http://www.schwartzfarms.com/careers).

**Join us today!** 

## EMPLOYMENT

**•HELP WANTED•**  
**APPLIANCE REPAIR TECHNICIAN**  
 FULL TIME  
**Installation and Delivery of new and used appliances!**  
**COMPETITIVE WAGES AND BENEFITS!**  
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**M & H HARDWARE & APPLIANCE**  
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**Great Plains Processing**  
 in Luverne is looking to hire a **Packaging Technician** to work Sunday – Thursday, night shifts. Benefits package includes 70% employer paid of health insurance, 100% employer paid dental, vision insurance, short term disability, long term disability, 401k match up to 6%, 2 weeks of PTO your first year, 8 paid holidays and more!  
 Starting wage \$20/hr+ DOE.

We will also be looking for an extra part time office person in the near future. 

Visit us online to fill out an application at [gpp-co.com/career-opportunities](http://gpp-co.com/career-opportunities)

**HSi Habilitative Services, Inc.**  
 We are hiring for a Program Supervisor in Luverne, MN. The Program Supervisor works direct care hours and oversees staff at the house including training, budgeting/financial tasks, staff schedule, attends medical appointments, and overall protects and promotes the health and safety of the individuals being served. Qualifications: 2 year Associate's Degree, management experience preferred, minimum of one year related experience, valid driver's license with clean driving record, and ability to pass a criminal background check. Benefits include medical/dental/vision insurance, 401k w/company match, PTO/Holiday pay, and now offering On-Demand Pay, access to your money anytime, no need to wait until pay day!  
**Come join our amazing team of committed and caring professionals. Apply Today!**  
 Apply online: <https://jobs.sevitahealth.com> (search by Luverne)  
 Questions call Amy: 507-401-5246



**We're Hiring Care Providers**

**Tuff Village Assisted Living is looking for hard working, caring individuals to assist our tenants.** We have various Care Provider shifts available for full time and part time! Shifts include every other weekend and every other holiday.

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**Contact Us**  
 507-962-3275  
 Online application @ [www.tuffmemorialhome.com](http://www.tuffmemorialhome.com)  
 Pick up an application @ 505 East 4th St. Hills, MN



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**EMAIL**  
[heather.dieschbourg@lynchfamilycompanies.com](mailto:heather.dieschbourg@lynchfamilycompanies.com) or call Art Perry at 563-379-1180 or John Izer at 563-380-3065

## EMPLOYMENT

**CARING HANDS DENTAL CLINIC**  
 of Pipestone is under construction and is searching for **LICENSED DENTAL ASSISTANTS.**  
 The new Clinic is located at 301 – 11th Street NE and we hope to have staff in place in May. Caring Hands serves all people of all ages with high quality, award winning dental care and education.

All fulltime positions enjoy very competitive wages, based on experience and benefits including paid BLS, CE, Licenses, dues, scrubs, vacation, health insurance subsidy, PTO, family dental care and matching IRA. LDA positions offer a nice sign-on bonus too! No selling services just provide great care. Caring Hands strives to provide a comfortable family friendly work atmosphere for its staff. If you like people, are professional and want to enjoy a 4 day work week please apply in confidence to: Al Olsen, CEO at [al@caringhandsdc.org](mailto:al@caringhandsdc.org).



**Client Community Services, Inc.**  
 Providing services to persons with disabilities since 1955

**Client Community Services, Inc. is accepting applications for Caregivers at our Luverne, Minnesota homes.** CCSI offers 2-week rotating schedules. We have a variety of schedules available to fit your needs! Applicants must be 18 or older to apply. Computer skills (WORD) and a working knowledge of the English Language is essential. For more information, please call (507) 376-3171 x 2 or visit our website, [www.clientcommunityservices.org](http://www.clientcommunityservices.org) to view openings and complete the online application for immediate consideration.  
**CCSI is an EEO/AA Employer**



**HELP WANTED**

- Full-time CNA
- Part-time CNA (various shifts)
- Part-time Overnight RN/LPN
- Laundry Aide
- Full-time Cook and Dietary Aides

**308 W. SHERMAN AVE. ELLSWORTH, MN**  
**CALL 507-967-2482**

**TITAN MACHINERY FULL TIME SERVICE TECHNICIANS**

**EXCELLENT COMPENSATION PACKAGE**  
**SIGNING BONUS AVAILABLE, DEPENDING ON EXPERIENCE**  
 Titan Machinery needs to add experienced Service Technicians to our ag and truck center teams in Luverne, MN!

As a Service Technician/Diesel Mechanic, you will be a valued member of Team Titan by:

- **TAKING CARE OF OUR CUSTOMERS:** Perform machinery diagnostics, repairs, maintenance, and pre-delivery work on heavy equipment, with a high level of quality and efficiency
- **BEING AN EXPERT:** Maintain up-to-date technical, mechanical, and product knowledge that is needed to perform your work
- **SHOWING COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE:** Complete accurate, detailed, and timely documentation on all reports and forms related to work assignments
- **BEING SAFE:** Show a focus on always keeping yourself and your team members safe

**This position is a great fit for your career if you:**

- Have 2+ years of related work experience
- Have your own tools, or can acquire them
- Are a mechanically-skilled and customer-focused problem solver
- Can use a computer as needed to complete your work
- Can stay up-to-date on training and certifications

**Benefits include, but are not limited to:**

- Performance Incentives—earn an additional 10% of annual compensation!
- Tool/Equipment Allowance of \$1200 per calendar year (tax free benefit)
- PTO (Paid Time Off) starts accruing on your first day of full-time employment!

Apply online at [www.titanmachinery.com/careers](http://www.titanmachinery.com/careers) or direct inquiries to:

**TITAN MACHINERY, HR**  
 644 EAST BEATON DRIVE  
 WEST FARGO, ND 58078-2648  
 701-356-0130  
EEO/AA: Women, minorities and the disabled are encouraged to apply.



**NOW HIRING!** **Luverne Aquatics & Fitness**

**Part Time Pool & Fitness Customer Assisiant**

The City of Luverne seeks a dependable, motivated, customer service oriented individual with a flexible schedule to work at the Luverne Aquatics & Fitness Center Front Desk. This position is the first point of contact for members of the facility and is responsible for assisting with front desk and facility operations in a fast-paced environment where the ability to multi-task is essential. Must be assertive, enthusiastic, punctual and comfortable operating office equipment and software. Desirable qualifications include customer service and point-of-sale system experience. Salary will be based on experience and qualifications.

**Application packets are available online at [www.cityofluverne.org/employment](http://www.cityofluverne.org/employment).**

For additional information, contact Luverne Aquatics & Fitness Center manager Sam Honerman at 507-449-5036. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled, first review date is March 4, 2022.

Hear it first at [www.star-herald.com](http://www.star-herald.com)

## MISCELLANEOUS

HAVE A UNIQUE SERVICE OR BUSINESS? Get the word out to over 1.4 million households. Call WIDE AREA CLASSIFIEDS today, 507-359-7326. (tc)

## EMPLOYMENT

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](http://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)

## Help Wanted

Wild Rose Home Care LLC is looking for a part-time **Personal Care Attendant (PCA)** in Luverne. Part-time hours 5-10 hours a week and every other weekend working with a female client. Must be able to pass a background check. Qualified individuals must be dependable and reliable.

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## Girls' hockey/continued from page 9A

a wrister over New Ulm's goalie Ava Brennan.

This tied the score at one.

Play went back-and-forth between the teams with both goalies making big saves to keep their teams tied at one.

At the 11:20 mark of Period 2, Van Batavia fired a shot that was blocked by a New Ulm defender.

The puck ended up in Van Batavia's hands again, and she fired a wrister past Brennan to give the Cardinals a huge 2-1 lead heading into the third period.

Shots on goal for the period were 14-10 in favor of the Eagles. Schutz had 14 saves keeping the Eagles off the scoreboard in the period.

In the third period New Ulm's O'Connor responded with a wrister on Schutz, and line mate Evie Sellner crashed the net for a rebound goal to knot things back up at two goals each just 56 seconds into Period 3.

The Cardinals and Eagles battled the rest of the period, trying to slip goals past either Schutz or Brennan, but the third period horn sounded with score still tied, and the teams headed to overtime in the section championship.

Shots on goal for Period 3 were heavily in favor of the Eagles 20-5. Schutz was incredible for the Cardinals making 19 saves in the period.

The first 8-minute overtime session saw both teams having chances, and again New Ulm and Luverne rose to the occasion keeping each other from scoring the sudden death overtime decision.

Luverne was called for a late first overtime penalty that put New Ulm on the power play as time ran out in the first overtime session.

After a Zamboni break and a much-needed rest for both teams, the second overtime session got underway with the Luverne penalty carrying over from where play left off.

New Ulm had multiple opportunities on the power play, but Schutz made huge save after save, sprawling her limbs multiple times to keep the Eagles off the board.

The Cardinals killed off the penalty and it was back to 5-on-5.

With just 11:43 left in the second overtime, Luverne went on a power play after a New Ulm defender collided with Payton Behr who lost her stick.

The New Ulm defender then shot Behr's stick out of the way, causing the penalty and giving the Cardinals the huge power play.

The opening power play faceoff was in the Eagles' defensive zone. Cardinal Bork won the faceoff back to Van Batavia who slid a pass to Behr for a one-timer that barely missed.

The Cardinals controlled the zone on the power play, not letting New Ulm get the puck to send it down the rink for an icing.

The next faceoff ended up being the defining moment in the Luverne girls' hockey season.

Bork would take the puck out of the corner and pass to Macie Edstrom, who slid it over to Payton Behr for a hard wrister on net where Van Batavia, Bork and Mallory Von Tersch were all battling.

Bork would pound it in past a sprawling Brennan and the game was over.

The Cardinals were headed back to the Xcel Energy Center for the State Tournament.

Final shots on goal were 51-30 in favor of the Eagles. Luverne senior goalie Schutz capped off her best game of her stellar career with 49 saves.

Coach Sandbulte remarked about the importance of championship titles in small hockey association where younger players look up to varsity girls.

"I've chatted with some girls from our first team making the tournament in 2016," Sandbulte said. "And I told them, 'See what you started?' Success builds success."

He said the Cardinal girls built their successful momentum one game at a time. "We never gave three consecutive championships a thought 'til it was done," he said.

The State tournament bracket came out Sunday.

The Minnesota State Hockey Tournament seeds the Top 5 that are voted on by the board and the remaining three tournament teams get random draws to figure opening round matchups.

For the first time in school history, in both girls or boys' hockey, Luverne was seeded at a state hockey tournament, earning the No. 5 spot.

The Cardinals will play No. 4 seed South St. Paul at 8 p.m. Wednesday Feb. 23.

## Cardinal wrestlers bow out of team tournament, prepare for individuals

By Canaan Petersen  
For the Star Herald

The Cardinal wrestling team traveled to Adrian to take on Wabasso Thursday, Feb. 17, and came up short against the Rabbits 51-24.

The team has been preparing since then for the 3A Individual Section Tournament starting Friday, Feb. 25, in Wabasso.

Wabasso jumped out to a 27-0 lead after four pins between 106 and 126 pounds before Gavin Marotzke won by a 9-7 decision over Luverne's Hudson Hough.

Luverne's Noah Mehlhaff at 138 pounds stopped the run by pinning Adryen Tietz in 2:54. Braydon Ripka bested the Rabbits' Garret Marotske by pinning him in 3:26 bringing the team score closer at 27-12.

At 152 pounds, Wabasso's Reston Remiger received the first of four Luverne forfeits before Cash Bonnet won in an 8-2 decision over Mason Kampsen at 160 pounds.

Wabasso picked up another forfeit at 170 pounds, but Luverne's Jacob Madison responded by securing



Images by CD photo

Luverne wrestler Ayden Bonnett pins Wabasso's Wyatt Irlbeck during the Section 3A team tournament in Adrian Feb. 17

a narrow 5-4 decision over Ezekial Olson at 182 pounds.

The Rabbits would receive two more forfeits at 195 and 285 pounds securing the team win.

The Cardinals' Ayden Bonnett got the fifth and final individual victory by pinning Wabasso's Wyatt Irlbeck in 53 seconds at 220 pounds.

The team score ended up 51-24 in favor of the Rabbits.

"Just like in most team matches, forfeits hurt us badly tonight," said head coach Jordan Kopp.

"We won five matches

which is as many as Wabasso did, but it's tough to overcome a 24-0 advantage especially when their lower weights are tough."

The Cardinals now prepare to travel to Wabasso on Feb. 25 for the individual section tournament.

"We need to see where our guys get seeded, but I'm confident we can come home with some medals and maybe even a trip to the state tournament," Kopp said.

"Our boys have been working hard all season and now we can make all that effort pay off."

## Lady Pates/from page 10A

A 13-point halftime deficit was too much to overcome for the H-BC girls in Mountain Lake Thursday night.

Scoring did not come easy for the Patriots who had to battle for each bucket in the first half, and they found themselves trailing 30-17 at intermission. They made just 4 of 23 shots from beyond the arc in the game.

The Patriots battled back in the second half, outscoring Mountain Lake Area-

Comfrey 28-22. But it was not quite enough as the Lady Pates fell 52-45 in the end.

Sophomore Layla Deelstra led the way for the Patriots scoring 10 points. Sophomore Lanae Elbers added eight points and seven rebounds while seventh-grader Olivia Deelstra also had six points.

Two other contributors for the Lady Pates were sophomore Brynn Rauk and eighth-grader Abbie

Harris who each added five points.

Fick 1 0 0-0 2, Rauk 1 1 0-0 5, L Deelstra 3 1 1-2 10, Voss 1 0 0-0 2, Bork 1 0 0-0 2, Steinhoff 1 0 1-3 3, Anderson 0 0 0-0 0, O Deelstra 1 1 1-1 6, Elbers 4 0 0-0 8, Fagerness 0 0 0-0 0, Moser 0 0 0-0 0, Spysterboer 0 0 0-0 0, Harris 1 1 0-0 5, E Deelstra 0 0 0-0 0

Team statistics  
HBC: 19 of 55 (35 percent), 3 for 6 Free Throws (50 percent), 27 Rebounds, 14 Turnovers  
MLAC: 16 of 55 (29 percent), 16 for 21 Free Throws (76 percent), 32 Rebounds, 13 Turnovers

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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

## Gymnastics/ from page 9A

At the state meet, Reisdorfer posted a 7.125 on the balance beam (48<sup>th</sup> out of 48<sup>th</sup> gymnasts) and 7.775 (45<sup>th</sup> out of 47) on the uneven bars. She lost points in both events after falling off the apparatuses.

Reisdorfer started the state meet on the floor exercise, scoring a 9.15, and finished tied for 24<sup>th</sup> out of 47 gymnasts competing.

Reisdorfer's first pass on the vault, she landed low, receiving an average score of 8.55 from the four judges. She improved on her second pass for a score of 8.9 and finished 39<sup>th</sup> out of 44 gymnasts.

Reisdorfer earned a return trip to the state competition by finishing third in the all-around competition at the Feb. 12 Section 3A tournament in Marshall.

At the section meet, Reisdorfer broke her own school record in the all-around when she posted a 35.625.

The 2022 event is Reisdorfer's third-consecutive state appearance and is the first time she qualified for the all-around competition.

As a seventh-grader she competed on uneven bars and last year on the beam.

In the team competition, the Section 3A team champions, Worthington, finished fifth (141.95) out of eight teams. Watertown-Mayor/Mound-Westonka (WM-MW) won the Class A title with a score of 145.75.

At the individual events, the first-place gymnast and score were:

- all-around: Reagan Kelley, a junior, WM/MW, 38.475.

- vault: Anna Mielke, senior, WM/MW, 9.8.

- bars: Kelley, 9.725.

- beam: Lola Visci, sophomore, Big Lake, 9.6.

- floor exercise: Mielke, 9.625.



## Engineering technicians are new faces of soil and water health

Engineering technicians Brandon Bosch and Lee Tapper are the newest faces in Rock County's Land Management Office, and they represent the future of soil and water health in local fields and feedlots.

... Page 2B

## Local family finds new niche for farm in garlic production

Rabecca and Brandyn Klosterbuer formed Klosterbuer Mini Acres in 2021. They sold an estimated 350 pounds of culinary garlic and seed garlic and plan to grow the same amount in 2022.

... Page 3B

## Luverne Jaycox implement transitions to Titan Machinery

Luverne's Jaycox Implement has become Titan Machinery, but the same friendly staff greets customers and the experience is the same, according to manager Mark Ommen.

... Page 5B

## Are you handling colostrum properly?

Colostrum is a magic health serum for newborn calves, but if not handled carefully, the full benefits may not be realized.

... Page 11B

## Pro Partners Milling represents new era of local ag business



Lori Sorenson photo/0224 ag edition pro partners milling

Jon De Jong (from left) is Pro Partners Milling manager. Employees include drivers Brandon Boeve and Cody Lanoue and 30-year Farm Store employee Ardell Van Wattering. A group of independent farmer producers purchased the Luverne Farm Store feed mill assets in January to grind their own feed for their local hog operations. The mill will process 70,000 tons of feed per year for roughly 225,000 hogs in the area.

## Independent producers buy Luverne Farm Store feed mill to optimize integrated ag business

By Lori Sorenson

The independent farmer-owned Pro Partners Milling in Luverne represents a new model of ag business and a new era for the Farm Store feed mill.

When the Golla family offered the Farm Store feed mill for sale (see related story), the farmer investors pooled resources to buy it.

The owners, operating as a limited liability company (LLC), now bring their own corn to their own mill to mix feed for their own hogs, many of which are processed at the farmer-owned packing plant in Nebraska.

Pat Von Tersch is one of the local investors through his P&P Pork business and

Pro Partners Milling/continued on 14B

## Hoff: Joining Pro Partners was 'no-brainer'

By Lori Sorenson

Rock County corn and hog producer Chad Hoff has childhood memories of his dad, Verlyn Hoff, working for the Luverne Farm Store.

So, when the vintage checkerboard Purina sign recently came down in the feed mill, Chad asked if he could have it.

"His CB handle was 'Checkerboard Hauler,' and I thought it would be cool to hang that in my shop," he said.

He said his dad would have liked



that. He also would have liked knowing that his son is now part of Pro Partners Milling, a group of local farmers who bought the Farm Store feed mill in January.

"I was dumping a load (at the mill) the other day and I got chills because of the memories," Hoff said. "I wish I could ask my dad if he ever thought we would one day be part of this mill."

Hoff feeds roughly 120,000 bush-

Pro Partners Hoff/see page 14B

## Gollas reflect on Luverne Farm Store generations of business

By Lori Sorenson

As a farm boy in the 1930s, George Golla dreamed of one day becoming a county extension agent, and he did — after piloting 43 successful B-24 bombing missions in World War II.

In 1946 he became Rock County's agent in Luverne.

"It was about as good a job as you could have in those days," he once told the Star Herald. "You had a car and an expense account ... I thought the job was the end of the rainbow."

As it turned out, his local agriculture influence didn't stop there.

He opened the Luverne Farm Store in January 1948 as a feed and

seed store and the Luverne Farm Store and Gas Co. (with partner Russell Forrest) in 1957.

Through the years the Farm Store changed with the changing face of agriculture expanding again in 1962 to include dry fertilizer and chemical sales.

A farm magazine in 1961 featured the Luverne Farm Store: "Merchandising opportunities for feed and farm supply dealers depend on the ability of management personnel to see and exploit them. A business which demonstrates this theory is the Luverne (Minn.) Farm Store, owned by George Golla."

Farm Store era/continued on 8B



Lori Sorenson Star Herald file photo/farm store four generation Gary (left) Nathan (holding Jackson) and George Golla pose for a four-generation photo during the 2001 Rock County Fair.

# New engineering technicians are future leaders of soil and water health in Rock County

By Lori Sorenson

Engineering technicians Brandon Bosch and Lee Tapper are the newest faces in Rock County's Land Management Office, and they represent the future of soil and water health in local fields and feedlots.

"We want to see family farms continue from generation to generation," said Tapper, who started in Rock County in January.

Tapper's work focuses on assisting local producers with cover crops and other measures to improve soil health.

"A lot of guys are realizing they need to change. ... I want to help farmers and landowners with different practices to help protect and conserve their land for future generation farmers to come."

Bosch, whose work focuses on feedlots and manure management, has been with Rock County since the fall of 2019.

"I spend a lot of time fishing, and I've seen how nutrient runoff can impact water quality," he said.

He acknowledges that runoff comes from many sources, including city storm drains, but he said his work focuses on feedlots and reducing their effects on the environment.

"It's a great opportunity to get involved in conservation



Lori Sorenson photo/0224 ag edition SWCD engineering technicians

Engineering technicians Brandon Bosch and Lee Tapper are the newest faces in Rock County's Land Management Office, and they're working to improve soil and water health in local fields and feedlots.

work, especially around my hometown," said the Ash Creek native.

He said he sees his most

important role with Rock County Land Management as helping local livestock producers navigate MPCA's feedlot requirements

and working with landowners to correct soil erosion.

"A lot of the leg work was done before my time here,"

Bosch said about enforcing feedlot ordinances. "And most of the livestock producers are easy to work with."

However, as precision farming becomes increasingly necessary, both Tapper and Bosch find themselves helping producers make the most of improved technology.

For example, manure management is about applying the right amount of nutrients in areas of a field where more is needed than in other areas.

"A little goes a long way," Bosch said about manure. "Especially when input costs are as high as they are."

That means field soil boring tests and more precise manure application equipment are necessary in order to get the most out benefit from increasingly expensive farming inputs.

It also means monitoring runoff, sampling tile lines and measuring improvements in soil health.

And more than anything, it means producers are leaning on the expertise of their agronomists and professionals at the Rock County Land Management.

"We're here to help," Tapper said. "We want them to be comfortable coming in to ask

SWCD technicians/see page 5

## Meet the new SWCD technicians

**Engineering technician Brandon Bosch**, Steen, has been with the Land Management office since November 2019.

He's from Ash Creek and graduated from Luverne High School in 2011. He earned an environmental studies degree in 2015 from Bemidji State University. He's the son of Larry and Nicie Bosch.

Brandon's duties include feedlot inspections and permitting, conservation projects (survey, design, and construction inspection) and some involvement with household hazardous waste collection and the tree program.

**Why did you want to work here?** "It's a great opportunity to get involved in conservation work, especially around my hometown."

**What do you see as your**

**most important role with the SWCD?** Helping local livestock producers navigate MPCA's feedlot requirements, and working with landowners to correct soil erosion.

**Engineering technician Lee Tapper**, rural Hardwick, started with the Land Management Office in January.

He grew up on a farm near Hawarden, Iowa, and earned his associate's degree in conservation technology at Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls. He went on to get a bachelor's in soil land management from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point.

Lee comes to Rock County with two years of experience with the Cottonwood County Soil Water Conservation District.

He assists with the Wetland

Conservation Act Program, tree program and with various practices, such as cover crops, grass waterways and water and sediment control basins.

He and his wife, Megan (Petersen), were married last fall and now live five miles west of Hardwick with their dogs Dash and Boomer.

**Why did you want to work here?** I want to assist farmers and landowners with different Ag Best Management Practices (Ag BMP) help protect and conserve their land for future generation farmers to come.

**What do you see as your most important role with the SWCD?**

Providing assistance to the people of Rock County to help protect and conserve the land.

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Three varieties of seed garlic at Klosterbuer Mini Acres include (from left) Amish rocambole, inchelium red and Vietnamese red.

# Klosterbuer Mini Acres finds niche in Rock County

## Fresh garlic is a financial boom for new, existing farmers

**By Mavis Fodness**

Garlic is a common culinary ingredient, and thanks to a Steen family, fresh garlic is available for sale locally.

Rabeca and Brandyn Klosterbuer formed Klosterbuer Mini Acres in 2021 as a result of being stuck at home due to the pandemic.

"Gardening became a pastime initially," Rabeca said.

"We had some fun gardening in 2020 in the summer of that year and so we said, 'Why don't we make a business out of this and see how it goes.'"

A Google search of high-value crops gave them a few ideas.

"We initially were going to try lavender and figured out that's probably not what we want to do in this area because of extreme temperatures," Brandyn said.

Garlic was another possibility, a crop best known to grow in the warmer southern climates

Minnesota Premium Garlic Project also came up on the Google search.

Jerry Ford is the project's director.

"The project does outreach to farmers to encourage them to add garlic as an income stream," he said. "Most years it is just great, and then you get a wipe-out year."

Each summer Minnesota Premium Garlic hosts special trainings and tours of existing garlic farms that are part of the Sustainable Farming Association. The Klosterbuers reached out to one such farmer near Willmar.

Garlic is planted from bulbs harvested the previous year. More than 70 garlic varieties are grown in the state.

From the Willmar farm visit, the Klosterbuers purchased 45 pounds of garlic seed bulbs in what Brandyn said was a "go big or go home" jump into garlic production.

Their first crop yielded 350 pounds of garlic. "It has taken off," Brandyn said.



Mavis Fodness photo/Ag Tab Klosterbuer



In preparation for their first year growing garlic, Rabeca and Brandyn Klosterbuer planted 45 pounds of seed garlic in the fall of 2020 in preparation for sale in 2021. The couple yielded an estimated 350 pounds of garlic for their first season.



Three varieties of garlic are available at Klosterbuer Mini Acres, (from left) Vietnamese red, inchelium red and Amish rocambole.

Brandyn and Rabeca Klosterbuer formed Klosterbuer Mini Acres last summer and grew their first crop of garlic in the backyard. They sold an estimated 350 pounds of culinary garlic and seed garlic in 2021. The couple is pictured at left with their son, Ryder, and a bowl of garlic bulbs from their first year in business.

"Surprisingly we have had good local interest in naturally raised garlic."

### Demand for garlic high in the state

Ford said the garlic market in Minnesota is wide open with not enough growers to meet the consumer demand.

Many of the state's growers, like the Klosterbuers, are listed in the Premium Garlic Directory for the Upper Midwest, but not all growers are listed.

"The directory is a fraction of the people growing garlic in the state," he said.

In a recent survey for the garlic project, 104 farmers an-

swered questions about the garlic grown by them and primarily sold directly to consumers.

Due to the state's colder climate, the garlic grown here is often more flavorful than that grown in warmer climates.

The Klosterbuers chose to focus on three varieties — Vietnamese red, Amish rocambole and inchelium red — and will be either for seed or for culinary use.

Garlic bulbs generally like sandier soils, but Ford said the Klosterbuer varieties will adapt over time to the heavier soils and different weather conditions of Rock County.

The key to growing garlic

successfully is staying disease-free. This is often achieved through careful crop management.

### Local garlic grown naturally

Customers prefer produce not to be raised with pesticides or herbicides, as the Klosterbuers found when selling their garlic scapes, seed stock and bulbs.

They've developed a rotation system within their acre-and-a-half backyard, and they regularly test for the garlic bloat nematode, tips they learned from the garlic project.

Rotating to a different plot

each year discourages nematode growth by allowing the ground to rest. Garlic uses a large amount of nitrogen from the soil to grow, and without the use of chemicals nitrogen is replenished naturally by resting the soil.

Rabeca's full-time job is caring for and marketing the 40-by-60-foot garlic garden.

Bulb planting takes place in the fall of the year, generally in October. Mulch covers the newly planted bulbs for protection against the winter weather. The bulbs wait for the warm spring

**Klosterbuer garlic/see p. 4B**

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## Klosterbuer Mini Acres finds new farming niche in garlic production/continued from page 3

weather before sprouting.

As the crop grows, Rabbecca is watchful of weeds, scapes and wilting plants.

"I pull every single weed out of the ground," she said.

"Then I cut off the scapes so the bulbs will grow bigger. If a plant looks sickly — say the leaves look brown and yellow — then we will pick one of those to see if there are any diseases with it."

The wilted plants are mailed to the University of Minnesota for testing. A positive test for garlic bloat nematode would wipe out the crop.

### Sales take place locally and across the U.S.

The Klosterbuers sell the tender, edible garlic scapes in late spring/early summer.

The garlic bulbs are ready by late June/early July depending on the season.

The entire stalk and bulb are pulled and allowed to dry, which takes about four to six weeks.

Once properly dried, the culinary garlic can be stored for up to eight months.

Inquiries and sales come to the Klosterbuer Mini Acres social media site.

Seed garlic is sold for \$18 per pound and the culinary garlic at \$15 per pound. Large orders receive special pricing.

The first garlic season was a successful one for Klosterbuer Mini Acres.

"We sold to a lot of people, interestingly enough," Rabbecca said. "We've shipped to New York, Arizona, California, Penn-



In October of 2021, Brandyn Klosterbuer tilled a new 40- by-60-foot plot for planting the 2022 garlic crop.

*"We want to see how this garlic takes off and makes it a business for us. Then we can venture out."*

— Brandyn Klosterbuer

sylvania and Alabama." The 2022 garlic crop is already planted, with no expansions planned for the coming year.

"We want to see how this garlic takes off and makes it a business for us. Then we can venture out," Brandyn said.

Possible ventures include other root plants such as onions. They've also had requests to grow arugula.

### About the premium garlic project

The Minnesota Premium Garlic Project is part of a five-year specialty crops block grant through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

The grant focuses on improving production, marketing practices, expanding markets and research. The Sustainable Farming Association and the U of M Extension work together to study the best cultivation practices.

The project began in 2017.

More information is available at the project's website, [www.sfa-mn.org/the-garlic-project](http://www.sfa-mn.org/the-garlic-project).



Vietnamese red is one of three garlic varieties grown at Klosterbuer Mini Acres. The other varieties are Amish rocambole and inchelium red.



Pictured at right, freshly harvested culinary garlic waits to be bundled for drying at the Klosterbuer farm.

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**Rock County STAR HERALD**

## Rock County STAR HERALD



### Happy Planting

# Luverne's Jaycox Implement transitions under new Titan Machinery ownership, but same people remain

By Lori Sorenson

The Titan Machinery signs are starting to show up at the former Jaycox Implement dealership in Luverne, and the new Titan staff uniforms arrived last month.

But customers are finding familiar faces behind the counter and in the shop, and they're finding the same equipment and services they knew with the previous ownership.

"It's going great," general manager Mark Ommen said about the transition since Titan Machinery bought Jaycox in December.

"It's a new business system and new way of doing business, but we're learning. With every day that goes by we're getting better."

Ommen said the Titan information system is more integrated, and that translates to better service for customers.

"And having more locations gives us access to more equipment," Ommen said. "Equipment shortages are everywhere, but we have more choices of equipment because of our multiple locations — whether it's a lawnmower or a fleet of farm equipment."

He said the Titan acquisition will allow the dealership to remain competitive and support the local ag economy.

"It's a lot to think about for the business, the employees and the customers," he said.

"You wonder about where you're going to be in the future,



Lori Sorenson photo/0224 ag tab titan ommen

General manager Mark Ommen said the transition is going well since Titan Machinery bought the Luverne Jaycox Implement dealership in December of 2021. "Titan came after us because we were doing very well," he said. "They viewed us as a strong competitor and key performer, so we view that as a compliment."

maybe 15 years down the road."

While daily business operations are the same, Ommen recognizes the value in long-held family businesses like Jaycox.

"Ray and Arlene started the business 65 years ago in Lake Park, Iowa, and 30 years ago Chad came in when they opened in Worthington," Ommen said.

"I came on board 10 years ago when they bought the Luverne location from the Mark Jacobson ownership group."

And he understands local

apprehension about the acquisition.

"We were a small family business that was bought by a publicly traded company with 70 locations," Ommen said. "I get that."

But he said there were opportunities for the local dealership with the deal.

"Titan came after us because we were doing very well," Ommen said. "They viewed us as a strong competitor and key performer, so we view that as a

compliment."

David Meyer, Titan Machinery's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, said the Jaycox in Luverne — in southwestern Minnesota and northwestern Iowa complements existing Titan footprint in the region.

"Jaycox has been a fixture in this market since 1956, has a talented and experienced team of employees, excellent population of Case IH equipment and is well-known for their focus on customer service," Meyer said.

"We aim to build upon that legacy with our added resources and look forward to integrating their team and customers into the Titan family."

Ommen said the larger Titan network offers more resources in terms of inventory, training and talent and provides more opportunity for employees to advance or move in the company among the 70 locations.

Closing was in Dec. 1, and all Jaycox employees became Titan employees. There are 87 employees among the three locations.

Jaycox president Chad Jaycox shared a message with the community on social media last fall.

"We value the relationships that we have built with each of you over the past 65 years and feel that under the guidance of Titan Machinery we can continue to foster these relationships going forward," Jaycox said.

"I humbly thank each of you for allowing us to support the hardest-working industry in the world and look forward to what the future holds."

Mostly, Ommen said he's glad to continue doing business in Luverne.

"We're sure appreciative of the customers and the relationships we've built through the years."

"The signs may say Titan, but we're still the same; what we did yesterday is what we're still doing today and what we'll be doing tomorrow."

## SWCD new technicians/continued from page 2

for assistance with water ways, cover crops, reduced tillage and nutrient management."

Bosch agreed and said the Land Management Office a "judgment free."

"It can be nerve-racking for them to come in, especially if they have a deep gully or something they should have addressed earlier," he said.

"But we're here to help. Don't be afraid to give us a call or stop in."

Longtime Land Management technician Arlyn Gehrke said there's never been a better time than now to sign up for easements and incentives.

"The payments are quite lucrative," he said.

"We've done a lot of contracts, especially in the past five years since flooding."

In the past five years he said his office assisted with 20 easements. In the 15 years prior, there were only five.

"With the flooding, a lot of guys just got tired of fighting it ... only to have it flood," Gehrke said, adding that lower commodity prices helped too.

It's easier to convince producers to take marginal land out of production when the acres are making them less

*"A lot of guys are realizing they need to change. ... I want to help farmers and landowners with different practices to help protect and conserve their land for future generation farmers to come."*

— Lee Tapper, SWCD engineering technician

money to start with.

On the flip side, Gehrke said some producers are tempted to till waterways and pastures when corn and soybean prices spike.

"That has happened," he said.

Whether it's righting bad decisions or addressing longtime erosion or poor soil health, Bosch and Tapper said they look forward to working with producers.

"We'll come out and look at it — boots on the ground," Tapper said.

"If we can't find an answer for them, we'll find someone who can."

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In lieu of gifting cash to your favorite charity, consider contacting your local coop or grain handler and transfer bushels of grain from your name to the name of Luverne Area Community Foundation.

- Tell the elevator that you want to gift X # of bushels directly to LACF
- Inform LACF that you have gifted grain, and provide us contact information to the coop or grain handler so we can call and sell the grain
- The cash basis farmer can exclude the sale of the grain from his/her taxable income

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Creating your exit strategy from a lifetime of farming can be difficult. A decision to consider gifting farmland to a local charity is very personal. Such a donation will have an endless effect on the community in which your land has likely provided benefits for generations. This gift consideration through LACF will:

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# Take care when handling grain

Following safety protocol may not be the most profitable, but it will help keep everyone safe

“There is a direct correlation between out-of-condition grain and an increased likelihood of worker exposure to entrapment situations,” according to Purdue University’s 2020 Summary of U.S. Agricultural Confined Space-Related Injuries and Fatalities.

“Whenever a farmer or elevator employee has to ‘fight’ to get the grain to flow out of (a bin), there is a strong temptation to bypass safe work practices by entering the structure in order to keep the grain flowing.”

Sometimes a crusted layer forms on the surface of grain inside a bin or within the grain mass. That leads to a void above the outlets as grain is removed from the bin.

If the crusted grain breaks up during the removal process, it may block the bin outlets, reducing or stopping the flow.

In other situations, vertically crusted grain can cling to the walls of the bin or form free-standing piles. The piles may contain tons of grain, which can collapse without warning.

“If the grain won’t flow, it’s already too late to debate what was or was not done to prepare the grain for safe storage,” the summary reads.

“The issue at hand is to remove the grain without putting anyone at risk of entrapment.”

The summary notes that, “although the following steps may not be the most profitable,”



In 2020 there were 64 cases of agricultural-confined space-related cases. These included 35 grain entrapments, seven falls into or from grain storage structures, four asphyxiations due to deficient oxygen levels or toxic environments and 12 equipment entanglements (such as those involving in-floor and sweep augers) that occurred while working inside or around agricultural confined spaces.

they will help keep everyone safe when handling grain.

- Never enter a bin where there is evidence of crusting on the surface or within the grain mass. If grain has been removed from the structure and the surface has not flowed toward the outlet, **stay out!** This is a clear sign that a large void has formed over the outlet.

- If there is any sign that the grain is going out of condition or has already done so, it needs to be moved immediately. The condition of

the grain will not improve if left in storage and will only worsen as warm weather arrives, which causes biological and insect activity to increase.

- Perform all observations or unplugging efforts from outside the bin, at the top access hatch. Again, if there is evidence of crusting, spoilage, or excessive heating, **stay out!**

The risk is too great. In some cases, long pipes, rebar, or other probes can be inserted into the grain mass to break up crusted grain or trash that is plugging the outlet. Watch

out for overhead power lines when handling these long probes.

- If the grain has become so crusted or the floor outlets become plugged, preventing grain removal according to the bin manufacturer’s recommendations, contact a professional grain salvage service that has the experience and equipment to break up and remove out-of-condition grain.

These services are expensive but can save lives and salvage some of the grain.

*“Whenever a farmer or elevator employee has to ‘fight’ to get the grain to flow out of a bin, there is a strong temptation to bypass safe work practices by entering the structure in order to keep the grain flowing.”*

In some regions there is a market for damaged grain, which helps make the salvage operation a little less costly.

In 2020 there were 64 cases of agricultural-confined space-related cases.

These included 35 grain entrapments, seven falls into or from grain storage structures, four asphyxiations due to deficient oxygen levels or toxic environments and 12 equipment entanglements (such as those involving in-floor and sweep augers) that occurred while working inside or around agricultural confined spaces.

“The frequency of documented cases remains a concern considering the substantial resources being invested in solving the problem,” the summary states.

Additional information on grain handling safety is at [www.grainsafety.org](http://www.grainsafety.org), <https://apps.npr.org/buried-in-grain/> and [www.agsafety4youth.info](http://www.agsafety4youth.info)

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Apply by April 5, 2022, for the AGRI Livestock Investment Grant

Minnesota livestock farmers and ranchers seeking to improve their livestock operation are encouraged to apply for an additional round of the Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) Livestock Investment Grant program.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) anticipates awarding up to \$443,000 using a competitive review process in this round.

The AGRI program’s Livestock Investment Grants encourage long-term industry development in Minnesota’s \$7 billion livestock industry through investment in facilities,

infrastructure, and equipment. Funding for the grants comes through the AGRI Program to advance Minnesota’s agricultural and renewable energy industries.

Applicants may apply for up to 10 percent of the first \$250,000 of an eligible investment.

Grant awards can range in size from \$400 to \$25,000.

Each livestock operation is eligible to receive a lifetime maximum of \$50,000 from this grant program.

To be eligible for reimbursement by this grant, you must be invoiced and pay for all project materials and services after Jan. 1, 2022.

Project examples include buildings or facilities for the production of livestock or livestock products, development of pasture for use by livestock, including but not limited to lanes, watering systems and fences, and equipment for livestock housing, confinement, feeding and waste management.

We must receive your proposal no later than **4 p.m. on Tuesday April 5, 2022**, for it to be considered. We encourage you to use our online application.

More information about the grant can be found on the AGRI Livestock Investment Grant website.

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# What keeps you up at night?

One of the most difficult discussions is identifying what level of risk to protect. ... Every farm is different, and every farmer is different

By Lucas Peters, Rock County Corn & Soybean Growers Association

I work in the risk management business at Professional Ag Marketing in Luverne.

Our office talks every day with farmers about using different tools like futures, options and insurance to minimize the risk on commodities that they produce.

One of the hardest parts of the discussion, both for the farmer and myself, is trying to identify what level of risk they want to protect. Every farm is different, and every farmer is different.

To help figure that out, we often talk through the question, "What keeps you up at night?" During those discussions, we are trying to identify business/price/production risks that are relatively short-term.

But what about long term for ag? For the next 10, 20, or 50 years, what keeps you up at night? I wake up worrying about how to connect the next generation to farming.

My entire life has revolved around ag. I grew up on a farm in South Dakota, majored in agronomy at South Dakota State University, work in ag, am president of the Rock County Corn/Soybean Growers Association, and farm with my family as well.

I have two daughters that enjoy being on the farm, driving equipment, feeding cows, field lunches, talking the talk.

But walking the walk is nearly impossible without being there every day.

When you grow up with farm-



Lucas Peters

ing and work on it, you are connected. I struggle with how to set that connection with my two girls.

They help me grow pumpkins, popcorn, sweet corn and potatoes. These crops help show the fruits of our labor more easily than the corn and soybeans.

Watching YouTube videos of farming and playing farm simulator games helps conversation and fills in the gaps that I gloss over.

But so far, Harry Potter and Barbie are beating me.

What's the big deal?

My goal isn't to make full-time farmers out of them. But I want them to understand and appreciate the farm. If they do, my hope would be that they will pass the same appreciation to their kids. If I can't, my great grandkids will likely only have a picture of our farm as evidence of farming in their back-ground.

Think of your former classmates, friends and neighbors. Many of mine had grandparents that farmed. That was the last connection. Now their kids are completely removed from the farm.

The more generations that lose a connection to ag, the more challenges ag will face in the future. It is always easier to understand something that you have practiced before.

Having generations connected to ag now will create better opportunities for future farmers.

A qualified labor force, skilled entrepreneurs, and policy decision-makers that understand ag will be as important in the future as they are now.

Many farmers already feel like their voice is not heard by decision-makers. How will farmers feel in 50 years if current trends hold?

Whenever I have this conversation with someone, it always comes with the response, "What can I do?"

Short term, you can get involved with organizations that support ag.

It is easy to share thoughts at home, but getting involved can help make your voice heard and ideas shared by larger audiences and might influence decision-makers.

If that seems scary, you can do something as simple as asking a non-farming friend, neighbor or family member to go for a ride in the combine or tractor. Have a conversation.

Share your story. An hour in the cab may change a point of view or spark an interest.

We can help minimize the many risks farmers face in the future by creating connections to agriculture now.

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## Luverne Farm Store era/continued from page 1

The feature story quoted the senior Golla as saying he was “engaged in trying to help farmers become more efficient.”

That mantra remained true for generations of Golla business dealings in Luverne.

### Generations of employees, customers and relationships

The Golla Farm Store family ownership grew to include Gary Golla in 1975 and Nate Golla in 2000.

“I started working here when I was six,” Nate said. “He would bring me down to sweep the floor of the old office for a quarter so that I could get a pop on a Saturday morning.”

Gary smiled.

“That’s about the age that I started also. I was old enough that he would trust me to ride my bike down here. That’s how both of us started,” he said.

“We’re a generational business, much like a lot of our farm customers are generational. I consider myself incredibly lucky to have been able to work with my dad and my son.”

He said the Farm Store has been blessed by loyal employees through the years.

“We’ve had some employees who were with us for 40 years or more, guys like Ed Wyffels and Greg Uithoven. We’ve had guys with us for 30 plus years, like Ardell Van Wattering. It wasn’t uncommon for us to keep employees for 10, 20 or 30-plus years. And that’s remarkable,” Gary said.



Lori Sorenson photo/0127 farm store gollas Nathan (left) and Gary Golla announced in January that they had sold their family business, the Luverne Farm Store. Pro Partners Milling bought the feed mill, and Luverne Lawn Care LLC bought the lawn care, grounds maintenance and rental equipment from the Farm Store.

“We believed that people who worked with us are family. And we tried to treat them like they were family.”

Long after the senior Golla died in 2006, Gary and Nate maintained original Farm Store values.

“It comes back to how Grandpa George started, how Dad continued and how I wanted to continue as well,” Nate said.

Luverne Farm Store era/see page 16

County	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Chippewa	\$5,699	\$6,578	\$6,460	\$6,336	\$6,231	\$6,812
Cottonwood	\$6,450	\$7,266	\$7,322	\$8,064	\$5,811	\$4,839
Jackson	\$6,825	\$7,399	\$6,671	\$6,361	\$7,334	\$6,750
Lac qui Parle	\$4,191	\$5,111	\$5,105	\$5,049	\$4,684	\$4,719
Lincoln	\$4,482	\$4,415	\$5,312	\$5,806	\$3,853	\$6,350
Lyon	\$6,538	\$6,057	\$5,358	\$5,607	\$5,509	\$6,902
Martin	\$7,744	\$6,370	\$6,120	\$6,915	\$8,894	\$7,479
Murray	\$6,890	\$6,135	\$6,406	\$5,446	\$6,055	\$6,622
Nobles	\$8,828	\$7,132	\$8,548	\$8,152	\$6,664	\$7,680
Pipestone	\$7,651	\$5,478	\$6,211	\$6,914	\$7,119	\$9,008
Redwood	\$6,459	\$6,852	\$7,114	\$6,600	\$6,858	\$7,082
Rock	\$10,753	\$7,545	\$8,656	\$8,851	\$8,698	\$7,854
Watonwan	\$6,749	\$6,588	\$7,373	\$6,006	\$5,948	\$6,671
Yellow Med.	\$5,325	\$5,830	\$5,584	\$5,959	\$5,533	\$6,158
Average	\$6,751	\$6,340	\$6,589	\$6,576	\$6,371	\$6,780

## Farmland values increase in 2021

The annual survey farmland sales in 14 southwestern Minnesota counties shows farmland sales this year increased by an average of 6.4 percent over the previous year.

The average per-acre price over the 14 counties this year was \$6,780, compared with last year’s \$6,371.

There was a lot of variability in the numbers from 2020 to 2021. Pipestone County had the highest average sale price of \$9,008 per acre, followed by Rock County’s \$7,854 and Martin County’s \$7,479. However, Martin County experienced the largest decrease of 15.9 percent for the sales, compared with last year’s \$8,894.

Each year sales vary. Land location could have an effect on these average values from year to year. The quality of the land sold within a county may be a factor

in the wide swing in the prices from year to year in individual counties. The number of sales in each county varies greatly.

Southwest Minnesota land prices peaked at \$8,466 per acre then declined through 2017 to \$6,340. The increased in 2018 to \$6,589 and declined slightly to \$6,576 in 2019 and to \$6,371 in 2020 until increasing in 2021 to \$6,780.

The 6.4 percent increase is above historical increases of 1 to 2 percent.

In the eight years before 2014, prices increased at an annual rate of 15.3 percent. But from 2014 to the present, the average change has been a 4.6 percent decline, until a large increase in 2021.

There are several factors that have an effect on land values. Farm incomes, grain prices, interest rates, return on other investments and 1031 exchanges are often mentioned as reasons for the increase.

Farm profits were weaker in 2013 and turned negative since 2014 with lower commodity prices.

There were good-to-record profits in the Southwest Minnesota Adult Farm Management program, from 2005 through 2012. During 2013, half the farms in Adult Farm Management in Southern Minnesota lost money on corn production.

Average incomes improved in 2019 and 2020, and were higher in 2021.

If the average farmer had losses from 2014 through 2018, this would soften local demand for the land from farmers.

Interest rates have stayed relatively flat and land rental income is comparable or higher than what an investor can earn from treasury bills, bonds or certificates of deposit at financial institutions.

The stock market increased in 2021. The 1031 exchange is for farmers or property owners who have land in an area of increased value, and rather than pay taxes on large gains from the sale of land, they purchase like property or other farmland at a more reasonable price elsewhere, which increases rural farmland demand.

The reason for increases or decreases in farmland sales prices is a combination of all of these factors.

Which direction will farmland values go depends on several factors:

- Supply and demand will determine this.
- The simple return on investment which is determined by rental rates will determine how competitive farmland is compared to other investments and this will determine a value for farmland.
- Corn and soybean prices were high in 2021 and remain high starting 2022. This should have an impact on profits, farm rental rates and eventually farmland values.
- The government program payments decreased in 2021. The table below indicates average land prices from 2016 to 2021.

The annual survey farmland sales in 14 southwestern Minnesota counties collects bare farmland sales to non-related parties for the first six months of each year.

The summary report for this survey is available at the county extension offices in each of the counties.

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# Top recommends 2022 crop insurance strategies

**By Shirley Top Kozlowski Insurance**  
The Enhanced Coverage Option (ECO) was a new supplemental insurance program that became available in 2021.

ECO is an option that can only be added to an underlying individual plan of insurance and provides area-based coverage similar to the Supplemental Coverage Option (SCO).

ECO can be purchased at either a 95-percent or 90-percent coverage level. Coverage extends from the selected level down to 86 percent, the point where SCO begins to offer coverage. **See Figure 1.**

ECO uses a county-based trigger. ECO could result in indemnities being paid when individual losses are not realized. Similarly, individual losses could be triggered without leading to an ECO indemnity payment.

Farmers Hail helped farmers with ECO RAMP OFFSET, new in 2021, which paired with ECO provided coverage for individual losses from 86 percent to 95 percent.

RAMP OFFSET provided 86-95 percent coverage as optional units on their personal yields above underlying 80 percent or 85 percent multi-peril coverage enterprise units or optional units.

All of my farm clients who chose ECO in 2021 elected 86-95 percent ECO Revenue coverage. 81 percent of my clients chose 86-95 percent ECO Revenue coverage, and 100 percent of them chose to pair it with Farmers Mutual RAMP OFFSET coverage.

I am excited to talk

to farmers about FMH's newest private product in 2022: ECO+™, which offers top end coverage up to a 95 percent level.

**Summary**

ECO allows producers to further supplement the coverage offered by their underlying individual plan of insurance.

Like SCO, ECO coverage mimics the underlying individual plan, and payments are made based on county-level triggers. While SCO provides

coverage across a band of 86 percent down to the underlying plan of insurance, ECO provides coverage from either 90 percent or 95 percent down to 86 percent of expected county revenue or yield.

To be eligible for ECO and SCO coverage, producers must purchase an individual plan of insurance (RP, RP-HPE, YP).

While SCO use is limited to acreage enrolled in the PLC program, ECO can be used on acres enrolled in both PLC and ARC.

ECO premiums will be subsidized at a rate of 51 percent if used with individual yield coverage or 44 percent if used with individual revenue coverage. SCO is subsidized at a rate of 65 percent.

Compared with SCO, ECO offers even higher coverage options to cover a wider band of the deductible value, and use is not limited by farm program choice.

Higher 2022 grain prices are making it possible for farmers to insure at higher levels and lock in a profit. 2022 ECO / RAMP OFFSET indemnities were

a result of drought and wind.

Unfortunately there were areas that did not receive rain.

Consider purchasing a hail product with wind, green snap and extra harvest allowance.

In 2021 Farmers Mutual Hail extra harvest allowance paid 8 percent of their hail/green snap/wind coverage for extra expenses farmers incurred harvested down corn.

In 2021 my farm clients had 23,792 acres protected with green snap and wind coverage.

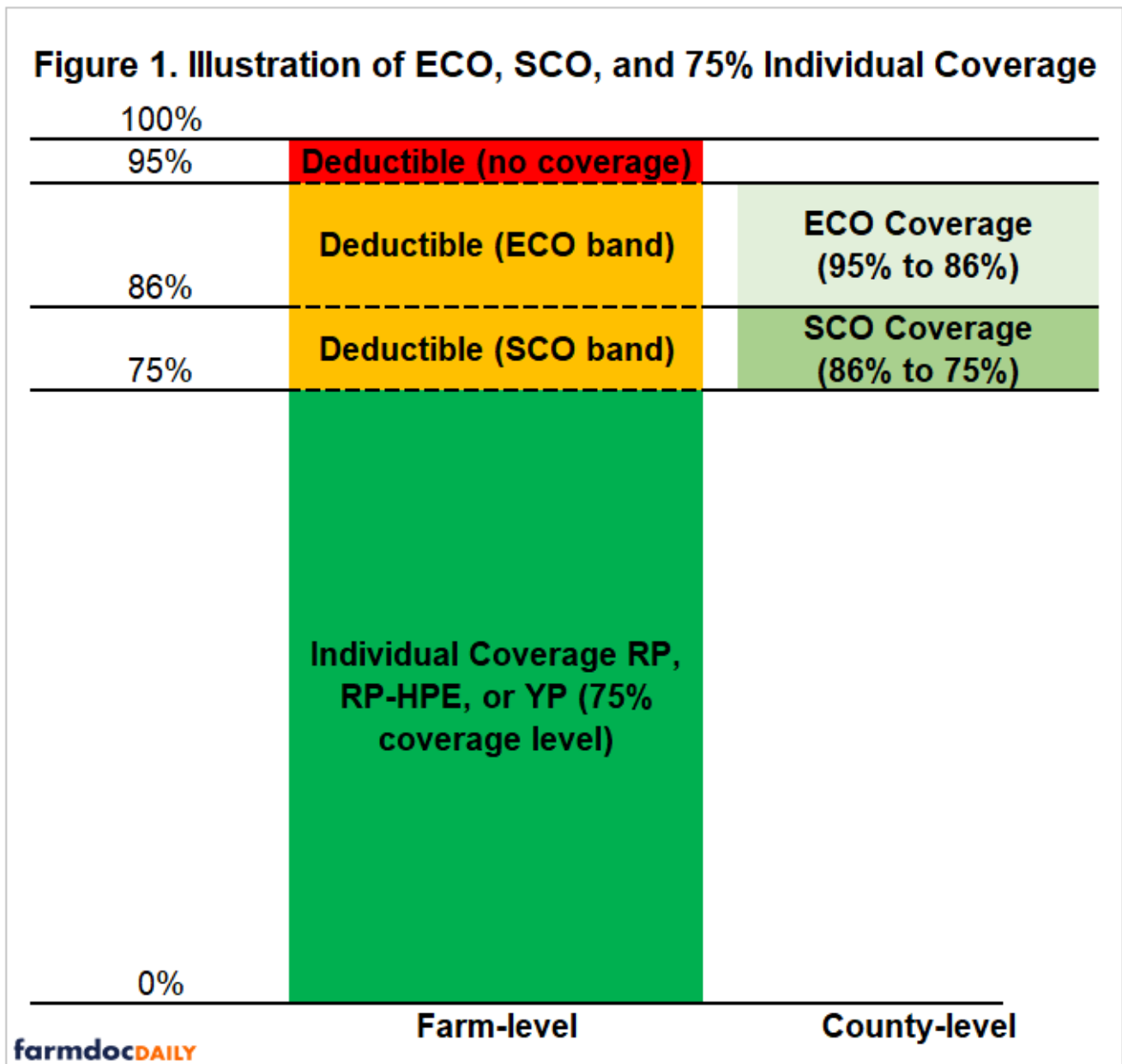
Farmers Mutual Hail adjusters, including Brian Fick, did an amazing job getting out to the fields before and after the farmers harvested to determine percentage of loss, giving the farmers ample time to complete their fall tillage.

Federal law limits the authority for Federal Crop Insurance to insure individual farm yields at 85 percent. ECO can offer coverage up to 95 percent at a county level to enhance your total coverage. 2022: ECO+™ provides individual yield protection up to 95 percent.

Give me a call at 507-283-3704 to determine what best meets your individual risk management needs.

My best education was being raised on a river farm with a family of nine. Light soil required ample regular rains to get a crop.

Wishing all farmers a safe, healthy and prosperous 2022.



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# Wind and fire cause crop devastation

By Barbara Anderson  
Cattnach Insurance  
Agency Inc. Luverne

Ninety-mile-per-hour winds combined with severe drought cause devastating loss of corn crop. An additional fear of fire as the dry crop is fed through the combine is weighing on the minds of area producers.

These are examples of headlines we hope we never see! Cattnach Insurance can help you prepare to face these kinds of losses and more. Just ask us how.

Many farmers across Iowa were devastated by the derecho winds on August 10, 2020. It was close to home for area producers and could happen here.

The 2021 year saw severe wind damage on some farms in the area on a much smaller scale.

This damage has prompted many area producers to look at wind endorsements to protect the crop.

Multi-peril crop insurance and the extra coverage endorsements protect for wind, although typically the yield of the farm doesn't fall below the crop insurance guarantee.

There are several types of endorsements that can be purchased in conjunction with a hail policy, and two of those include wind and fire. Wind can be divided into specific coverages as follows:

- Green Snap:** Unrecoverable ears due to stalks severed or broken over at the node and below the ear. The end date of coverage varies by company.
- Extra Harvest Expense:** Acreage with 20 percent or greater of the stalks lodged with the ear less than 12 inches from the ground. Pays 8 percent of coverage amount.
- Lodging:** Unrecoverable ears due



Lodging results in unrecoverable ears due to stalks that have been bent, broken or blown over, causing the ear to be unrecoverable by normal harvesting equipment.

to stalks that have been bent, broken or blown over, causing the ear to be unrecoverable by normal harvesting equipment.

•**Loss of Production:** The adjusted percentage of lodging deficiency and the production deficiency of the unit.

Additional fire protection can also be purchased on a crop prior to harvest. This can be purchased alone or with a hail policy.

Multi-peril crop insurance only covers for natural causes of fire like lightning

and not fires caused by equipment such as a combine or pickup exhaust.

Some farm owners' policies cover standing grain due to fire. The best way to make sure that you are adequately protected is to review your policies annually.

Don't assume that because you have a high guarantee and pay a sizeable premium in the fall that you have protected yourself against all perils available. I encourage all producers to take the time to review your insur-

*The best way to make sure that you are adequately protected is to review your policies annually.*

*Don't assume that because you have a high guarantee and pay a sizeable premium in the fall that you have protected yourself against all perils available.*

*Take time to review your insurance policies to make sure that you are protecting your investment.*

ance policies to make sure that you are protecting your investment.

Crop and hail insurance can protect you against most types of losses as well as provide a safety net for market prices. Property and liability policies cover the equipment, buildings, harvested grain and in many cases standing grain.

Insurance can provide the security you need to weather the storm. Make sure that your insurance is working for you!

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## U of M offers Commercial Animal Waste Technician workshops

The University of Minnesota will offer Commercial Animal Waste Technician workshops for CAWT recertification on March 9 in Lambertson and March 23 in Waseca (two sessions).

For more information and to register visit [z.umn.edu/CAWT2022](http://z.umn.edu/CAWT2022). UMN Covid protocol requires masks, and seating is limited.

Register early to ensure a seat, as no walk-ins will be accepted.

For those unable to attend an in-person workshop, online training for applicators will be available from late spring until Nov. 20.

**New site managers** not previously certified and licensed must first pass the certification exam (80 percent or better) for an initial license.

All applicators must operate under a site manager's license. To apply for a site manager's

license visit <https://www2.mda.state.mn.us/webapp/erenewal/apply.jsp>

**Certified site managers**, to be eligible to renew a license, must meet recertification requirements by attending a course once every other year or retest.

**New applicators** not previously certified and licensed must watch the videos and take a quiz from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

**Certified applicators**, to be eligible to renew a license, must meet recertification requirements.

Either rewatch the videos and retake a quiz every year or attend a recertification course every other year.

**UMN fee** is \$10 for either in-person or online CAWT recertification.

**Rock SWCD Fee** is \$25 for the site manager exam.

Contact the Rock County Land Management Office, 507-283-8862, with questions.

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# Rock County USDA office provides free, one-on-one help for farmers

**By Eva Kramer, FSA Rock County**

At USDA, we are committed to helping farmers complete USDA loan applications, environmental reviews and other paperwork free of charge.

One-on-one support is available at more than 2,300 USDA Service Centers nationwide.

USDA's Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff are usually co-located at these Service Centers and can help guide farmers to the best USDA assistance based on their unique goals, whether it is loans, conservation programs, or insurance.

Service Center staff can guide farmers through the process of preparing and submitting required paperwork on their own, with no need to hire a paid preparer.

Language translation service is available in all USDA Service Centers, so one-on-one assistance with a Service Center employee can be translated in real time for farmers requiring it.

And while some program and loan applications do have an administrative fee for filing, there is never a charge for preparation services provided by USDA staff.

**Farmers who work with the USDA Service Center can:**

- Establish their farm by registering for a farm number, which is required for USDA programs and assistance.
- Learn how to meet conservation compliance provisions.
- Verify eligibility for USDA programs.
- Discuss their business and conservation goals.
- Create a conservation plan.
- Fill out and file loan and program applications.



Farmers who work with FSA can participate in a wide variety of programs, including the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program.

ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level.

PLC provides income support payments on historical base acres when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its reference price.

The deadline for 2022 ARC and PLC elections is March 15.

Conservation program deadlines for landowners and operators are also approaching.

The General Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) signup deadline is on March 11, and the Grassland CRP signup period runs from April 4 to May 13.

**Get started with USDA**

To get started with USDA you want to make sure your farm is registered.

If you purchased land, it might already be established with USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) with a farm number on file.

If not, FSA can help you register your farm.

To obtain a farm number, you'll bring an official tax ID (Social Security number or an employer ID) and a property deed.

If you do not own the land, bring a lease agreement to your FSA representative to show you have control of the property.

Farmers and ranchers who are interested in additional information can visit [fsa.usda.gov](http://fsa.usda.gov) or contact their USDA Service Center.

We are committed to delivering USDA programs and services to America's farmers and ranchers while taking safety measures in response to COVID-19.

We encourage you to check the status of your local USDA Service Center and make an appointment to discuss your business needs.

To find your local USDA Service Center, visit [farmers.gov/service-center-locator](http://farmers.gov/service-center-locator).

# Are you handling colostrum properly?

It's the building block for the calf immune system and it's important to make sure we're getting its full potential

**By Dr. Erin deKoning, DVM Rock Veterinary Clinic, Luverne**

Colostrum is the building block for the calf immune system. Multiple studies have shown repeatedly that calves that do not receive adequate colostrum will struggle with health issues their entire lives and possibly even die.

Colostrum-deprived calves are quite costly, as efforts to keep them alive with repeated antibiotic treatments can add up quickly.

Over my years as a veterinarian I have worked hard to educate my clients on the situations that require colostrum supplementation or replacement. These situations include dystocia calves, Caesarian calves, or twins.

After attending a continuing education meeting all about colostrum, it occurred to me that while we are doing a great job of providing supplementation, we might not provide adequate client education on proper colostrum handling.

I often hear complaints about difficulty in mixing the colostrum replacer product that our clinic carries. I will be the first to admit that the product is quite thick. And I also know that my patience for such things in the early hours of the morning is quite thin.

I use an immersion blender to mix my colostrum and it has made a tremendous difference. Immersion blenders have small blades that literally chew right through the thick powder. We have a few of the blenders for purchase at the clinic, or they can be purchased online.

Making sure the water being used is the proper temperature is another critical component.

Proper temperature not only ensures you are delivering an adequately protective product to the calf, but also



makes it tremendously easier to mix the colostrum powder. We obviously do not want water to be too hot, as that will denature all of the vital components of the colostrum and render it non-protective.

What is the proper temperature you ask? A temperature of 110 to 120 degrees Fahrenheit is the proper temperature. By mixing the colostrum at this temperature, it will be cooled down to 101 degrees which is the perfect serving temperature. For my own operation, I purchased an aquarium thermometer online that I use each time I mix colostrum.

What happens if you end up not using an entire bottle of colostrum after you mixed it up? You can store it in the refrigerator for up to 24 hours in a sealed container. After 24 hours there could be a high level of bacterial growth in the product, and it could be detrimental to administer to it a calf.

Can't put it in the house refrigerator? You can freeze the mixed product and thaw it for use at another time. Use a heated water bath at no more than 122 degrees Fahrenheit to thaw frozen colostrum. Do **not** microwave colostrum ever. Ever!

I sincerely wish you all a happy, well-rested, mud-free, and easy calving season. As usual, if things go awry, feel free to give me a call!

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## State Fair and Farm Bureau Federation accepting Century Farm Applications; deadline is March 7

Minnesota families who have owned their farms for 100 years or more are invited to apply for the 2022 Century Farm Program.

Produced by the Minnesota State Fair in conjunction with the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, the Century Farm Program was created to promote agriculture and honor historic family farms in the state.

Nearly 11,000 Minnesota farms have been honored since the program began in 1976.

Family farms are recognized as Century Farms when three requirements are met. The farm must be:

- at least 100 years old according to authentic land records.
- in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years (continuous residence on the farm is not required).
- at least 50 acres and currently be involved in agricultural production.

A commemorative certificate signed by Governor Tim Walz, the State Fair Board of Managers President Joe Scapanski, and Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation President Dan Glessing will be awarded to qualifying families, along with an outdoor sign signifying Century Farm status.

Applications are available online at [mnstatefair.org/about-the-fair/awards-and-recognition/](http://mnstatefair.org/about-the-fair/awards-and-recognition/); at [fbmn.org](http://fbmn.org); by calling the State Fair at 651-288-4417; or at statewide county extension and county Farm Bureau offices.

The submission deadline is Monday, **March 7**. Recipients will be announced in April. Previously recognized families should not reapply.

Information on the Century Farm Program will be available at the Minnesota Farm Bureau exhibit during the 2022 Minnesota State Fair. A Century Farm database is also available at [fbmn.org](http://fbmn.org).

### About the MN State Fair:

The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world.

Showcasing Minnesota's finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is 12 days of fun ending Labor Day.

The fair is self-supporting and has not received state government funding since 1949.

The 2022 Minnesota State Fair will run Aug. 25 through Labor Day, Sept. 5. Visit [mnstatefair.org](http://mnstatefair.org) for more information.

### About the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation:

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation is an advocate for agriculture, driven by the beliefs and policies of over 30,000 member families and 78 county groups.

Learn more about our efforts as an advocate for rural Minnesota at [fbmn.org](http://fbmn.org).

## Sesquicentennial Farm applications are now available through Minnesota Farm Bureau

**To qualify, the farm must be at least 150 years old this year (2022)**

Applications are now open for the Minnesota Farm Bureau's Sesquicentennial Farm program, honoring Minnesota families that have owned their farms for at least 150 years. The deadline to apply is March 7, 2022.

To qualify, the farm must:

- be at least 150 years old this year (2022) according to the abstract of title, land patent, original deed, county land records, court file in registration proceedings or other authentic land records. Do not send originals or copies of records.
- demonstrate ownership by the applying family for 150 years or more. "Family" is defined as parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, first cousins and direct in-laws (father, mother, brother, sister, daughter, son-in-law).
- have continuous ownership. Continuous residence on farm is not required.
- consist of 50 or more acres and currently be involved in agricultural production.

A commemorative certificate signed by the governor of Minnesota, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and the president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation will be awarded to qualifying families, along with an outdoor sign. Recipients will be announced in April.

Applications are available on the MFBF website, [www.fbmn.org](http://www.fbmn.org). For more information, contact Rachael Peterson at [rachael.peterson@fbmn.org](mailto:rachael.peterson@fbmn.org) or 651-768-2151.

County Farm Bureaus are encouraged to work with county agriculture societies and county fair boards on local recognition of recipients.

Century Farm program applications are also open. Information is available online on the MFBF website or the Minnesota State Fair website; by calling the State Fair at 651-288-4417; or at statewide county extension and county Farm Bureau offices. Applications are due by March 7, 2022.

### About Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation

The Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation is an advocate for agriculture, driven by the beliefs and policies of our over 30,000 member families and 78 county groups. Learn more about our efforts as an advocate for rural Minnesota at [www.fbmn.org](http://www.fbmn.org).

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# 'Seeing is believing'

## Beaver Creek farmer joins industry leaders at national biodiesel event

Willers: "The ultimate goal is to educate the fuel system in Minnesota"

The Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council builds leaders through its "See For Yourself Program."

From Jan. 17 to 20, the council invited fuel distributors, mechanics and farmers from across the state to the National Biodiesel Conference & Expo in Las Vegas.

This year, 12 industry participants from Minnesota attended the conference.

The SFY Program was originally created to ensure checkoff dollars were being used effectively for the biodiesel industry and to help improve farmers' bottom line. As a result, collaboration between industry and the farmers has built the program to what it is today.

"The ultimate goal is to educate the fuel system in Minnesota," said MSR&PC Director Jim Willers, who attended the conference.

"We want any walk of life that has anything to do with diesel fuel to become educated on the ins and outs of biodiesel."

The SFY program was eye-opening to some of the participants.

"The soybean oil, the diesel, and the animal fat that goes into making biodiesel is a big part of America right now, and it's bigger than I think Minnesota farmers think it is," said Dan Schmidt, who works in energy sales at Ag Partners Coop.

"We all have a lot of research to do, a lot of reading to do and we need to continue to learn more about it."

**Next chapter**  
The National Biodiesel



Rock County farmer Jim Willers stands by the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council's Plasma Blue unit at the 2022 National Biodiesel Conference and Expo in Las Vegas Jan. 17-20. "The ultimate goal is to educate the fuel system in Minnesota," said Willers, Beaver Creek, state council director. "We want any walk of life that has anything to do with diesel fuel to become educated on the ins and outs of biodiesel."

Board officially unveiled its new name and new brand, Clean Fuels Alliance America, during the opening session of the 2022 National Biodiesel Conference & Expo.

The council currently invests checkoff funds into four projects with the Clean Fuels Alliance America.

"Our industry has seen and will continue to see significant growth as the world around us focuses on clean energy," said Donnell Rehagen, CEO of Clean Fuels.

"We are an integral part of the solution for sustainable energy that's not only affordable but also scalable and available

now. Further, our new name and brand represents the connected energies of our members and positions our industry for a clean fuels future."

In addition to the brand reveal, the organization recognized its 30th anniversary.

With the Kenlon Johannes Pioneer Award, Current NBB Chairman Chad Stone honored the range of leaders who served as past chair of National Biodiesel Board and helped shape the biodiesel and renewable diesel industry into a multi-billion-dollar industry.

NBB chairs comprised both farmers and biodiesel producers.

Minnesota has represented NBB with two farmers leaders who have served as chair of NBB within the last 30 years.

Ed Hegland, who served from 2007-2010 and was there to receive his award, and Roger Peterson, who served in 1999.

In addition, Rehagen distributed a new book, "The Birth of American Biodiesel: Biographical Accounts Celebrate 30 Years of Pioneers, Leaders and the Bold Vision for the National Biodiesel Board."

Council Senior Director of Product Development & Commercialization Mike Younger-

berg and Hegland were both featured in the book.

"What we accomplished in St. Paul, in Washington, D.C., it's really rewarding," said Hegland, a former director with the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association. "It's great to see (biodiesel) still thriving and growing."

Youngerberg recently celebrated his 35th year at MSR&PC and has helped Minnesota's biodiesel market grow and become a national leader in the biofuels movement.

Through Youngerberg's time with the council, Minnesota became the first state to pass a law requiring minimum blending requirement for biodiesel in 2002.

In 2005 the state first implemented a 2-percent biodiesel blend in diesel fuel. In 2018 the state moved to a 20-percent biodiesel blend during the summer months and a 5-percent blend during the winter months.

"Mike has been such an asset," said Tom Verry, Clean Fuels director of outreach and development.

"He's had such a huge impact nationwide and is just the kind of person who makes this all happen in Minnesota."

Today biodiesel contributes nearly \$1.7 billion toward Minnesota's economy, adds more than 5,000 jobs and increases demand for soybeans by 13 percent.

"I am proud to be part of the momentum and strides Minnesota has taken to support biodiesel," Youngerberg said.

"We need to continue to have our voices heard and continue to show biodiesel as a clean fuel option."

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## Pro Partners Milling represents new era of integrated local agriculture business/from page 1B

through his Professional Ag Marketing business in Luverne.

"The goal of this investment is to allow for independent, relatively small family farmers to be successful in an industry that's becoming increasingly integrated," he said.

"It's neat that this asset and the model that the Gollas had success with through the years can be transitioned into an independent smaller producer model that allows for us to be competitive in a pretty competitive industry."

Von Tersch assists with risk management and procurement of feed rations, like corn, soybeans and dried distiller grains. Mike Minor in his office handles marketing and grain origination.

"We're looking forward to engaging with local producers as they're looking to market their corn," Minor said.

Farmers interested in selling grain to Pro Partners Milling can reach Minor at 507-449-2030.

The investor group, some of whom preferred not to be named, works with Pipestone Nutrition (of Pipestone Systems) for management services and nutrient expertise.

Jon De Jong is president of Pipestone Nutrition and manages Luverne's Pro Partners Milling, which he describes as a unique ag business model.

"I don't know of any other producer-owned feed mills where multiple producers own the mill," said De Jong, who is also president of Pipestone Nutrition.

"There are independent farmers who own their own facilities, but six owners working together on a project like this is unique."

Von Tersch said capacity of the Farm Store mill was bigger than what his partners needed, so he reached out to his colleagues with Pipestone Systems.

"We partnered with and engaged with them on many projects through the years, and they had been considering this type of model as well, so it made

## Pro Partners — Hoff/continued from page 1B

els of corn to 15,000 hogs and said he often considered grinding his own corn, but the size of his operation didn't justify the costs of having his own feed mill.

So, when one of the Pro Partners organizers approached him about joining them, Hoff didn't hesitate.

"It was a no-brainer," he said.

"This way I can get my feed ground at cost, and I don't have to find an employee to do it. ... I thought it was a heck of a deal to get involved with this co-op, and when I heard Pipestone

*"It's all about keeping your costs of production as low as possible to stay viable in the industry."*

*— Chad Hoff, farmer and Pro Partners investor*

Systems was going to manage it, I knew it would be run well."

Hoff, like the other farmer owners of Pro Partners Milling, looks forward to the savings — an estimated \$3 to \$5 per hog.

"It's all about keeping your costs of production as low as possible to stay viable in the industry," he said.

Pro Partners Milling expects to mill 70,000 tons of feed per year and is seeking additional corn from local farmers to meet production needs.

Professional Ag Marketing is procuring grain at 507-449-2030.

alignments through pro ag and general relationships in the area."

He said feed is roughly 60 percent of the cost of production to raise a pig, so owning a feed mill represents major savings.

"They'll save \$3 to \$5 per pig by owning this facility, which is a lot of money," De Jong said, considering Pro Partners Milling feeds 225,000 pigs on 45 sites in Rock County and the surrounding area.

"Most feed mills are profit centers that need a return on their equity, but our pig producers are willing to put their equity to work, and their return now gets to go into the pig, instead of staying at the feed mill."

Pro Partners expects to mill around 70,000 tons of feed per year, and will require nearly 2 million bushels of corn in addition to soybeans, DDGs and other products.

"Just think what this does to generate revenue for area row crop producers and to create jobs in the livestock sector," Von Tersch said.

The owners plan to invest in the mill's automation in the coming months with a new roller mill for grinding corn and a micro table for measuring small inclusion ingredients.

De Jong said the Pro Partners venture will be good for producers and good for the communities they live in.

"Anything a producer can do to integrate their business — whether that's through owning a harvest facility or owning a sow farm or owning finisher barns or owning a feed mill — those are all good things for guys that are raising pigs," he said.

"It was important for the owners to keep the business going in the town they all raise pigs around or live in."

Pro Partners employees in Luverne include 30-year Farm Store employee Ardell Van Wattering and delivery drivers Cody Lanoue and Brandon Boeve.

*"Anything a producer can do to integrate their business — whether that's through owning a harvest facility or owning a sow farm or owning finisher barns or owning a feed mill — those are all good things for guys that are raising pigs."*

*— Jon De Jong, Pro Partners Milling manager, President of Pipestone Nutrition*

*"The goal of this investment is to allow for independent, relatively small family farmers to be successful in an industry that's becoming increasingly integrated."*

*— Pat Von Tersch, Professional Ag Marketing, Pro Partners Milling investor through P&P Pork*

logical sense to pursue the opportunity together," he said. De Jong said more investors meant more opportunities. "It

seemed like a great opportunity to bring some more producers in the fold who share common goals and other

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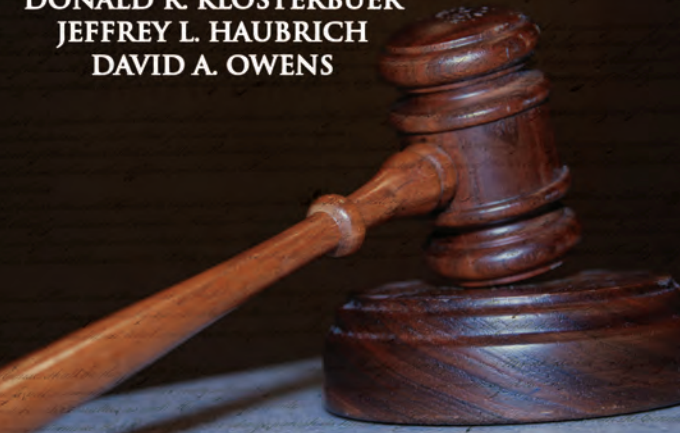


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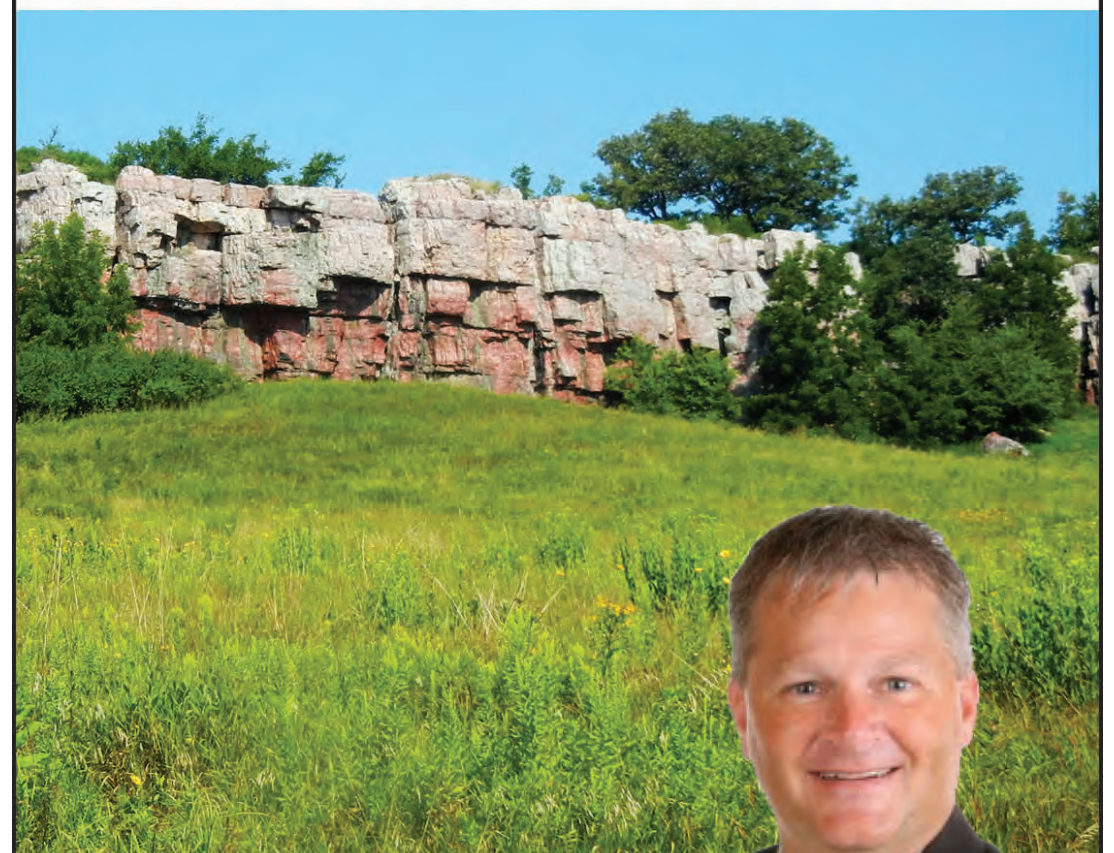
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## Farm Store era/continued from page 8

### New people, same values

The recent sale marks an end to the era of Golla Farm Store ownership and reflects another shift in local agriculture business.

The feed mill has been purchased by Pro Partners LLC, a group of local farmer investors who will use the mill to support their hog production. (See the related story about Pro Partners Milling)

The lawn care, grounds maintenance and rental equipment part of the Farm Store business has been purchased by Luverne Lawn Care, LLC.

The owners include Mira Uithoven, granddaughter of 40-year Farm Store employee Greg Uithoven who will mentor the business.

The Farm Store buildings and property on South Highway 75 are for sale.

The business and services of the Farm Store will remain in the community; it just won't be known as the Farm Store anymore, Gary said. "What we do is being transferred to other people."

In January when Nate and Gary Golla formally announced their decision to sell the Farm Store, they said they're pleased the business will be carried on by young, local entrepreneurs.

"We truly love what we do ... and it was very difficult to come to a decision that it was time to let that go," Nate said.

"But we're very excited because we have some young people who are going to take it over. They have similar thoughts on providing high quality service, using high quality products doing a great job and

really working on their customer service."

The Golla's said in the process of selling the family business, they considered its impact on the community.

"These decisions were made with that mindset," Nate said.

"We needed to do what was right for our customers and for the area. It was important to us that business continued on with companies that shared our common focus and goals. And we think we found those people for lawn care and for the feed mill."

They said the Farm Store transitions are a good news story, even though it marks the end of a Golla business era in Luverne.

"We feel like we've been honored to have the customers we had and the families that we have gotten to know through all these years," Gary said.

Nate said he's grateful for the customers, employees and the community at large.

"It's been truly an honor to be in business here, and we couldn't have done it this long without the support of other businesses in town, all of our neighbors, all of those people who helped make us what we were," he said.

"It's really been a joy and an honor to serve this area for 74 years."

*Editor's note: The Star Herald announced the Luverne Farm Store sale in a Jan. 27 news story. The feed mill owners are featured in this Feb. 24 Spring Ag edition, and a future Star Herald news story will cover details about Luverne Lawn Care, LLC, which purchased the Farm Store's lawn care, grounds maintenance and rental equipment.*



ATTRACTIVE is this exterior of Luverne (Minn.) Farm Store. The warehouse is shown to the rear.

## 10 profit pegs

Luverne (Minn.) Farm Store owner George Golla reports on ten merchandising opportunities

MERCHANDISING opportunities for feed and farm supply dealers depend on the ability of management personnel to see and exploit them. A business which demonstrates this theory is Luverne (Minn.) Farm Store, owned by George Golla. Store manager is Ed Wyffels.

Here's the lineup of 10 activities which has enabled Luverne Farm Store to build its 1960 sales volume to \$400,000 and that of an associated company, Luverne Farm Store Gas Co., to \$200,000:

1. Two mobile mills.
2. Bulk feed service.
3. Egg market plan.
4. Outside selling and collection program.

5. Livestock weighing service.
6. Associate company for selling bottled gas.
7. Dry fertilizer and anhydrous ammonia.
8. Sales program including dinners for customers and working with the 4-H movement.
9. Employee incentive plan.
10. Using Production Credit Assn. and feed manufacturer finance plans.

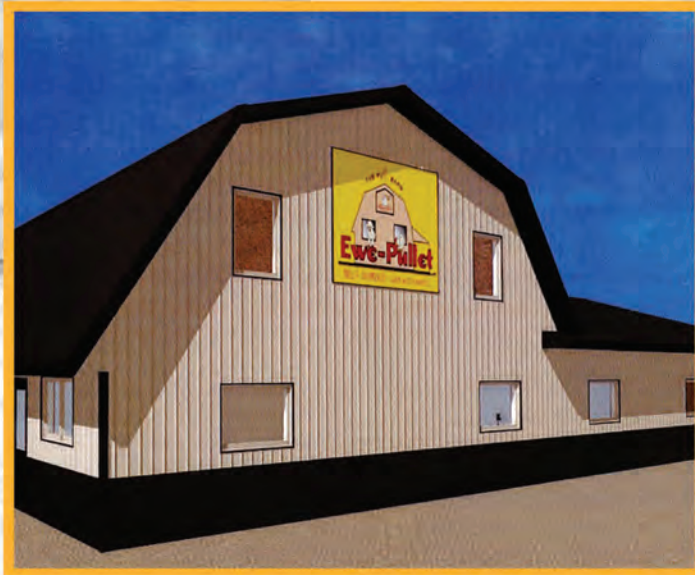
In business since December, 1947, Mr. Golla is a former county agent (Rock County in which Luverne is located) who says he is "still engaged in trying to help farmers become more efficient" as a farm store owner. As a community



ED WYFFELS, manager, and George Golla (right), owner of Luverne (Minn.) Farm Store, talk over operational problems.

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