



# Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, February 25, 2021

## Mock trial students prepare for seventh-straight state tournament

By Mavis Fodness

For the first time in nearly a year, Luverne High School mock trial members met as a team for an in-person trial performance Thursday night, Feb. 18, at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne.

The 13 students presented a trial showcase for parents in preparation for next week's state competition.

Through masks and limited movement in front of a podium, students were together in the same room for the first time since the last state tournament in March 2020.

"Even though it has been a weird season, I was happy to have a season," said senior Simon Boyenga.

The Minnesota State Bar Association canceled all in-person competitions traditionally conducted in area courtrooms. Instead, the 2021 competitions were online through Zoom, due



Mavis Fodness photo/0225 Mock Trial Luverne 2021 Simon Boyenga (right) administers the oath to Luke Thorson, who agrees to follow the rules of mock trial competition.

to COVID-19 social distancing.

The Luverne team practiced in small groups or on Zoom and competed at home in front of

their personal computers.

LHS compiled a 5-0 record for the current season and will compete virtually at the March 3-4 state competition with 15 other schools. LHS students will continue to compete from home.

Senior Kaitlyn Anderson said Thursday's practice was different because the lawyers were able to pass notes directly to one another during the trial.

When competing through Zoom, students type into a Google document open alongside the Zoom window, and the notes instantly appear on the attorney team's screens.

In the Zoom window, only the lawyers completing the direct or cross-examinations can be seen along with the testifying witness and the presiding judge.

Mock trial team prepares for state/see 8A

## District takes stock of progress on 100<sup>th</sup> day

*With students in house, staff assesses learning gaps, celebrates zero new COVID-19 cases*

By Mavis Fodness

Feb. 18 marked the 100th day of the 2020-21 school year at Luverne Public Schools, and staff and students couldn't be happier.

Elementary students resumed in-person instruction after the Christmas break, and middle school and high school students ended distance-learning classes on Jan. 26.

It marked the first time in 317 days that all 1,200 students were together on the school campus since the coronavirus pandemic started in March 2020.

The results so far have been healthy.

As elementary students celebrated the 100th day of school with various activities, administrators celebrated the COVID-19 weekly case update numbers that showed no reports of active cases.

All 93 confirmed cases tracked by the district since the pandemic started have recovered and no one is currently in quarantine.

"We are very excited about zero cases reported," said Superintendent Craig Oftedahl Monday. "We really want to see this end, so we are trying to do our part by being safe in all school settings."

Oftedahl praised students and staff for wearing masks while in school, at extra-curricular events and out in the public. He also commended people who practice social distancing and stay home when feeling ill.

"This is about doing the right thing and following the rules," he said. "I believe our entire student body and our staff have done a great job."

**In-person learning used by one-fourth of schools in state**

Luverne is among 29 percent of the 537 public and charter schools meeting entirely in person as reported to the state Department of Education.

Of the remaining 71 percent, 10 percent are in hybrid learning, 14 percent distance learning, and 47 percent are in a combination of in-person/hybrid or hybrid/distance learning.

School progress/see page 2A

## Hundreds fish The Lake for annual derby

*Get Hooked Ice Fishing Derby draws big crowds, distributes big prizes*

By Lori Sorenson

Three hundred seventy-six people registered to fish in Saturday's Get Hooked Fishing Derby at The Lake in Luverne Saturday.

"It was unbelievable," said Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere.

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

Skies were overcast, but temperatures rose into the mid-20s Saturday following a week of bitter cold sub-zero weather.

"It was nice for ice fishing," Lanphere said. "What a great day on The Lake."

While dozens of ice houses dotted the surface of the lake, many others found protected areas to fish out on the ice, and volunteers weighed and registered a steady stream of fish hauled in buckets and clear plastic bags.

"We had a great group of guys on the committee," Lanphere said. "We bought our own scales this year and did the weighing and entering ourselves."

Morgan Bonnett took home the \$500 catch prize for hauling in the largest fish in the youth category (a carp), and Colton Koenen won the ice fishing package prize for catching the largest game fish, a bass.

Fox Forrest, Lucas Madison and Elliot Domagala were first, second and third, respectively, for catching the most fish in total ounces. Forrest hauled in 107.6 ounces of fish, Madison had 96.2 ounces total and Domagala registered 88.6 total ounces.

In adult competition, Hailey Boll caught the \$500 prize-winning largest fish, a bass, and AJ Bonnett, Jesse Petersen and Robert Vander Bush were first, second and third, respectively, for catching the most fish in total ounces.

Bonnet caught 196.8 total ounces of fish,

Fishing Derby results/continued on 15A



Jesse Petersen (in foreground) and Josh Petersen fished from holes drilled only a few feet apart, but Jesse had the hot spot, earning him second place for total ounces of fish — 195.7 ounces total. (Lori Sorenson photo/0225 fishing derby petersen) More photos on page 15A

## ATLAS to grow ministry in larger space

By Lori Sorenson

ATLAS of Rock County is expanding into the former Kawasaki building with a goal of expanding its Christian ministry in more directions.

The organization recently purchased the property on Maple and Freeman where it will expand its Redeemed Remnants secondhand business.

ATLAS Board president Brenda Winter was among volunteers Friday morning painting, cleaning and assisting contractor Tony Gacke.

"Welcome to Redeemed Remnants," said Winter, in a paint speckled T-shirt and paint roller in hand.

She offered an informal tour of construction and renovation progress in the building.

On the other side of a central dividing wall, she said, "Welcome to New Life Celebration Church."

ATLAS new building/see page 3A



Lori Sorenson photo/0225 ATLAS construction

ATLAS of Rock County board chair Brenda Winter offers a tour of construction progress Friday in the former Kawasaki building where the organization is moving. "This is the old Kawasaki desk, and it just worked perfectly there," she said about an area that will initially serve as space to wash donated clothing and prepare merchandise for the Redeemed Remnants store, which occupies the front of the building.

## Ashby Recreational Trail starts work in spring

County to take over maintenance, upkeep

By Mavis Fodness

Gene and Barb Ashby's bike path in memory of their son, Chris, will be completed this summer after two years of planning with local officials.

The Ashbys have pledged \$1 million toward the project and requested matching funds either by labor, grants or other funds from the county.

The 1.35-mile hard-surface Ashby Recreational Trail will connect the Luverne City Park to County Road 9 near the golf course.

Work will begin this spring, and once completed later this year, the trail will be donated to the county for maintenance.

Commissioners unanimously agreed to the arrangement at their Feb. 16 meeting when the Ashbys attended with Emily Crabtree, director of the Luverne Area Community

Foundation.

LAC is fiscal agent for the project, and Crabtree has worked with the Ashbys and DGR Engineering out of Rock Rapids, Iowa, for the past four to five months to finalize property easements.

"We opted to go with an 8-foot-wide trail rather than a 10-foot," Crabtree said.

"I know a 10-foot width is what you need to apply for grants, but with the money saved by going with a narrower path, we will be able to move along at a quicker pace than waiting for grants."

Minnesota Department of Transportation standard width for a multi-use path is 10 feet, and the 10-foot width is a requirement if the path is paid for through state dollars.

Ashby trail/continued on page 5A





## COVID CORNER

County	Total Cases	DAILY average in last 7 days	Percent Change
Rock	1,152	1	+0.4%
Pipestone	1,007	1	+0.8%
Nobles	3,849	5	+0.7%
Minnehaha (SD)	27,740	32	+1.7%
Lyon (IA)	1,440	2	+1.1%

**14-day case rate in Rock County per 10,000 people:**

Date Range	1/3-1/16	1/10-1/23	1/17-1/30	1/24-2/6
Rate	66.93	49.93	25.50	15.94

**Vaccine Dashboard: ROCK COUNTY**

- People with at least one dose: 1,242
- People with completed series: 808

Data as of 02-21-2021

For more Covid-19 vaccine information, please visit:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine.html>

**School Status**

LUVERNE - Elementary: In-person | Middle/High School: In-person  
 HBC - Elementary: In-person | Secondary: In-person/HYBRID

Current data as of February 23, 2021. Sources: MDH & The New York Times

Sponsored by: Rock County Emergency Management

## School progress measured at 100th day/continued from page 1A

The Luverne Middle-High School is coming off a combination of hybrid and distance learning since the start of school on Sept. 8 and has been in-person for almost a month. Teachers say they are relieved that the first 100 days of school are behind them.

"We survived, and I believe our students are stronger, more resilient because of it," said middle school teacher Jodi Rops.

"Did we lose some learning opportunities in the classroom? Of course we did. However, I think of everything we all learned from it."



Contributed photos  
 Luverne teacher Liza Winkler (center) helps her kindergarten students Mackenzie Walker (left) and Jonah Gogue count and assemble necklaces with 100 cereal loops in recognition of the 100th day of school on Feb. 18.

### 'Can we see actual learning loss?'

Administrators and health professionals worked to keep students and staff healthy amid pandemic conditions while still meeting state learning mandates.

Now that students are back in class, teachers are assessing what the various learning models have meant for student learning.

Jason Phelps, middle school principal and the district assessment coordinator, addressed School Board members about student achievement in a Feb. 10 workshop.

"One of the common questions out there is how schools have been affected by the change in learning models and if we actually have any information that we can see actual learning loss," he said.

"If we look at the big picture ... the idea that there is a huge loss from what we did last spring is probably not true."

Minnesota schools closed in mid-March 2020 and resumed instruction March 29 under distance learning conditions and finished the 2019-20 school year with students learning at home.

Elementary teachers have seen some decline in the

first-graders in benchmark tests when school reopened to in-person learning this fall.

Phelps said first-graders scored lower in naming letters and letter sounds.

Since returning to in-person instruction, the interventions appear to bring students closer to reading standards.

"Our in-person probably had an influence on that this year," he said.

### Attendance has big influence on learning

Attendance is the major factor in class failure rates with middle and high school students. Instruction has been either by hybrid or distance until Jan. 26.

Three middle school students did not advance at grade level for the 2020-21 school

year, which Phelps indicated is a "very rare" occurrence.

"That is 100 percent attendance related," he said.

"We didn't have any more information to support passing them on to the next level."

Middle school teachers use a standards-based grading system in which students demonstrate they understand and are ready to perform at the next level.

However, letter grades are issued at the high school level.

Phelps said in the fall of 2019, 36 students in grades nine through 12 received a failing grade in at least one class.

That number jumped to 72 in the fall of 2020. Average daily unexcused absences jumped from an average of 3 to 14.5 over the same time period.

"A majority of high school failures are the lack of work completion," he said. "If they are not in class, they are not able to demonstrate that they know the material."

Phelps expects improvements at the middle and high school as in-person learning enters its second month when staff helps students set a plan to recover any missing credits.

"Overall the one overriding idea is that ... being here in person is the most consistent method for teaching and learning," Phelps said.

Educators will know more about potential learning gaps when the annual state reading and math assessment tests are completed this spring.

The state assessments were canceled last fall.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Entrants sought for St. Patrick's Day Parade March 17

Register now at the Luverne Area Chamber to enter the 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day Parade on Main Street Luverne.

All businesses, individuals and families can participate with no pre-registration required. Entrants must meet in the Living Rock Church between 4 and 4:30 p.m. to be included in the parade lineup.

Every parade participant will receive a gold dollar coin at the end of the parade.

For more information contact the Luverne Chamber, 507-283-4061 or [luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us](mailto:luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us).

### World Day of Prayer March 5

The American Reformed Church will host the World Day of Prayer at 1:30 p.m. Friday, March 5. This year the focus will be on the country of Vanuatu and Matthew 7:24-27. All are invited.

### Tax assistance for available for Rock County residents

United Community Action Partnership will be providing free online virtual tax assistance for residents living in Rock County and surrounding communities. See website for details at <https://www.unitedcapmn.org/services/community-family-services/tax-clinic/>

The number to make an appointment and to get intake forms sent via mail is 507-537-1416 ext. #2163. You can also email Courtney Newgard at [Newgardcourtney.newgard@unitedcapmn.org](mailto:Newgardcourtney.newgard@unitedcapmn.org) with questions.

### Rock County Library winter activities

Register now at the library to participate in the Rock County Library 2021 Winter Reading Program, which began Jan. 1. Patrons who read at least 12 books from now until March 31 will win a prize for their efforts — and enjoy some good books.

Call the library at 507-449-5040 or email the library at [rocklibrarystaff@gmail.com](mailto:rocklibrarystaff@gmail.com).

Check with the library to participate in Virtual Trivia. Receive weekday trivia to break up our quarantine schedules (until Trivia Nights in person can continue again.)

### Take and Make bird treat kits

Stop by the Luverne Area Chamber at 213 East Luverne Street to pick up one or more Take and Make bird treat kits. Kits are free, but a \$5 to \$10 donation is welcome to benefit Project Food Forest in Rock County. (Or donate online at <https://donorbox.org/support-pff>)

### Memory loss plays offered

A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota is presenting the second one act play about memory loss in their online educational series titled "In the Garden," by Matthew Widman, the Memory Care Plays Anthology.

The production is an educational tool for both community and families navigating through the Alzheimer's/Dementia decision-making process.

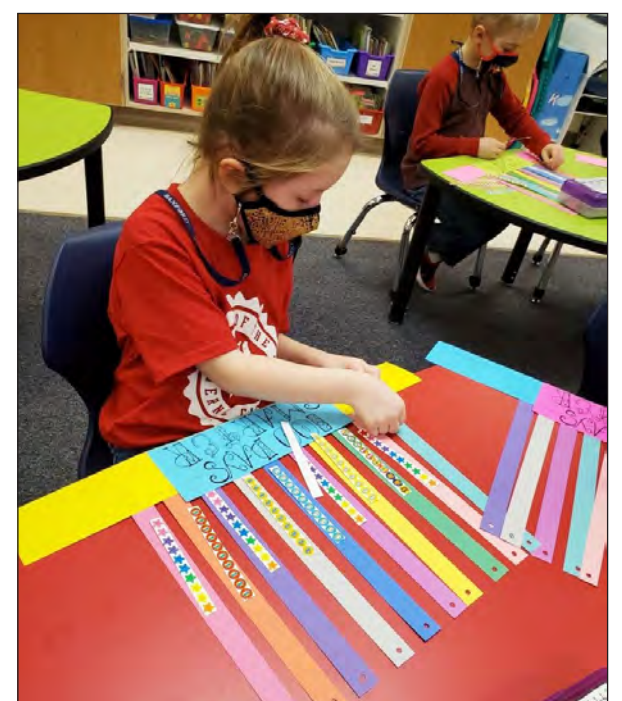
This free virtual play will be offered at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, or at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 16. Please sign up through Eventbrite at <https://marshallgarden2021.eventbrite.com>.



At far left, first-grade students read 100 books Feb. 18, in recognition of the 100th day of school.

Left, Jared Wentzel tie-dyes a mask.

Below, Madison Peters assembles her "100th day of school" crown.



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# Payments out to local businesses affected by COVID-19 closures

By Mavis Fodness

Fifteen Rock County businesses shared \$250,000 of coronavirus relief grants awarded Friday.

The grants were the result of a special state \$216 million coronavirus recovery legislation passed in December.

Commissioners outlined a targeted distribution approach in January and asked the 21 businesses most impacted in Rock County to make application.

The county identified businesses closed during the governor's month-long 2020 mandate to prevent the public spread of COVID-19.

All 21 businesses, primarily restaurants, event and fitness centers, made application, and each met in person to discuss losses with a county committee charged by the commissioners to distribute the funds.

Payments distributed Friday ranged from \$1,843 to \$64,993.

Business owners indicated they suffered a combined \$432,500 in lost revenue due to the mandate, an amount well over the \$250,000 the county received.

County Administrator Kyle Oldre said all applications would receive 58 percent of their requests, according to the distribution plan approved by commissioners at their Feb. 2 meeting.

"We discussed different

methods of distribution and it seemed like across-the-board distribution was the most equitable when all was said and done," Oldre said.

Disbursements, however, were made to businesses that passed state lien searches and businesses that had not already received automatic relief payments directly from the state.

This changed the percentage each business received.

The distribution formula increased to 78 percent because six of the local applicants did receive state payments, and the state check amounts covered the percentage of loss indicated in their county applications.

These applicants were removed from the local relief list.

Those businesses whose total losses were not covered by the state were adjusted by what they did receive, and the county committee granted relief funds to cover the percentage loss over the state aid amount.

"One applicant came forward and said they did receive a check," Oldre said. "There was some confusion from them as to whether or not they would receive state aid."

The state automatically calculated lost revenues to businesses by comparing taxable gross receipts from retail sales in the second and third

COVID-19 funds/see 5A

# Gevo Inc. plans to open plant in South Dakota

No immediate plans to rehire Agri-Energy employees in Luverne

By Mavis Fodness

Nearly 11 months after laying off its local workforce at the Agri-Energy LLC in Luverne, parent company Gevo Inc. has no immediate plans to rehire and resume full production.

Gevo officials did, however, recently announce the home for a new production plant would be built on 240 acres near Lake Preston, South Dakota.

The new plant called Net-Zero 1 would produce 45 million gallons of renewable jet fuel and gasoline from corn each year.

These are the same renewable fuels the Luverne plant is currently being retrofitted to produce from renewable energy sources of wind and cattle manure.

Agri-Energy stopped production on March 27, 2020, and laid off 27 employees in response to the growing coronavirus pandemic that negatively affected market prices for ethanol.

In a letter to the Luverne community dated Feb. 11, plant manager Phil Cherry said the Luverne plant will reopen to full production.

"While there are fewer cars in our staff parking lot these days and less activity at our scale house, you should know that inside the plant we are working hard to make sure we are ready to roll if and when we decide to restart operations,"

Cherry wrote.

"In fact, we recently posted a job for a project manager position for our expanding work in the production of renewable natural gas from dairy cows."

Gevo engineers are working to develop a digester that would take biogas generated from cattle manure and use the green gas to lessen the Luverne plant's dependence on natural gas.

The Luverne plant was the first of its kind to use wind power to lessen its reliance on electricity, also generated from coal. Construction of the two wind turbines, located west of the plant, were finished in early 2020 and began producing electricity in April.

The electricity not used at the plant was sold to the city of Luverne and Missouri River Energy Services.

The use of green energy to produce renewable jet fuel and gasoline is also the goal of the Net-Zero 1 plant in Lake Preston, which is anticipated to be in production by early 2024. Gevo plans to construct up to three plants generating renewable energy from renewable energy sources.

"Gevo would like to convert and upgrade our Luverne facility into a net-zero site as well sometime in the future," Cherry indicated.

"We are not abandoning Luverne and, in fact, we want to make this a world-class production site as well."



ATLAS of Rock County is expanding into the former Kawasaki building with a goal of expanding its Christian ministry in more directions. The organization recently purchased the property on Maple and Freeman where it will expand its Redeemed Remnants secondhand business. ATLAS is moving from its current headquarters in the Cragoe building.

## ATLAS of Rock County new building/continued from page 1A

In a room off that area she said, "Welcome to ATLAS," a space for ATLAS director Michael Blank and assistant to the director, Loree Ness.

Winter explained how the organizations are related and connected.

"ATLAS owns the building and is the landlord," she said. "Redeemed Remnants will be a tenant. New Life Celebration Church will be a tenant. The Backpack program will be a tenant, probably a non-paying tenant."

The distinction is important, she said, "because ATLAS doesn't have a church."

It's a community-based nonprofit that "comes alongside hurting men, women and families with caring, compassionate support," according to its website, offering "tangible assistance to those struggling with life-controlling issues through a program of resource guidance, advocacy, and mentoring."

Redeemed Remnants has been a clear example of the mission, according to Blank.

"We are here to help people," he said. "Certainly Redeemed Remnants does that. ... People have moved into places with almost no

furniture and we have furnished people's homes. There are people with very basic needs, like a bed."

Redeemed Remnants helps people, and it funds ATLAS ministries through its sales of donated clothing and furniture.

"We have off-site storage for donated furniture," Blank said. "But we can't sell what's not on display and what's not on site."

That's why the 10,000-square-foot Kawasaki building is such an improvement over the store's previous 2,300-square foot space downtown.

"The purpose of the new space is to turn over more furniture, because that's where the profit is," she said. "You make a dollar on a necklace and you make \$80 on a couch."

Actually, Redeemed Remnants has already proven to be profitable selling donated clothing and furnishings to the point that it supports many of ATLAS ministries.

Now the store can do more in its spacious, sunny, south-facing showroom.

Winter said volunteers are excited about the display area, the

back-door alley to accept donations in a large storage for sorting next to laundry facilities for folding and preparing items for sale.

"Right now they have to work in a little hallway, but this is the new hallway," she said gesturing to the garage-sized storeroom area.

As a member of New Life Celebration Church, she said she's looking forward to a more permanent worship space, even if it is rented, with a secure area for praise band equipment.

"And the days that our church isn't here, it's a great space to have a big gathering," Winter said.

A stained glass window allows light to filter through the wall that divides the ATLAS office of the worship area.

"Phyllis Rogers made it for New Life Celebration Church," Winter said. "It puts the cross over the whole space."

### Timeline

ATLAS currently rents from month to month its second floor space in the Cragoe Building on Main Street and Cedar Avenue.

On March 1, Blank and Ness will move, even if it means they work on folding tables in the new building until their offices are ready.

Redeemed Remnants sold its building on East Main Street and will move into the new building this spring.

Winter said countless little "miracles" allowed ATLAS to come as far as it has in the new building.

"People's hearts are just open. And their checkbooks and their garage doors," she said, estimating the project has received well over \$5,000 in donated materials. "This community is crazy generous."

Winter said people have asked about donating to the ATLAS building fund, but she steers them to Redeemed Remnants.

"The biggest way people can help is to donate their goods to Redeemed Remnants and shop at Redeemed Remnants," she said. "As far as cash donations - we want to put the focus toward ATLAS. Because we're not a building, we're a ministry."



Lori Sorenson photo/0225 ATLAS construction

ATLAS of Rock County board chair Brenda Winter offers a tour of construction progress Friday in the former Kawasaki building where the organization is moving. She's pictured in what will be worship service space.

### Correction:

The fire protection service protection contract between the Hills Fire Department and Clinton Township is \$550 per section from April 15 through April 14, 2022. The per section amount was incorrect in the Feb. 18 edition.

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Linda DeSplinter - Clerk  
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Hardwick MN 56134

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What does your penmanship say about you?

## Handwriting analysis has less meaning than what prompted interest in original signatures

While recently signing farm paperwork for my late parents' estate, I came across some documents with both Mom's and Dad's signatures that were dated decades ago.



### ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

I ran my finger lightly over the ink they had pressed into the paper, and my mind briefly wandered to their younger years when conservation reserve acres were part of their farm planning.

Their side-by-side signatures were neat and fluid, unlike the halted scribbles their aging fingers had more recently produced.

These two signatures (that became so familiar to me growing up) suggested a youthful optimism for the future, a resolve to tackle life's adventures as a team.

Mom was a school teacher and her penmanship reflected a commitment to both precision and flair. The letters were evenly spaced, uniformly sized with upper and lower zones reaching equal distance above and below the lines.

Dad's signature was less so, but reflected a deliberate, non-nonsense manner.

Contemplating this later, I consulted "the all-knowing internet" for the science behind handwriting and what it says about our personalities.

Not surprisingly, big letters indicate outgoing personalities and smaller letters are written by shy introverts.

Similarly, people who space out their letters and words tend to enjoy freedom and independence while those who squeeze words and letters prefer the company of others.

Other findings include:

- Heavy pen pressure suggests tension and anger, while moderate pressure is a

sign of commitment, and soft pressure suggests empathy.

- Circles in place of dots on "i"s are playful and childlike.

- Right-slanters are extroverts and left-slanters are introverts (or liars, as some sources suggest).

- Long crosses on "t"s indicate determination, enthusiasm and possibly stubborn tendencies. Short-crossed "t"s reveal laziness. Unless you cross it on the high side, which indicates high goals. Low-crossed "t"s are for low achievers. (Pity the low and short "t" crossers.)

- A widely looped letter shows spontaneity and narrow loops are restrained.

- A short hook on the lower-case "y" means you're a homebody and a long hook could signal wanderlust.

The list goes on, but of course, considering my own propensity to write very quickly during interviews for stories, I was interested to learn:

- Those who write quickly are "impatient and dislike wasting time." (Or, they're news people who need to keep up in an interview.)

- And finally, a legible signature is a "sign of confidence" while an illegible signature is "the mark of a private or hard-to-read person." (I'm nothing short of a mystery.)

Of course, I knew my parents and didn't need a handwriting analysis to tell me who they were.

But my fascination with the ink they left on paper tells me something about myself: I still miss them and find comfort in little things that make me feel close to them.

## Public safety, schools take top spots on legislative agenda

The 2021 session is in full swing as bills have started moving through the legislative process as committee meetings kick into high gear.

While this year's session looks different with most meetings taking place virtually, I nevertheless continue to work hard to make sure Senate District 22 is well represented at the Capitol.

### Holding cities accountable for funding public safety budgets

On Monday, the Senate passed my bill that would hold cities accountable to pay their mutual aid agreements and prevent Governor Walz from diverting funds away from education and healthcare to cover cities' public safety costs that defund the police.

Cities are given Local Government Aid to fund necessary functions of their government, which includes public safety. While the state has a responsibility to protect the public's safety, it is not every Minnesotan's responsibility to pay for it when that community is actively undermining

its own safeguards. The solution proposed in this bill is fair. It encourages law enforcement to be fully funded by cities and ensures that when neighboring communities answer the call that they are going to be reimbursed for their support. The bill allows cities that provided mutual aid but haven't been reimbursed for it yet to apply to have their Local Government Aid adjusted to match the amount owed. The funds would be provided by lowering the LGA from the city that owes the mutual aid payment.

Following the bill's passage, Governor Walz, via his spokesperson, Mr. Tschann, issued a statement accusing Senate Republicans of voting to defund the police. This was after House Democrats failed to pass their

own version of the legislation on the same day.

Governor Walz's accusation does not accurately account for the provisions of the bill and is blatantly false. This legislation was spurred on by an active effort from Minneapolis's city council to undermine its own public safety needs as well as the city's unmet reimbursement obligations to neighboring communities.

Rather than accuse Senate Republicans of defunding the police, the Governor should reflect on his own party's actions, which have driven police out of the cities and have positioned Minneapolis poorly should there be further unrest.

Weber, continued on page 5A



### Meinerts: Study history instead of rewriting it

To the Editor:

Things I find perplexing, perhaps even contradictory:

Why would we shut down a pipeline and transport oil by truck and rail?

Why would a gender who fought years for equality applaud confused men being on their sports team?

How is it that people who claim to be Christians vote for a party that wants to kill babies?

Has the flu been cured? You hear nothing of it. Perhaps we killed the baby that God destined to cure this and other diseases.

Why would someone who says "my body, my choice" endorse mandatory vaccinations?

Have you been to the elementary school to see the snot, food and bacteria laden masks we are forcing our children to wear all day?

Why would any sort of media be for censorship and "fact-checking"? It seems they would have the most to lose under communism.

Why would we question the Constitution, Bill of Rights and Declaration of Independence that served us well for 200+ years, when the wise men that wrote them found "these truths to be self evident," meaning any simple-minded person should be able to understand the most basic ideas of freedom?

Why would you lock down

small businesses, yet let hoards of people shop at Walmart?

How did 100+ people march into one of the most secure buildings in the world?

Why is it not racist to have a black only college?

Maybe we should forgive all debts, not just student loans. That will teach all the naysayers who chose to live within their means.

Maybe we should be studying history instead of rewriting it: How is that possible, do they have a time machine?

And lastly, why do we elect lunatics to come up with these absurd ideas?

God bless America.

Todd Meinerts, Luverne

## In the Peterson household, sock pairs considerably outnumber shoes

I'm not sure I have ever written about shoes before, so this week seemed to be a good fit to do so.

At the Peterson household we have had more than a few discussions about the number of shoes that take up space in the house when they're not where they belong — on our feet.

I won't get into the number of shoes Mary currently has in her inventory. If I did, that would result in one of those shoes planted squarely where the sun don't shine, if you get my drift.

I don't necessarily have seasonal shoes like Mary does; I



### FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, general manager

have shoes that serve purposes.

In my shoe inventory I have two pairs of dress shoes, one black and the other brown.

In the casual shoe department I

may have gotten a little carried away, because the casual shoe count may hover around seven different pairs. To my defense, most of them get worn at least once a week.

Under the umbrella of athletic shoes, I currently have three pairs that follow an inventory rotation protocol. The oldest and most worn pair fills the role of lawn mowing and outside work shoe. The middle age pair carries most of the workload as walking, bike riding and errand running shoes. The newest pair serves two roles — sitting on the shelf waiting its turn to enter the rotation and occasionally filling in as a casual shoe.

I have two different pairs of winter boots. Again, as I have to keep reminding Mary, they both serve different purposes and of course are

necessary.

Without a doubt, the shoes that cause the most, let's say, vigorous discussions in our home are the number of my hunting boots.

I used to do a lot of waterfowl hunting back in the day, so I have a pair of hip boots and a pair of chest waders that haven't seen the light of day in nearly 20 years. The number of actual hunting boots comes in at five.

So, you're probably asking yourself, why would I write about my shoes and boots? The answer is simple: I didn't think you wanted to read about my 57 pairs of socks.

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

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



## ON THE RECORD

### Dispatch report

**Feb. 13**  
 •Complainant reported a phone outage.  
 •Complainant on W. Hatting Street reported a suspicious vehicle in the area.  
 •Complainant reported two vehicles were vandalized.  
 •State patrol assisted with a driving complaint westbound on Interstate 90, two miles west of Luverne.  
 •Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a male subject harassing staff at location.

**Feb. 14**  
 •Complainant reported a camera outage.  
 •Complainant on E. Virginia Street and Lindale Street reported possible water main break.  
 •Complainant on 200th Avenue, Magnolia, reported damage to a fence and power box.  
 •Deputy assisted a motorist at location on Highway 75 and County Road 8, Luverne.

**Feb. 15**  
 Complainant reported a camera outage.  
 •Wind chill warning for Rock County was reported.  
 •Complainant on W. Lincoln Street reported a water outage at location due to a possible line break.  
 •Complainant on 150th Avenue and 161st Street reported an abandoned/parked vehicle.  
 •Complainant on W. Hatting Street reported an assault or confrontation at location.  
 •Complainant on E. 6th Street, Jasper, reported a motor vehicle theft.  
 •Complainant west-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 17, Magnolia.

**Feb. 16**  
 •Complainant reported camera outage.  
 •Complainant on W. Luverne Street, Magnolia, reported a scam phone call.

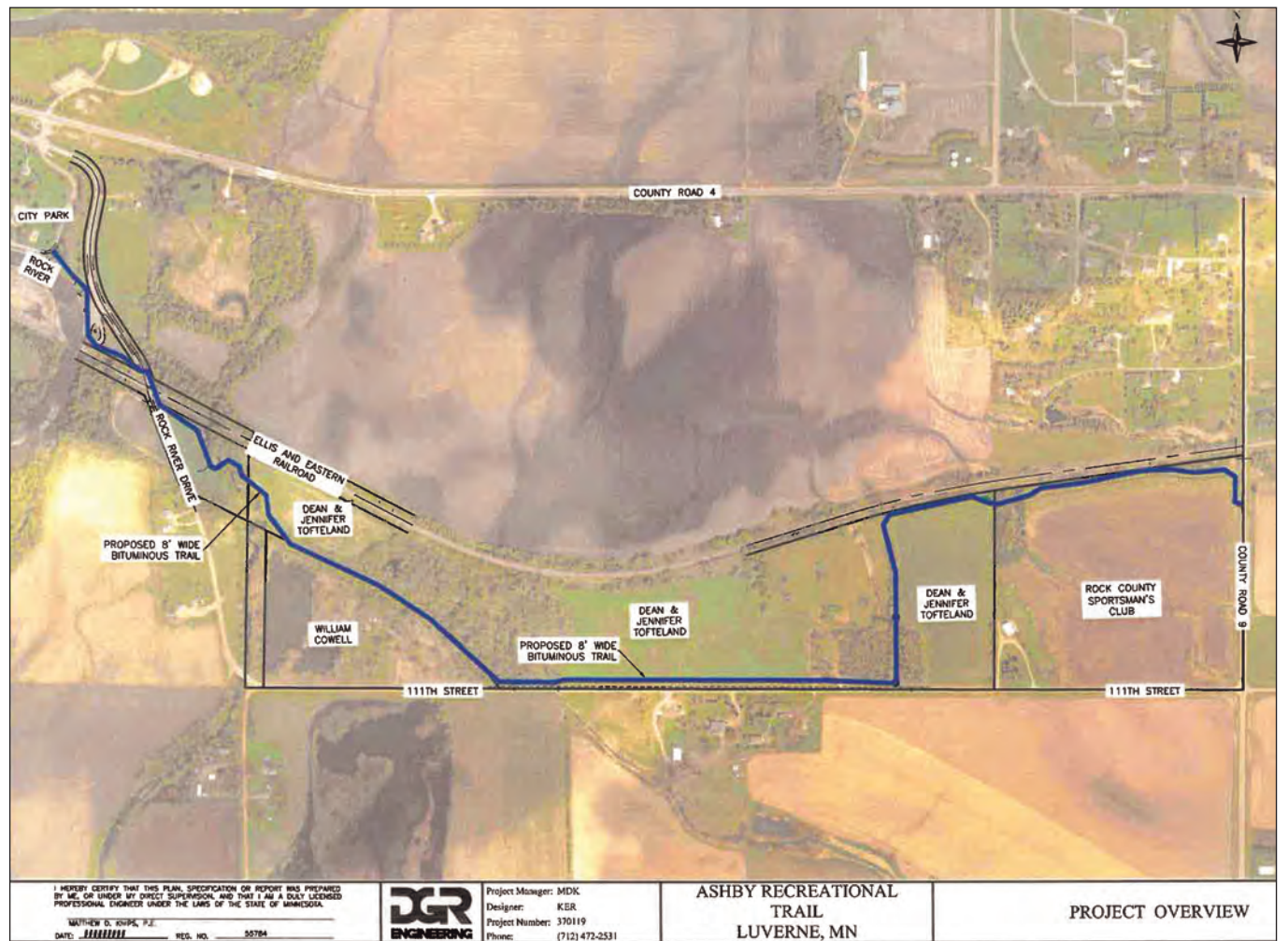
•Complainant near Magnolia reported an accident with property damage.  
 •Complainant on Bishop and Spring Street reported a parking complaint.  
 •Complainant on Interstate 90 and Highway 75, Luverne, reported a driving complaint.  
 •Complainant reported phone outage.

**Feb. 17**  
 •Hit and run was reported at location eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 6, Beaver Creek.

•Complainant on W. Warren Street and Sunshine Avenue reported that she hit a stop sign near intersection.  
 •Complainant on S. Cedar Street reported a blocked garage door.  
 •Complainant on N. Spring reported a trespasser.  
 •Complainant on Warren and McKenzie reported an abandoned vehicle at location.

**Feb. 18**  
 •Complainant on W. Warren Street reported a truancy issue.  
 •Complainant on S. McKenzie Street reported a parking complaint.  
 •Complainant on W. Interstate Drive requested deputies for an issue at location.  
 •Complainant on 171st Street reported a burglary.  
 •Complainant reported a juvenile runaway is in Luverne.

In addition, officers responded to 1 motor vehicle accident, 1 deer accident, 1 vehicle in ditch, 1 transport, 7 escorts, 26 ambulance runs, 5 paper services, 1 animal complaint, 2 fingerprint requests, 8 burn permits, 1 gas drive-off, 3 alarms, 19 purchase and carry permits, 2 stalled vehicles, 12 traffic stops, 10 abandoned 911 calls, 5 welfare checks, 1 test and 1 follow-up.



The proposed Ashby Recreational Trail begins at the Luverne City Park and continues east 1.35 miles to County Road 9. Construction is expected to begin this spring and be complete this fall.

### Ashby Recreational Trail construction/continued from page 1A

“Going with an 8-foot (wide) trail we save \$200,000 and ... with the guidance of DGR we opted to bypass the grant system since it (Ashby trail) is privately funded.”

Instead of waiting two years with a grant program, the Ashby project can be completed this year.

According to county highway engineer Mark Sehr, it costs about \$2,000 annually to maintain the county's current 1.5-mile section of the Luverne Loop north of town.

For nearly 20 years the county has maintained the 4-inch bituminous layer of the bike path along Blue Mound Avenue from the highway department to Blue Mounds State Park

Work includes mowing, weed control, crack sealing and surface

repair, and the same tasks will be completed for the Ashby Recreational Trail.

The Ashbys first presented their idea for their trail to commissioners in April 2019, and since then county employees have assisted them in finding an appropriate route and securing easements.

Crabtree said landowners along the Ashby trail have agreed to request no money for the perpetual easements.

The trail will run through land owned by the city of Luverne, Dean and Jennifer Tofield, William Cowell and the Rock County Sportsman's Club.

A possible loop may be added along County Road 4 to provide a route back to the city park for the

Ashby Recreational Trail.

Currently, paved shoulders are planned for along County Road 4 from the Luverne City Park east to County Road 9, the golf course road.

During a presentation of the county's five-year road construction plan, the 10-foot shoulders are part of the construction plans for 2022.

This would provide room for a multi-use paved path on the north and south sides of the road.

However, commissioners directed county highway engineer Sehr to further investigate costs and location of the bike path prior to finalizing the 2022 road improvement plans this fall.

The trail honors the Ashbys' son, Chris, who died at age 16 in an automobile accident in 2006.

### Weber legislative update/continued from 4A

**Removing the governor's authority to close schools via executive order**

On Thursday we passed bipartisan legislation that will protect students' right to an excellent education at all times.

The bill, Senate File 2, removes any governor's authority to close schools or alter school schedules via executive order.

Decisions about opening and closing will be left in the hands of individual school districts moving forward, where local officials have firsthand knowledge of their students' needs.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Minnesota never should have adopted a statewide mandate forcing all of our districts to use the same criteria and protocols for each individual school.

We know that all of our schools are unique and should have empowered local authorities the flexibility to do what is best for their communities and students.

Now, with the data clearly saying it's safe for schools to reopen, it is time for the Governor to relinquish this authority.

The bill says the Governor may not use executive order authority to issue any order or to authorize the commissioner of education to alter school schedules, curtail school activities or order schools closed.

The legislation passed 40-27 with four Democrats and two Independents joining Senate Republicans.

Gov. Walz's executive orders closing schools have been among his most questioned and controversial orders of the outbreak.

There is mounting evidence, including research from the CDC, that schools pose a minimal risk of spreading the coronavirus.

A fall Reuters report that studied 191 countries also found no clear link between school reopenings and coronavirus surges.

In addition, Axios looked at several studies and found schools are not COVID-19 hotspots, and the Atlantic Magazine wrote that kids are not super-spreaders and that it's time to reopen schools.

The New York Times reported on evidence that schools, especially elementary schools, are not "stoking community transmission."

On Wednesday Governor Walz revised his Safe Learning Plan but still holds state authority to change education plans going forward.

The Governor is slowly tweaking the dials, but he is certainly not moving fast enough.

His own data indicates that transmission rates for teachers is a minuscule .37 percent, which is astounding.

Our students need to be back in the classroom, and prolonging their time out of the classroom is an embarrassment on this administration and Minnesota's teachers' unions.

### COVID-19 relief dollars/continued from page 3A

quarters of 2019 to the second and third quarters of 2020. If the losses were 30 percent or greater, the business would automatically receive a state payment.

State payments ranged from \$10,000 to \$45,000 based on the number of employees the business employed, which ranged from one employee to more than 300 employees.

Oldre said the majority of local business owners interviewed had losses of 27-28 percent, which fell under the state's automatic 30-percent loss payment criteria.

Some businesses had ownership changes, and the state did not recognize revenue reports of the previous owners.

Businesses not meeting the state's automatic payment threshold were what the local committee sought.

At first, state officials were not releasing the names of businesses that automatically received state funds.

Local officials relied on business owners to indicate on the county application whether or not they received state funds.

The county committee did

not take into account if businesses received any payments from the Payment Protection Program.

The state revenue department later allowed counties to submit business names to verify any automatic payments.

"The state program ended up being a lot better than we thought it was," said county attorney Jeff Haubrich, who also served on the distribution committee.

Rock County businesses receiving emergency relief funds (rounded to the nearest dollar) include:

- Cozy Rest Motel, \$7,799;
- Dang Fine Dine, \$21,664;
- Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 3403, \$7,669;
- Grand Prairie Events LLC, \$64,993;
- Green Lantern Bar & Grill S & L, \$21,664;
- Hidden Hills Cafe, \$25,694;
- Howling Dog Saloon, \$11,981;
- Kenneth Bar, \$7,799;
- Luverne Hotel Partners LLC, \$21,664;
- Luverne Pizza Ranch Inc., \$17,332;
- Luverne Power Fitness,

\$1,843;

- Magnolia Cafe, \$4,333;
- Spring Brooke LLC, \$21,664;
- Up the Dam Creek LLC, \$2,807;
- Wildflowers Coffee Boutique, \$11,092.

Friday's distribution was the second COVID-19 relief package that the county distributed.

Rock County distributed \$740,000 to businesses and nonprofit organizations through grant applications up to \$5,000.

**BMAT receives \$15,000 in state COVID relief**

Blue Mound Area Theater was among 73 movie theater owners and 15 convention centers that shared in a \$14 million appropriation for movie theaters and convention centers in Minnesota impacted by COVID-19.

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development awarded the Blue Mound Area Theater \$15,000.

The DEED grants were part of the \$216 million COVID-19 recovery package passed in December.

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**REQUEST FOR BIDS**

**VIENNA TOWNSHIP IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR Road Grading**

Please submit bids by Monday, March 8, 2021. Bids will be opened Tuesday, March 9 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**

**GRAVEL BIDS: VIENNA TOWNSHIP**

Class 5, pit run, and screened to be spread on Vienna Township roads. Bids will be expected by **Monday, March 8, 2021.**

Bids opened Tuesday, March 9 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 8, 2021. Bids will be opened Tuesday, March 9 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, pit run and screened gravel to be spread on Rose Dell Township roads.**

Submit bids by **March 14th to Elroy DeSchepper**  
 2150 State Hwy. 23  
 Jasper, MN 56144  
 612-807-6663

**REQUEST FOR BIDS**

**Class 5 crushed gravel, pit run and crushed rock to be spread on Martin Township roads.**

Submit bids on or before **Friday, March 5 to Allen Nuffer**  
 363 60th Ave, Hills, MN 56138  
 605-521-6624

*You can recycle more than just your paper!*

Consider recycling:  
**Glass - Metal - Paper - Plastic**



## Blue Jackets Bright Futures



Submitted photo

Hills-Beaver Creek High School FFA Chapter members who received free corduroy jackets from the Minnesota FFA Foundation are (front row, left) Larissa Steinhoff, Sylvia Fick, Brynn Rauk, Megan Vis, Taryn Birger, (back) Amallia Ternus, Layla Deelstra, Lanae Elbers, Damion Meinerts, Carter Vande Voort, Riley Tage and Alexis Gardner-Swenson.

## Hills-Beaver Creek FFA'ers selected for free blue membership jackets

By Mavis Fodness

A state FFA program awarded 12 Hills-Beaver Creek High School FFA Chapter members their official blue membership jackets.

Each year the Minnesota FFA Foundation selects students through online application for the Blue Jackets Bright Futures program.

Students Amallia Ternus, Layla

Deelstra, Lanae Elbers, Damion Meinerts, Carter Vande Voort, Riley Tage, Alexis Gardner-Swenson, Larissa Steinhoff, Sylvia Fick, Brynn Rauk, Megan Vis and Taryn Birger were selected to receive the organization's corduroy jackets.

The program provides jackets to students starting in FFA. Average cost of the jackets is \$85.

"A personalized FFA jacket provides recipients with a sense of pride while giving them ownership of their FFA experiences," said Lavyne Rada, the state FFA association leadership development coordinator.

"FFA plays an important role in developing agricultural and leadership skills in students while preparing them for their future careers."

## Instructor uses real garden to teach ag at H-BC Secondary

*Student volunteers will tend to plants during the summer*

By Mavis Fodness

Agriculture instructor Cloey Anderson plans to have students redesign a vegetable garden on the grounds of the Hills-Beaver Creek Secondary School in Hills.

Anderson was awarded an agricultural education summer grant through the Minnesota Department of Education.

The \$1,731 grant doubles Anderson's summer contract

from 10 to 20 hours.

"With those days I will be attending more professional development through the Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators and will also be working at making a garden. And I will be able to supervise students working out there," she said.

Garden planning gets underway by Anderson's 10th

grade ag class in early March. They will work with a plot on the school property that was last used as a garden about four years ago.

"We will be growing the regular veggies — corn, tomatoes, cucumbers, onion, etc.," Anderson said.

The garden is intended to expose students to starting seeds, planning a garden, researching plant varieties, and how to set up a garden to grow successfully.

"Many people have gardens so I think it is an important skill to have," Anderson said.

Currently Anderson plans to give any mature produce to the school's food service or the area food shelf for use or distribution. Depending on yields, students may be exposed to a farmers market.

Student volunteers will tend the garden through the summer, to weed, water and harvest. Anderson will provide supervision.

"I hope students learn how to provide for themselves, and get a good idea of nutrition and where some of the food they eat comes from, as well as what it takes to get to that point," she said.

## CELEBRATIONS

### Card showers

**Gloria Aanenson** will celebrate her 90th birthday on Monday, March 8. Greetings may be sent to her at 200 S. Freeman Ave., Luverne, MN 56156.

**Audrey Opitz** will celebrate her 90th birthday on Tuesday, March 2. Greetings may be sent to her at 514 Britz Drive, Luverne, MN 56156.

## GENERATIONS MENU

**Monday, March 1:** Sausage and gravy with biscuits, peas and carrots, applesauce, cookie.

**Tuesday, March 2:** Goulash, green beans, tropical fruit, bread.

**Wednesday, March 3:** Vegetable soup, meat sandwich, pears, cake with frosting.

**Thursday, March 4:** Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, carrots, bread, gelatin with whipped topping.

Half-Price Day spon-

sored by Minnwest Bank.  
**Friday, March 5:** Chicken enchilada casserole, coleslaw, garlic bread, pineapple.

*LSS Dining offers well-balanced and affordable meals.*

*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).*

## COLLEGE NEWS

### Anderson makes dean's list at ASU

Jaydn Anderson has been named to the Fall 2020 dean's list at Arizona State University in Phoenix.

Jaydn, the daughter of Chad Anderson and Paula Bloemendaal of Luverne, is a student in the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts.

### Hagen named to dean's list at Riverland

Ana Hagen, Hills, was named to the dean's list for the Fall 2020 semester at Riverland Community College in Austin. To be eligible, students must earn a 3.25 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale with at least 12 graded credits.

## A.C.E. sponsors memory loss play, 'In the Garden'

A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota is presenting the second one act play about memory loss in their online educational series titled "In the Garden," by Matthew Widman, the Memory Care Plays Anthology.

The production is an educational tool for both community and families navigating through the Alzheimer's/Dementia decision-making process.

This free virtual play will be offered at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 27, or at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 16. Please sign up through Eventbrite at <https://marshall-garden2021.eventbrite.com>.

This play is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. The Remember Project is a program of Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging and is sponsored in part by a dementia grant from the MN Board on Aging, awarded to A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota.

Questions may be directed to the A.C.E. of SW Minnesota Rock County Coordinator Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064 or through the website [www.aceswmn.org](http://www.aceswmn.org).

## REMEMBER WHEN

### 10 years ago (2011)

The Polar Plunge team of Evan Verbrugge, Daryl Fuerstenberg, Dan Nath, Chris Harnack and Michael DeJong doubled their goal of raising \$750 before their plunge Saturday, Feb. 12. Through the Polar Plunge, the Rock River Shivers' \$1,480 donation directly benefits Special Olympics Minnesota.

This surpassed the initial goal of \$750 and the second goal of \$950.

This year was the 14th annual Polar Bear Plunge and the first for all of the team members except DeJong.

There were 14 Polar Plunge locations, and the Rock River Shivers group jumped into the freezing water of Hallett's Pond in St. Peter.

A total of 375 plungers were registered at this location, raising \$36,770.

This year more than 8,500 law enforcement officials plunged throughout the state raising more than \$1 million for Special Olympics.

### 25 years ago (1996)

An electrical outage affected a wide area in Rock and Pipestone counties — from Holland to the Iowa border. The power went out at about 9:20 a.m. In Luverne, the outage lasted only 41 minutes, because a third option, feeder lines from Interstate Power and the Magnolia Substation, could be used.

According to Bruce Wilson, line supervisor for the city of Luverne, the outage was the result of two separate connections being down at the same time.

One of the problems was caused by high winds on Feb. 10. A three-position, pole-mounted, open-air switch near Pipestone

that feeds Luverne was arcing. Luverne was switched over to the south circuit during repairs.

While Emblom Brothers, a contractor, was making repairs on the north switch, the south line six miles west of Rock Rapids broke. According to L & O Power, Rock Rapids, the wheeling agent for the city, the break in the south line was probably due to stress or faulty cable.

Power on the L & O line was restored by 12:58 p.m., and the city of Luverne was back on the north feeder.

According to Wilson, "It's not too often two main lines are 'down' simultaneously; however, we are fortunate we have a backup source of power to utilize when an emergency occurs."

### 50 years ago (1971)

The smiles grow wider at the Mary Jane Brown Home when residents know the Future Homemakers (FHA) girls are coming to call.

The Junior High FHA, girls, with their instructor, Joan Gertner, have been quietly going about this business of "spreading sunshine" for over a year now.

Miss Gertner had mixed emotions about the project when it was first suggested. She wondered if the residents would enjoy the visits and if the girls, after one or two visits, would lose interest.

She needn't have given it a thought! The residents of the home and the junior high girls have taken to each other with mutual delight.

The young ladies sparkle through the halls, waving their "hellos," as they go, finally stopping at the room of their very own "adopted" grandparent.

### 75 years ago (1946)

A women's division of the Luverne golf club has been organized in Luverne.

A tea was held at the home of Mrs. N. M. Manion Saturday afternoon, at which time some 20 ladies, most of them either golfers themselves or whose husbands are interested in the sport, were in attendance.

Mrs. M. C. Munson was elected president of the organization; Mrs. Gordon Elden, vice president; and Mrs. Reid Cleland, secretary-treasurer. Elected to the board of directors were: Mrs. N. M. Manion, Mrs. M. L. Kelsh and Mrs. O. W. Anderson.

The purpose and aim of the group is to interest more women in golf, and also to make improvements in the club house at the golf course.

They intend to hold social events at various times during the coming summer, and at the same time promoting the sport among the ladies and girls in the community.

### 100 years ago (1921)

Although over seventy-five firms submitted bids for different phases of the work of erecting Luverne's proposed new school building, and were sufficiently interested to send representatives here, no contracts were awarded by the Luverne school board at the meetings held Thursday and Friday of last week for the purpose of considering bids for the construction of the new building.

It was found that the lowest bids were from \$40,000 to \$50,000 above the bond issue of \$350,000, which is available for payment for the new building; consequently the board did not accept any of the bids, and it is quite probable that it will be necessary to again call for bids at a later date.



## OBITUARIES

### Barbara Wills

Barbara Berene Wills, 81, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, died suddenly on Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, at Prairie Creek Assisted Living Memory Care in Sioux Falls.

A memorial service was Friday, Feb. 19, at Heritage Funeral Home in Sioux Falls. A video tribute can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/-9jtLmaZSb0>

Barbara Olhausen was born May 10, 1939, to William and Thais Olhausen in Hartley, Iowa. She attended and graduated from Hartley High School in 1957.

Barbara married Larry Wills in 1958 as Larry began his service in the United States Air Force. During his service they lived in North Dakota and Texas. They then lived in Sioux Falls and Brandon, South Dakota, before moving to Luverne in 1977.

Barb worked for an account before becoming a stay-at-home mom to their three children, Todd, Tracy and Thomas. She later worked as a cafeteria aide at the Luverne High School for 25 years. She enjoyed seeing and visiting with students and coworkers.

In retirement Barb and Larry moved to Sioux Falls and

enjoyed winters in Arizona with their snowbird friends. They loved going to dances, celebrating special occasions, and playing cards and Boggle. Barb also learned to play mahjong and enjoyed friends for coffee. She cherished time with her family. She was a member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Sioux Falls.

Barbara is survived by her three children, Todd (Karen) Wills of Mesa, Arizona, Tracy (Dale) Morrill of Sioux Falls, and Thomas (Wendy) Wills of Sioux Falls; a brother, Gary Olhausen (Olivia MacDonald) of Sioux Falls; a sister, Nancy (Gary) Wenell of Sioux City, Iowa; grandchildren Bethany Wills (Craig Reedy) and Andrew Wills of Mesa; Mara Morrill of Sioux Falls; Morgan Morrill (Rex Lund) of Alexandria; and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Larry; an infant grandson Joseph Morrill; and a sister-in-law, Marilyn Olhausen.

Arrangements were provided by Heritage Funeral Home of Sioux Falls, [www.heritagesfsd.com](http://www.heritagesfsd.com). (0225 F)



### Orvel Dreesen

Orvel Ralph "Orv" Dreesen, 84, Ellsworth, died Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, at his home.

A funeral service was Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Bethel Reformed Church south of Ellsworth. Burial with full military honors provided by the Ellsworth American Legion was at the Grand Prairie Cemetery in Ellsworth.

Orvel Dreesen was born on May 26, 1936, to Ralph and Aalke (Groen) Dreesen in Pipestone County, Minnesota. The family lived in Elkton, South Dakota, where Orvel attended country school. When he was 8 years old, the family moved to a farm near Adrian. He attended Adrian Public School for grades 3-4. The family then moved to a farm near Luverne, and he attended and graduated from eighth grade country school. He worked for various farmers. At age 16 he lived and worked for his uncle and aunt, George and Arlene Groen, until the fall of 1961. During that time he joined the Army and was stationed in Stuttgart, Germany.

Orvel married Karen Harms on Feb. 3, 1961. They lived at the Groens' farm for a short time. In 1963 they moved to Ellsworth, and Or-



vel bought the plumbing and heating shop known as Orv's Plumbing and Heating, and he acquired his master plumber's license. They owned and operated the business for 50 years, retiring in 2013. Their three sons purchased the business, which is now known as Orv & Sons Inc. Orv continued to help until November of 2020.

Orvel is survived by his wife, Karen; a daughter, Tania (Randy) Heikes of Luverne; three sons, Kevin (Glenda) Dreesen, Chad (Becca) Dreesen, and Jerry Dreesen, all of Ellsworth; grandchildren Jessie (Curt), Kristy, Britney (Brian), Courtney, Glen, Devin, Morgan, and Breklyn; and great-grandchildren Ashton, Vaughn, Alena, Layne, Penelope, Amelia, Wesson and Smith.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sisters Anna Mae (Bill) Green and Aleida (Harry) Meyerhoff; his brothers Dick (Dolores) Dreesen and Ben (Thelma) Dreesen; and a grandson-in-law, Jake Gonneman.

Arrangements were provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Luverne, [dingmannandsons.com](http://dingmannandsons.com). (0225 F)

### James Keiper

James Lewis Keiper, 74, Dresbach, died Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021, at their winter home in LeHigh Acres, Florida.

A private funeral service for family will be at a later date, with burial at Woodlawn Cemetery in Winona.

James Keiper was born Dec. 28, 1946, to Cleo and Bernice (Blumentritt) Keiper in Winona.

He married Margaret Chapin on March 16, 1968, and they had two children, James C. and Tamera Keiper.

He married Karen (Wilson) Rockman on June 14, 1986, in Luverne.

James served 14 years in the Minnesota National Guard. He was a member of the Alpha-Phi-Omega Fraternity and graduated from Winona State College in 1969. He taught industrial arts at Luverne High School in Luverne, and he owned a cabinet shop. He enjoyed woodworking, collecting and polishing rocks, fishing and hunting.

He was a member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in

Onalaska, Wisconsin, and Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fort Myers, Florida.

James is survived by his wife, Karen; son James C. (Carla) Keiper; daughter Tamera Keiper; grandchildren Mariah (Dillon) Gronseth, Chelsie Keiper (fiancé Zachary Hoeper), Nathan Keiper, and Brian Keiper; great-granddaughter Eira Gronseth; stepchildren Jodi (Joseph) Nasers, Todd (Trisha) Rockman, and Daren Rockman; stepgrandchildren Jeffrey Nasers, Justin (Danielle) Nasers, Jessica (Jordan) Loerts, Jacob Nasers, Kade Rockman, Ruby Rockman, Riley Rockman, Hunter Rockman, and Gannon Rockman; two stepgreat-grandchildren, McKinley and Caysen Loerts; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

Arrangements were provided by Watkowski-Mulyck Funeral Home of Winona, [www.watkowski-mulyck.com](http://www.watkowski-mulyck.com). (0225 F)



### Alvera Balster

Alvera D. Balster, 92, Ellsworth, died Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021, at the Sanford Luverne Medical Center.

A private funeral service was Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Zion Presbyterian Church in Ellsworth. Burial was in the Grand Prairie Cemetery in Ellsworth.

Alvera Wentler was born Dec. 6, 1928, to Emra and Verne (Horton) Wentler in Appleton.

Alvera married Lyle Balster on April 23, 1948, in LeMars, Iowa. After their marriage the couple farmed near Little Rock, Iowa. In 1963 they bought a farm near Adrian which they farmed until 1991. They retired in Ellsworth. On Dec. 27, 2003, they moved into their new home back on the farm. The last year of her life, Alvera moved into her son's home in Adrian.

Alvera was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Little Rock and then the Zion Presbyterian church in Ellsworth when they retired. She enjoyed working on the farm with Lyle and kept a large garden. She enjoyed camping, bingo, playing cards, motorcycle riding, and especially time with her family.

Alvera is survived by five daughters, Carol (Ray) Van Wyhe of Luverne, Barbara (Bob) Dreke of Rock Rapids, Iowa, Brenda (Steve) Hoffman of Rock Rapids, Lila (Glenn) Erlandson of

Rushmore, and Lola (Paul) Donth of Rock Rapids; a son, Larry (Sharon) Balster of Adrian; 21 grandchildren, Randy (Marcia) Mulder, Pamela (Drew) Likness, Melissa (Mark) Ayers, Tony (Julie) Mulder, Travis (Tara Lyle) Dreke, Kyle (Megan) Dreke, Curt (Carle) Hoffman, Coreen (James) Montag, Mindy (Ryan) Farsdale, Nathan (Abby) Erlandson, Carmen (Jared) Henriksen, Eric (Janel) Berning, Jessica's husband, Heybo Julius, Jeremy Balster, Tara (Corey) Leuttel, Jordan (Brandi) Balster, Jana (Kenny) Willers, Jaden (Molly) Balster, Judy Top, Rick Van Wyhe, Dusty Donth and Bradley Donth; 46 great-grandchildren; 11 great-great-grandchildren; a twin sister, Alvina Breuer of Sibley, Iowa; and a sister-in-law, Mabel Balster of Sibley.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Lyle, on Nov. 4, 2004; a son-in-law, Dallas Mulder; two granddaughters, Jessica Julius and Connie Van Wyhe; grandson-in-law Bill Top; three brothers, Raymond, Lawrence and Davin Wentler; and five sisters, Gladys Brumly, Lorraine Grubaugh, Doris Allard, Alice Stevenson, and Geraldine Wentler McCarthy.

Arrangements were provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Luverne, [dingmannandsons.com](http://dingmannandsons.com). (0225 F)



### Donald Mitchell

Donald Eugene Mitchell, 72, Luverne, died Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, at the Sanford Luverne Hospice Cottage.

A public visitation and private family funeral were Friday, Feb. 19, at the Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne. Burial was at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Donald Mitchell was born on Aug. 16, 1948, to Harold and Margaret (Miller) Mitchell in Luverne. He was baptized on Dec. 2, 1951, at the Luverne United Methodist Church. The family moved their one-room house to Hardwick. His favorite pastimes growing up were fishing and hunting and riding his bike to the Blue Mounds State Park. Don graduated from Luverne High School in 1967 and attended Pipestone Vocational School in Pipestone. After graduation he worked for Virgil Ahrendt Construction and then Duane Mulder for a short time. On Dec. 29, 1969, he joined the Minnesota National Guard and was honorably discharged on Dec. 21, 1975.

On Oct. 2, 1971, Don married Marvis Hamann at St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne. They were blessed with two sons. In 1983 Don began working as a custodian

for the Luverne Public Schools.

He enjoyed his work with the schools and the students. He retired from full-time work in 2013 but continued part time until the spring of 2020, when he retired completely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In July 2020 Don was diagnosed with kidney cancer.

Don attended St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne. In 2015 he and Marvi transferred their membership to Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick. Don enjoyed model trains and the Christmas village he put up every year, which was featured twice in the Rock County Star Herald. He loved cars and took pride in his 1970 Chevelle.

Don is survived by his wife, Marvis; two sons, Jon Mitchell of Luverne and his daughter, Samara Mitchell, and Jeff (Sarah) Mitchell of Fargo, North Dakota; a brother, Curt Mitchell; brother-in-law Lowell (Paula) Hamann; one nephew and many nieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Patricia Latten; and an nephew, Richard.

Arrangements were provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, [www.hartquistfuneral.com](http://www.hartquistfuneral.com). (0225 F)



## 1877: Cities that never came to be in county

The following appeared in *The Rose History* in 1911.



Rock County Village (continued from 02-18-20 edition of the Star Herald)

### Other Places

Warner is the name given to a grain station, three miles east of Luverne, on section 7, Magnolia township, on the Worthington-Mitchell branch of the Omaha railroad. It has never advanced beyond the condition originally intended. Late in July, 1877, a grain warehouse, 20x40 feet in dimensions, was erected at this point to house the products of the farms of Capt. Blakely and Messrs. Thompson and Senej, capitalists who controlled vast agricultural interests in Magnolia township at that early day. For a year this point was designated as Hill Siding, then came by its present name Warner, in honor of Eling F. Warner, one of the original directors of the Sioux City & St. Paul railroad. An elevator marks the site of Warner today. It was built in August, 1901, by the Hubbard & Palmer company.

During the eighties plans for a town at the foot of the Blue mounds, a short distance north of Luverne, were made. The quarrying industry had developed to quite an extent, and it was a scheme of J. F. Shoemaker, the head of the controlling company, to found a small town or colony, where the men employed in the quarries might establish convenient homes. The first activity toward this end was the construction of 2000 feet of side track to the proposed site in November, 1884. For a time appearances led to the belief that the station the Burlington company had decided to locate in Rock county north of Luverne (Hardwick) was to lie at the foot of the mounds.<sup>21</sup> In the spring of 1885 Mr. Shoemaker made preparations to plat a town-site,<sup>22</sup> but the intention was

## BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

never carried into effect. A station at Mound, established in June, was maintained for a short period, but no agent was located there. A few temporary dwelling houses were erected, but beyond that no improvements were ever made in the "town."

In the days of star mail routes it was the custom to maintain country postoffices at convenient points. There were a number of such in Rock county prior to the founding of villages and the establishment of rural mail routes, which carry daily mail to all parts of the country. With the modern methods of distributing the mail came the abandonment of country postoffices, and there is now none maintained in Rock county.

Denver was the name of one country postoffice. It was located at the residence of H. Goodale, on section 10, in the township of the same name. The office, established in February, 1885, with Mr. Goodale as postmaster, existed for a number of years. The Burlington railroad traversed section 10, and a "mail catcher" was put up at the most convenient point to the Denver postoffice in May, 1886, and thereafter

Bits, continued on page 8A



### WINTER PLANTER CLINIC

Open to anyone who wants to get better prepared for spring!

**Topics:**

We will be discussing yearly maintenance, calibrations and settings that you should be checking on your planter before spring. All brands of planters will be discussed.

**Friday, February 26th 1:30PM-3:30PM**

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**RSVP TO: Ryan Hoff (507-227-3299)**  
**Ryanhoff10@gmail.com**



## NOTICE

### STUDENTS OF LUVERNE HIGH SCHOOL TAKE NOTICE

The Scholarship Committee of the A.R. Wood Educational Trust is currently accepting applications for initial or renewal scholarships from seniors and previous graduates of Luverne High School.

To be eligible for consideration candidates must:

1. Be graduates of Luverne High School
2. Rank in the upper fifteenth percent (15%) of his/her graduating class; and
3. Have maintained a 3.0 GPA or better grade point average.

Requests for applications should be directed to:

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All requests for applications must be received by First Bank & Trust no later than May 1, 2021. All completed applications must be postmarked and submitted to First Bank & Trust by June 1, 2021.

In accordance with the A.R. Wood Educational Trust, decisions regarding recipients, amounts, and number of awards will be made at the sole discretion of the Scholarship Committee.



## Bits/continued from page 7A

mail was received at the office Monday and Friday mornings of each week.

Handypostoffice, located on the east line of Kanaranzi township, came into existence during the first decade of the county's history. The first postmaster, Mr. Meris, was succeeded in December, 1877, by O. D. Bryan. The office was maintained several years.

A postoffice in Martin township, known as Martin, was established in June, 1876. John D. Tyler was the first postmaster. With the coming of railroads Martin postoffice was discontinued.

Clinton postoffice, in the township of that name, was established the same month as Martin and Nels Clemetson commissioned postmaster. In April, 1877, the name of the office was changed from Clinton to Kongsberg. It was discontinued in November, 1884, and the mail formerly consigned to that office was sent to Ashcreek.

In eastern Rose Dell township was located Meadow postoffice, established in the early eighties. K. K. Steen was postmaster for many years.

Pleasant Valley postoffice had an existence of a few years in the late seventies. It was discontinued in December, 1880, and the patrons thereafter received their mail at Luverne.

<sup>21</sup>"The delay in laying out the proposed townsite on section 26, Denver, coupled with the character of the work in progress at the mounds, has excited the suspicion that the town of Jasper [Hardwick], instead of being located at the point originally proposed, will be located at the foot of the mound."—Rock county Herald, October 31, 1884.

<sup>22</sup>J. F. Shoemaker has decided to plat a portion of his land in the vicinity of the quarries for the use of employees of the quarry company, and it is understood that a considerable number of residences will be built. The plat, however, will not be recorded, and none of the lots will be sold, as Mr. Shoemaker is determined that no saloons shall be there."—Rock County Herald, March 20, 1885.

*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@iunet.*



For the seventh-consecutive year the Luverne High School mock trial team will compete in state mock trial competition. This year, however, the tournament will be conducted online, as it has for the season. This year's team members include (front, left) John Miller, Kaitlyn Anderson, Jadyne Hart, Lauren VerSteege, Ainslie Robinson, Ella Lanoue, Luke Thorson, (back) Ross Bergman, Chance Tunnissen, Xavier Carbonneau, Simon Boyenga, Parker Carbonneau and Griffen Jarchow. Not pictured Cedar Viessman and Solveig Tofteland.

Mavis Fodness photos/  
0225 Mock Trial Luverne 2021

## Mock trial team returns to state competition/continued from page 1A

Virtual completion has some positives, Anderson said. "It's hard to focus while on Zoom, but the nervousness is not there," Anderson said. "Once the cameras are off, you can relax."

Anderson, an attorney for the defense, uses her time off camera to note weaknesses in the prosecution's case. She performs the closing arguments for Luverne's three-person defense team.

"I like public speaking," she said. "And it (mock trial) is so competitive."

Adviser Jason Berghorst told those attending Thursday's showcase the success of Luverne's program is due to the time students put in researching, memorizing facts and working with each other to present a strong case either for the prosecution or the defense.

"It's all about the students," Berghorst said. "They are the strategists. They are the ones preparing what they will be saying."

The 2021 season opened in October with the release of the



Senior Ainslie Anderson (above, left) is a member of the defense team portraying Bobbie Stuart. Above, right: Defense attorney Kaitlyn Anderson (standing) voices an objection.



Luverne High School mock trial team presented an in-person showcase Thursday night, Feb. 18, at Grand Prairie Events for parents. The team will compete March 3-4 at the state mock trial tournament for the seventh-consecutive season.

season's court case, "Payton Knox vs Nixon Lodge and Catering Inc."

Jeff Haubrich is the lawyer coach for LHS.

"It is a very interesting case that looked at a force majeure clause and, as an attorney, I don't think I've looked at cases like this since law school," he said.

The case centered around the chaos created by the new COVID-19 health restrictions for a planned July 2020 wedding, and a contract agreement between the groom, Payton Knox, and the venue, Nixon Lodge.

Each side is seeking monetary damages from the contractual provision that relieves both parties from their contractual obligations due to circumstances beyond anyone's control.

Luverne students are making their seventh-straight team appearance in the state Mock Trial Tournament. They earned the return trip Feb. 10 when the LHS prosecution team won a 3-0 win decision from judges over Albert Lea High School.

Luverne will compete in three rounds at the virtual state tournament. Round 1 will start at 2 p.m. on March 3 followed by a 7 p.m. Round 2. The final round takes place at 9 a.m. March 4.

The final championship trial will be live-streamed on YouTube at 2 p.m. March 4 followed by the live-streamed announcement of the state champion at 5 p.m.

## Habitat License fee proposed expansion should be stopped; contact your representative

How many of you have a license plate on your car or truck that has more than a few letters and numbers? The answer is a lot of you do.

The Habitat License plate has been around for a long time and every vehicle I have owned since their inception has one on it. The first one was a light brown plate with a few deer depicted on it. They now come in many different varieties including moose, bees and loons.

The extra \$40 you pay—you can pay more if you choose—to have one of these cool plates goes into what is called the Reinvest in Minnesota Critical Habitat Match Fund. This is a dedicated fund used to acquire and restore wild places for all sorts of creatures that call Minnesota home.

It is a dedicated fund and every dedicated fund has had multiple raiding attempts over the years, and these efforts



### THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall, columnist

to divert dedicated natural resources funds to other uses continue today.

The Reinvest In Minnesota Critical Habitat fund can only be accessed on a one-to-one match basis. If a donor gifts \$100,000 to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, a match of those dollars from this fund can be used to restore the area or to purchase additional acres to maximize the wildlife benefits in that area or a different area. The fund usually has a pretty high balance, approximately \$10 million, because coming up with big dollars is hard for

many donors or smaller conservation groups to raise. An example if there is a \$350,000 parcel of land that would make a great Wildlife Management Area and a sportsman's group would like to try to acquire it, they would have to raise \$175,000 local funds and match it with \$175,000 from the RIM fund to make it happen. It is really hard for small groups to raise those kinds of dollars. As a result, the fund balance has been growing.

These potential raids of dedicated natural resource funds are normally led by an individual politician or a small

group. These raiding attempts are met with stiff pushback from conservation organizations across the state and up to this point have been cut off before they could do any real damage.

The potential raid that is happening today is very different from all the past attempts. This attempt is being forwarded by the DNR themselves along with the Walz administration. They want to expand the fund to include land management costs along with research projects and surveys.

Minnesota ranks really low in the actual amount of general fund dollars spent on the state's natural resources. This is where these funds need to come from and not from a dedicated fund whose sole purpose was to expand on the wildlife resources of the state. Once you start paying the annual operating bills from this

fund, it could easily consume the entire fund.

Who on earth would want to continue to make generous donations of land and cash to protect the state's resources if they found out it was paying for the day-to-day expenses of the DNR? These donors have historically displayed the general intent of leaving a lasting legacy to the places they love. They are not in it to pay day-to-day expenses.

The proposed expansion of what is eligible to be paid out of this fund needs to be killed, and it needs to be killed now. The one proposed change I do support is that the fund could make a matching amount on a ratio of 2-1 instead of the current 1-1. This would still preserve the original intent of the fund and get more dollars on the ground. It would also allow for bigger projects or at the very least get more organizations involved in protecting

Minnesota resources because the private funds needed would be less with a change in the match ratio.

My Pheasants Forever Chapter in SW Minnesota has used the RIM Critical Habitat Match 30 times over the past 20 years. It is great the way it is and only needs a few tweaks, not a full-blown overhaul.

Call your representative now and tell them to allow the change in the match but to kill any other diversions of this critical dedicated natural resources fund. Now is the time to take this attempted raid and add it to the garbage can. It won't be the last time sportsmen and women will have to do this, and we need to stay vigilant to make sure these raids are never successful.

Scott Rall, Worthington, is a habitat conservationist. He can be reached at [scottarall@gmail.com](mailto:scottarall@gmail.com).

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## Cardinals top Patriots in Rock County showdown 69-60

By Brennen Rupp

It was a battle of “whatever you can do I can do better” on Tuesday, Feb. 16, inside the Luverne gymnasium between Hills-Beaver Creek’s Cole Baker and Luverne’s Gannon Ahrendt.

Ahrendt scored 34 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for the Cardinals, while Baker scored 25 points and grabbed seven rebounds.

In the end it was the Cardinals outscoring the Patriots down the stretch 14-4 to pick up the 69-60 victory.

Baker opened up the scoring to give the Patriots a 2-0 lead. Ahrendt got the Cardinals on the board to tie the game at 2-2.

Bakers’ second basket of the game put the Cardinals up 4-3. An Ahrendt basket put Luverne up 5-4.

With the Patriots trailing 7-4, Zander Wysong hit a three-pointer to tie the game at 7-7.

An Ahrendt basket put the Cardinals up 9-7.

A Baker three-pointer with 9:45 left in the first half put the Patriots up 10-9.

Another Baker basket extended the Patriots lead to 12-9.

A Bailey Cowell three-pointer with 7:30 left in the first half tied the game at 12-12.

With the Cardinals trailing 15-12, Ahrendt knocked down a three-pointer to tie the game at 15-15. Another Ahrendt three-



Gannon Ahrendt puts up a shot against Hills-Beaver Creek during Luverne’s home game against their Rock County foe on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Ahrendt finished the game with 34 points to lead the Cardinals.

Brennen Rupp photo/0225LHS BB photo

pointer put the Cardinals up 18-17.

Wysong answered Ahrendt’s three-pointer, with a three-pointer of his own to put the Patriots back up 20-18.

A Ty Bundesen three-pointer put the Patriots up 25-22.

With the Patriots holding a 30-25 lead, Cowell knocked down a three-pointer to trim H-BC’s lead

to 30-28 at the half.

Nathaniel Cole-Kraty opened the scoring in the second half for the Cardinals to tie the game at 30-30.

An Ethan Beyer three-pointer gave the Cardinals a

33-30 lead.

On the next possession, Baker knocked down a three-pointer to tie the game back up at 33-33.

Back-to-back three-pointers from Drew

Leenderts put the Patriots up 39-35.

With the Cardinals trailing 43-39, Ahrendt knocked down a three-pointer to cut H-BC’s lead to 43-42.

Cowell followed Ahrendt’s three-pointer with a three-pointer of his own to put the Cardinals up 45-43.

With the two teams tied at 45-45, Ahrendt knocked down a three-pointer to put the Cardinals up 48-45.

A Baker three-pointer put the Patriots up 56-55 with 3:20 left in the game.

A pair of Ahrendt free-throws put the Cardinals up for good, 57-56.

With the Cardinals holding a 59-56 lead, Cowell hit a three-pointer to put them up 62-56.

Cowell finished the game with 14 points and dished out 11 assists.

Cole-Kraty scored seven points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Jayson Rops scored seven points and grabbed six rebounds for the Cardinals.

Wysong scored 17 points and grabbed seven rebounds for the Patriots.

Leenderts and Bundesen both finished the game with eight points.

**LHS 48, Worthington 46**

The Cardinals improved to 8-2 on Friday, Feb. 19, with a 48-46 victory over the

Boys’ basketball/10A

## Cardinal girls’ hockey team continues streak of dominance

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals girls’ hockey team extended its shutout streak to 14 periods.

Since giving up four goals in the first period against Dodge County on Friday, Feb. 5, the Cardinals have gone 14 straight periods without giving up a goal.

The streak continued on Tuesday, Feb. 16, in Worthington with the Cardinals defeating the Trojans 11-0.

On Friday, Feb. 19, the Cardinals defeated Waseca 10-0 in Waseca.

**LHS 11, Worthington 0**

After defeating the Trojans 13-0 on Thursday, Feb. 11, the Cardinals topped Worthington 11-0 five days later.

The Cardinals scored six goals in the first period and never looked back.

Kamryn Van Batavia scored the first two goals of the game to put the Cardinals up 2-0. Reghan Bork recorded the assist on both goals.

Shelby Kracht scored the third goal of the game to put Luverne up 3-0. Peyton Behr and Van Batavia recorded

assists on the goal.

Rylee Gee scored the fourth goal of the period to give Luverne a 4-0 lead. Mallory Nelson and Regan Feit both recorded assists on the goal.

Bork picked up her third point of the period by scoring Luverne’s fifth goal of the game.

Roz Oye wrapped up the scoring to give the Cardinals a 6-0 lead at the end of the first period. Gee recorded an assist on the goal.

Van Batavia picked up the hat trick by scoring her third goal of the game to open the scoring in the second period. Gee recorded the assist on the goal.

Behr put the Cardinals up 8-0 after scoring a power-play goal. Van Batavia notched the assist on the goal.

Gee opened the scoring in the third period to put the Cardinals up 9-0. Oye recorded an assist on the goal.

Oye scored the 10th goal of the game for the Cardinals to put Luverne up 10-0. Van Batavia recorded an assist on the goal.

Behr wrapped up the scoring with the team’s 11th goal. Van Batavia recorded

the assist on the goal.

Cheyenne Schutz recorded 12 saves for the Cardinals.

With the win the Cardinals completed the season sweep of the Trojans. Luverne outscored Worthington 24-0 in those two games.

**LHS 10, Waseca 0**

The Cardinals defeated the Bluejays 10-0 in Waseca on Friday, Feb. 19.

The Cardinals scored five goals in the first and second periods to win their fourth shutout victory.

Van Batavia opened the scoring for the Cardinals. Bork and Behr each recorded an assist on the goal.

Gee scored the team’s second goal of the game to put Luverne up 2-0. Van Batavia recorded an assist on the goal.

Feit put the Cardinals up 3-0 when she found the back of the net. Oye recorded the assist on the goal.

Bork scored the fourth goal of the first period to put the Cardinals up 4-0. Van Batavia, who recorded

Girls’ hockey/10A

## H-BC girls’ basketball improves to 8-2

By Brennen Rupp

The Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots girls’ basketball team improved to 8-1 with a pair of Red Rock Conference victories.

The Patriots opened the week with a 62-25 victory over Heron Lake-Okabena/Fulda in Okabena on Thursday, Feb. 18.

H-BC then topped Adrian/Ellsworth 50-33 in Adrian on Saturday, Feb. 20.

**H-BC 62, HLOF 25**

The Patriots outscored HLOF 27-13 in the first half. In the second half H-BC blew the doors off, outscoring HLOF 35-12 to run away from their Red Rock Conference foe 62-25.

Sam Moser recorded a double-double for the Patriots with 13 points and 14 rebounds.

Lanae Elbers scored 11 points and recorded five steals.

Annie Bos reached double figures with 10 points.

Abby Knobloch scored nine points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

**H-BC 50, A/E 33**

The Patriots used a strong first half on Saturday



Abby Knobloch drives to the basket during Hills-Beaver Creek’s game against Adrian/Ellsworth on Saturday, Feb. 20.

to slay the Dragons 50-33.

H-BC opened the game by scoring the first four points of the game. The Dragons responded by scoring the next four points to tie the game at 4-4.

A Layla Deelstra three-pointer put the Patriots up 7-4.

Following a Dragons basket to cut H-BC’s lead to 7-6, the Patriots went on a 10-0 run to build a 17-6 lead.

The Dragons sank a free-throw to make it a 17-7 game, but the Patriots followed with a 13-0 run to build the lead to 30-7.

At the half the Patriots led the Dragons 34-11.

In the second half the Dragons outscored the Patriots 22-11, but the 23-point halftime deficit was too much to overcome.

Taryn Rauk led the Patriots with 14 points. Rauk also grabbed eight rebounds and recorded four steals.

Deelstra scored 13 points and recorded six steals.

Bos scored 12 points and recorded four steals.

The Patriots will be back on the hardwood Tuesday, Feb. 23, when they hit the road to take on Edgerton.

The Patriots defeated Edgerton in the first game of the season 78-47.

## Luverne boys’ hockey team splits a pair of Big South Conference games

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals boys’ hockey team split a pair of games this past week.

Luverne opened the week with a 4-1 victory over the Worthington Trojans on Tuesday, Feb. 16 in Worthington.

The Cardinals then dropped a home game to Waseca 7-1 on Friday, Feb. 19.

**LHS 4, Worthington 1**

It was a busy first period between the two Big South Conference foes with the Cardinals and Trojans combining for four goals.

Brock Behrend opened for the Cardinals to put

the visitors up 1-0. Carlton Oftedahl and Cooper Arends both recorded assists on the game-opening goal.

It took the Trojans less than two minutes to answer back with a goal of their own to tie the game at 1-1.

Behrend notched his second goal of the game to put the Cardinals back out in front 2-1. Henry Hartquist and Ethan Langseth both recorded assists on the goal.

Zach Kruse wrapped up the scoring in the opening period to put the Cardinals up 3-1. Kaleb Hern recorded the assist on the goal.

Boys’ hockey/10A



Brennen Rupp photo/0225 LHS Hockey photo Luverne’s Brock Behrend handles the puck during the team’s contest against Waseca on Friday, Feb. 19.

## Cardinal gymnasts top Eagles 128.350-121.150

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne gymnastics team topped Windom Area 128.350-121.150 on Thursday, Feb. 18.

Ella Reisdorfer took home first in the vault with a score of 9.100.

Amira Cowell finished third in the vault with a score of 8.800.

Kiana Woods finished fourth in the vault with a score of 8.600.

Reisdorfer finished first in the bars with a score of 8.175.

Cowell finished third in the bars with a score of 7.850.

Reisdorfer finished

second on the beam with a score of 8.425.

Cowell finished third on the beam with a score of 7.850.

Reisdorfer took home her third first-place finish in the floor exercise with a score of 9.250.

Woods finished second with a score of 8.525.

Cowell finished third with a score of 8.350.

Reisdorfer finished first all-around with a score of 34.950.

Cowell finished third with a score of 32.850.

The Cardinals will be back home on Thursday, Feb. 25 when they welcome Marshall to Luverne.





Brennen Rupp photo/0225 HBC BB photo H-BC's Drew Leenderts gets off a shot against Luverne on Tuesday, Feb. 16. The Patriots fell to the Cardinals 69-60.

## Boys hoops/From page 9A

### Worthington Trojans.

The Cardinals outscored the Trojans in the first half 24-20. In the second half the Trojans outscored Luverne 26-24, as the Cardinals held on to win 48-46.

Ahrendt scored 17 points to lead the Cardinals.

With the win over the Trojans, the Cardinals completed the season sweep against Worthington after defeating them 54-49 earlier this season.

### LHS 88, JCC 47

Luverne scored the first 24 points of the game on Monday, Feb. 23, en route to a 88-47 victory over Jackson County Central.

JCC scored their first points of the game at the 11:11 mark of the first half.

At the half the Cardinals led JCC 56-28.

In the second half Luverne outscored JCC 32-19.

Ahrendt led the Cardinals with 27 points.

Cowell scored 19 points. Rops chipped in with 15 points.

With the win the Cardinals improved to 9-2 and completed the season sweep of JCC.

The Cardinals will be back in action on Thursday, Feb. 25, when they play host to Windom.

### H-BC 63, RRC 56

The Patriots picked up their fourth win of the season on Friday, Feb. 19, when they bested Red

Rock Central 63-56 in Lambertson.

The Patriots used a strong first half, in which they outscored the Falcons 31-23 to help them secure the road victory.

Baker led the Patriots with 19 points. Baker also grabbed six rebounds.

Bundesen scored 16 points and grabbed five rebounds.

Wysong scored 11 points and grabbed five rebounds.

Leenderts reached double figures with 11 points.

### MCC 67, H-BC 38

The Patriots were unable to complete the season sweep over the Murray County Central Rebels on Monday, Feb. 22. The Patriots defeated the Rebels earlier this season 63-35, but they were unable to replicate that success as the Rebels knocked off the Patriots 67-38.

The Patriots fell behind by double digits early and were unable to mount a comeback.

H-BC trailed at one point in the first half 23-7. The two teams went into the locker room with the Rebels holding a 30-17 lead.

The second half was all MCC, as they outscored H-BC 37-21.

The Patriots currently own a 4-6 record.

They'll look to break back into the win column on Tuesday, Feb. 23, when they welcome R-T-R to Hills.

# Luverne's Cowell picks up 100th career win

## By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne wrestling team participated in two triangulars this past week.

The Cardinals started the week with a triangular against Fulda-Murray County Central and Adrian Area on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Luverne tied with Fulda-MCC 40-40, but ultimately lost on criteria due to too many forfeits.

The Cardinals then lost to Adrian Area 57-24.

On Thursday, Feb. 18, the Cardinals lost both their matches to Jackson County Central and Worthington.

### LHS 40, Fulda-MCC 40

Luverne's Rayden Boyenga started the dual with a pinfall victory over Torrin Clark in the 106-pound division.

In the 120-pound division it was Riley Cowell defeating Aidan Lorenzen by decision (13-0).

Following three straight losses, the Cardinals rattled off four straight wins by fall.

Braydon Ripka started the streak by defeating Quinten Lewis by fall in the 145-pound division.

Jaden Reisch picked up the pinfall victory over Owen Olsem in the 152-pound weight class.

Hunter Baker defeated Carson Klein by fall in the 160-pound division.

Maysn Smith won by



photo courtesy Jordan Kopp/0225 wrestling photo Luverne senior Riley Cowell poses for a photo with Luverne wrestling coach Jordan Kopp after Cowell notched his 100th career win on Thursday, Feb. 18.

fall over Devin Landsman in the 170-pound division.

In the 195-pound division, Ayden Bonnett defeated Colby Kesteloot by fall.

### Adrian 57, LHS 24

The Cardinals lost the first two matches against the

Dragons before Cowell got them on the board. In the 120-pound division Cowell defeated David Anaya by fall.

Ripka won by fall over Reese Morrison in the 145-pound class.

In the 160-pound division it was Baker defeating Rilee Heidebrink

by fall.

The Cardinals picked up their second straight win by fall when Jacob Madison defeated Micah Bullerman in the 170-pound division.

### Worthington 78, LHS 3

On Thursday, Feb. 18, the Cardinals squared off against Worthington and JCC, two well oiled machines.

"It wasn't our best showing," Luverne head coach, Jordan Kopp said. "Worthington and JCC are two very tough teams."

Cowell was the lone winner for the Cardinals against the Trojans.

Cowell won by decision (8-3) over Oscar Galvez in the 120-pound division.

### JCC 76, LHS 6

Cowell was the lone winner for the Cardinals against JCC.

In the 120-pound division Cowell won by fall over Seth Stai.

It may have been a night to forget for the Cardinals, but Cowell picked up his 100th career win.

"Getting to 100 wins is a big accomplishment," Kopp said. "It's been great to see how far he has come from his first career varsity win to his 100th win."

The wrestling team will be back on the mat Thursday, Feb. 25 when they hit the road to take on BOLD.

## LHS girls' basketball drops overtime game to Windom 64-60

### By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne girls' basketball team couldn't slow down the Worthington Trojans in the second half on Friday, Feb. 19.

The Trojans outscored the Cardinals 47-28 in the final 18 minutes to top the Cardinals 67-47.

On Monday, Feb. 22, the Cardinals lost to Windom in overtime 64-60.

### Worthington 67, LHS 47

The Trojans completed the season sweep against the Cardinals on Friday, Feb. 19.

Luverne and Worthington played a tightly contested first half, with the Trojans holding a slim 20-19 lead at the half.

In the second half it was all Worthington, with the Trojans outscoring the Cardinals 47-28 to pick up the 67-47 victory.

Christina Wagner led the Cardinals with 15 points. Wagner also grabbed five rebounds and blocked four shots.

Kira John reached double figures, finishing with 12 points. John also grabbed nine rebounds and recorded four steals.

Averill Sehr chipped in with eight points and grabbed five rebounds.

Elise Ferrell scored eight points. Elizabeth Wagner grabbed eight rebounds.

### Windom 64, LHS 60

It was another close matchup between the Windom Area Eagles and

the Luverne Cardinals on Monday, Feb. 22, in Windom.

Last season the Eagles defeated the Cardinals in the section tournament at the buzzer 54-52. Earlier this season the Eagles bested the Cardinals 57-52.

On Monday night the Eagles beat the Cardinals in overtime 64-60.

At the half the Eagles led the Cardinals 29-22.

Early in the second half the Eagles led Luverne 38-26 with 15:30 left in the game.

The Cardinals slowly started to chip away at the lead. With 11:05 left in the game, Luverne trailed Windom 43-34.

With 5:25 left in the game, the Cardinals trailed 52-50 and finally tied the game back up at 52-52 with 1:40 left in the game.

In overtime the Eagles outscored the Cardinals 10-6 to pick up the 64-60 victory.

Elizabeth Wagner recorded a double-double with 22 points and 15 rebounds.

Christina Wagner reached double figures with 12 points.

Sehr scored 11 points, grabbed six rebounds and dished out four assists.

With the two losses the Cardinals dropped to 4-6 overall. Luverne will look to get back into the win column on Friday, Feb. 26, when they hit the road to take on Jackson County Central.

The Cardinals defeated JCC earlier this season 78-67.

## Boys' hockey/from page 9A

Hartquist scored the final goal of the game in the second period to give the Cardinals a three-goal lead. Behrend recorded an assist on the goal.

Luverne goalie Shaid Shearer recorded 22 saves in the win.

With the win over Worthington, the Cardinals completed the season sweep over the Trojans.

### Waseca 7, LHS 1

The Cardinals were able to strike first in front of the home crowd on Friday, Feb. 19. Unfortunately for the Cardinals that's the only goal they'd muster in the game.

The visiting Blue Jays scored seven straight goals to pick up the 7-1 victory over the Cardinals.

Cade Wenninger

opened the scoring with a goal in the first period to put the Cardinals up 1-0. Oftedahl and Behrend both recorded assists on Wenninger's goal.

The Blue Jays quickly answered back to tie the game at 1-1.

Waseca added one more goal in the first period to take a 2-1 lead into the locker room.

The Blue Jays scored four goals in the second period to take a 6-1 lead into the final period. In the final period Waseca added one more goal to make the final score 7-1.

Shearer recorded 42 saves for the Cardinals. As of Tuesday, Shearer ranked third in the state of Minnesota with 396 saves.

With the split the Cardinals own a 3-7 record.

## Girls' hockey/from page 9A

a goal and assist earlier in the period recorded her third point of the game by recording an assist on the goal.

Oye wrapped up the first period with a goal to put the Cardinals up 5-0. Gee recorded the assist on the goal.

Behr opened the scoring in the second period to put the Cardinals up 6-0. Van Batavia recorded the assist on the goal.

Van Batavia scored the next two goals to put Luverne up 8-0. With the two goals, Van Batavia extended her hat trick streak to three games. The sophomore has now recorded a hat trick in five games this season.

A Nelson goal put the Cardinals up 9-0.

Gee wrapped up the scoring to put the Cardinals up 10-0. Oye and Nelson both recorded assists on the goal.

As of Tuesday, Van Batavia currently leads the state of Minnesota in goals (22), assists (21) and points (43).

Bork is tied for second in assists (20) and fourth in points (35). The sophomore is also 10th in goals with 15.

With the two wins the Cardinals have now won four straight games and improved to 8-2 overall.

The Cardinals will be back on the ice on Tuesday, Feb. 23, when they host Waseca.

## Notice of Annual Township Meetings & Elections

Notice is hereby given that the following townships will hold their annual meeting and elections on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. COVID-19 precautions will be in place. In case of inclement weather, they will be held one week later on March 16, 2021.

### 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. COVID-19 precautions will be in place. 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 Treasurer 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

### Luverne Township

Luverne Pizza Ranch. Business Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Treasurer 2-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 Treasurer 2-year term

### Martin Township

Township Building 598 51st St Hills. Meeting at 8 pm. Important- Purchase of a new Fire Truck will be discussed and voted on.

### Mound Township

Rock County Highway Building. 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

### Vienna Township

Kenneth Community Hall. Business Meeting 7 pm

Rock County Township Association  
Teresa Kramer, Secretary/Treasurer

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**ELECTRICIAN APPRENTICESHIPS AVAILABLE**

The South Central Minnesota Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee for the Electrical Industry is currently accepting applications for their apprenticeship program. The recruitment, selection, employment and training of apprentices during their apprenticeship shall be without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national and ethnic origin or sex. The applicant must meet the minimum age requirement. The JATC does not, and will not, discriminate against a qualified individual with a disability, because of the disability of such individual.

I.B.E.W. Local 343 and Minneapolis Chapter of N.E.C.A. sponsor the SC MN JATC program. It consists of 180 hours, minimum per year, of related classroom instruction for 5 years; in Rochester and Mankato; plus 8,000 hours of on-the-job training.

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The Star Herald reached out to churches for their worship information in the absence of in-person worship services, due to coronavirus social distancing. Those that responded are listed here. Those that would like to have information posted here should call the Star Herald or email [editor@star-herald.com](mailto:editor@star-herald.com).

**St. Catherine Catholic Church**  
203 E. Brown St., Luverne  
St. Catherine Ph. 283-8502; [www.stscl.org](http://www.stscl.org)  
Monsignor Gerald Kosse, Pastor

Public mass will be celebrated with a limit of 50 percent capacity of the church. Masses: 9 a.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Sunday. No mass, communion service or rosary at care centers at this time. 5 p.m. Saturdays and 8:30 a.m. mass will be live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/stccluverne/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.luvernecrc.com](http://www.luvernecrc.com) — [office@luvernecrc.com](http://office@luvernecrc.com)  
Roger Sparks, Pastor

We are streaming Sunday services live on Roger Sparks' Facebook page 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**  
1033 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

Thursday, Feb. 25: Missions in Action. Saturday, Feb. 27: 5:30 p.m. Worship service. In-person worship service in Sanctuary. Sunday, Feb. 28: 9 a.m. Worship service with 4th grade milestone. 10-10:45 a.m. Sunday school. 10 a.m. First Communion class in FH. 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom. Tuesday, March 2: 8:30 a.m. 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, March 3: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 6:45 p.m. Lenten Service. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are still 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. — NEW TIME! Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 p.m.

**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne  
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 507-449-0291 or 605-215-9834  
[pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com)  
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor

Sunday, 10:15 a.m. Worship service; worship online as well. Monday, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne). Also visit [els.org](http://els.org) with our sister churches for online worship opportunities.

**American Reformed Church**  
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne  
Ph. 283-8600; email: [office@arcluverne.org](mailto:office@arcluverne.org)  
Mike Altena, Pastor

Friday, Feb. 26: 6:30 p.m. Community Men's Bible study. Sunday, Feb. 28: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 10:50-11:50 a.m. Sunday school. Tuesday, March 2: 10 a.m. Worship planning meeting. 12 Noon staff meeting. Wednesday, March 3: 5:30 p.m. Midweek meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Clubs; Youth groups. Worship 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.

**First Assembly of God Church**  
1075 110<sup>th</sup> Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4

**United Methodist Church**  
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne  
Ph. 283-4529; email: [luverneumc@iw.net](mailto:luverneumc@iw.net)

Thursday, Feb. 25: 1-3 p.m. Food Shelf curbside. Saturday, Feb. 27: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Sunday Feb. 28: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Worship service — SD In-house worship service — Services held on radio and live on Facebook. YouTube will also have services posted. 4:30 p.m. Genesis to Revelation Bible Study with safe distancing. 6 p.m. ALIVE youth group. Monday, March 1: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Tuesday, March 2: 9:30 a.m. Folding team. 6 p.m. Teacher's meeting. Wednesday, March 3: 6:15 p.m. FUEL. 6:30 p.m. Confirmation. 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Thursday, March 4: 1-3 p.m. Food Shelf curbside.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
302 Central Lane, Luverne  
Ph. 283-4787; email: [Firstpc@iw.net](mailto:Firstpc@iw.net) — [www.fpcluverne.com](http://www.fpcluverne.com)  
Jason Cunningham, Pastor

Worship services in-person and through Facebook Live Sunday 10:15 a.m.\* 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](http://www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org)  
Rev. Dr. Phil Booe, Pastor

Saturday, Feb. 27: 5:30 p.m. Worship service. Sunday, Feb. 28: 9 a.m. Worship. 10:15 a.m. Sunday school; Bible study. 11 a.m. Junior choir rehearsal. 7 p.m. Online Bible study. Worship service is 75 people. Services will be available on the Vast channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, [cityofluverne.org](http://cityofluverne.org). Monday, March 1: 3:15 p.m. staff meeting. Wednesday, March 3: 6 p.m. Lenten Midweek Service. 6:30 p.m. Confirmation class. 6:30 p.m. Kids for Christ. 7:30 p.m. Youth Group.

**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**  
110 N. Oakley, Luverne  
Ph. 449-6522; email: [newlifecelebration@gmail.com](mailto:newlifecelebration@gmail.com)

**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

**Ben Clare United Methodist Church**  
26762 Ben Clare Ave., Valley Springs, S.D.  
[igtwb@WOW.net](mailto:igtwb@WOW.net)  
Bill Bates, Pastor

**First Lutheran Church**  
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.  
Ph. (605) 757-6662  
Mark Eliason, Pastor

10 a.m. worship service; Facebook live. Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwYxFcU4>

**Palisade Lutheran Church**  
211 121<sup>st</sup> St., Garretson, S.D.  
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — [firstpalisade@alliancecom.net](mailto:firstpalisade@alliancecom.net)  
Mark Eliason, Pastor

Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwYxFcU4>

**First Presbyterian Church**  
201 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek  
Ph. 507-935-5025  
email: [lori.firstpres@gmail.com](mailto:lori.firstpres@gmail.com)

Thursday 10 a.m. worship service on VAST and Mediacom. 7 p.m. Sunday 10:15 a.m. worship service viewed live on First Presbyterian Church Facebook page. Tuesday 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. worship service on VAST and Mediacom.

**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. 28: 10 a.m. Worship service at Bethlehem. 10 a.m. Sunday school. 7-8:30 p.m. Youth Night at Bethlehem. 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 2: 2 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff Home. 2:45 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff Home. Wednesday, March 3: 9 a.m. Quilting. 7 p.m. Lenten service.

**Hills United Reformed Church**  
410 S. Central Ave., Hills  
Office Ph. 962-3254  
[hillsurc@alliancecom.net](mailto:hillsurc@alliancecom.net)  
Alan Camarigg, Pastor

## The joy of forgiveness

### BUILT ON A ROCK

By Rev. Dr. Phil Booe  
St. John Lutheran Church,  
Luverne

*This joy found in forgiveness is what God wants for you, too.*

Think back to when you were a child. Do you ever remember doing something wrong and trying to hide it from your parents? As a kid you probably got yourself in all sorts of trouble.

Sometimes your parents knew what you had done and other times they had no clue! But that still didn't keep you from worrying about it, carrying around guilt, and always thinking that at any moment your mom or your dad would confront you about it.

This desire to hide our wrongdoings is something we inherited from our first parents. Remember how Adam and Eve broke God's law and the first thing they did was hide?

We often do the same thing today. We resist owning up to our mistakes and seeking forgiveness. Maybe in our minds we think we can hide our sins from God, but God sees and knows all, even deep into the recesses of our hearts.

King David, like us, could not hide his sins from God. David had an affair with Bathsheba and she became pregnant. So, he called her husband in from battle to be with his wife for a time so that everyone would assume the child was his. When Uriah slept on the steps of their house instead of within, David knew that his plan had not worked and so he had Uriah killed. David was an adulterer and a murderer.

In Psalm 32, David wrote, "Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity."

Being the sinner that David was, how could he write with such confidence and joy? Because his sins were forgiven.

David found out that trying to hide your sins causes nothing but pain and anguish. He wrote, "For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groan-

ing all day long." By not acknowledging his sin before the Lord, David was trying to carry around the burden of guilt himself. He finally gave up and repented.

David continues, "I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord, and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.'" David found the joy of forgiveness, even for the terrible sins he committed.

David could have never made up for what he did, and hiding his sins from God was impossible, so all he could do was fall to his knees in humility and confess his sins before God.

This joy found in forgiveness is what God wants for you, too. In verse 6 David wrote, "Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found."

The day to turn from your sins, seek forgiveness, and lean upon God is now! And God can be only found in Christ Jesus whose sacrifice on the cross washed away your sins.

This Lent, return to the Lord.

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 April 30

**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: August 02, 2007  
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$31,500.00  
MORTGAGOR(S): Neale G. Hamann, a single person  
MORTGAGEE: Peoples Bank  
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING:

Recorded: August 14, 2007 Rock County Recorder  
Document Number: 167229

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE:  
•And assigned to: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

Dated: August 02, 2007

Recorded: August 14, 2007 Rock County Recorder  
Document Number: 167230

•And assigned to: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation

Dated: March 06, 2017

Recorded: March 14, 2017 Rock County Recorder  
Document Number: 190262

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.  
Transaction Agent Mortgage Identification Number: 1003445-0001089259-6

Lender or Broker: Peoples Bank  
Residential Mortgage Servicer: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corp.

Mortgage Originator: Not Applicable

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock  
Property Address: 819 201st St, Hardwick, MN 56134-4048  
Tax Parcel ID Number: 10-0122-000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: That part of the SW 1/4, Section 25, Township 104 North, Range 46 West of the 5th P.M., Rock County, State of Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest Corner of said Section 25, thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East (assumed bearing) along the South Line of the SW 1/4 of said Section 25 for a distance of 741.29 feet to the point of beginning, thence continuing North 90 degrees 00 minutes and 00 seconds East along said South Line for a distance of 746.44 feet; thence North 01 degrees 21 minutes 41 seconds East for a distance of 689.32 feet; thence North 83 degrees 17 minutes 46 seconds West for a distance of 169.66 feet; thence South 00 degrees 07 minutes 03 seconds West for a distance of 184.58 feet; thence South 89 degrees 31 minutes 22 seconds West for a distance of 612.69 feet; thence South 02 degrees 03 minutes 55 seconds East for a distance of 519.59 feet to the point of beginning

AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE:

\$10,772.39

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: April 30, 2020 at 10:00 A.M.

PLACE OF SALE: Law Enforcement Center, Lobby, 1000 N. Blue Mound Ave., Luverne, Minnesota

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorney fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within twelve (12) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.

If the Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2021, or the next business day if April 30, 2021 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

Mortgagor(s) released from financial obligation: NONE

THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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.

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: March 12, 2020

ASSIGNEE OF MORTGAGEE: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation

Wilford, Geske & Cook P.A.  
Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgagee

7616 Currell Blvd; Ste 200  
Woodbury, MN 55125-2296

(651) 209-3300

File Number: 037264F02

(03-12, 03-19, 03-26, 04-02, 04-09, 04-16)

## Notice of postponement

**NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE**

The above referenced sale scheduled for April 30, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. has been postponed to June 04, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. in the Law Enforcement Center, Lobby, 1000 N. Blue Mound Ave., Luverne, Minnesota, in said County and State.

DATED: April 01, 2020

ASSIGNEE OF MORTGAGEE: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation

Wilford, Geske & Cook P.A.  
Attorneys for Assignee Of Mortgagee

7616 Currell Blvd; Ste 200  
Woodbury, MN 55125-2296

(651) 209-3300

File Number: 037264F02

(04-23)

## Notice of postponement

**NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE**

The above referenced sale scheduled for June 04, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. has been postponed to August 27, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. in the Law Enforcement Center, Lobby, 1000 N. Blue Mound Ave., Luverne, Minnesota, in said County and State.

DATED: May 29, 2020

ASSIGNEE OF MORTGAGEE: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation

Wilford, Geske & Cook P.A.  
Attorneys for Assignee Of Mortgagee

7616 Currell Blvd; Ste 200  
Woodbury, MN 55125-2296

(651) 209-3300

File Number: 037264F02

(06-04)

## Notice of postponement

**NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE**

The above referenced sale scheduled for August 27, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. has been postponed to October 15, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. in the Law Enforcement Center, Lobby, 1000 N. Blue Mound Ave., Luverne, Minnesota, in said County and State.

DATED: August 14, 2020

ASSIGNEE OF MORTGAGEE: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation

Wilford, Geske & Cook P.A.  
Attorneys for Assignee Of Mortgagee  
7616 Currell Blvd; Ste 200  
Woodbury, MN 55125-2296  
(651) 209-3300  
File Number: 037264F02

(08-20)

## Notice of postponement

**NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE**

The above referenced sale scheduled for October 15, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. has been postponed to February 18, 2021, at 10:00 A.M. in the Law Enforcement Center, Lobby, 1000 N. Blue Mound Ave., Luverne, Minnesota in said County and State.

DATED: September 10, 2020

ASSIGNEE OF MORTGAGEE: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation

Wilford, Geske & Cook P.A.  
Attorneys for Assignee Of Mortgagee

7616 Currell Blvd; Ste 200  
Woodbury, MN 55125-2296

(651) 209-3300

File Number: 037264F02

(09-17)

## Notice of postponement

**NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE**

The above referenced sale scheduled for February 18, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. has been postponed to April 15, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. in the Law Enforcement Center, Lobby, 1000 N. Blue Mound Ave., Luverne, Minnesota in said County and State.

DATED: February 08, 2021

ASSIGNEE OF MORTGAGEE: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation

Wilford, Geske & Cook P.A.  
Attorneys for Assignee Of Mortgagee

7616 Currell Blvd; Ste 200  
Woodbury, MN 55125-2296

(651) 209-3300

File Number: 037264F02

(02-25)

## Rock County property tax abatement hearing March 2

**Rock River Ag Properties, LLC**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Rock County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing at 9:00 A.M. on March 2, 2021, at Herreid Board meeting room in the Annex of the Rock County Courthouse located at 204 E. Brown Street; Luverne, Minnesota, to consider the request of Rock River Ag Properties, LLC for the abatement of certain real property located in Clinton Township and described as follows, to wit:

A 6 acre tract, the North 51' and West 51' of the NW 1/4 of 11-101-45

For abatement of real estate taxes for a period of up to ten years pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §469.1813. That the estimated amount of the abatement, on annual basis, for the County of Rock is:

100% for 10yrs; \$2,957.66/yr  
Total abatement - \$29,577.00

All persons desiring to be heard should appear at the hearing or present written comments to be presented at the hearing by delivering the same to the Rock County Administrator at 204 E. Brown Street; Luverne, Minnesota.

COUNTY OF ROCK

/s/ Kyle Oldre,  
County Administrator

(02-25)

## Rock County Commissioners meet Jan. 19

**Herreid Board Room  
Rock County Courthouse**

**9:00 A.M.**

**Jan. 19, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Williamson with Commissioners Overgaard, Burger and Thompson present; Commissioner Reisch was absent. Also in attendance were County Attorney Jeff Haubrich, Administrator Kyle Oldre, Deputy Administrator Susan Skattum and Mavis Fodness.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Overgaard, to approve the January 19, 2021, County Board agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Thompson, to approve the January 05, 2021, County Board minutes, declared carried on a voice vote.

Eric Hartman, Land Management Office Director, presented a conditional use permit (CUP) for Schwartz Farm for a feedlot expansion over a 1000 animal units located the E 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of Section 31 of Luverne Township. A Planning & Zoning public hearing on January 11, 2021. On a recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Board, motion by Burger, seconded by Overgaard, to approve the CUP for Schwartz Farms for a feedlot expansion over a 1000 animal units and will comply with the conditions identified on the permit, declared carried on a voice vote.

Mark Sehr, Engineer, led a discussion regarding capital equipment purchases stating that in 2020 reflected no equipment purchases due to COVID; also stated that the Road and Bridge 2020 budget reflected surplus funds. Sehr requested input on the purchase of a backhoe, skidsteer loader and pickup. After discussion, it was the consensus of the County Board to authorize the Engineer to go to bid and/or explore lease options for the capital equipment purchases and determine if the surplus equipment can be utilized in other departments.

Ashley Kurtz, Auditor/Treasurer, presented the claims for payment; motion by Burger, seconded by Overgaard, to authorize the claims, declared carried on a voice vote. A complete listing of the claims is available upon request at the Auditor/Treasurer's office.

JANUARY 19, 2021 CLAIMS OVER \$2,000

A & B BUSINESS INC	\$3,898.82
A.C.E. OF SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA	4,903.00
ASSN OF MN COUNTIES	9,384.00
C & B OPERATIONS LLC	11,606.58
CHS	3,400.47
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	8,226.00
DAKOTA FLUID POWER INC	8,882.78
DAKOTA RIGGERS & TOOL SUPPLY INC	3,929.99
ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH INST	7,273.00
FIDLAR TECHNOLOGIES INC	4,258.00
HEAT TACTICAL TEAM	2,260.85
KETTERLING SERVICES INC	12,089.71
LUVERNE/CITY OF	11,029.29
LYON COUNTY LANDFILL	14,904.00
MN COUNTIES COMPUTER COOP	7,646.00
MN COUNTIES INTERGOVERNMENTAL TRUST	172,897.78
MN COUNTY ATTORNEYS ASSN	2,868.00
MN SHERIFFS ASSN	4,754.33
NORTHERN TRUCK EQUIPMENT CORP	7,994.30
REVIZE LLC	2,200.00
RURAL MN ENERGY BOARD	2,500.00
SOUTHWEST HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	34,533.50
STAPLES ENTERPRISES INC	2,684.32
SWPTSA	3,545.46
TEXAS REFINERY CORP	5,039.00

77 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,0002	9,542.14
TOTAL	\$382,251.32

The County Board was in receipt of the Fund Balance report. Kurtz stated that she has been cashing investments due to their renewal rate and to capitalize on a high interest rate in the checking accounts. Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Fund Balance report, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was in receipt of an annual activity report from the License Center which reflected a 24% decrease in activity and fees collected due to COVID events of closures and restrictions. The report does not include wheelage tax collections.

The Administrator stated that he had followed up with Jordan Burmeister of Geronimo Wind confirming that the Elk Creek solar project has been postponed to 2022 due to a transmission line study.

Motion by Burger, seconded by Overgaard, to approve a Computer Aided Dispatch License renewal with Central Square Technologies for \$26,165.00 and to pay all eligible costs from E911 Fund, declared carried on a voice vote.

Tabled from the January 5th meeting, the County Board discussed the Human Services building lease with Southwest Health and Human services. After discussion, motion by Burger, seconded by Thompson, to approve a 3-yr lease with the annual rates of: \$8.50/sf – 2021, \$9.50/sf for 2022 and \$10.50/sf for 2023, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Administrator stated that the CARES Committee is in receipt of \$432,000 of Business Relief funding requests with \$250,000 available; the CARES Committee are currently reviewing the applications to determine distribution. It was determined the CARES Committee will make a distribution recommendation to the County Board at the February 2nd meeting.

The County Board was in receipt of a draft listing of Boards and Committee appointments to review and identify potential updates; no action was taken.

Commissioner Thompson stated that she had attended the following meetings: Southwest Regional Development Commission; also stated that she has registered for Board of Equalization training.

Commissioner Overgaard stated that he had attended the following meetings: Public Meeting and Environmental Scope regarding Walleye Wind applications, AMC District 3 Ag & Rural Development, AMC District 8 Land Use, Planning & Zoning, Vienna Township and CARES Committee/Business Relief.

Commission Burger stated that he had attended the following meetings: Community Corrections, CARES Committee/Business Relief.

Commissioner Williamson stated that he had attended the following meetings: no meetings to report.

With no further business to come before the County Board, motion by Overgaard, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting, declared carried on a voice vote.

(02-25)

## Notice of lien and intent to sell set for April 5

**CLAIM OF LIEN NOTICE**

Owner: Rick Babcock  
Address: 108 S. Main St., Apt. 4, Saint Leo, MN 56264

Invoice Number: 0230884

Vehicle Make: Oldsmobile

Model: Eighty-Eight

LICENSE TAG: 614PUJ

Vehicle Year: 1998

VIN: 1G3HN52K1W4813574

You and each of you are hereby notified that the above vehicle was dropped off for repair on August 16, 2020, and that said vehicle is in the undersigned's possession at the address noted below: that the undersigned claims a lien for repairs, storage and costs. The vehicle may be sold after 45 days from the date of notice. Pursuant to Minnesota statute 514.18 payment of \$4,675 plus \$0 inductive of legal notice fees will be sufficient to redeem the vehicle from the lien of the lienor. That said lien is subject to enforcement pursuant to law and that you and each of you have the right to redeem said vehicle pursuant to MN statute 514.18.

And

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF LIEN AND OF INTENT TO SELL VEHICLE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF MN STATUTE 514.18

You and each of you are hereby notified that on April 5, 2021 at 10 a.m. the vehicle described above may be sold at auction or sale located at Manley Tire and Oil Service. From the proceeds will be paid for repairs and legal notifications expenses included in the cost of the sale.

You and each of you are urged to make satisfactory arrangements to pay all charges and take possession of the said vehicle. In order to obtain release of this vehicle you must present personal identification, drivers license and PROOF OF INSURANCE, (title registration, etc.) at the address below and pay all said charges against said vehicle. Manley Tire and Oil Service  
746 20th Ave.  
Valley Springs, SD 57068

(02-18, 02-25, 03-04)

## Rock County Highway Department seeks bids by March 8

**NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS**

**C.P. 067-401-022**

Sealed proposals will be received by the Rock County Highway Department at Luverne, Minnesota until 10:00 A.M. on Monday, March 8th, 2021.

READ CAREFULLY THE PROVISIONS FOR THE WAGE RATES AS CONTAINED IN THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS, AS THEY WILL AFFECT THIS PROJECT.

Attention is called to the fact that the Contractor must comply with the **Special Equal Employment Opportunity Provisions** as contained in the Proposal.

Proposals will be opened and read publicly in the presence of the Rock County Highway Engineer at the Rock County Highway Building located at 1120 North Blue Mound Avenue in Luverne, Minnesota immediately following the hour set for receiving bids for the following Rock County Highway work. Bids will be awarded on Tuesday, March 16th, 2021, at the regular Rock County Board of Commissioners Meeting held in the Law Library at the Rock County Courthouse.

**The Quantities of Work are:** 3,159 gals of 4" ReflectORIZED Edgeline Pavement Marking Paint—White & 1,792 gals of 4" ReflectORIZED Centerline Pavement Marking Paint—Yellow. Plans, specifications, and proposals may be viewed, and downloaded at [www.questcdm.com](http://www.questcdm.com) and at the Rock County Highway Department website, [https://www.co.rock.mn.us/department\\_directory/highway\\_department/index.php](https://www.co.rock.mn.us/department_directory/highway_department/index.php).

**The non-refundable cost for plans and one proposal will be \$50.00**  
Bids must be accompanied by a certified check or corporate surety bond drawn in favor of the Rock County Treasurer in the amount of at least five percent (5%) of the proposal. Sealed bids shall be clearly marked "PROJECT NO. SAP 067-401-022".

The Board of Rock County Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any defects therein.

Rock County is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Mark R. Sehr, P.E.  
Rock County Highway Engineer

(02-11, 02-18, 02-25)

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## Notice of lien and intent to sell set for April 5

### CLAIM OF LIEN NOTICE

Owner: Cornelius Perkins  
Address: 10113 N. Lantana Ave., Tampa, FL 33612  
Invoice Number: 0230219  
Vehicle Make: Toyota  
Model: Solara  
LICENSE TAG: NTP521  
Vehicle Year: 2004  
VIN: 4T1FA38P444026699

You and each of you are hereby notified that the above vehicle was dropped off for repair on July 21, 2020, and that said vehicle is in the undersigned's possession at the address noted below: that the undersigned claims a lien for repairs, storage and costs. The vehicle may be sold after 45 days from the date of notice. Pursuant to Minnesota statute 514.18 payment of \$5,300 plus \$0 inductive of legal notice fees will be sufficient to redeem the vehicle from the lien of the lienor. That said lien is subject to enforcement pursuant to law and that you and each of you have the right to redeem said vehicle pursuant to MN statute 514.18.

And

### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF LIEN AND OF INTENT TO SELL VEHICLE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF MN STATUTE 514.18

You and each of you are hereby notified that on April 5, 2021, at 10 a.m. the vehicle described above may be sold at auction or sale located at Manley Tire and Oil Service. From the proceeds will be paid for repairs and legal notifications expenses included in the cost of the sale.

You and each of you are urged to make satisfactory arrangements to pay all charges and take possession of the said vehicle. In order to obtain release of this vehicle you must present personal identification, drivers license and PROOF OF INSURANCE, (title registration, etc.) at the address below and pay all said charges against said vehicle. Manley Tire and Oil Service  
746 20th Ave.  
Valley Springs, SD 57068

(02-18, 02-25, 03-04)

## The Sewing Basket assumes name

### MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME MINNESOTA STATUTES, CHAPTER 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable consumers to be able to identify the true ownership of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: **The Sewing Basket**  
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:  
**204 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156 USA**

NAMEHOLDER(S):  
Name: **Schomackers Office Cleaning, LLC**  
Address: **202 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156 USA**

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Signature: **/s/ Joe Schomacker, Chief Finance Officer**

CONTACT PERSON: Sharon Schomacker

PHONE NUMBER: 507-227-2183

MAILING ADDRESS: 204 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: schomackerclean@gmail.com  
(02-18, 02-25)

## Notice of lien and intent to sell set for April 5

### CLAIM OF LIEN NOTICE

Owner: Stewart Mousseaux  
Address: 129 S. Elmwood Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104  
Invoice Number: 0230883  
Vehicle Make: Chrysler  
Model: Pacifica  
LICENSE TAG: 1AN911  
Vehicle Year: 2004  
VIN: 2C8GF68454R563319

You and each of you are hereby notified that the above vehicle was dropped off for repair on July 7, 2020, and that said vehicle is in the undersigned's possession at the address noted below: that the undersigned claims a lien for repairs, storage and costs. The vehicle may be sold after 45 days from the date of notice. Pursuant to Minnesota statute 514.18 payment of \$5,650 plus \$0 inductive of legal notice fees will be sufficient to redeem the vehicle from the lien of the lienor. That said lien is subject to enforcement pursuant to law and that you and each of you have the right to redeem said vehicle pursuant to MN statute 514.18.

And

### NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE OF LIEN AND OF INTENT TO SELL VEHICLE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1) OF MN STATUTE 514.18

You and each of you are hereby notified that on April 5, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. the vehicle described above may be sold at auction or sale located at Manley Tire and Oil Service. From the proceeds will be paid for repairs and legal notifications expenses included in the cost of the sale.

You and each of you are urged to make satisfactory arrangements to pay all charges and take possession of the said vehicle. In order to obtain release of this vehicle you must present personal identification, drivers license and PROOF OF INSURANCE, (title registration, etc.) at the address below and pay all said charges against said vehicle. Manley Tire and Oil Service  
746 20th Ave.  
Valley Springs, SD 57068

(02-18, 02-25, 03-04)

## Rock County Commissioners meet Feb. 2

### Herreid Board Room

### Rock County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Chair Williamson with all Commissioners present; also in attendance were County Attorney Jeff Haubrich, Administrator Kyle Oldre, Deputy Administrator Susan Skattum and Mavis Fodness.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Feb 2, 2021, County Board agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Burger, seconded by Thompson, to approve the January 19, 2021, County Board minutes, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Pastor Roger Spartz, Chair of the Rock County Food Shelf and Katie Baustian, Rock County Food Shelf Board Member informed the County Board of their Capital Campaign project to raise \$225,000 for improvements and equipment for their new location at 208 W. Maple Street in Luverne. The building is owned by the City of Luverne and will be leased to the Rock County Food Shelf organization; the Food Shelf organization is responsible for raising funds for the building renovation. Currently fundraising efforts have netted \$60,000 and requested the county to pledge \$20,000. Spartz and Baustian also stated that in 2020 they distributed 79,000 pounds of food to over 4,249 residents and they anticipate that number to continue and/or increase. The County Board thanked them for their presentation.

Ashley Kurtz, Auditor/Treasurer, presented the claims and per diems of \$2,700.00; motion by Reisch, seconded by Burger, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote. A complete listing of the claims is available upon request at the Auditor/Treasurer's office.

### FEBRUARY 2, 2021 CLAIMS OVER \$2,000

A & B BUSINESS INC	\$2,512.68
BAKER & TAYLOR	2,539.08
BUSSE PLUMBING, HEATING, & A-C INC	25,250.00
CENTERPOINT ENERGY	4,075.99
CENTRALSQUARE TECHNOLOGIES	26,164.98
FLEET SERVICES DIVISION-ADMIN FMR	7,034.42
KRIS ENGINEERING INC	3,513.00
LUVERNE/CITY OF	21,097.08
NORTHERN TRUCK EQUIPMENT CORP	2,264.45
SW MN REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY BOARD	4,000.00
TOWMASTER	7,740.00
ZIEGLER INC	47,642.57
60 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	19,739.42
TOTAL	\$173,573.67

The County Board was in receipt of the Fund Balance report which included transactions of cash investments, tax distribution and debt payments. Motion by Thompson, seconded by Reisch, to approve the Fund Balance report, declared carried on a voice vote.

Mark Sehr, Engineer, requested authorization to bid let the 2021 bituminous pavement rehabilitation and overlay projects:

SAP 067-602-019 – CSAH 2
SAP 067-603-032 – CSAH 3 & 7 Bridge 67K55
SAP 067-605-013 – CSAH 5
SAP 067-607-019 - CSAH 3 & 7 Bridge 67K54
SAP 067-609-023 – CSAH 9

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch, to authorize the bid letting date of March 1st at 11:00 A.M. for the 2021 bituminous pavement rehabilitation and overlay projects, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Engineer presented (2) bids from the state contract for new pickup, local dealers could not match the state bid.

2021 Ram 2500 Crew Cab SB	\$33,952.00
Tommygate Liftgate	\$3,230.00
Galvanized Framework	\$630.00
TOTAL	\$37,812.00

2021 F250 Supercab	\$36,160.62
Tommygate Liftgate	\$3,230.00
Galvanized Framework	\$630.00
Weatherguard Aluminum Box	\$1,196.00
TOTAL	\$41,216.62

Motion by Burger, seconded by Williamson, to accept the low bid for a 2021 Ram 2500 Crew Cab SB for \$37,812.00, declared carried on a voice vote. The surplus pickup from the Highway Department will be transferred to Building Maintenance and the Building Maintenance pickup will be sold on eGov auction.

Commissioner Burger stated that the Rock County Historical Society is establishing an Advisory Committee comprised of representatives from each community and a County Commissioner representative; motion by Burger, seconded by Reisch, to appoint Commissioner Overgaard to the Historical Society Advisory Committee, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Administrator informed the County Board of a Tax Abatement request from Rock River Properties, LLC to abate the county's portion of property taxes for 10-years on a new construction building located in Clinton Township; the Ag/Seed business will employ 5 employees. Motion by Burger, seconded by Reisch, to set a Public Hearing on March 2, 2021, at 9:00 A.M. in the Herreid Board meeting room to allow public comment regarding the abatement and appoint Commissioners Thompson and Reisch to review with the County Administrator details of the abatement request, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was in receipt of (3) agreements from Walleye Wind, LLC: Development Agreement, Road Use & Repair and Drainage Agreement. Motion by Burger, seconded by Williamson, to approve the Road Use & Repair agreement and the Drainage Agreement, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Williamson, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Walleye Wind Development Agreement pending legal review from the County Attorney, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Reisch, to approve the Board & Committee Appointments for 2021, declared carried on a voice vote.

### Advocate Connect Educate

Sherri Thompson  
Greg Burger (Alternate)

### AS400 Computer Committee

Kyle Oldre  
Ashley Kurtz  
Tom Houselog  
Shawn Sweeney  
Lana Henrichs

### Association of Minnesota Counties

All Commissioners  
Kyle Oldre  
Mark Sehr  
Susan Skattum

### AMC Policy Committees

Environmental & Natural Resources – Overgaard

General Government – Reisch

Health & Human Svcs – Thompson

Public Safety – Burger

Transportation – Williamson

### AMC District VIII Committees

Ag & Transportation – Overgaard  
Ag & Rural Development Task Force – Burger & Overgaard  
ATP – Burger (alternate)  
Land Use – Overgaard  
Health & Human Services - Thompson

### Audit Committee

Greg Burger  
Jody Reisch  
Kyle Oldre  
Susan Skattum  
Ashley Kurtz  
Lana Henrichs

### Budget Committee

Greg Burger  
Jody Reisch  
Kyle Oldre  
Ashley Kurtz  
Susan Skattum

### Buffalo Ridge Regional Railroad Authority

Stan Williamson  
Sherri Thompson  
Kyle Oldre, Exe Sec  
Ashley Kurtz, Treas  
Susan Skattum

### Buildings Committee

Jody Reisch  
Stan Williamson  
Kyle Oldre

### Children's Justice Initiative

Stan Williamson  
SWHHS Rep

### Compliance Committee

Eric Hartman  
Ashley Kurtz  
Tom Houselog

### 911 Committee

Greg Burger  
Evan Verbrugge  
Aaron Blank  
Dave Van Batavia

Kyle Oldre  
Harlan Vande Kieft  
Jeff Bass  
John Call

### Extension Committee

Gary Overgaard  
Stan Williamson  
Tom Sandager  
Anna Haas  
Matt Jessen  
Kory Kruse  
Teresa Kinsinger  
Jordan Papik

### Judicial Ditch Advisory Board

Stan Williamson  
Gary Overgaard  
Eugene Peterson  
Dean Wenzel  
Roger Brockberg  
Robert Williamson

### Kanaranz-Little Rock Watershed

Bill Jansma

### Law Library Committee

Jody Reisch  
Tim Connell  
Damon Eisma

### Luverne City/County Liaison Committee

Jody Reisch  
Gary Overgaard  
Kyle Oldre

### Luverne Community Economic Development Corporation

Jody Reisch  
Kyle Oldre (Alternate)

### Lyon County Regional Landfill

Gary Overgaard  
Greg Burger (Alternate)

### Multi County HRA

Jody Reisch

### Personnel Committee

Greg Burger  
Jody Reisch  
Jeff Haubrich  
Kyle Oldre  
Daryl Fuerstenberg  
Steve Baumgard  
Arlyn Gehrke  
Ashley Kurtz

### Personnel Board of Appeals

Craig Otedahl  
John Call  
Todd Holthaus

### Private Industry Council Chief Elected Officials Board

Sherri Thompson

### Planning & Zoning Committee

Gary Overgaard  
Cliff Schilling  
Brad Petersen  
Gordon Mulder  
Kurt Wenzel  
Dave DeBoer  
Mark Vander Pol  
Mary Thompson (non-voting member)  
Eric Hartman (non-voting member)  
Jeff Haubrich (non-voting member)

### Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments

Cliff Schilling  
Brad Petersen  
Gordon Mulder  
Mark Vander Pol  
Kurt Wenzel  
David DeBoer

### Plum Creek Library Committee

The Administrator presented an update regarding the Business Relief Grant program. As to date, applicants requests have totaled \$432,500 with only \$250,000 available. The committee recommends awarding 58% of each request with the following eligibility requirements: Step 1 – a clean lien search; Step 2 – verifying receipt of other business relief funding. Motion by Reisch, seconded by Burger, to approve the distribution formula and eligibility process to distribute Business Relief Grant funds, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Administrator informed the County Board that SWHHS is conducting a COVID19 Vaccination Clinic for persons age 75 and over scheduled on February 3rd at the Prairie Event Center in Luverne from 1:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.; 300 doses are available for the targeted group and are currently taking appointments.

Commissioner Reisch stated that he had attended the following meetings: Rock/Pipestone Collaborative and City/County Liaison.

Commissioner Thompson stated that she had attended the following meetings: Southwest Health & Human Services; stated she had passed Board of Equalization certification.

Commissioner Overgaard stated that he had attended the following meetings: SW Rural Energy, SW Clean Energy Resource Teams, Solid Waste, (2) Business Relief committee, and City/County Liaison.

Commissioner Burger stated that he had attended the following meetings: (2) Business Relief Grant committee, Southwest Health Human Services, Nursing Hands Family Partnership.

Commissioner Williamson stated that he had attended the following meetings: no meetings to report.

With no further business to come before the County Board, motion by Reisch, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting, declared carried on a voice vote.

(02-25)

Jody Reisch  
Greg Burger (Alternate)

### Rock/Pipestone County Collaborative

Jody Reisch  
SWHHS Rep  
SW Mental Health Rep  
PIC Representative  
Todd Holthaus  
Neal Steffl  
Craig Otedahl  
Jon Ramlo  
Bonnie Christensen  
Kyle Oldre

### Rock County Community Library

Jody Reisch  
Barbie Meinerts  
Marilyn Bergman  
Molly Carbonneau  
Margie Fuerstenberg  
Holly Anderson  
Vonnice Nergaard

### Rock County FDA Committee

Gary Overgaard  
Jody Reisch  
Tammy Johnson  
Keith Elbers  
Tim Gust  
David Riphagen  
Lanette Elbers  
Chad Overgaard  
Josh Tuene  
Kyle Oldre (ex-officio)  
Ashely Kurtz (ex-officio)  
Jeff Haubrich (ex-officio)

### Rock County Opportunities

Nancy Walker

### Rock County/HBC School Liaison

Stan Williamson  
Jody Reisch  
Kyle Oldre  
Ali Breuer  
Scott Johnson  
Jeff Haubrich  
Evan Verbrugge

### Rock County Historical Society Advisory

Gary Overgaard

### Rock County/Luverne School Liaison

Sherri Thompson  
Gary Overgaard  
Kyle Oldre  
Stacy Schepel  
Scott Johnson  
Jeff Haubrich  
Evan Verbrugge

### Rock/Nobles Community Corrections Advisory Board

Greg Burger  
Jody Reisch  
Jeff Haubrich  
Jon Ramlo

### Rock/Nobles Community Corrections Executive Board

Greg Burger  
Jody Reisch  
Jeff Haubrich

### Rock County Rural Water

Stan Williamson  
Chad Overgaard  
Shelia Steinhoff  
Vernon Vandenberg  
Andrew Hoyme  
Wayne Thompson  
Scott Loosbrock

### Rock County Veterans Memorial

Rick Peterson  
Annabelle Frakes

Gregg Groepel  
Kyle Oldre

### Safety Committee

Kyle Oldre  
Susan Skattum  
Highway Union Rep  
Deputy Union Rep  
Arlyn Gehrke  
Justin Feikema  
Al Hartz  
Gary Kurtz

### Soil & Water Conservation District Board

Stan Williamson

### SWCD/Rock County Liaison

Stan Williamson  
Jody Reisch  
Roger Hoff  
Jim Veldkamp

### Southern Prairie Community Care

Greg Burger  
Sherri Thompson(alt)

### Southwest Health & Human Services

Sherri Thompson  
Greg Burger

### Southwest Health & Human Services Nursing Hands Family Partnership

Greg Burger

### Southwestern Mental Health Center

Greg Burger  
Stan Williamson  
Jane Lanphere

### Southwest MN Adult Mental Health Consortium

Stan Williamson

### Southwest Minnesota Opportunities Council

Jody Reisch

### Southwest Regional Development Commission

Sherri Thompson  
Keith Elbers

### Emergency Communications Board

Jody Reisch  
Kyle Oldre (alternate)

### Southwest Regional Radio Committee

Evan Verbrugge

### Southwest Regional Rural Energy Task Force

Gary Overgaard  
Greg Burger (Alternate)

### Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERT)

Gary Overgaard

### Southwest Solid Waste Board

Gary Overgaard  
Greg Burger (Alternate)

### Southwest Regional EMS Board

Harlan Vande Kieft  
Jody Reisch (alternate)

### SWMN Tourism

Jane Lanphere

### Transit Advisory Committee

Jody Reisch  
Gary Overgaard  
Beth Shearer  
Tammy Johnson  
Todd Holthaus  
Mike Altena  
Molly Peterson  
Kyle Oldre



**EMPLOYMENT**

**SEE YOURSELF AT SANFORD**

Sanford Health in Luverne, MN is currently accepting applications for the following positions in our hospital and clinic:

- SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST, CERTIFIED
- SUPERVISOR, BENCH LABORATORY
- PATIENT CARE TECH
- PATIENT ACCESS REP
- LEAD RESPIRATORY THERAPIST
- FOOD SERVICE ASSISTANT
- PARAMEDIC
- MLT or MLS
- REGISTERED NURSES

Apply online at [sanfordhealth.jobs](http://sanfordhealth.jobs), search "Luverne, MN" in the location search bar.



877-673-0854

**EMPLOYMENT**

**EMPLOYMENT**

**EMPLOYMENT**

**EMPLOYMENT**

**EMPLOYMENT**

The **Rock County Historical Society** is accepting applications for the **Full-time position of Executive Director**

The job description is at our webpage at [www.rockcountyhistorical.com](http://www.rockcountyhistorical.com).

Please submit a resume, cover letter, and three references by March 31, 2021 to: Betty Mann (Board President), Rock County Historical Society, 312 E. Main St., Luverne, MN 56156 or to RCHS's email to [rcmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:rcmuseum@gmail.com) with the subject line of Executive Director Position. Any questions about the position can be referred to Betty Mann (507-220-1070).

**Luverne Public Schools** is seeking applications for a **FULL-TIME SPECIAL EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONAL**. Two-year college degree preferred. Submit letter of application and resume to Luverne Public Schools, 709 North Kniss, Luverne, MN 56156. EOE.

**START YOUR CAREER IN PHARMACY TODAY**

Now accepting applications for a **Full-time Pharmacy Technician**. Pharmaceutical and health care knowledge, as well as past retail experience is preferred, but not required. You must be able to certify within 1 year.

**Lewis** Family Drug

You may apply online at [www.lewisdrug.com](http://www.lewisdrug.com), or apply in the store at: 202 Kniss Ave S Luverne, MN

**HELP WANTED**  
\$2,000 Sign-on bonus for a night shift nurse!

- Must have or ability to obtain an LPN or RN license from the State of Minnesota
- Parkview Manor is a 37 bed licensed skilled care facility
- Benefits include: competitive hourly wage, health insurance, PERA retirement
- 40 hours per week, including every third weekend

Send resume to: **Suzanne Lenz, DON**  
**Parkview Manor**  
308 W. Sherman Ave., Ellsworth, MN  
Call 507-967-2482 | Email [slenz@frontier.com](mailto:slenz@frontier.com)

**New Position**

Wild Rose Home Care LLC is looking for a part-time **Personal Care Attendant (PCA)** in Luverne. 5- 10 hrs early AM hours per week working M-F. Every other weekend rotation. Flexible hours working with a female client. Must be able to pass a background check. This is a new position, qualified individuals must be dependable and reliable.

**Wild Rose** Call for application 507-337-1101

**NURSING ASSISTANT (HUMAN SERVICES TECHNICIAN)**

The Minnesota Veterans Home is seeking applicants for nursing assistant positions. Positions available on the day and evening shifts. Hourly wage \$15.25 - \$24.19 depending on experience.

**Qualifications:**

- Eligible for registration with the MN Dept of Health Nursing Assistant Registry
- Ability to communicate effectively, follow instructions and take clear notes
- Must be at least 18 years of age

**Excellent benefits including:**

- Health, dental and life insurance
- Paid vacation, sick and holiday pay
- Pension plan

Apply online at <https://mn.gov/mmb/careers>. For more information call 507-920-0000.

New Prairie Insulation of Beaver Creek has full time insulation installer positions available. Monday-Friday; Health insurance, vacation pay, holiday pay, retirement plan, bonus, opportunities; will train. Call 605-376-3006. (t)

Luverne Public Schools is seeking applications for a transportation aide. This position involves assisting a student on school transportation traveling to and from school. This is a shared position and work days are flexible. Medical certification is required. Send a letter of application and a completed district application (found at [www.isd2184.net](http://www.isd2184.net)) to Craig Oftedal, Supt. of Schools (c.oftedal@isd2184.net), 709 North Kniss, Luverne, MN 56156. EOE. (2.13-3.4)

**Help Wanted: Public Health Nurse – 2 positions; Registered Nurse – 1 position; Nobles County Community Services.** If you have a passion for public health and serving the community this could be the career for you! Join our public health service unit and you'll be part of a skilled, caring, and knowledgeable professional team whose talents and contributions promote, strengthen and protect the health of individuals, families, and communities in Nobles County every single day! Check out the full job descriptions on our website [www.co.nobles.mn.us](http://www.co.nobles.mn.us) and click on Jobs & Careers. Weekends and Holidays off! Public Health Nurse: provides direct care needs assessment, education, and recommendations for services based upon the needs identified when working with individuals and families in the community. Registered Nurse: under general supervision performs professional nursing duties to ensure proper administration and coordination of established public health programs. APPLY TO: Merit application required, visit: <http://agency.governmentjobs.com/mnmeritsystem/default.cfm>. Closing Date for Merit Applications: March 3, 2021, 4:30 p.m. (2.18-2.27)

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

Do you want flexible hours and do you like people? Do you like to be on the cutting edge of new products? If so, we have an opportunity for you. Stop in at Culligan at 206 West Main, Luverne, MN for more information. (2.20-3.10)

**Help Wanted:** Retail store, meat cutters, trimmers and wrappers — V&M Locker, Leota, MN. Come join our fabulous team and learn the meat cutting trade! No experience necessary. Full-time positions, OT after 40 hours, health insurance, retirement plan, other benefits too. Email [vmlocker@frontiernet.net](mailto:vmlocker@frontiernet.net) for an application or stop in and talk to Chad or Julie 507-443-5372. (2.25-3.6)

**RENTALS**  
Apartment for rent: One-bedroom, ground floor apartment with garage. No pets; no smoking. 507-283-9720. (t)

For Rent: Two-bedroom house now available for rent with single garage; stove and refrigerator furnished. No smoking; no pets. Call 507-283-4095 or 507-290-1948. (t)

**FOR SALE**  
For Sale: 4x8 suitcase style fish house - \$150; two small snow throwers - \$50 each; one large 26" snow blower - \$200. Phone 507-215-2619. (2.6-2.25)

**CARDS OF THANKS**  
To all businesses and residents of Luverne — A big THANK YOU to everyone who cleans their sidewalks for the handicapped. (2.25-2.27)

**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. (t)

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**MIDWEST FIRE**  
**FIRE APPARATUS ASSEMBLER**

Midwest Fire Equipment & Repair Company is looking for a full time Fire Apparatus Assembler. Our team is looking for an individual who has a positive attitude, organizational skills and can work in a fast-paced professional manufacturing environment.

**DUTIES:** Perform various 12V wiring and installation of electrical components. Knowledge of PLC and/or industrial controls. Understanding of 12V wiring and communication (ie. Transmission, engine & overall chassis wiring). Read & understand electrical diagrams & schematics.

**QUALIFICATIONS:** High school diploma or equivalent. This position requires strong work ethic and mechanical aptitude. Experience in the fire apparatus field, electrical assembly a bonus, but not required.

Applications are available online at [www.midwestfire.com](http://www.midwestfire.com). You may email a resume or completed application to [darcie@midwestfire.com](mailto:darcie@midwestfire.com) or apply in person at our facility located at 901 Commerce Rd, Luverne MN, office hours are 8 am to 5 pm Monday thru Friday.

**PREMIUM IOWA PORK, LLC**  
HOSPERS, IA | LUVERNE, MN

**PLANT CONTROLLER/COST ACCOUNTANT**  
Luverne, MN Location

Provide accurate plant financial and statistical data allowing management to make timely and informed decisions concerning the financial performance of the business. The Plant Controller is an integral part of the plant management team, reporting directly to the President.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES:** Preparation of operational performance reports, Participate actively in problem identification and solutions, Develop and maintain standard raw material and supplies costs, Compute product costs and analyze variances, Maintain labor classes and rates, Develop plant overhead rates, Preparation of monthly financial statements, Supervise accounts receivable and accounts payable functions, providing follow up on vendor receipt or payment issues, Coordinate annual audit by outside auditors and Assist in development of MRP system from ground up

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance or Business Management, Minimum 5-7 years previous experience, in the meat industry a plus, High proficiency level in all MS office applications with emphasis in Excel and Ability to read, analyze and interpret complex financial information

Excellent starting salary and benefit package including holiday, vacation, 401K, medical, dental & vision insurance

Please send resume to [stephanie@premiumiowapork.com](mailto:stephanie@premiumiowapork.com)

**Join our team!**

**WE HAVE AN OPENING FOR A OTR WAREHOUSE DELIVERY DRIVER IN THE PIPESTONE, MN AREA**

**Objective:** Ensure timely and bio secure delivery of product(s) to target destination(s).

**Essential Functions**

- The ability to drive tractor/trailer to deliver product
- Understanding & adherence to Bio-Security rules & requirements
- Comfortable with overnight truck routes. **Home every weekend**
- Effective communicator, team player, trustworthy and the ability to work independently

**Position Specifications**

- **Education:** High School Diploma / GED preferred not required
  - CDL with Air Brake endorsement or able to obtain soon after hiring
  - Hazmat endorsement or able to obtain soon after hiring
- **CDL not required at time of hire - company will train the right person**
- **Experience:** Truck driving experience preferred

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RECYCLE!





Above: More than 375 people registered to participate in the 2021 Get Hooked Ice Fishing Derby at The Lake in Luverne Saturday. Dozens of fish houses covered the ice surface, but many people found fishing in the outdoors to be comfortable and productive. At left: Lincoln (left) and Devin Coughlin set up a line. Lori Sorenson photos/0225 fishing derby

**Fishing derby attracts 376 people for afternoon at The Lake/continued from page 1A**



Petersen hauled in 195.7 ounces and Vander Bush had 74.1 total ounces. Participants who pre-registered for the 2021 competition were eligible for \$100 cash drawings, which went to Cory Matney in the adult division and Brody Kopp in the youth division. Dwight Bremer's raffle ticket was drawn to win the Ice Castle ice fishing house. Lanphere said Fishing Derby committee members sold 175 raffle tickets for \$100 apiece, and they purchased the ice house for less than \$10,000. The proceeds will benefit The Lake and its youth activities. For example, last year's proceeds helped fund fish stocking and a new ramp at The Lake. A full list of winners and more details can be found on the Luverne Area Chamber website, [www.luvernechamber.com](http://www.luvernechamber.com).

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**Auto-Owners**  
 INSURANCE  
 LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS



**Above:** Luke Thielbar patiently waits for signs of action on the end of his fishing line.

**Above, far left:** James Lindsey waits in the snow for a bite.

**At left:** Willow Domagala (left), Addison Lais and Hayden Elbers make ice fishing a team effort.

**Right:** A bucket filled with fish from Saturday's fishing derby wait to be weighed.



**A note from Mayor Patrick T. Baustian *We're All in This Together***



As Governor Walz mentioned early this morning, we are making progress in the fight against COVID-19. Statewide more and more teachers, staff and child care workers have been vaccinated. Locally, nearly 50% of Luverne teachers and support staff have been offered their first shot and 10% have received both doses. As bars and restaurants, health clubs and other social venues expand hours and capacities, please support them. Hopefully we will continue down the path of physical, emotional and economic recovery in days and weeks to come. As more vaccine becomes available please get a shot and if you feel comfortable please continue to patronize our fine restaurants, bars and retail businesses in Luverne. We need to mask up, social distance, wash our hands and start to enjoy life while protecting ourselves and those around us.

**Adjustments to COVID-19 Mitigation Measures**

February 12, 2021 – "Our small businesses have made enormous sacrifices for the health of their employees and communities," said Governor Walz. "Today, we can make these cautious, common sense adjustments to support them because of the progress we have made controlling the spread of COVID-19 and getting the most at-risk Minnesotans vaccinated."

The following changes were effective Saturday, February 13 at Noon:

 <b>Indoor/Outdoor Dining</b>  <b>50% Capacity</b>  <b>250 People Max</b> 11 p.m. closing	 <b>Indoor Entertainment</b>  <b>25% Capacity</b>  <b>250 People Max</b>
 <b>Reception Spaces for Celebrations or Private Parties</b>  <b>25% Capacity</b>  <b>50 People Max</b> 11 p.m. closing	 <b>Gyms, Fitness Studios, and Pools</b>  <b>25% Capacity</b>  <b>250 People Max</b> 6 feet distance required.

**STAY SAFE MN**



**Governor Walz Announces Plan to Return More Students to the Classroom**



February 17, 2021 – As hospitalizations and new COVID-19 cases decline and Minnesota makes progress vaccinating educators, Governor Tim Walz today updated Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan to allow more middle and high school students to return the classroom. Beginning February 22, all middle and high school students can return to the classroom for hybrid or in-person learning. Governor Walz expects all schools to offer their students some form of in-person learning by March 8.

"It's time for students to be back in the classroom," Governor Walz said. "We aren't out of the woods, but our relentless progress with vaccines and Minnesotans' vigilance has put us closer than ever to the end of this pandemic. Our progress means we can get more students safely back into classrooms. As a parent and former teacher, I know how critical this step is for the economic security, well-being, and mental health of our kids and their families."

Minnesota has made significant progress getting vaccines into Minnesotans' arms, surpassing 940,000 doses administered to over 695,000 people. Nearly 25 percent of teachers and 40 percent of seniors have been vaccinated – numbers that are growing every day. The percentage of COVID-19 tests coming back positive is now below five percent. Hospitalizations are also steadily declining.

"Students learn best when they're in person with their teachers," said Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. "For my second-grader and for students across the state, returning to the classroom has supported their overall mental and physical health, as well as their ability to learn. Getting students safely back to school is a critical piece in addressing the racial and geographic disparities that have been exacerbated by distance learning."

*I am confident that Luverne Area Residents, working together, will emerge from this pandemic much stronger as a community.*

**Luverne**  
 MINNESOTA  
*Love the life!*

Sincerely,  
  
 Mayor Patrick T. Baustian



# National FFA Week February 20-27



*Luverne*

Mavis Fodness photo/FFA Week 2021 Luverne

## Luverne High School FFA Chapter

Students from Luverne High School who are members of the Luverne-Adrian FFA Chapter for the 2020-21 school year include (front row from left) president Cassie Flanagan, secretary Gretchen Jacobsma, parliamentarian Chase Overgaard, officer-at-large Eric Somnis, treasurer Camron Kopp, sentinel Justin Dohlmann, reporter Hunter Ahrendt, (second row) adviser Dennis Moritz, Ross Bergman, D.J. Swenson, Peter Baustian, Ayden Bonnett, Trista Baustian, (third row) Chris Aning, Hunter Baker, Connor Overgaard, Carlton Oftedahl, Jacob Hansen, (fourth row) Nick Hansen, Cole Mann, Leah Wynia, Hunter Sandbulte, Morgan Ahrendt, Morgon Bonnett, Macie Swenson, (back) Harrison Uithoven, Lucas Hansen, reporter Shelby Kracht, Tori Hemme, A.J. Ossefoort and J.T. Remme. Not pictured is vice president Destiny Matthiesen.



*Adrian*

Photo courtesy of Adrian Public Schools

## Adrian High School FFA Chapter

Adrian High Schools students that are members of the 2020-21 Luverne-Adrian FFA Chapter are (front, from left) Karly Kruse, Claire Hoffman, Leah Kruse, Lauren Madison, (back) Austin Henning, Cameron Wieneke and Jacob Henning.

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*Ellsworth*

Photo courtesy of Ellsworth High School

## Ellsworth High School FFA Chapter

Members of the Ellsworth High School FFA Chapter for 2020-21 include (front, from left) sentinel Rylan Bixby, Kiara Lewis, Kiyra McClain, Sabrina Nath, Harley Blom, Jacob Adams, (back) president Dalton Popkes, Mattie Mulder, Cecelia Lenz, vice president Claire Popkes, Kendra DeBeer, Andrea Honken, reporter Logan Bossert, and advisor Bailey Rempel. Not pictured is secretary Landon Leuthold.



*H-BC*

Photo courtesy of Hills-Beaver Creek Secondary School

## Hills-Beaver Creek High School FFA Chapter

Members of the 2020-21 H-BC High School FFA Chapter include officers (front row from left) Chase Bosch (sentinel), Tory Knobloch (president), Hannah Fick (vice president), Samantha Moser (secretary), Danette Leenderts (treasurer), Donavon Leenderts (parliamentarian), Austin Allen (historian), Carter Hartz (reporter), adviser Cloey Anderson, (second row) Oliver Deelstra, Cole Baker, Zander Wysong, Casey Kueter, Sean Elbers, Taylor Dolphin, Nathan Kruid, Brayden Metzger, Andrew Harris, (third row) Luke Fuerstenburg, Drew Leenderts, Devon Dysthe, Brock Harnack, Max Scholten, Calvin Erickson, Tryce Bennett, Austin Ripperda, Ethan Kruger, Ty Bundesen, (fourth row) Cody Moser, Joshua Wiersema, Riley Tatge, Journey Dwire, Avery Vis, Kenadie Fick, Lanae Elbers, Taryn Birger, Olivia Bork, Sophia Vansurksom, Robbie Drake, (fifth row) Elly Klosterbuer, Megan Vis, Taylor Huisman, Amallia Ternus, Layla Deelstra, Larissa Steinhoff, Brynn Rauk, Sylvia Fick, Alexis Gardner-Swenson, Tyrae Goodface, (back) Conner Vande Voort, Collin Schoneman, Damion Meinerts, Alex Harris, Carter Vande Voort and Cooper Gehrke. Not pictured is Tyson Bork.



# Ag Mag

cultivating community by sharing agricultural innovation

A production of the Rock County Star Herald and featured advertisers.

Spring 2021 ISSUE

## 'Mini mall' for farmers opens south of Luverne

Rock River Ag is home to two Pioneer Hi-Bred seed dealers and a salesman from Countryside Ag Supply. Brad Bergman, Alan Altman, Harlan Solma, and Joshua Rheault are part of the effort.

... Page 3B

## Cattle producer improves work with technology

Open pens, partial-roofed lots and a full-roofed barn house cattle on the Sandbulte farm. An A-frame, full-roof 75- by 485-foot cattle barn was a big investment to put up, but it's already paying off.

... Page 5B

## Life on the inside; what's it like at PMP?

With a tight labor force in the tri-state area, Premium Minnesota Pork goes out of its way to make sure employees are compensated and feel valued. Find out why they come and why they stay.

... Page 8B

## Beef Tour set for July 13, 2021

The 40th Annual Summer Beef Tour was postponed last summer, but this year's stops will make up for lost time.

... Page 10B

*"I think the key word is optimism. That is what was missing last spring and summer. We all have optimism now, and that can bring back the passion and creativity that is needed to have successful businesses and thus successful communities."*



Brothers Mike (left) and Shawn Feikema operate a third generation family farm northwest of Luverne. Given longevity, the Feikemas benefit from perspective on the roller coaster of ag income over the past several months. "The outlook is better now than it was last spring and summer, but to say that it's all better with no worries would be an overstatement," Shawn Feikema said. "Farming is a marathon and requires us to make decisions about our business as such."

## Awash in cash or just staying afloat?

*Government payments hit ag accounts after weather disasters, dismal markets and trade war, leaving farmers and ag lenders to review balances after cash covers debt*

Photos and text by Lori Sorenson

Rock County farmers received \$51 million in government aid in the past few months, boosting ag income to heights not seen in nearly a decade.

Considering 700 farms in the county, simple math translates to \$76,000 in aid per farm — some getting thousands and others getting millions, depending on circumstances.

At the same time, commodity prices gained traction last fall and harvest yields were better than expected.

USDA data shows net farm income rose 43 percent over 2019 levels and 32 percent over the 20-year average. Adjusted for inflation, 2020's income is the highest since 2013.

However, government programs accounted for nearly 40 percent of net farm income in 2020 (compared with 10 to 15 percent on average).

So, what does all this mean for a farm economy that was on the brink of disaster only six months ago?

Rock County producer Shawn Feikema said he appreciates the aid and market corrections, but he's only cautiously optimistic.

"It is astonishing to me how quickly people believe farmers are 'awash in cash.' No, this is not the case for most farmers," Feikema said.

"This may be true for those who have no debt and are near the end of their farming

career. For the majority, this gets us to break-even at best in the livestock sector. The grain sector probably brings us from losing to profitable."

He and his brother, Mike Feikema,



For Feikema Farms, relief payments came just in time. "The livestock industry got decimated, and I do not think there is enough money around to make that sector whole again," Shawn said.

## Where do we go from here?

*Rock County producer offers perspective in Q&A*

The local ag economy circled 180 degrees from its low point last year with government aid finally coming through for farmers at the same time as commodity prices jumped.

Looking back on the roller coaster year, the Star Herald reached out to Feikema Farms for an overview — from their perspective — on where the local farm economy sits today.

Brothers Shawn and Mike Feikema are third generation operators of the farm that grew from a quarter section of land in 1950 to over 6,000 acres where today they raise cattle, corn, soybeans and wheat.

Following are questions from Star Herald editor Lori Sorenson and Shawn's responses, some of which are included in the related story about local farm income.

**Q** How would you describe the current economic outlook for your operation as a comparison to this past spring and summer?

**A** The outlook is better now than it was last spring and summer. To say that it's all better with no worries would be an overstatement. Farming is a marathon and requires us to make decisions about our business as such.

Our operation is looking forward with hope, and I assume that many others are as well. I think the key for us going forward is not to get caught up in the euphoria of higher prices.

Now is the time to get our game face on and do serious risk management.

As we have seen in the past few years,

**Perspective on ag income/see page 6**

operate a third generation family farm northwest of Luverne. Given longevity, the Feikemas benefit from perspective.

"The outlook is better now than it was last spring and summer, but to say that it's all better with no worries would be an overstatement," Shawn Feikema said.

"Farming is a marathon and requires us to make decisions about our business as such."

That's also the message from ag lender Ryan DeBates.

"We can start to be cautiously optimistic about our future," said DeBates, Security Savings Bank president, Luverne. "If you make good decisions when times are good — debt reduction, conservative capital purchases — it will help you weather the next storm."

This approach to farm management — plus help from Mother Nature and the government — is what got the Feikemas and many other local farmers through the economic storm of 2020.

**Rock County ag income/see next page**



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*"... You never stop thinking about what could happen. It is the same thing that tells you to put your seatbelt on. ... there is nothing that guarantees that we stay in business. We must make decisions the best we can to ensure we stay in business for tomorrow but also for the next generation."*

— Mike Feikema, Feikema Farms

Mike Feikema runs the feed truck along cattle bunks on a sub-zero day Feb. 15 at Feikema Farms northwest of Luverne.

## Rock County ag income — awash with cash?/from page 1B

### Government checks were life preserver for farmers drowning in debt

To gauge progress, it bears noting that only that only six months ago the farm economy was bleak. Five years of dismal commodity prices, devastating natural disasters and a global trade war came to a head in 2020 just as the pandemic began wreaking havoc on the economy.

Then, COVID-19 hit packing plants. Smithfield Foods in Sioux Falls shut down in April when more than 230 workers tested positive for the virus. The plant, which takes in roughly 14,000 hogs per day, is one of the nation's top pork processors, and its closure sparked alarm in the local ag sector.

"It's not good," Kevin Barnhart told the Star Herald in an April 16, 2020, interview. "The sooner we can get Smithfield back online, the better ... before the next plant goes down."

Barnhart is president of Rock County Pork Producers and works for Schwartz Farms, the largest local hog supplier, which trucks more than 8,000 animals per week from Rock County barns to Smithfield.

After seeking other outlets and adjusting rations, some growers ended up euthanizing pigs that had nowhere to go.

"I hope we don't lose any independent producers because of this," Barnhart said in April.

"It's not one thing. It's a buildup of things. And it's not just hogs. ... When our farmers don't do well, we don't do well in Rock County. We live and die on the backs of our farmers."

Cattle producer and Rock County Farm Bureau president Peter Bakken also weighed in last spring.

The 25-percent crash in the cattle market after coronavirus closures resulted in a million dollar loss to his family's operation in a few weeks' time.

He shared his story with the Star Herald and several national press interviews.

"It's very frustrating that we've worked so hard, yet we have no control over whether we can recover from this loss," Bakken told the national press.

"I consider myself to be a well-established farmer and even for me this is going to be a major hit. It would be that much tougher if you were just getting started."

### Gaining ground or breaking even?

Fast forward nine months, and ag producers are reminded that farming is a roller coaster, and successful operations adapt to sudden swings and curves.

Bakken operates Blac-X Land and Cattle with his brother, Jay Bakken, and they're applying government checks against the debt they've accrued, and they're seeing only a modest net gain.

"We're looking at financial statements and cashing

checks that kept coming, but when it came time to do that, we realized that we needed this money to get back to zero," Bakken said last week.

"That did give you a huge infusion of cash back to your operation. ... but when it came down to it, you needed it to keep the boat afloat."

DeBates shared similar sentiments from his banking perspective.

"It was pretty tough; there's no doubt about it," he said. "There were a lot of things happening all at one time ... you just have to be able to weather the storm."

### Was anyone ready to throw in the towel?

He said many producers were facing difficult decisions.

"There were a number of producers that were at the intersection," DeBates said. "But there were also many producers who were able to weather the storm."

He said the balance sheets are unique to each farmer's operation, but higher commodity prices and the stimulus

Rock County agriculture income/continued on page 4



Hungry cattle line up at the bunk Monday afternoon, Feb. 15, as Mike Feikema comes by with the feed truck. In sub-zero temperatures he said livestock burn more energy to stay warm and therefore need more feed to maintain weight.

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Mavis Fodness photos/0225 Ag Tab 2021 Rock River Ag  
Local Pioneer Hi-Bred seed salesmen joined forces to create Rock River Ag LLC that combines similar agri-businesses together under one roof. Pictured from left are Alan Altman with Countryside Ag Services, independent Pioneer seed salesman Harlan Solma, Pioneer seed promoter Brad Bergman and independent Pioneer seed salesman Joshua Rheault.

## Rock River Ag is 'mini mall' for farmers' one-stop shopping

**By Mavis Fodness**

Decades of agricultural experience merged under one roof recently when a "one-stop shop" appeared south of Luverne.

The joint location is at the corner of Hwy. 75 and 61st Street and provides a home to two Pioneer Hi-Bred seed dealers and a salesman from Countryside Ag Supply.

New Pioneer Hi-Bred promoter Brad Bergman said there is an open office for another similar ag business.

Jointly they are housed under Rock River Ag LLC, a joint venture by Bergman and Pioneer Hi-Bred seed salesman Joshua Rheault.

"Basically we are kind of like a 'mini mall,'" he said. "People who come want to buy seed or want to talk to a chemical guy, and they can do both here."

Bergman designed the combination office complex and warehouse using knowledge gained from 18 years in the building construction industry.

He will become a Pioneer Hi-Bred seed salesman in 2023, when current salesman Harlan Solma, who rents an office in the Rock River Ag

building, switches positions with Bergman. Solma, with his 40 years of experience in seed sales, will then become a Pioneer promoter, a position Bergman now fills.

Rheault, who has been an independent Pioneer Hi-Bred salesman in the Hills-Beaver Creek area for nine years, and Bergman took the

Pioneer Hi-Bred officials' suggestions and merged Pioneer seed dealers and similar agribusinesses together under one roof.

"We've just put the pieces in place for a transition at that time when everything comes under one roof and officially becomes Rock

River Ag," Bergman said.

Having a local office appealed to Alan Altman, who began working for Countryside Ag Supply, a chemical and fertilizer company based in Hawarden, Iowa, a year ago.

Until renting an office and warehouse space in Rock River Ag's facility,

Altman worked out of his Luverne home or his pickup truck.

Altman, who has worked in the chemical-fertilizer industry for 35 years, said the one-stop location appeals to today's farmers, who rely on various industry experts for profitable farming

business suggestions.

"They (farmers) have no time to research all they need to do because they have other things to do," Altman said.

Occupants at Rock River Ag agree that customer service is a priority.

**Rock River Ag/see page 7B**

*"Thirty years ago you were throwing bags (of corn) into a six-row planter. In this day and age you can pick up a 50-unit Probox (which contains the equivalent of 50) bags) through a seed tender and have the planter loaded in half the time."*

— Brad Bergman, Pioneer Hi-Bred promotor and designer/developer of Rock River Ag, a multi-service agency near Luverne

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## Rock County ag income — awash with cash?/from page 2

*"It's important to remember we don't wake up in the morning and decide, 'Which farm are we going to shut down today?' That's not the case at all, because when they're successful, we're successful. Having a relationship with your lender ... It's easy when times are good, but having those difficult conversations and working together through those tough circumstances helps you both have a positive outcome."*

— Ryan DeBates,  
Security Savings Bank,  
Luverne branch



Ryan DeBates at Security Savings Bank, Luverne, sketches out short- and long-term debt to illustrate options for farmers balancing assets and liabilities.

provide options for everyone.

"They're able to make the payments. Maybe they had to sell livestock or grain at a loss, so there was a question about whether or not we could get their 2020 line of credit paid for. Now they have been able to zero out 2020," DeBates said.

"For some people the influx of cash is a lifeboat, it was a saving grace. For others, maybe they were able to build some equity they lost by paying down debt."

He said there's emotional relief among farmers who can finally exhale.

"The conversations are easier now because we got that shot in the arm from the government programs that were available to them," he said.

"The conversations now aren't about 'Do we have to throw in the towel?' At least now there are more options to turn the corner in the right direction."

Communication in itself is key to survival, he said.

"It's important to remember we don't wake up in the morning and decide, 'Which farm are we going to shut down today?' That's not the case at all," DeBates said. "Because when they're successful, we're successful."

He said it's all about working together, making difficult decisions to sell some assets or possibly even land.

"Having that relationship with your lender ... It's easy when times are good," DeBates said.

"But having those difficult conversations and working together through those tough circumstances helps you both have a positive outcome."

He said he's also

**Rock County ag income/**  
continued on page 6

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Mavis Fodness photo/0225 Ag Tab 2021 Sandbulte

Mike Sandbulte stands inside the new full-roof cattle barn, which allows livestock protection from the weather extremes. The barn, built in 2020, is not fully enclosed to promote good ventilation for the stock that have full winter coats that protect them from the extreme cold. Daily chores in the barn consist of making sure the stock is fed twice a day. No bedding is needed, and manure removal is necessary only once a year. **Below**, Sandbulte loads feed for 1,800 head of cattle east of Hardwick.

## On coldest days of year, cattle still require hands-on feeding

### Technology, modern equipment, new barn design make the job easier for local livestock farmers

By Mavis Fodness

Twice a day 3,700 pairs of eyes wait for food at M & K Feeders Inc., a cattle feedlot located east of Hardwick in Battle Plain Township.

The daily regimen — even in below-zero temperatures and wind chills — has Mike Sandbulte (who owns M & K Feeders with his wife, Kandi) mixing the 84,600 pounds of the needed feed daily to bring the animals to the ideal market weight of 1,500 pounds in 200 days or less.

For each feeding Sandbulte uses a payload to load ingredients — silage, ground hay, corn, extruded soybeans and distillers grains — into a feed wagon. Sandbulte then hops into the tractor to auger the mixture

from the wagon into the bunks alongside each of the 14 pens of steers and heifers at the feedlot. He completes the loading, mixing and delivering multiple times until all the cattle are fed.

Sandbulte appreciates the modern-day machinery, computer technology, and improved finishing facilities that make the daily chores easier than when he was a youth growing up on the family farm west of Hardwick.

“At that time, a lot of the chores were done with a wheelbarrow,” he said.

The manual feeding of the cattle and hogs and cleaning their pens didn’t dampen

**Sandbulte feed technology**/see page 9



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## Perspective/from page 1B

one political comment or one regulation can turn the markets upside down in a matter of days.

**Q.** Some farmers I spoke with last summer were about to give up hope as tough circumstances came to a head. Bankers told me we were at risk of losing some local farms. Were you concerned?

**A.** We have a solid partnership with our bank, and they believe in us and we trust them. Many farmers have this type of relationship with their bankers. If they do not, they will not last long.

As a business owner, you never stop thinking about what could happen. It is the same thing that tells you to put your seatbelt on. Sure, we are always concerned about our business. However, as business owners there is nothing that guarantees that we stay in business.

We must make decisions the best we can to ensure that we stay in business for tomorrow but also for the next generation. All farmers want to pass on their legacy, and so as the owner you never want to be the generation that lost it. This becomes to some degree a large stressor for farmers that many do not understand.

**Q.** Considering government support and the sudden uptick in commodity prices, it appears we are suddenly awash in cash. .... Is this the case? Or did we just come back to breakeven?

**A.** This question makes me laugh. It is always astonishing to me how quickly people believe farmers are "awash in cash." No, this is not the case for

Perspective on ag income/continued page 14

## Rock County ag income — awash with cash?/from page 4B

encouraged by farming's recent boost for the local economy.

"Anytime they have an influx of cash, it helps our local economy," DeBates said. "We can start to be cautiously optimistic about our future."

### Farm cash circulating on Main Street

Government aid allowed many farmers to exhale and make investments in their operation that they'd been putting off.

"I know at Blac-X, we crawled under our rock and said we aren't spending any money," Bakken said about 2020.

"I think the thing you're going to see is that the money that kept you afloat is now stimulating the economy. It's done what it was supposed to do. People are spending money. ... whether it's on bale shredder, feed wagons, tires ..."

C&B sales representative Tom Ver Steeg said this has been the case at Luverne's John Deere implement dealership.

"I would say when we got the bump in market prices, yields and government relief payments, it all started to pick up," he said. "Sales have



Eli Bakken, Feikema Farms employee, checks rations before mixing feed for the next load to be hauled to cattle bunks.

been up, service work in the shop is up, and obviously parts followed suit."

Like farmers, implement dealerships and other business had been cautious over the past few years as the

economy soured.

"We had taken a cautious approach over the past three years after some inventory had aged on the lot," Ver Steeg said.

"But like farming, this business is constantly changing, and you have to be ready for that."

Last fall C&B needed to pivot quickly to a sudden upturn in local ag income.

"In November it started with guys looking at costs of equipment, and that turned into sales," Ver Steeg said. "We've had guys walk in here

and buy used tractors straight out, no trade-in, because they don't want to pay taxes."

Now he said C&B is scrambling to keep with demand in a market where production had been slowed by the pandemic.

"If someone wanted to buy a new tractor, you can't get a 2021 model, unless the dealership has reserved production slots," Ver Steeg said, referring to larger row-crop tractors.

"They're getting spoken for quickly."

But the sudden improvement in cash flow is a good problem to have.

"It's helped implement dealers and Main Street businesses — the ones that were open," Ver Steeg said.

"Mom maybe needs a new washing machine. Maybe we'll go out to eat. ... It's spreading to the local economy, there's no doubt."

For Feikema and the rest of the ag community, he's glad to have received some government stimulus to spread around.

"Fortunately for communities, farms are asset based and purchasing and repairing those assets takes lots of money which then gets spent at dealerships, vet clinics, farm supply stores, banks, insurance agents and, yes, we do like to take our wives and families out for supper and entertainment occasionally, too," he said.

"So, the money we get travels through all the hands of the community. Farmers love the communities they live in."

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Treated concrete floors lead into each of the office areas and the training room at Rock River Ag. (Mavis Fodness photos)

A 80-by-160-foot warehouse at Rock River Ag allows for storage of seed corn and soybeans. Overhead doors allow easy loading and unloading of products.

## Rock River Ag is 'mini mall' for farmers to use as one-stop shopping/continued from page 3B

Each is willing to deliver directly to the farm.

The familiarity with customers' cropland and knowledge of previous crop input history saves the farmer needed time, especially during the busy planting times.

"As the industry moves forward, you're going to see a lot more technology involved," Bergman said.

"It ties into everything that's going digital or electronic."

A training room within Rock River Ag provides seating for 24 individuals behind desks and

chairs for participants to easily take notes. The room comes complete with on-site presentation equipment for guest speakers to conduct meetings about industry advancements.

A kitchenette provides an area for lunch and refreshments.

Bergman and Rheault have experienced firsthand the changes the farm industry with their continued hands-on involvement in farming stretching back three decades, when they grew up on family farms.

In addition to selling Pioneer

seed, Rheault continues to operate a multiple generation farm near Beaver Creek. Bergman assists his brother, Brian, with planting and harvesting near Kenneth.

"Thirty years ago you were throwing bags (of corn) into a six-row planter," Bergman said.

"In this day and age you can pick up a 50-unit Probox (which contains the equivalent of 50 bags) through a seed tender and have the planter loaded in half the time."

Time has become a factor in spring planting in recent years

when the window to get the seed in the ground is often shortened due to weather events.

And if the seed does make it in the ground, it may not thrive.

Bergman said a recent training session at Rock River Ag utilized satellite images of past crop years to see crop failures within maturing fields.

Treating of the seed may help with those failed areas.

Rock River Ag can individually treat soybeans at their facility with an insecticide or fungicide for special fields, where insects or

fungus was a problem.

"Beans have made more advances in the last five years," Rheault said.

Treating of corn seed is completed at the Pioneer Hi-Bred production plant in Algona, Iowa.

Keeping up with industry changes and how the advances transfer into the field are what Rheault, Bergman, Solma and Altman are focused on, saving farmers time and turning a profit through improved efficiencies.



At left, Rock River Ag also offers farmers an option to treat soybeans with an insecticide or fungicide before planting by running the seeds through a treater. (Center) in addition to an office complex and product warehouse, the new Rock River Ag facility, located south of Luverne on Hwy. 75, features a training room that allows guest speakers to introduce new products and technological advances to small groups. At right large plastic crates called proboxes hold the equivalent of 50 individual bags of corn each and provide a fast way for farmers to fill planter boxes.

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# Life on the inside ... What's it like to be part of the PMP team?

By Lori Sorenson

One of Rock County's biggest ag industries sits quietly on the west edge of Luverne, diligently adding value to the local hog market and providing employment for hundreds of local workers.

Premium Minnesota Pork employs more than 360 workers from Rock and Nobles counties in Minnesota, Lincoln and Minnehaha counties in South Dakota, Lyon County in Iowa and other surrounding communities.

Sixty-two workers are from Rock county.

About the same number come from Worthington and a few more than that are from Sioux Falls.

PMP offers transportation from Sioux Falls to Luverne for Premium Minnesota Pork and from Worthington to Hospers for Premium Iowa Pork.

With a tight labor force in the tri-state area, PMP human resources manager Stephanie Bickerstaff said she and her company go out of their way to make sure employees are compensated and feel valued.

"I'm aware of the growing development in Sioux Falls, and from an HR aspect of course it raises concern,"



Star Herald file photo by Lori Sorenson

Premium Iowa Pork purchased the processing facility on the west edge of Luverne from Pilgrim's Pride, formerly Gold'n Plump, in 2017. Early in 2019 PMP broke ground on the \$30 million project to retrofit and expand the 78,000-square-foot facility to the current 128,000 square feet, counting the enclosed monoslope hog barn. By mid-September the plant was operating at 100 percent. By the following summer of 2020, the Luverne plant was already expanding, breaking ground on a 10,000-square-foot \$7 million cooler addition that would allow the plant to double its capacity — to 4,500 hogs per day.

she said. "But knowing the company values and family dynamics, I'm confident in our workforce."

Part of that confidence, she said, is knowing each employee on a personal level at PMP in Luverne.

"They are more than just an employee number here at Premium Minnesota Pork," she said. "It truly is a family dynamic and that will make us as a company successful."

Starting pay is \$14 per hour for production workers with immediate job grade pay to \$17.95, depending on the position.

PMP employees have full benefits and 401k available after 60 days, raises after six months and another after a year, along with paid vacation after the first year and annual raises thereafter.

Bickerstaff said PMP has drawn employees to relocate from Missouri, Sioux City, and other areas to be a part of the building process

for the new operation in Luverne.

PMP is working on construction for a building addition that will expand carcass cooler capacity.

When it's completed in April, it will increase daily harvest capacity to over 4,000 head per day.

It will create additional opportunities for local hog growers and about 75 more employees.

PMP supervisors say it's not difficult to keep employees satisfied, given the welcoming atmosphere at the plant and in the community.

"The businesses that I stop at in Luverne see the Premium Iowa logo on my

clothing, they ask about the plant and all have had positive comments," said Corey Smith, cold side superintendent.

"Everyone in the community seems happy to have us here. ... Many of our current employees have been here since the first day of production."

Bill Tuttle, kill floor superintendent, said he's enjoyed the start-up process of PMP in Luverne.

"The people that I did know it was good to get reacquainted with and the ones I did not know I have enjoyed talking to them and learning about them," he said.

"The one thing that I do see around here is the amount of family members that all have come to work together. We have a lot of husband-wife teams and siblings that have decided that this is where they want to work."

PMP managers and supervisors often remind employees that quality work is rewarded, and that opportunities exist for advancement in the company.

"It has been a fun and exciting experience since Day 1," said Mitchel Duffy, maintenance supervisor.

"Every day has posed an opportunity to learn, teach, or assist with my fellow co-workers to start this facility up the right way and to keep it running the way that it does."

He said the plant has reconnected him socially with old and new friends from Rock County and surrounding communities.

"Working at this plant has presented many

*"We are all a team; it has been like being a close-knit family where I can be myself. We are all living the highs and lows of this startup together. ...*

*We get to have a voice in which we can have a significant impact on the success of our business. ... I am truly grateful and blessed to have this opportunity and excited for my future growth within the company."*

— Stephanie Bickerstaff, PMP human resources, Luverne

opportunities for myself to grow," he said. "And I believe it poses many opportunities for the people of the surrounding area as well."

From her personal perspective as an HR manager, Bickerstaff said it's been rewarding to be part of the process in building a workforce for a brand-new operation in the community.

"The challenges and opportunities are constantly changing," she said. "Hiring suitable candidates is challenging, but hiring for a startup during a pandemic has been an experience. It has forced me to adapt and move away from preset to-do list and routines."

Bickerstaff said every day is different and presents new challenges and possibilities.

"I can continually grow personally and professionally," she said.

"The passion I have for this company and culture has been positive and exciting. I have a chance to get to know my co-workers and our employees on a personal level, which has allowed me to create bonds with everyone."

These shared challenges, she said, have resulted in stronger relationships at PMP.

"We are all a team; it has been like being a close-knit family where I can be myself," Bickerstaff said.

"We are all living the highs and lows of this startup together. We wear many hats to be successful in our decision making. We get to have a voice in which we can have a significant impact on the success of our business. I personally have been exposed to the intricacies of many operations in this startup."

She said helping a company start up seemed daunting at first, but now she said the rewards have been worth the effort.

"Although making the decision to work a startup has come with compromises, there have been other benefits that have personally been a huge upside and life-changing for myself and my family," Bickerstaff said.

"I am truly grateful and blessed to have this opportunity and excited for my future growth within the company."

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**Sandbulte feed technology improves care for cattle, workload for humans/continued from page 5B**

Sandbulte's desire to one day farm and raise cattle.

Two years ago, after spending 17 years driving semis hauling livestock and freight, he purchased the existing feedlot near the Rock River from JR Scott in 2019.

"Farming was always a dream of mine," he said. "I've been around it and know the work that needs to take place."

The choice of raising cattle was deliberate versus working inside a hog facility.

"Being outside is a lot more appealing," he said.

**Full-cover barn saves on labor, less stress on cattle**

Sandbulte's operation offers a visual history of how cattle feeding has progressed through the decades in efforts to save time.

"I have every variant of a pen on the place," he said.

Open pens, partial-roofed lots and a full-roofed barn to house cattle are all used on the Sandbulte farm. The most recent structure, an A-frame, full-roof 75- by 485-foot cattle barn was constructed last year.

"It's a big investment to put up, but less investment in labor by far," Sandbulte said.

Cattle owner Kevin Rozeboom of Luverne financed the building of the new barn next to Sandbulte's operation, and in exchange Sandbulte custom feeds Rozeboom's cattle in the new barn that can hold up to 990 head.

According to Rock County Feedlot Officer Doug Bos, the most recent cattle barns like Rozeboom's constructed in Rock County provide cattle with



Mavis Fodness photo/0225 Ag Tab 2021 Sandbulte

Even though temperatures outside the full-roof barn were in the negative digits, steam rises from the cattle, which have grown heavy coats against the cold. The barn makes it easier for humans to care for the animals. The full-roof cattle barn is not fully enclosed. A gap at the top of the A-frame structure allows steam from the cattle to rise and leave the barn. Low moisture through adequate ventilation improves the respiratory health of the cattle inside.

full overhead protection from weather elements.

"We probably have 10-12 of those in the county," he said. "Several factors have pushed producers — to want cattle

sheltered versus open lots — toward the full-cover barns."

Sandbulte has found that Rozeboom's barn doesn't require him to provide bedding inside the barn due to the slatted floor covered with rubber mats. Manure falls through the floor slats into a 12-foot pit under the barn. The pit is designed to be emptied once a year.

In the year since the barn has been in use, Sandbulte sees firsthand how much less time he spends tending to the cattle housed in the six pens in the covered cattle barn compared to the other eight pens that house cattle with little to no overhead cover from the weather.

While Sandbulte hasn't researched if the cattle's rate of gain is better in the new facility, he notices that the cattle are less bothered by the weather.

"Just looking at them during a snow storm, the cattle appear to be more comfortable," Sandbulte said.

Because their environment under the roof doesn't change, neither does the cattle's feed consumption.

Sandbulte does see a drop in feed consumption of his own cattle housed in open lots and those with only a partial roof over the bunk area where they eat.

The cattle without overhead cover generally settle next to the windbreak of stacked round bales during a snowstorm and don't move to the bunks to eat until the weather event passes.

Unlike the full-cover barn, snow collects in the open and partial-covered lots along with manure from the 900 head. Both snow and manure are

removed regularly to keep the cattle comfortable and in their pens. A snowdrift through a pen may allow cattle to walk over the fences.

"After a storm I am extremely busy getting the bedding built back up and snow removed," he said.

**New barn provides overhead protection**

The full-cover barn, however, is not fully enclosed on the sides in order to keep fresh air flowing freely through the building.

Overhead doors on each end provide an alley to drive the tractor and feed wagon through to auger the ground mixture into bunks.

At the Sandbulte farm, the barn is positioned north-

Sandbulte technology/see page 16



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# Rock Nobles Cattlemen's Summer Beef Tour set for July 13

By Lori Sorenson

With feedlots and pastures still buried under snow, local cattle producers are planning the 40th Annual Summer Beef Tour.

The event was postponed last summer amid pandemic concerns, but the group hopes this year's stops will make up for the delay.

"Even though it has been postponed, we're currently planning on having a 'normal' tour," said Rock Nobles Cattlemen's president Jay Bakken, Beaver Creek.

"However, we will take into consideration any changes that we may be required to make to safely host the event."

He said the majority of the tour is outdoors in open air and socially distanced.

"We'll do our best to make the event enjoyable and safe for everyone that wants to attend," Bakken said.

"We're excited to get this Minnesota Cattlemen's summer tradition back on track and put some 'normal' back in the summer."



*"It's a good learning opportunity for other cattlemen across the state to see how our producers are managing their facilities."*

— Jay Bakken



The July 13 event, hosted this year by the Rock Nobles Cattlemen, features eight cattle-producing families from Rock and Nobles counties who will host tours of their facilities.

The purpose of the event is to showcase feedlot production in the two counties, Bakken said.

"The purpose is to promote the industry and show off innovative practices

that are happening out here," he said.

"It's a good learning opportunity for other cattlemen across the state to see how our producers are managing their facilities."

### Summer Beef Tour stops include:

- Binford Feedlots (Grant and Eric Binford), northeast of Luverne, features bedded barns, slatted barns and

modern feed commodity facilities.

- G&A Farms (Glen and Matt Boeve), Steen, features outdoor lots and a unique wastewater handling system with dewatering and pivot irrigation.

- Brad VanDeBerg, Hills, features a slatted barn, a unique shipping and receiving barn and working facility.

- Dave Mente, Adrian, features the tour's only cow/calf operation. It will highlight rotational grazing and local seed stock display to illustrate genetics of breeding bulls.

- R&R Thier (Ryan Thier), Rushmore, features outdoor yards and bedded and slatted barns.

- Summit Lake Livestock (Russ and Brian Penning), Wilmont, features a unique hog-finishing barn

converted into cattle slat facilities.

- Brake Feedyards, Wilmont, is a multi-generational Brake family feedlot operation

- 3B Farms, Adrian, is a multi-generational Bullerman family slatted barn feedlot operation.

Fifteen tour buses will depart at 7 a.m. from headquarters at the ice arena in Worthington to the farms, where they will spend about an hour talking to the producers and viewing the facilities.

On the way to each stop, video footage from each farm is broadcast on the tour buses.

All buses will stop at the Magnolia New Vision facility for a noon meal, and then return to the ice arena in Worthington at 5:15 p.m. for an evening steak supper.

### Tour isn't just for beef producers

The Summer Beef Tour is for anyone who wants to board a bus and view the local operations, according to Bakken.

"It's open to anyone, from fellow farmers to the local priest and hairdresser," Bakken said. "You don't have to be a farmer or involved in the beef industry to attend."

He added that the \$20 registration fee includes a midday lunch stop and a grilled steak dinner. The registration fee is waived for students, college and younger.

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association has been hosting Summer Beef Tours for 40 years, and Bakken said the longevity speaks well of the state beef industry and its producers.

"We have a good state organization made up of local producers who are willing to take on the work of hosting the tours," he said.

"And we've had good support from our business partners who get to come along and learn about what we're doing. ... It creates opportunity for some face-to-face interaction between these vendors and producers."

Bakken said the ag economy in the beef industry is fairly far-reaching and the Summer Beef Tour is a good time for everyone to come together.

"It's also a social time for camaraderie in the beef business," he said. "If there were ever a time to get support from your peers, this is it."

The tour is hosted in different parts of the state each year (next year it's in Zumbrota), and each region features its own unique forms of cattle production.

"Up north, it's mostly cow-calf country, but down here we're mostly feedlots," Bakken said.

"We have a lot of producers doing innovative things here and we're going to see top-notch feedlot production enterprises in this part of the state."

Summer Beef Tour registration information is at [www.mnsca.org](http://www.mnsca.org) or by contacting Bakken at [jsbakken918@gmail.com](mailto:jsbakken918@gmail.com).



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- By gifting grain to the Luverne Area Community Foundation you avoid including the sale of the agriculture gift in your farm income.
- If you itemize your taxes, you will receive a donation receipt from the Foundation for your tax purposes.
- If you do not itemize, the gift will reduce the income you have to pay taxes on.
- Expenses to grow the donated crop are not segregated out, so you still deduct the expense of raising your gift

#### Consider a Gift of Grain to your local Community Fund through the Luverne Area Community Foundation

The Luverne Area Community Foundation accepts gifts of grain which may be designated to a community fund in which you farm. Community Funds have been established for the communities of Hills, Beaver Creek, Hardwick, Kenneth, Magnolia, Steen, Jasper and Luverne's Community Grant fund through LACF. These funds were established to meet the future needs of the communities of Rock County.

#### HOW IT WORKS:

- To make a gift of grain to a charitable organization like LACF, the taxpayer/donor must be a farm operator.
- The gift can be made from current or prior years' crop.
- The gift must be from unsold crop inventory with no prior sale commitment, and not in warehouse receipts.

#### STEPS:

- Inform LACF of your intended gift of grain and your designated fund of choice
- The Foundation will set up an account at your preferred elevator.
- Deliver the grain to your preferred elevator.
- The grain will be transferred as a gift to LACF by having the elevator send a properly executed receipt to LACF. The elevator's receipt must show the Luverne Area Community Foundation as the owner/seller of the grain.
- Donors will receive a formal thank you letter of receipt from LACF once the gift and sale are finalized.



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# Farm Resource Guide available

The Farm Resource Guide for 2021 is now available at many University of Minnesota Extension county offices across the state.

This resource guide includes a wide variety of useful farm business management information including the following items:

- Custom rates: What to charge for planting etc.
- Average farmland rental rates by county: From two sources with projections for 2021.
- Flexible Rental Agreements: Examples of how they work and how they have worked in past.
- Lease forms for Cash Rent and Share Rent arrangements: Which you can fill in the blanks.
- Farmland sales information for all counties in Minnesota: Lists current average ag sales.
- Information on charges for custom feeding, commodity storage, leasing buildings and various bin rental rates: List various costs like leasing a dairy barn and machine storage.
- Current information on pasture rental rates, tree timber values: List pasture rates and timber sales.
- Marketing information along with recent cost trends for Minnesota: Many charts are included.
- Commodity price probabilities for corn, soybeans, alfalfa hay, straw, grass hay, hogs and cattle: Puts odds to getting break-even prices and tables show historic patterns.
- Corn and soybean yields by county: USDA county yields used for calculating the farm bill payments.
- Feedlot Rule highlights: Information on Manure Agreement and Easements.
- Manure Spreading Lease examples and Land Application Agreement: Forms included.

### How to get a Farm Resource Guide

This Farm Resource Guide is available for a \$25 fee plus postage and sales tax if you would like to have your own copy.

The U of M Extension Office in Worthington can provide you the information in your preferred format: email cost is \$25 plus sales tax; CD cost is \$29; or hard copy is \$31.

To get your own copy of the Farm Resource Guide, email [bauxx003@umn.edu](mailto:bauxx003@umn.edu) or call 507-372-3900 ext. 3906 and indicate your preferred format.

Dave Bau, U of M Extension educator, Ag Business Management, welcomes your feedback on what you would like to see included in next year's guide.

For more farm business information see the University of Minnesota Extension website: <https://extension.umn.edu/managing-farm>.

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# Dr. Erin offers management tips to help prevent calf scours in herd

**By Dr. Erin deKoning, DMV**

Has anyone ever heard of a condition called PPM?

One of my favorite farm clients will jokingly try to tell me that his animals are a victim of his PPM. If you ever visited his farm or saw his cattle, you would quickly see that PPM is definitely not a problem on his operation.

To avoid being crass, I will leave out the first word of the PPM acronym, but feel free to fill in the "P" word yourself. The remaining letters "P" and "M" stand for the following: poor and management.

We all know that vaccines are a wonderful tool to aid us in preventing calf scours. But when proper management is added to the equation, scours can be virtually non-existent.

Studies have shown that a calf with scours weighs 24 pounds less at weaning time. Pounds pay when selling feeder calves. With current prices on a mid-five weight steer at a local sale barn, the difference is almost \$80. Eighty dollars per calf on a fifty head cow-calf operation can add up to \$4,000, which is quite significant.



Luckily there are several things that can be done to help prevent scours in calves.

Providing a calf with the proper antibodies via colostrum is an important first step in scour prevention. Calves need adequate colostrum intake within the first twelve hours of life.

What is considered adequate? When providing bagged colostrum as supplement, this involves giving one bag of colostrum replacer within two hours of birth. A second bag should be administered within

eight hours of birth.

If you are ever in doubt about a calf's colostrum intake status, providing a bagged colostrum replacer is a cheap and easy insurance policy to help set up a calf's immune system for life.

One of the easiest ways to manage scours is through bedding. I cannot overemphasize the importance of clean and deep bedding, both pre and post calving, as well as when giving birth. Providing bedding pre-calving is critical so that the cows are able to keep their udders

clean. Adequate bedding should be provided when the cow gives birth so that she is able to have her calf in a clean area. The clean calving pen will help to prevent navel infections in the calf as well as protect the calf from ingesting any pathogens that could be present in the manure. Bedding should be provided post-calving to continue to keep the cow udder clean and to keep the environment dry to reduce exposure to scour pathogens.

Segregating calves by age is another great way to prevent

scours. Newborn calves should not be mixed in with any other calves older than seven days of age. Why? The majority of calves that die from scours are under the age of seven to ten days. As a calf ages, the immune system develops and becomes more protective. Older calves are more able to fight off an infectious scour agent than a delicate newborn calf will.

What if your facilities just won't allow for segregating calves by age? Not to worry, ensuring that the calf had adequate colostrum intake and the pens provided are well bedded and clean will help tremendously.

Keeping calves healthy until pasture turnout is a full-time job. Hopefully by implementing some good management practices, getting some cooperation from Mother Nature, and adding some assistance from our veterinary clinic if needed, every calf will thrive.

I hope every operation will have a very successful calving season and that your operation won't fall victim to PPM.

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# Klobuchar highlights renewable fuels at confirmation hearing of Secretary of Agriculture Nominee Vilsack

The Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee convened Feb. 2 for a hearing to confirm Thomas Vilsack as U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

At the hearing, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) focused on how she will work with Vilsack and the Biden administration to encourage the use of renewable fuels and invest in research and data related to farming and agriculture.

The following excerpt pertains to the discussion about renewable fuels.

**Sen. Klobuchar:**

Thank you very much, Senator Stabenow, and thank you for your service, Secretary Vilsack, and thank you for returning to service as well.

I wanted to start by asking about our renewable fuels, something near and dear to the hearts of the people in your home



state of Iowa as well as in Minnesota, and just what's happening.

As you know, at the end of last year there were some very — in the last administration — there were some very bad decisions made from my perspective by the administration about waivers to oil companies. And we've had 150 ethanol plants that are shut down in our country, or operate at a lesser capacity.

Could you talk about what your plans are in a little more detail when it comes to biofuels? ... I

*“At the end of the day consumers benefit, they have less expensive fuel, they have a cleaner-burning fuel, they have a fuel that's better for the environment.”*

— Thomas Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, responding to U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) in confirmation hearing

introduced the Renewable Fuel Infrastructure Act in December with Senator Ernst to build upon the infrastructure program.

We're going to reintroduce the bill next week. And I think that could be helpful as well.

So, your comments on biofuels and what you'll do as secretary, including about the refinery exemptions and how the past administration interpreted them.

**Vilsack:** First and foremost, our own vehicles,

the vehicization of biofuels, in the various, the vehicle fleet the USDA has.

Certainly I want to make sure that's occurring. And encouraging our sister agencies as they look at vehicles, as they look at green fuels, as they look at jet fuels, to look at ways they can use biofuels appropriately and effectively and to spur the industry. ...

The USDA Secretary works closely with his or her partner at EPA to make sure that folks at EPA fully understand and appreciate

the benefits of this industry in terms of jobs, in terms of the environment, in terms of life cycle analysis.

This industry has made great strides, it's becoming much more environmentally friendly than it was at the beginning. But sometimes I fear that we're still working off of old research.

New research would suggest and indicate that this is an industry that is providing environmental benefits, cleaner air for example.

And making sure that as they make decisions relative to the renewable fuel standard, that they are consistent. That they are consistent with the rule, they are consistent with the law.

The way our system was designed for small refineries that were having trouble and difficulty. It was not designed for large-scale

refineries that are owned by Exxon and Chevron to receive a waiver. So I would hope, and would strongly urge the EPA, to go back to a day when those waivers are very, very, very infrequently granted.

And then finally I think there's a way in which we can utilize USDA resources and work with Congress to increase those resources.

To build out the infrastructure, to make it easier for higher blends to be available to consumers.

Why? Because at the end of the day consumers benefit, they have less expensive fuel, they have a cleaner-burning fuel, they have a fuel that's better for the environment.

As we look at the future, I think biofuels continue to play a role in reducing emissions and providing job opportunities in all parts of the country.

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## Rock County ag income — just staying afloat or awash with cash?/continued from page 6B

most farmers.

This may be true for those who have no debt and are near the end of their farming career. For the majority, this gets us to breakeven at best in the livestock sector. The grain sector probably brings us from losing to profitable.

The livestock industry got decimated, and I do not think there is enough money around to make that sector whole again.

The grain business has much more risk mitigation and disaster aid options than what the livestock business does. So, for the most part, the livestock farmer has been suffering for many years.

The pandemic brought government money to the cattle producer for the first time in my career. It is just plain and simply a higher risk business than grain farming. That is why a smaller number of growers are owners of livestock.

**Q. In visiting with implement dealers and others who do business with famers, last fall saw**



Brothers Mike (left) and Shawn Feikema say the livestock industry was hard-hit during the pandemic and will take longer than the rest of the ag industry to recover from the downturn.

**a flurry of purchases of equipment, parts, machinery, etc. What did your operation do with the cash support?**

**A.** Most of ours goes to pay loan and principal payments. Remember ... we are only at a breakeven point.

Now, that does not mean many did not upgrade equipment or infrastructure. Farming, like I mentioned

before, is a marathon; we must maintain our fleet of equipment and our infrastructure. The same as every person must maintain their house. We can only go so long without spending money on equipment or we have nothing left but scrap iron.

Most farming operations are run by good business people. We understand return on

investment, and we analyze what capital expenses will pay us back. Every asset that is purchased is analyzed to make sure that it will pay for itself over its life expectancy.

**Q. How do you see the sudden improvements in the ag economy affecting our local economy?**

**A.** If a farmer is profitable, they will

*"... for the most part, the livestock farmer has been suffering for many years. The pandemic brought government money to the cattle producer for the first time in my career. It is just plain and simply a higher risk business than grain farming. That is why a smaller number of growers are owners of livestock."*

invest in and improve or expand their business, and the great part is that they will spend most of that money, either earned or received from the government, at local businesses.

Farmers are always thinking about how to be more efficient and how to do things in a way that maximizes profit.

This is key to being able to pass on our legacy to the

next generation, but it also affects the investment in and commitment to the local community as well.

**Q. We've spent a lot of time focusing on mental health in agriculture. I would have to think there has been a bit of a weight lifted off shoulders. How would you describe the mood of ag producers today vs. last spring?**

**A.** Yes, a bit of weight has been lifted. But remember that for the most part the livestock operator has not seen the uptick that the grain sector has.

Also, because we came from such low prices in the grain sector, this summer when prices rallied a dollar, many sold much of our crops at that time. Little did we know it would get this high.

Remember, prices never rally when the farmer has lots of it to sell. If we had lots to sell, the price would still be low.

I think the mood of farmers is a little better, especially when talking about grain prices. For our livestock producers who must buy grain to feed their livestock, it's really just another kick in the teeth.

They did not have a better crystal ball than the grain farmer who sold his grain too early. The livestock producer did not buy enough grain when prices were low.

**Q. How has the recent financial boost affected your relationships with family and others in your operation and with businesses you deal with?**

**A.** I don't know that it changed my relationships in any way; maybe you should ask my wife and kids that question. I think for me, operating a business is still stressful — so many government regulations and programs to think about.

I never thought 20 years ago when I started farming that most of my days would be spent in the office.

Any farm today requires a high degree of management which leads to stress, which can lead to depression and all sorts of ailments that all of us need to be aware of and on the lookout for in our neighbors, family and ourselves.

As far as businesses we deal with, I think the key word is optimism. That is what was missing last spring and summer. We all have optimism now, and that can bring back the passion and creativity that is needed to have successful businesses and thus successful communities.

Finally ... I think we need to remember that all people had a difficult year, not just farmers.

I do not think that the farmer had it any worse or better than anyone else. We received lots of government assistance and that helps us, but that also helps the community.

A farmer always wants to build his business. Fortunately for communities, farms are asset-based, and purchasing and repairing those assets takes lots of money, which then gets spent at dealerships, vet clinics, farm supply stores, banks, insurance agents ...

And, yes, we do like to take our wives and families out for supper and entertainment occasionally too.

So, the money we get travels through all the hands of the community. Farmers love the communities they live in.

From new homes, garages, fellowship halls, offices, pole buildings, farm shops, cattle barns, remodels, twin homes or whatever our clients want built, we have the crew to get it done.

Cleveringa Construction is also transitioning to the next generation as current employees Adam Uithoven and Derek Sandbulte prepare to take over the business from founders Merlin and Carol Cleveringa.

All the full- and part-time employees of Cleveringa Construction are very dedicated to their jobs. Their work is above and beyond what customers expect, assuring them a successfully completed project.

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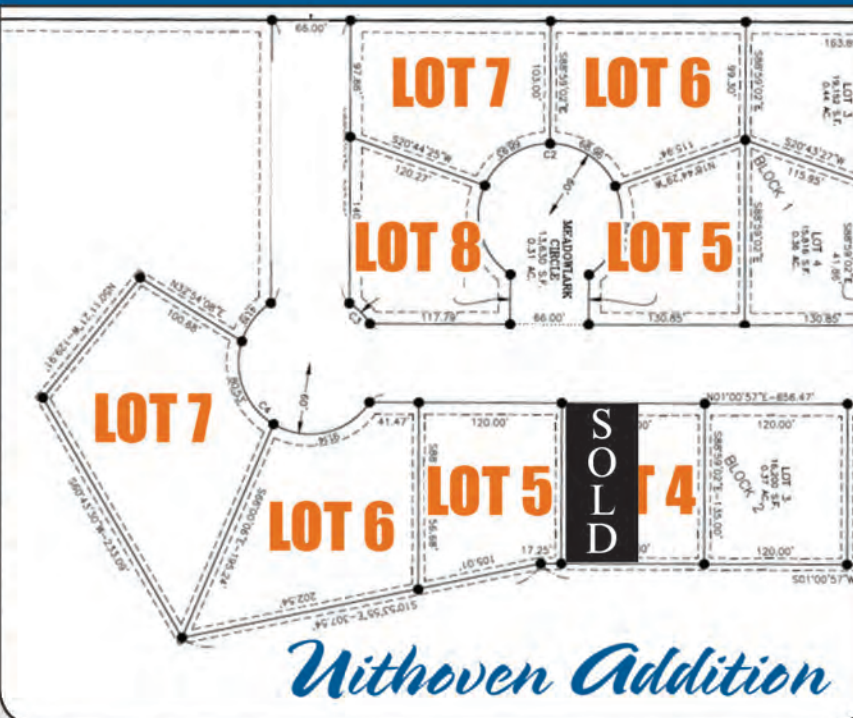
"The Good Lord has blessed us very well. Remember to give thanks for all you have." — Merlin and Carol Cleveringa



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**Sandbulte feed technology improves care for cattle, workload for humans/continued from page 9B**

south with the east side of the barn completely open while the other side has a plastic curtain that can be raised or lowered to modify the air flow.

The roof of the A-frame pole barn is also not fully enclosed, with a foot gap at the peak to also promote good ventilation.

It's not unusual during cold weather that heat can be seen radiating through the opening in the roof. Keeping that moisture out of the barn lessens the likelihood of respiratory issues including pneumonia.

**Feeding assisted by computer program**

A computer program, Performance Beef, allows Sandbulte to track feed amounts and input costs allowing the daily feeding routine easier to track and complete.

The system is connected to the feed wagon, whose scale records weights to iPads mounted in the tractor hooked to the feed wagon and to the payloader that Sandbulte uses to fill the wagon.

The computer system records individual ingredients and the pen numbers where Sandbulte empties the wagon by augering the ground mixture into bunks.

As the cattle mature, the feed rations change and the system is able to track when ingredient amounts are updated.

"I do a seven-step ration program



based on calorie count," Sandbulte said.

"I have a nutritionist who tests the ingredients grown on and delivered to the farm."

Sandbulte grows the corn, silage and hay used in the feedlot. His parents, Gerald and Charla, lend a hand (Charla also monitors herd health by daily looking at the



Mavis Fodness photo/0225 Ag Tab 2021 Sandbulte  
**Above,** cattle lie in bed packs of corn stalk bales, which keeps them off the cold ground and provides a comfortable place to stand.

**At left,** cattle eagerly consume the silage mixture Mike Sandbulte empties from the feed wagon into the bunks. Partial-covered cattle sheds mean cattle eat from bunks under a roof but lie outside in the open lots. These open lots require bedding and regular cleaning of manure and snow.

stock in each pen).

The help doesn't stop with his parents, however. Other family members are pulled in at times to help with the cattle work.

Sandbulte's brothers, uncles and cousins help run each of the cattle

through the chute when vaccinating needs to take place.

Manure generated from Sandbulte's open and partial-cover pens is spread on the cropland used to grow the corn, silage and hay for the feedlot. The manure from the full-cover barn is sold.

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**The Impact Of Agriculture**

From our nation's earliest days, Agriculture has played a major role in the United States economy. **America's Farmers and Ranchers cultivate the soil, plant the crops and raise the livestock necessary for our nation's food supply.**

Today more than 21 million American workers produce, process and sell the nation's food and fiber. As an Ag Bank, we consider it a privilege to be involved in financing agriculture. If we can be of help to you, come see us.

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