

Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, February 28, 2019

Big dig

Two major storms bury region under more than foot of snow in past week

By Lori Sorenson

Rock County residents and a good share of the upper Midwest are still digging out from a winter storm that crippled the region last week.

The one-two punch of heavy snow Wednesday followed by more snow and driving winds Saturday combined to shut down major travel corridors and cancel churches, school, meetings, commerce and related activities.

Snowfall totals vary widely throughout southwest Minnesota, but 10 inches on Wednesday, Feb. 20, is a generally reported figure in Rock County, followed by several more inches over the weekend.

All this accumulated snow ended up blowing and drifting when winds cranked up to 35 mph later on Saturday.

Hundreds of motorists were stranded across the state when visibility shrank to zero and truck-sized drifts began forming on roadways.

Most county and township roads were impassable by Sunday, and major thoroughfares like Highway 75 were reduced to one lane in many areas where monster snowdrifts had accumulated.

According to Minnesota's 511 road condition information, dozens of roads — including portions of I-90 — were closed statewide Saturday

Snow/continued on page 5



David Iverson (in back) and David Rysdam team up to clear the sidewalk along Highway 75 south of Dodge Street Monday. Sidewalks and streets are piling high causing intersection hazards as residents and street crews are running out of places to put the snow. (Lori Sorenson photo)

Premium Iowa Pork to celebrate Luverne deal

Ribbon-cutting set for Friday; PIP on agenda for LIFT gala

By Lori Sorenson

Premium Iowa Pork will host a ribbon-cutting and open house Friday, March 1, to celebrate the start of its hog processing operation in the former Gold'n Plump plant on the west edge of Luverne.

The Luverne Area Chamber, along with other business representatives and community members, will present the ribbon and oversized scissors for the event that starts at 4 p.m.

According to the company website, Premium Iowa Pork has been providing private-label, antibiotic-free pork to grocery stores across the country since 2005.

All antibiotic-free pork comes from Midwest farms, and all products are currently prepared, processed, and packaged under strict standards at the Hospers, Iowa, facility.

Starting early in 2020, the Luverne facility will join the production ranks, at first with 1,200 hogs per day, and working up to the plant's permitted 2,200 hogs per day once wastewater treatment processes are in place.

Construction began late in 2018 to retrofit the local 78,000-square-foot plant, which first operated in Luverne as Iowa Beef Processing, to modern hog slaughter operations. PIP is investing roughly \$30 million in that building upgrade.

The company will also expand the east side of the building by roughly 12,500 square feet for a total area of 90,500 square feet.

Changes to the property will conform to the existing uses permitted by the zoning.

PIP president Dan Paquin, Hospers, Iowa, said the company has aspirations to one day expand the Luverne facility with new construction to process 4,500 hogs per day if market demand continues.

He said energies will focus initially on plant startup and hiring — first with about two-dozen management personnel, and then production workers.

Employees in Iowa currently start at \$13 per hour, but Paquin said the company will consider market forces and economic data before setting Luverne's salary range.

"We want to be attractive for employees," he said. "I feel pretty good about where we're at for hiring."

Premium Iowa Pork/see page 2



Lori Sorenson/0228 snow wall on road



Chantel Connell photo/0228 snowman

Walls of snow like this one (above, left) on County Road 5 west of Luverne are a common occurrence along roadways across the region after crews broke through 4- to 6-foot drifts. Many highways were closed over the weekend due to blowing and drifting after more than a foot of snow fell Wednesday through Sunday. In the photo at right, Travis Chapa and his daughter, Addy Chapa, built this snowman on the roof on Cedar Street.

'Haaky' turns 100; moves to Oaks

By Mavis Fodness

Helmer Haakenson had one thought on his mind in 2007 when surgeons told the then 88-year-old his aortic valve replacement would last 15 years.

"It will get me to one hundred," he said last week.

His 100th birthday came Wednesday, Feb. 20, and he celebrated with friends and family at his new home at The Oaks senior apartments in Luverne.

The gathering included his favorite dessert, chocolate cake topped with chocolate frosting.

More celebrating continued Saturday with more servings of chocolate cake (with the addition of lefse) at St. Catherine Church in Luverne for the man affectionately known as "Haaky."

The family get-togethers were the only gifts the new centenarian

'Haaky' turns 100/see page 2



Mavis Fodness photo/0228 Helmer Haakenson 100th Helmer Haakenson receives assistance holding a cake in honor of his 100th birthday on Feb. 20 by his two youngest children Mike (left) and Mary during a celebration in The Oaks where he just moved.

Funding to improve Hardwick streets may be a 'long shot'

By Mavis Fodness

Street improvements is a frequent topic at Hardwick City Council meetings, but little or no progress has been made toward a solution.

Like many small communities, Hardwick struggles to fund large street improvements, opting instead to patch small sections of 25-year-old pavement each year.

Last week the Rock County commissioners approved a resolution for a \$400,000 Local Road Improvement Program grant to help Hardwick replace their one mile of streets.

County highway engineer Mark Sehr brought the resolution to commissioners at their Feb. 19 meeting.

"I am just trying to help them out," he said. "It's a long shot, but you never know."

The state allocates money to the

improvement fund, which is then divided regionally throughout the state.

"Sometimes you get lucky and there are not many applicants," Sehr said.

Hardwick officials contacted Sehr several years ago about their own street repairs coinciding with the county 2020 road improvement plans in Hardwick. Funding prevented Hardwick from engaging in any formal agreements.

However, if state funds are granted to Hardwick, the street reclamation work would coincide with the county's 2020 mill-off and overlay work in the city's business district.

As part of the March 1 deadline, Hardwick officials will need to pass a similar resolution to complete the

Hardwick streets/see page 5



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How to reach us
507-283-2333 PO Box 837
editor@star-herald.com Luverne, MN 56156

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Luverne Senior Citizens will meet at 12:30 p.m. Monday, March 4, at the Senior Citizens building.
Blue Mound Quilters will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, March 4, in the Sewing Basket, Luverne. Call Dianne, 507-530-3307, with questions.
Beaver Creek Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 11, in the Beaver Creek Township Hall.
Hardwick Goal Seekers meet every Monday in Hardwick City Hall for the purpose of support and encouragement for weight loss journeys. Weigh-in begins at 6 p.m., and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Call Glenda, 449-0568, with questions.
Women's Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. Mondays in the United Methodist Church.
Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays in the United Methodist Church, Luverne. Call 605-321-4324.
Alanon meets from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in Sanford Luverne Blue Mound Room. 507-449-1246.
Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 8 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday in Runals Memorial Hall, Edgerton. Call Naomi, 507-215-2956.

Balance classes begin March 5

The Matter of Balance classes will be offered from 1-3 p.m. every Tuesday and Friday in March beginning Tuesday, March 5, at the Rock County Library. Participants will build practical strategies to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels. Contact Norma Brands with A.C.E. at 507-283-5064 for more information.

U of M harvest planning in Slayton

Grain farmers and agri-business professionals are encouraged to attend the University of Minnesota Extension meeting "How to Write a Pre-Harvest Marketing Plan" at 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 13, at the Murray County Fairgrounds 4-H Building in Slayton. Contact U of M Extension educator Melissa Runck at 507-836-1143 or mkrunk@umn.edu for more information.

World Day of Prayer events March 1

• Grace Lutheran Church in Luverne invites the community to a World Day of Prayer service at 2 p.m. Friday, March 1. Focus will be on the country of Slovenia.
 • Area women are invited to the Women's World Day of Prayer at 2 p.m. Friday, March 1, in the Steen Reformed Church. Speaker will be Jim Byrne of Hills.

Hospice Charity Dinner and Auction tickets now on sale

Tickets are now on sale for the 2019 Hospice Charity Dinner and Auction on Saturday, April 13, at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne. Tickets may be purchased at the Sanford Luverne Hospice Office at 304 North McKenzie Street in Luverne. Tickets may also be purchased by calling 507-283-1805. Open seating tickets are \$55, and sponsor tables for eight are \$600.

Free tax help available at library

Volunteers through AARP will provide free tax services at the Rock County Community Library in Luverne starting Feb. 11. Call the library, 449-5040, to make an appointment. **Appointments are required.** Evening appointments are also available.
 The service is free through April 15 for any private individual with a simple tax format. It's not for commercial, farming or investment taxes.

New to Medicare? Classes available

Anyone soon becoming Medicare-eligible is encouraged to attend two classes offered by Senior LinkAge Line in Slayton the second and third Mondays of the month at the Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging, 1939 Engbretson Ave., Slayton. Participants learn the basics of Medicare and coverage options during the first class. The second class focuses on research options. Call the Senior LinkAge Line, 1-800-333-2433, to register.

Sportsman's Club to serve Wild Game Feed March 9

The Beaver Creek Sportsman's Club will serve their 29th annual wild game feed from 2-6 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at Up the Dam Creek Bar in Beaver Creek.

'Haaky' turns 100 years old/continued from page 1

wanted.
 "He has everything," son Mike of Luverne explained. "We tried to give him gifts several years ago and they sat in his closet."
 Haakenson's closets were recently emptied.
 Up until four days before his birthday, Haakenson lived on his own at the Elmwood Drive house he helped build in 1961.
 Haakenson and his late wife, Joan, who died in 2004, raised five children. Cheryl now lives in Concord, California; Marsha in Gary, South Dakota; Sandra in Delano, Minnesota; Mike and Mary both in Luverne.
 The family has grown to include nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren with an additional great-grandchild on the way.

Haakenson was born in Section 5 of Magnolia Township and attended country school through the eighth grade.
 "I didn't go to high school, but I went to college," he said.
 A five-year stint (1940 to 1945) in the military preceded his college degree as an electrician from the Dunwoody Institute in the Twin Cities.
 His first job brought him and Joan back to Luverne in 1950. Haakenson worked for Stan Hinkly until 1955, when he accepted a position with an electricians' union in Sioux Falls.
 Haakenson stayed with the union until six months short of his 62nd birthday. He broke his arm in an accident on the job, and he spent a month in the hospital recuperating before he announced his retirement.



Mavis Fodness photo/0228 Helmer Haakenson 100th

The digital sign at Buffalo Ridge Insurance recognizes Helmer Haakenson's birthday Feb. 20.



Mavis Fodness photo/0228 Helmer Haakenson 100th
 A chocolate cake with chocolate frosting is Helmer Haakenson's favorite dessert. It was served for his 100th birthday party.

Once healed, Haakenson embraced retired life. Until age 98, he was an avid golfer, swam and exercised regularly, and became "Mr. Fix-It" around the house.

"He could figure out anything," daughter Mary said. "He could have been an engineer."
 Haakenson attributed his longevity to genetics and living "one day at a time." His mother lived to age 105.
 "She knew me up until the very last minute," he said.
 Two of his remaining three sisters follow Haakenson in age. Helen is 98 and Lorraine will soon be 95.
 His "one day at a time" philosophy also applies to the one prescription he takes for his valve replacement. He keeps his joints healthy by consuming a little cod liver oil.
 "It isn't 'age if you feel good,'" Haakenson said and then pointed to his head. "And have the gray stuff left."

Premium Iowa Pork celebrates Luverne deal/continued from page 1

Initial production will require 200 workers (at somewhere between \$13 to \$20 per hour) to Luverne. That number could grow to more than 300 employees, depending on growth.
 Luverne has been steadily addressing housing shortages outlined in a 2016 study.
 Among other projects, two apartment buildings on the former Sharkee's lot have been approved for workforce housing funding support from the Department of Employment and Economic Development.
 Those 54 apartment units, a mixture of one- and two-bedroom apartments, are expected to rent for \$750 per month for a one-bedroom apartment and \$950 for two bedrooms, depending on final construction costs.
 Paquin said he hopes to draw back some of the 200 employees displaced by the 2017 chicken processing closure, but the company will recruit workers from the tri-state area.



Lori Sorenson photo/0228 premium Iowa pork dan paquin

Dan Paquin, pictured in the former Pilgrim's Pride facility, is general manager of Premium Iowa Pork, which will occupy the former poultry processing plant west of Luverne.

Small company is good fit with small community
 "We're a family-owned company, and we're very excited about coming to Luverne," said Jason Golly,

CEO of Lynch Livestock, the parent company of Premium Iowa Pork.
 "It's a great community and we're looking forward to a long future together. ... Working with city officials and the mayor has been great; everyone's been very cooperative. ... It's a community that wants to grow, and we're a growing

company, so it's a nice fit."
 His wife, Erin, is the daughter of Lynch Livestock Owner Gary Lynch, who provides information about the company's history on the PIP website.
 "My family has been active in pork production for over 100 years. We didn't use additives and antibiotics then,

and we don't use them now," Lynch writes on the company website.
 "Everything we do here — from our focus on each animal's health to the strict standards we meet and exceed — helps remind people how pork is supposed to taste and where it comes from. We take great pride in that."



Dial-A-Specialist

Your One Stop Guide to Local Businesses

 <p>ROCK COUNTY CHIROPRACTIC • Men, Women & Children's Health • Custom Orthotics • Kinesiotape • Athletic Care • Massage Therapy • Work & Auto Injuries • Postural Restoration WWW.ROCKCOUNTYCHIROPRACTIC.COM 283-2561 • 103 E. MAIN, LUVERNE Monday 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Tuesday 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Wednesday 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.</p> <p>• Chiropractic</p>	 <p>Viking Electric LLC Tim Gangestad Owner (507) 290-2595</p> <p>Conquering all of your electrical needs! Residential • Commercial • Agricultural</p> <p>• Electrician</p>	 <p>Deragish Insurance Dave Deragish 122 E Main, Luverne, Office: 507-449-8320 Cell: 507-227-3378 Fax: 507-449-8330</p> <p>• Insurance</p>	 <p>LUVERNE HEALTH & WELLNESS Codie Zeutenhorst, D.C., CAc</p> <p>✓ Acupuncture ✓ Chiropractic Care ✓ Family Care ✓ Sports Injuries ✓ Kinesiotape ✓ Auto & Work Injuries Acupuncture and Massage Available Kris Van Der Brink M.T. & Amy Rosales M.T.</p> <p>507.449.4400 www.luvernechiro.com 109 S. Freeman Ave. Luverne, MN</p> <p>• Chiropractic</p>
 <p>Rock County EYE CLINIC 507-283-2345 104 N. Freeman Ave. Luverne, Minnesota</p> <p>Dr. Sandra Carman</p> <p>• Eye</p>	 <p>Papik MOTORS Certified USED VEHICLES certified pre-owned (507) 283-9171 (800) 634-7701 www.papik.com</p> <p>• Automotive</p>	 <p>Luverne MINNESOTA City Offices Love the life! PO Box 659, Luverne, MN 56156 507-449-2388 (24 hour voice mail) www.cityofluverne.org</p> <p>• City</p>	 <p>Dakota Land Surveying and Engineering, Inc. Steven B. Kor Professional Engineer Registered Land Surveyor</p> <p>2000 W. 42nd Street, Suite B-6 Sioux Falls, SD 57105 605-334-4882 605-334-5745 Fax</p> <p>506 Almar Luverne, MN 56156 507-283-3803 steve.dis@midconetwork.com</p> <p>• Land Surveying</p>

Car stolen in Luverne

By Lori Sorenson

A California man is in custody after he was arrested in Sioux Falls for stealing a car in Luverne Monday night.

According to the Rock County Sheriff's Office, the report of a stolen vehicle came in at 11:25 p.m. on Feb. 25. The owner of the 2008 Mitsubishi ECL is Alexander Holman, Sioux Falls.

The suspect, 42-year-old Christopher Shim, Modesto, California, reportedly walked out of the Casey's store on Highway 75 in Luverne and got into the Mitsubishi and drove off in the vehicle without permission.

A Rock County deputy followed Shim on Interstate 90,

but he reportedly refused to pull over, prompting a pursuit.

At the border, a South Dakota trooper was in position for the traffic stop and the Rock County deputy abandoned the pursuit.

The Rock County Sheriff's Office was later advised that Shim was arrested in the city of Sioux Falls where he reportedly crashed the car.

Holman later posted on social media about the incident. "I would never let my car run while I go inside anywhere in Sioux Falls, but I do in small towns," the post stated. "No matter what, never leave your car run, especially if you have children. Thank [goodness] I didn't have my kids with me."

Library offers classes and events

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

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

Winter Story Time is each Friday from 10:30 to 11 a.m. through April 12.

Evening Story Time is from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through March 26.

Teen Book Club meets Thursdays through March 14, with games, snacks and book discussions about Angie Thomas' award-winning book,

"The Hate U Give." Registration is required.

Take 16 Trivia Night is at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 7, at the Take 16 Brewery in Luverne.

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

Mah Jongg at the library is from 1 to 3 p.m. on Thursdays. Anyone is welcome to learn to play the Chinese game played with tiles printed with various symbols.

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

Community Education announces classes and activities

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

Register for **summer K-12 T-ball, Baseball, Softball** by March 29. After that the fee will be \$50 higher and registrations are accepted only if there are openings.

The **8 hour Defensive Driving Class** for adults 55 years and older is on **March 4 and 11 (4 hours each evening)**. This class helps drivers save money on car insurance. Fee is \$20 prepaid.

Get organized for tax preparation with **Oh, No!**

Dreaded Tax Time! On **March 5**. Fee is \$16.

Lisa Mickle, special education director for Luverne Schools, will explain what adverse childhood experiences (ACE) are and their resulting long term health and social consequences at **ACEs and Our Children**.

The class is free but registration is requested. Choose **March 5 at 10:45 or 6:15** or choose **March 7 at 11**.

Upcoming chartered bus trips include:

***Mamma Mia at the Chanhassen on April 13**. Fee is \$115.



Mavis Fodness photos/0228 Good Sam Merger

Bruce Dysthe sings for Mary Jane Brown residents, visitors and staff. Afterward everyone was served ice cream cake. The Oaks residents were treated to donuts a la mode.

Good Samaritan Society celebrates merger with Sanford

By Mavis Fodness

Residents and staff at the Good Samaritan Society - Mary Jane Brown Home, The Oaks and Poplar Creek Estates celebrated the merger with Sanford Health Thursday afternoon, Feb. 21.

Root beer floats, music and special activities highlighted the two-hour celebration.

The Oaks celebrated with donut a la mode.

Poplar Creek made tie blankets in honor of the merger theme of "Stronger Together."

The finished blankets were donated to the Sanford Children's Hospital. As residents listened to music by Matthew Stensland-Bos of Luverne, they enjoyed root beer floats.

At the Mary Jane Brown Home, residents, staff and family members listened to the singing of Bruce Dysthe before enjoying ice cream cake.

Randy Bury is the new president of the Good Samaritan Society, a name Sanford continues to use. He made an official address via YouTube about the merger.

"This historical moment for both organizations is



Poplar Creek Estates employee Audrey Claussen (far left) works with residents (from left) Dorothy Rosenberg, Arlene Rollag and Pat Ackerman to make tie blankets. The blankets were donated to the Sanford Children's Hospital.

At right, Betty LeBrun enjoys a rootbeer float.

really worth celebrating," he said.

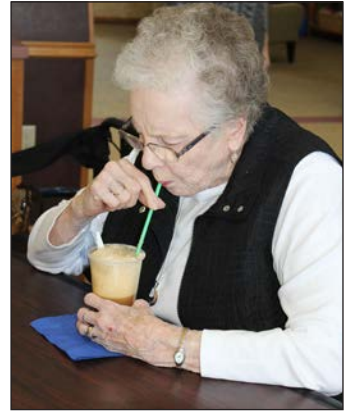
"Our residents, family members and donors are part of a new health care model that is community-based — patient-resident-client center — to ensure everyone receives the best care available."

The Evangelical Lu-

theran Good Samaritan Society voted last year to merge with Sanford Health.

The merger became official Jan. 1, according to a Sanford press release.

Together the organizations serve and care for individuals through the entire span of life.



Lodge members present annual donation to Music Boosters

At the Feb. 19 Luverne Music Boosters meeting, members of the Ben Franklin Lodge No. 114 presented the organization a check for \$662.55. The check matched funds raised during a concession stand fundraiser during the Winterfest event at the elementary school. This matching fundraiser has raised the total to \$9,447.54 for the music boosters over the past six years. Pictured (front row from left) are music students and lodge youth members Jordan Winter, Elliot Stoltenberg, Music Booster Jim Jelken, band instructor Richard Owen, choir instructor Seana Graber, Lodge Master Bryce Stoltenberg, (back) student Austin Winter and Lodge members Lee Sells, Tony Gacke, Adam Kinsinger and Tim Gust. Submitted photo

REQUEST FOR QUOTES DENVER TOWNSHIP ROADS

Rock/Aggregate Hauling

Submit quotes by Monday March 11, 2019 to Denver Township
Linda DeSplinter - Clerk
PO Box 82
Hardwick MN 56134

REQUEST FOR QUOTES DENVER TOWNSHIP ROADS

Road Grading

Submit quotes by Monday March 11, 2019 to Denver Township
Linda DeSplinter - Clerk
PO Box 82
Hardwick MN 56134

REQUEST FOR QUOTES DENVER TOWNSHIP ROADS

Mowing of Ditch Shoulders

Submit quotes by Monday March 11, 2019 to Denver Township
Linda DeSplinter - Clerk
PO Box 82
Hardwick MN 56134

REQUEST FOR QUOTES DENVER TOWNSHIP ROADS

Snow Removal

Submit quotes by Monday March 11, 2019 to Denver Township
Linda DeSplinter - Clerk
PO Box 82
Hardwick MN 56134

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 11**

to **Allen Nuffer**
363 60th Ave, Hills, MN 56138
605-521-6624

www.star-herald.com

Blue Mound Area Theatre Annual Meeting Notice
Tuesday, March 12 6 p.m. at Sterlings
Public welcome

PALACE THEATRE
507.283.4339 • WWW.PALACETHEATRE.US
LUVERNE, MN 56156

ROCK COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT LUVERNE, MINNESOTA

SCADA Improvements Contract ADVERTISEMENT FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) are requested from vendors interested in providing SCADA integration services for the SCADA Improvements Contract for Rock County Rural Water District (RCRWD). SOQs will be received by RCRWD until 12:00PM local time on March 6, 2019.

The SOQs will be reviewed and scored after that time. The contract consists of providing local control upgrades and SCADA integration services for one water treatment plant and five other stations in the RCRWD service area.

The Issuing Office for the Request of Qualifications (RFQ) is: DGR Engineering, 1302 South Union Street, P.O. Box 511, Rock Rapids, IA 51246; 712-472-2531. Prospective vendors may examine the RFQ at the Issuing Office on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, and may obtain copies of the RFQ from the Issuing Office as described below. The RFQ also may be examined at the RCRWD office, 541 150th Avenue, Luverne, MN 56156.

The RFQ document may be obtained from the Issuing Office at no charge. The delivery method will be by e-mail or USPS. The date that the RFQ documents are transmitted by the Issuing Office will be considered the vendor's date of receipt of the RFQ document. Partial sets of the RFQ document will not be available from the Issuing Office.

The Issuing Office will maintain a list of all vendors (along with their contact information) who have received the RFQ document. Any modifications to the RFQ document will be provided by the Issuing Office via addendum to all recipients of the RFQ document.

Owner: Rock County Rural Water District
By: Paul Heronimus
Title: Board President
Date: February 24, 2019

Top sheet or no top sheet? Great debate comes down to sleep philosophy

An out-of-reach shelf in the back of my closet holds a stack of flat bed sheets without their matching fitted counterparts.



ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

my family.

When my boys were little, I washed their sheets and made their beds, dutifully spreading the flat sheet evenly across the fitted one and tucking it in at the corner.

When they started making their own beds, I noticed only the fitted sheets made their way to the laundry. The flat sheets got tossed in a heap — not on the bed.

It bothered me that my loved ones were sleeping half-sheeted, so I'd occasionally retrieve the abandoned flat sheets and properly assemble their beds.

Until one time, the older kid caught me in the act. "Mom, I don't use the top sheet; don't put it on my bed."

I sighed. It didn't seem right. But it didn't seem worth arguing about, especially since my kids sleep hot (I know where those genes came from) and their comforters are light enough for laundering.

Top sheet-less beds in my house fall into similar unsettling categories, like hot sauce on cheesy eggs (why would you wreck a perfect food?) and gym shorts with snowmobile jackets.

In case you're wondering, the online top sheet poll attracted more than 16,000 votes that clicked either "Of course; I'm not an animal!" or "Never would I ever add more laundry to my load."

The result is comforting (to me). Turns out, the "not animals" have a 79 percent majority among the clickers.

I, for one, find this comforting, and at least one of us will sleep better knowing there remains some order in the universe.

They started out as sets — flat sheet, fitted sheet and two matching pillow cases — folded neatly in plastic packaging.

But over time, the lonely flat sheets gravitated to the shelf, because half my family uses only half the sets.

Which I've never understood.

Crisp, cool sheets are quite possibly the greatest joy in my nightly routine.

The thought of any part of me exposed to any thread of a blanket would keep me up at night.

Smooth sheets equal sound sleep. Not debatable.

My kids, on the other hand, have a different sleep philosophy: Flat sheets just get bunched at the foot of the bed.

Simple sleep is sound sleep. Not debatable.

Apparently top sheets are indeed debatable, given heated online discussion from both sides of the argument.

And it appears millennials are to blame for the death of the top sheet.

"People say millennials 'killed' chain restaurants, marriage and napkins ... But when will they acknowledge our greatest takedown yet?" one millennial tweeted.

"Top sheets. I don't know a single millennial who uses one. Top sheets are archaic. This is just the truth."

The tweet went viral, prompting an online poll, "Do you use a flat sheet?"

Of course, it's not that we've ever discussed the matter out loud in our house. It's more of a discovery I've made over the years of laundering bedding for

Trooper: Drivers, stay alert! Don't cause secondary crashes

GUEST EDITORIAL

By Troy Christianson, Minnesota State Patrol

Question: In the past few weeks, I noticed a major increase in the number of crashes due to slippery roads. Can you explain the importance of driving with due care and what troopers are seeing?

Answer: The Minnesota State Patrol has been extremely busy this winter responding to crashes and calls about vehicles off the road. Responding to an increased number of incidents increases the chances that we may be hit from a secondary crash.

In the month of February alone, more than 12 State Patrol squad cars have been hit by motorists and many of these crashes involved injuries. (At right are two Minnesota State Patrol vehicles that were struck this month.)

We use our squad cars to secure crash scenes so those involved are protected from passing vehicles. This becomes extremely dangerous for troopers securing the crash scene — especially if the crash is blocking a lane of traffic on a slippery roadway.

Our office is the highway and we need your help to keep ourselves and motorists safe. Please remember to move over when you see flashing



lights. If it is unsafe to move over, reduce your speed. If you see an emergency vehicle parked with its emergency lights on, this may be a warning that there is an incident ahead.

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

If you have any questions



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



Newspaper carrier era comes to an end

I don't know about you, but I am about to throw in the white towel of surrender as far as winter goes. February — albeit a short month — seems like it will never end. Snow, cold, ice, wind ... repeat, repeat, repeat. Hopefully Old Man Winter and Mother Nature can get together somehow to deliver us a better March.

I saw a guy buying a snow shovel the other day at Bomgaars, and I thought to myself that it was a little late in the season to be buying a snow shovel. Later that day I was using my shovel for the second or maybe third time that day when I realized my shovel had seen its better days. Not that I am in the market for a new snow shovel, but I hope there are still a few available.

I would like to give the city crews as well as the private snow removal businesses a tip of the hat. This has been a winter of nonstop plowings, scrapping, sanding, hauling and blowing snow and in many case do



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, General Manager
Tollefson Publishing

it all over again the next day.

Another tip of the hat goes to school bus drivers that head out on snow-covered roads that make travel difficult at best.

Postal carriers on foot and on rural routes have done a stellar job delivering the mail.

The Luverne Announcer carriers have gone above and beyond the call of duty this winter delivering the Announcer each week.

Last weekend was the last week that you will see an Announcer carrier

delivering in your neighborhood. The long-standing tradition of our own carriers has come to an end. Starting this weekend all Announcers will be delivered through the mail.

I was a newspaper carrier when I was a kid. Our kids all had routes, and many of you may have been a carrier or your kids might have been carriers. Having a paper route is one of those things that will pop into conversation from time to time for the rest of your life.

To all carriers past and present, thank you for a job well done.

Moerke: 'Kudos to everyone and to the Rock County Star Herald'

To the Editor,

There is much to be upset about when we look at the news lately, but the Feb. 21 edition of the Rock County Star Herald brought a smile to my face when I saw several headlines with promising news.

The Blue Mounds State Park will finally have potable water. The city of Luverne and PIP have moved one step closer to making it a reality that the former GNP property will be utilized, generating economic activity throughout the region.

Obviously, the arts community is alive and well in Rock County because activities at the Historic Palace Theatre have made it necessary to hire an executive director.

I was also drawn to the headline, "Dynamite blows

VOICE OF OUR READERS

through bedrock." I mean, come on, who doesn't like stories about blowing stuff up?

Community members, state and local government, non-profits and business are all doing their part to make Luverne and Rock County a great place to live.

Kudos to everyone and to the Rock County Star Herald for keeping us informed.

Dale Moerke,
Luverne

E-mail: editor@star-herald.com Web site: star-herald.com
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General manager: Rick Peterson **News staff:**
Office manager: Deb Lusty Lori Sorenson, editor
Circulation manager: Jennifer Kor Mavis Fodness, reporter
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Tollefson Publishing Roger Tollefson, publisher

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. 15
 •Complainant requested deputy's assistance on East Luverne Street.
 •Fire alarm activation reported on South Kniss Avenue.

Feb. 16
 •Complainant reported an accident on South Kniss Avenue.
 •Deputy assisted a motorist on Hwy. 75.
 •Complainant reported an elevator emergency on East Luverne Street.
 •Deputy reported an abandoned vehicle on County Road 4.
 •Complainant reported identity theft on East Brown Street.
 •Complainant reported property damage on North Davidson Street.
 •Complainant reported an erratic driver on West Main Street.
 •Deputies perform drug court check on East Luverne Street.
 •Reserved for aiding an offender arrest on East Luverne Street.

Feb. 17
 •Complainant reported pedestrian on the roadway on South Kniss Avenue.
 •Complainant requested deputy assistance on North Cedar Street.
 •Complainant reported an accident on East Warren Street.
 •Complainant reported an accident in Beaver Creek.
 •Complainant requested to speak to a deputy in Magnolia.
 •Complainant reported identity theft on Bluewater Circle.
 •Complainant reported a noise disturbance in Ellsworth.

Feb. 18
 •Complainant reported a fire alarm on South Kniss Avenue.
 •Complainant requested a welfare check.
 •Complainant reported they hit an electric box on South Estey Street.
 •Complainant reported crosswalk lights on North Kniss Avenue.
 •Complainant requested a notification on North Estey Avenue.

Feb. 19
 •Complainant reported their driveway is blocked on South Kniss Avenue.
 •Deputies towed a vehicle on Warren Street.
 •Complainant requested extra patrol on North Blue Mound Avenue.
 •Complainant reported stalled vehicle on South Kniss Avenue.
 •Complainant requested assistance with an investigation in Magnolia.
 •Complainant requested a fingerprint appointment.
 •Complainant reported a theft at Shopko.
 •Complainant reported a gas spill on South Kniss Avenue.

Feb. 20
 •Fire alarm reported on North Blue Mound.
 •Deputy assisted a motorist on North Kniss Avenue.
 •Complainant reported an intoxicated subject on North Spring Street.

Feb. 21
 •Complainant reported an accident on West Dodge Street.
 •Complainant reported a hit and run accident on North McKenzie Street.
 •Complainant reported a hit and run on North Spring Street.
 •Complainant reported harassment.
 •Complainant reported a theft in Steen.
 •Complainant reported a panhandler on West Main Street.
 •Complainant reported unauthorized use of a credit card on East Luverne Street.
 •Complainant reported a reckless driver on West Harrison Street.
 •Deputy reported an abandoned vehicle in Beaver Creek.

In addition, officers responded to 1 deer accident, 10 vehicles in the ditch, 1 transport, 8 escorts, 19 ambulance runs, 1 animal complaint, 14 burn permits, 5 drug court tests, 5 permit to purchase/carry applications, 7 abandon 911 calls, 9 traffic stops, 1 test, 7 paper service attempts and 2 stalled vehicles.

Hardwick street funding application/continued from page 1

grant application. Commissioners also approved a resolution for road improvements in Martin County near Hills, pending a resolution also being adopted by the Martin Township board. The resolution involves paving about one mile of 41st Street from County Road 6 to the New Vision Co-op, located north of Hills. Sehr estimates costs to

upgrade the 10-ton gravel road at \$500,000, a proposal he has submitted before but the project was not chosen for funding. One Rock County road project received money through the Local Road Improvement Fund several years ago. A section of roadway was paved to the cemetery on 131st Street in Mound Township.



Mavis Fodness photo/0228 Snow Feb. 25 Hardwick

A road grader with a V plow attachment makes its way down County Road 7 through Hardwick Monday morning.

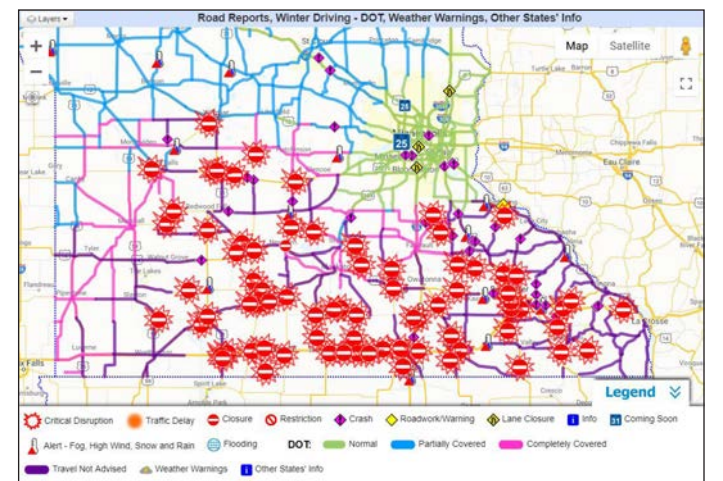
Storm drops more than foot of snow/continued from page 1

and Sunday and no travel was advised in the southern half of the state through Monday morning. As of Monday afternoon, state crews were still working to clear the southbound lanes of Highway 75 between Luverne and Hardwick. That scenario was repeated on roadways all over the state and upper Midwest as traffic patterns slowly returned to normal. Wednesday, Feb. 20, and Monday, Feb. 25, were the fifth and sixth snow days so far this winter in the Luverne School District. Hills-Beaver Creek and Ellsworth district have had seven snow days and Adrian has had 10. School boards in the affected districts will have to decide how these days will be made up in the student-teacher contact calendar. Temperatures in the teens and single digits over the next 10 days will mean the walls of snow along sidewalks and roads will remain intact for at least a week.



Mavis Fodness photo/0228 Snow Feb. 20 Nick Domagala

With temperatures reaching the mid-teens Wednesday morning, Feb. 20, Nick Domagala scoops about 10 inches of new snow from the sidewalk in his short sleeves. By Friday, however, temperatures were in the single digits to below zero. Another 4 inches of snow was added Friday before a ground blizzard struck the area Saturday afternoon into Sunday. Below left, snow gently falls on mailboxes already topped with snow along Oak Drive Wednesday morning, Feb. 20. Mounds of cleared snow are beginning to obscure views of mailboxes, intersections, homes and driveways. Below right is the 511 map showing dozens of road closures.



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Aug. 15 & 19 8:30 am	Getting People to Stop - Themed
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Oct. 17 & 21 8:30 am	Getting Everyone on the Same Page & Pulling the Same Direction
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Edwards, Anaya advance to state for Adrian

By John Rittenhouse

A pair of Adrian High School athletes punched their tickets to state during the Section 3A Individual Wrestling Tournament in Windom Friday and Saturday.

AHS junior Scot Edwards repeated as the Section 3A heavyweight champion, and freshman Braylan Anaya placed second at 106 pounds to earn his first berth into state competition.

Both Edwards and Anaya are slated to compete at the Minnesota State Class A Wrestling Championships at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul Friday.

Edwards upped his season record to 25-1 by pinning both of the opponents he faced in Windom.

Edwards covered Wabasso-Rock Central's Cory Anderson in 48 seconds before sticking Tracy-Milroy-Balaton's Sam Bauer in 41 seconds during the championship match.

Anaya (33-5 overall) went 3-1 and had to win a true second-place match to move on to St. Paul.

Anaya posted wins over Windom-Mountain Lake Area's Caden Swoboda (10-3) and Minneota's Zach Fier (11-

9) to reach the championship match, where he dropped an 8-7 decision to Jackson County Central's Logan Butzon.

Anaya bounced back to secure an 11-3 win over St. James' Troy Parulski in the true second-place match.

Five other Dragons placed in their weight classes without qualifying for state.

Logan Taylor, a state-qualifier last winter, placed third at 120 pounds with a 2-2 record. He lost an 11-3 battle in a true second-place match against Minneota's Kade Lozinski to end his 33-9 season.

Logan Sherer (11-13) went 2-2 to place fifth at 145 pounds.

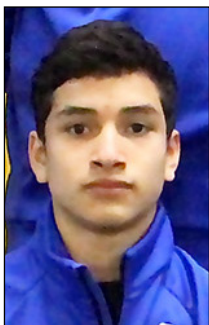
Breyer Hieronimus (14-20) placed sixth at 113 with a 1-3 record, Brody Loosbrock (9-24) went 1-3 to place sixth at 138 and Preston Nelson (18-16) went 2-3 to place sixth at 160.

Isaac Bullerman (21-20) went 2-2 without placing at 132, while Rilee Heidebrink (9-15), Quentin Wolf (13-17) and Cameron Wieneke (11-18) went 1-2 without placing at 126, 152 and 170 respectively.

Jaren Winselman (10-18) went 0-2 without placing at 220.



Edwards



Anaya



John Rittenhouse photo/0228 hgb 4

Hills-Beaver Creek sophomore Taryn Rauk puts up a shot between Westbrook-Walnut Grove defenders Bethany Byers and Kate Jorgenson during Saturday's South Section 3A Basketball Tournament game in Hills.

H-BC passes postseason test

By John Rittenhouse

The top-seed Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team strolled into the semifinal round of the South Section 3A Tournament Saturday in Hills.

H-BC met No. 8 Westbrook-Walnut Grove in a quarter-final-round contest on the

Patriots' home floor.

H-BC took advantage of the situation by posting a convincing 73-13 victory.

The win sent the 24-0 Patriots to Tuesday's semifinals in Worthington, where they met No. 4 Murray County Central. H-BC made short work of

the Chargers during Saturday's tournament debut.

The Patriots opened the game with a 17-0 run ending with a field goal from Whitney Elbers at the 8:52 mark of the first half.

After W-WG sank a pair of free throws with 8:06 remain-

ing in the stanza to make it a 17-2 game, the Patriots went on a 23-5 run capped by a layup from Kenadie Fick with 29 seconds left that gave the Patriots a 34-point (40-6) lead before settling with a 40-7

Test/continued on page 11



Submitted photo

District champs

The Luverne Pee Wee A hockey team captured the District 4 Tournament championship by defeating New Ulm 8-4 during the title tilt Saturday in Worthington. The Luverne squad advances to region competition in New Ulm Friday through Sunday. Team members include (sitting, from left) Blake Bork, Owen Sudenga, Connor Connell, (middle, from left) James Bullerman, Henry Hartquist, Sage Viessman, Landyn Lais, Elliott Domagala, Maddox Domagala, (back) Brady Bork, coach Matt Lais and Will Serie. Missing is coach Kendall Meyer.

Rebels oust Adrian Dragon girls

By John Rittenhouse

The 2018-19 basketball season came to an end for the Adrian Dragon girls Saturday in Hills.

Adrian, the fifth seed for the South Section 3A Tournament, met No. 4 Murray County Central for a clash in the event's

quarterfinal round.

The Dragons were unable to stage an upset as they were outscored in both halves of a 69-49 loss to the Rebels.

Adrian ends the season with a 7-16 record.

The Dragons did play with the Rebels in a competitive

first half that ended with MCC sporting a 38-31 lead.

The second half favored MCC, which outscored Adrian 31-18 to complete a 20-point conquest.

Bailey Lonneman led the

Oust/continued on page 11

JCC overcomes nine-point deficit to sideline Cards

By John Rittenhouse

The third time wasn't a charm for the Luverne Cardinal girls' basketball team Saturday.

As the third seed for the south Section 3AA Tournament, the Cardinals earned the right to face No. 6 Jackson County Central in Luverne.

JCC defeated LHS twice in the regular season, but the Cardinals entertained hopes of knocking off the Huskies and advancing to the tournament's semifinals on Thursday.

Ultimately, it didn't play out that way.

LHS led by as many as six points in the first half and sported a nine-point advantage five minutes into the second stanza, but the Huskies rallied to outscore the Cards 24-13 the rest of the way to secure a 51-49 win.

Luverne's season ends with a 14-11 record.

LHS scored the first four points of the game and led by five (7-2) when Mallory Thorson buried a three-point shot at the 14:11 mark of the first half.

JCC battled back to knot the score at seven before going on a 15-8 run to gain a 22-15 advantage with 5:13 remaining in the opening stanza.

The Cardinals answered the challenge by putting together a 13-0 run ending with a field goal from Brooklynn Ver Steeg with 57 seconds left that gave the hosts a 28-22 cushion.

JCC scored the next five points to trim the difference



John Rittenhouse photo/0228 lgb 10

Luverne junior Mallory Thorson leaves the court to put up a shot during Saturday's season-ending home loss to JCC.

Cards/continued on page 12

Four Cardinal wrestlers place at Section 3AA Individual tourney

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne Cardinal matmen wrapped up the 2018-19 season at the Section 3AA Individual Wrestling Tournament in New Ulm Friday and Saturday. Nine Cardinals competed

at the tournament and four of them placed in their weight classes, but no LHS entry qualified for the state tournament by placing first or second at the event.

Seniors Jed Dooyema and Tom Brown and freshman

Braydon Ripka placed fifth at 170, 182 and 132 respectively.

Dooyema, who went 2-2 to cap his 13-15 season, pinned United's Quintin Garcia in 59 seconds of the fifth-place match.

Brown wrapped up his 14-13 season by going 2-2, which includes him pinning Morris Area's Tristian Raths in 3:08 of the fifth-place match.

Ripka went 3-2 to complete his 17-21 campaign.

Henipped New Ulm's Jacob Bertrang in the fifth-place match.

Luverne freshman Noah Mehlhoff went 1-3 at 106 pounds to place sixth, ending his 11-17 season.

Dalton DeSollar (7-21)

went 2-2 at 152, Zach Bradley (3-5) went 1-2 at 138 and Riley Cowell (19-13) went 1-2 at 113 without placing.

Justyce Ripka (3-19) and Camden Janiszkeski (5-20) lost both of their matches in New Ulm.

New multi-use vehicle joins Luverne Fire Department

By Mavis Fodness

Council members received their first look at a new rescue/pumper truck that took more than a year to design and manufacture for the Luverne Fire Department.

The brand new multi-purpose vehicle arrived in Luverne earlier this month and, as of Monday, became fully operational by the volunteer fire department.

Representatives from the truck's manufacturer, Heiman Fire Equipment of Sioux Falls, traveled to Luverne Monday to train firefighters on the various elements included in the Rosenbauer Commander.

"The vehicle is one of a kind. They incorporated one fire apparatus with another they needed to replace, and made it multi-purpose," said salesman Dick Adkins.

The Commander replaces the department's 25-year-old rescue vehicle, a unit Luverne purchased new in 1994, and a 1997 pumper truck.

"This (2019) truck will do about the same work both of them did," said Luverne Fire Chief Dave Van Batavia.

Van Batavia led council members around the truck Tuesday night, Feb. 19, opening the rollup doors and pointing out the truck's various features.

The new truck carries rescue gear as well as firefighting equipment and water.

"It's like a Swiss army knife," said city administrator John Call.

The four-door truck seats eight firefighters, six in full turnout gear, with room in the raised cab for a firefighter to stand upright during equipment changes such as putting on an immersion suit.

Each side of the truck is devoted to a specific purpose.

Equipment stored on the right-hand side is for fire fighting and includes a fill station



Mavis Fodness photos/0228 New Luverne Rescue Truck

Luverne Fire Chief Dave Van Batavia (above and below) explains the various tools and equipment stored in the newest truck added to the department Tuesday, Feb. 19, in an information meeting with city attorney Ben Vander Kooi, city administrator John Call, and council members Dan Nath, Kevin Aaker, Caroline Thorson and Lori Hallstrom.

for self-contained breathing apparatus tanks, various sized axes, an extension ladder, ventilation equipment, and a refrigerator filled with bottled water.

Not visible is a 750-gallon water tank with hose storage and pump capabilities that includes a deck gun and foam option.

The truck's left side is devoted to rescue equipment and stores a new Jaws of Life, a 6,200-watt generator and a winch that can be secured to one of four receivers built into the truck.

"Before we relied on a log chain in front of the truck," Van Batavia said.

Various storage boxes are contained on the top of the black-and-red truck. Hoses, grain bin extraction equipment and a remote-operated light tower are contained on top.

"Tools we normally don't have room for in the previous truck can be placed in this one," Van Batavia said.

Added to the side of the truck is a 10-foot awning to provide protection from the weather elements, if prolonged stays at a fire or accident scene are warranted.

Representatives from Heiman worked with the volunteer firefighters in understanding the capabilities of the new truck.

"They can show up at any scene and be prepared," said salesman Adkins, who led the training with designer Jim Rackl.



Design and manufacture of the truck took 14 months at a cost of \$700,000. During the process, local volunteer firefighters made regular visits to the Sioux Falls plant.

"No space goes unused," Van Batavia said.

Within days of receiving the new truck, the transmission went out on the old rescue truck and had to be fixed.

The old rescue truck was sold to the George, Iowa, Fire Department for \$50,000.

The 1997 pumper truck is also sold. The Wabaso Fire Department paid \$99,000 for the truck.



The new multi-purpose vehicle features the latest in light technology, including the lighted "Luverne" in the truck's grill, meant to attract a driver's attention as the truck approaches.



One roll-up door features various tools including new Jaws of Life that can cut through materials in today's vehicles and a winch that can be attached to four different points on the new truck.

FSA assists beginning farmers, ranchers with loans

USDA offers targeted farm loan funding for underserved groups and beginning farmers

The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) reminds producers of its targeted farm ownership and farm operating loans to assist underserved applicants as well as beginning farmers and ranchers.

USDA defines underserved applicants as a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of the group without regard to their individual qualities. For farm loan program purposes, targeted underserved groups are women, African Americans, American Indians and Alaskan Natives, Hispanics and Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Underserved or beginning farmers and ranchers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a bank can apply for either FSA direct loans or guaranteed loans. Direct loans are made to applicants by FSA. Guaranteed loans are made by lending institutions who arrange for FSA to guarantee the loan. FSA can guarantee up to 95 percent of the loss of principal and interest on a loan. The FSA guarantee allows lenders to make agricultural credit available to producers who do not meet the lender's normal underwriting criteria.

The direct and guaranteed loan program provides for two types of loans: farm ownership loans and farm operating loans. In addition to customary farm operating and ownership loans, FSA now offers Microloans through the direct loan program. The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations. Microloans are available for both ownership and operating finance needs. To learn more about microloans, visit www.fsa.usd.gov/microloans.

To qualify as a beginning producer, the individual or entity must meet the eligibility requirements outlined for direct or guaranteed loans. Additionally, individuals and all entity members must have operated a farm for less than 10 years. Applicants must materially or substantially participate in the operation.

For more information on FSA's farm loan programs and targeted underserved and beginning farmer guidelines, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/farm-loans or call 507-836-8567.

Got ice dams? Learn what to do and how to prevent them to save energy

Ice dams, both awe-inspiring and terrifying, are showing up on many Minnesota homes this winter thanks to heavy snowfall and extreme cold.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce offers tips for how to deal with ice dams now and how to prevent

them in the future, which can also save you money on your heating bills.

One way to prevent ice dams is by removing snow from your roof. While you can try to do it yourself with a snow rake, it may be best to hire a professional snow remover, especially if it takes getting on

the roof or using a ladder. Put safety first.

If you have an ice dam that is already causing water damage to your interior ceilings and walls, hire a professional ice dam removal service that uses steamers.

A few things you should



Lori Sorenson photo/0228 ice dam on north estey

These oversized icicles at 418 North Estey are similar to many that can be seen on homes in and around Luverne since heavy snow has covered rooftops and created ice dams.

roof surface until reaching a cold spot, such as the eaves or soffit, where it forms a frozen dam.

Over time, especially with a snow-covered roof in sub-freezing temperatures, more ice can build up. Eventually, water starts seeping into the home.

Because the primary cause of ice dams is warm air leaking from the attic, the best prevention is to seal leaks with caulking or expanding spray foam, with attic insulation installed to a minimum of R-50 as space allows.

Energy assessment: Save energy and prevent ice dams

An advanced home energy assessment, or audit, is your first step to preventing ice dams and making your home more energy efficient.

The assessment will use equipment such as an infrared camera to find attic air leaks and how to seal them.

A home energy audit can be arranged through your local utility, a nonprofit energy group or an HVAC professional.

Once problem areas are detected, get bids from at least two licensed contractors to have the work done.

For more information on preventing ice dams, sealing air leaks and adding insulation, check out the Commerce Department's Home Energy Guide (mn.gov/commerce/home-energy).

not do:

- Do not install heating cables. They will shorten the life of your roof and add to your energy costs.

- Do not remove ice with chippers, chemicals or heat. These can damage shingles, gutters and other building components.

- Do not add roof vents, including powered vents. They will not eliminate ice dams and often make the problem

worse.

Preventing future ice dams

Ice dams are not caused by roofing, ventilation or gutter problems, as often believed. The real problem is a home that is leaking warm air.

Due to inadequate air sealing, heat from the home's interior gets into the attic and melts the underside of the snow on the roof. The melted snow water flows down the

The best advertising is word of mouth!

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