



Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, March 4, 2021

Total Card Inc. property sold, business to close March 31

By Lori Sorenson

Total Card Inc. employees learned Monday that the Luverne office will close March 31 and all customer service representatives will be laid off.

The company, including its Sioux Falls headquarters, was sold late last year to San Diego-based Vervent, which offers loan servicing, call center support, credit card servicing and other financial services.

In November 2020, Vervent purchased

the Total Card Inc. property on Roundwind Road in Luverne for \$944,700.

The Star Herald was unable to reach Vervent company officials for information about its future plans for the property.

Of the 22 employees at the Luverne location, about half were working from home.

Human resources reportedly met individually with employees who will receive two weeks' severance pay.

Total Card was founded more than 20

years ago and at one time had 400 employees and two global operations centers.

It was started by three partners — Greg Johnson, Scott Swain and Greg Ticknor—who in 2004 located in Luverne as the first out-of-state business to expand in Minnesota for its Job Opportunity Building Zone tax breaks.

The deal prompted an April celebration that included visits from then-governor Tim

Total Card Inc. closes/see page 3

Luverne approves 2021-22 school year

Plans in the works for a May 1 prom

By Mavis Fodness

Classes for the 2021-22 school year at Luverne Public Schools will begin Tuesday, Sept. 7, according to action at the Feb. 25 School Board meeting.

The beginning of the new school year will also signal the end of construction at the Luverne Middle-High School, with students and staff having full access to a new commons, media center and performing arts center.

Construction began in March 2019 and is expected to finish in June.

"Every day you can really see things happening," said Superintendent Craig Oftedahl. "It is really exciting that things are getting closer to being done."

Board members adopted next year's school calendar after survey results with teachers showed a preference for starting Sept. 7 and ending May 27, just before the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Calendar options were discussed at the board's Feb. 11 workshop session when Oftedahl presented three options. He presented a fourth at Thursday's board meeting.

Graduation for the Class of 2022 will be Sunday, May 29.

The school day will be from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Junior-senior prom slated for May 1

Luverne High School Principal Ryan Johnson said the school is working with public health officials to plan for a junior-senior prom at the school Saturday, May 1.

Specific health guidelines will be released at a later date.

"This event is especially for the seniors who missed out last year," he said.

The 2020 prom was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

School calendar/see page 5

Locals get second shot at clinic

By Lori Sorenson

Local public health officials hosted their second vaccine clinic in Luverne Wednesday at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne.

The clinic provided second doses for the nearly 300 people who were vaccinated in the event center Feb. 3. The group included those who were 75 years and older.

Wednesday's clinic offered these people their second dose, and it also provided 150 doses of vaccine for K-12 staff, day care providers and people in Phase 1a priority group.

The majority of people in Phase 1a have been vaccinated and Phase 1b is underway.

Phase 1a includes health care workers, EMS, nursing home and assisted living facility staff and residents, dental offices, pharmacies, mental/behavioral health settings, school nurses, funeral directors, correctional settings and group homes settings.

Phase 1b includes teachers, grocery store workers, fire, food processing, day care workers, correctional workers, public transit and postal workers, as well as the 75-and-older population.

Any remaining doses Wednesday were offered to people 65 years and older.

According to Jason Kloss of Southwest Health and Human Services, the agency has been contacting people who completed the COVID-19 vaccination survey on its website to fill the remaining appointments.

COVID vaccine/see page 3



Lori Sorenson photos/0304 student painters

Local artist McKenzie Wieneke leads a group of aspiring young artists through her Community Education class, "Paint a Winter Wonderland," Feb. 23 in the Lord Grizzly Gallery building's lower level, formerly used for Luverne Tae Kwon Do. Students pictured are (from left) Athena DeBoer, Kenzi Petersen, Clara Sandager, Peyton Reverts and Gracelyn Lonneman.

Students paint 'Winter Wonderland'

By Lori Sorenson

Local artist McKenzie Wieneke led a group of aspiring young painters through a step-by-step process of creating a winter scene on canvas Tuesday night, Feb. 23

Working in a semi-circle of tables in the lower level of Lord Grizzly Art Gallery

on Luverne's Main Street, the students participated in the Community Education Class, "Paint a Winter Wonderland."

They started by reading a wordless book, "Polar Slumber," in which each student took a

'Painting a Winter Wonderland'/see page 3

New dentist at Luverne Family Dental

By Lori Sorenson

Dr. Tanner Brolsma has taken over the Luverne Family Dental practice since Dr. Rebecca Vis relocated to northern Minnesota.

Brolsma has been working in Luverne for just over a month and said he's enjoyed meeting patients in the community.

"I've been extremely happy during these first six weeks," he said. "The staff has been extremely helpful and the patients have been welcoming."

He said he's pleased to continue the solid practice Vis leaves behind, and he's excited to introduce more procedures, such as dental implants, in Luverne so that patients won't need to travel to Sioux Falls for them.

Brolsma also mentioned new imaging technology that will help with diagnostics and improve outcomes, and patients will have access to sleep apnea devices and Invisalign clear braces.



Lori Sorenson photo/0304 dentist

Dr. Tanner Brolsma has been at Luverne Family Dental for just over a month after Dr. Rebecca Vis moved.

He said he looks forward to meeting more patients and community members and appreciates doing business in a small town.

Brolsma lived in Adrian until he was 10 and then moved with his parents, Tom and Marcia Brolsma, to Hampton, Iowa.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and his doctorate at the University of Iowa, Iowa City.

Brolsma practiced one year in Sioux Falls before starting in Luverne.

He and his fiancée, Gracie, live in Sioux Falls, where she is also a dentist.

Brolsma is a part-owner of the Luverne practice, along

with Dr. Matt Ford and his fiancée, Dr. Sara Robison.

They own Luverne Family Dental and have

New dentist in Luverne/continued on page 5

Solar farm construction postponed until 2022

Vienna Township landowners get letters that project on 720 acres is delayed

By Mavis Fodness

Construction of the first commercial solar farm in Rock County won't start until next year.

Letters were sent to landowners in Vienna Township indicating National Grid Renewables won't start construction on the 80-megawatt solar energy facility on 720 acres north of Magnolia in 2021 as planned.

Lindsay Smith is a spokesperson for National Grid Renewables, which acquired Geronimo Energy, developers of the Elk Creek I Solar Farm, in 2020.

"We remain optimistic for Elk Creek Solar and continue to work with landowners, community members and local officials," she indicated in an email. "We are hopeful

to be able to start construction sometime in 2022."

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission issued a site permit and a certificate of need in late 2020 for the project to move forward.

Smith indicated that while construction on the first half of the \$290 million project has been postponed, work continues with Rock County officials on a development agreement and a vegetation management plan.

Smith and others working on the project didn't offer a reason as to why construction is delayed.

According to the permit issued by the Minnesota Public Utilities

Solar farm postponed/see 3



COVID CORNER

County	Total Cases	DAILY average in last 7 days	Percent Change
Rock	1,157	1	+0.3%
Pipestone	1,014	1	+0.6%
Nobles	3,868	3	+0.4%
Minnehaha (SD)	28,018	40	+0.8%
Lyon (IA)	1,452	1	+0.3%

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

Date Range	1/10-1/23	1/17-1/30	1/24-2/6	1/31-2/13
Rate	49.93	25.50	17.00	13.81

Vaccine Dashboard: ROCK COUNTY

- People with at least one dose: 1,497
- People with completed series: 887

Data as of 02-27-2021

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 March 2, 2021. Sources: MDH & The New York Times

Sponsored by: Rock County Emergency Management

Girls' club seeks to 'change the world one bookmark and bracelet at a time'

By Mavis Fodness

A group of third-grade friends at Luverne Elementary School are selling bookmarks and bracelets and giving the proceeds to local organizations and families.

The Bookmark and Bracelet Club, organized just after the school's Christmas break, was Harper Phelps' idea.

"I wanted to help people with good deeds," she said last week. "For people in need to get better."

Fourteen girls are in the club with Phelps elected as club president.

Isley Smith is one of the group's communication directors.

She said she noticed a bookmark Phelps designed and brought to class one day. A fellow reading enthusiast, Smith was immediately excited about the eye-catching bookmark.

"It had drippy stuff coming down and sparkles," Smith said.

Other school friends also noticed and soon all 14 club members were putting their creative minds together, designing bookmarks and making bracelets from tiny, brightly colored rubber bands.

The group stays in contact through Sunday afternoon Zoom meetings, where the girls decide where their next sale will take place and who the benefactor will be.

They also take inventory of the bookmarks and bracelets they have available for sale. They sell the bookmarks for \$1, bracelets for \$1.50, or one of each for \$2.



Mavis Fodness photo/0304 Bookmark and Bracelet Club

A check for \$152.25 is presented to the Luverne Backpack Program by members of The Bookmark & Bracelet Club Feb. 24 at Luverne Elementary School. Pictured are (front, from left) Amelia Ganun, Ayla Nelson, Harper Phelps, Elizabeth Facile, Alayna Oechsle, Marrs Thone, Ingebjorg Gangestad, (second row) Brooklyn Gillette, Kaidyn Mundt, Emersyn Klosterbuer, Serenity Kurtz, Braylynn Altman, Isley Smith, Hadian Alinzi, (back) parents Ashley Mundt, Tashia Klosterbuer, Backpack Program board members Cindy Arends, Lisa Dinger, Stacy Schepel, parent Stacey Thone, and Backpack Program board member Theresa Graff.



Contributed photo

The Bookmark and Bracelet Club members recently set up a sales table at the WildFlowers Coffee Boutique where they sold bookmarks and bracelets designed by club members. All proceeds go to local organizations and individuals.



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The club has conducted five events in just over a month.

For two hours on a Saturday, club members set up a table at a public location and spread out the one-of-a-kind bookmarks and bracelets for sale.

Their first donation, \$65, was made to the Sanford Children's Hospital followed by another \$65 to the Rock County Food Shelf, \$65 to the family of Devin Sengvongxay, and \$322 to Brian and Amanda Sterling family for SLC6A1 research. The most recent check was donated to the Luverne Backpack program for \$152.25 last week.

"This is going to buy lots and lots of food," program representative Lisa Dinger told the girls.

The girls' moms conduct their own Zoom meetings to keep up with their girls' enthusiasm.

Mom Tashia Klosterbuer said those who stop at the girls' sale table have been more than generous to the girls' donation recipients. The girls also spearhead the sales, talking directly with the customers about the causes they support.

"It's such a great idea," Klosterbuer said. "Especially that they are genuine and committed to what they are doing. They are learning a lot in the business world."

"These sweet girls are going to change the world one bookmark and bracelet at a time," Klosterbuer wrote on the girls' Facebook page.

The page, called The Bookmark & Bracelet Club, is where the group announces where their next sale event is located and who the benefiting organization or individual will be.

The page is also where the club members take custom orders.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Beaver Creek Township Board will meet at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 9, in the township hall.

American Legion Auxiliary Dell Hogan Post #123 will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 10, at the Pizza Ranch in Luverne. Call Dianna at 507-283-1934 with questions.

Spring weight restrictions

Spring weight restrictions will go into effect at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, March 4, on Rock County roadways. Call the Rock County Highway Department, 507-283-5010.

Entrants sought for St. Patrick's Day Parade

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 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. Call 507-283-4061 or see 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.

Donate blood March 8

Community Blood Bank will accept donations from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 3 to 6 p.m. Monday, March 8, at the Adrian EMS Hall (201 Main Ave.). Donors are encouraged to schedule an appointment, go to www.cbblifeblood.org, select "events" and choose March 8 and Adrian Community, or call Community Blood Bank at 605-331-3222.



LUVERNE TRAP TEAM

Spring League

Spring Trap Team Meeting

Monday, March 15 at 7pm
at Grand Prairie Events

COVID restrictions apply - 1 adult per child

OPEN TO 6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADE
(must have firearms safety certificate or take the SAFE program through the Minnesota Clay Target League)

for more info
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Head Coach Scott Loosbrock - 507-360-5418
Luverne School Trap Shooting Club

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Speech takes on new format, gets same positive team results

By Mavis Fodness

A month into the 2021 speech season, Luverne High School senior Destiny Matthiesen is getting used to the new tournament format that the coronavirus pandemic has forced on the normally in-person activity.

Notably, there are fewer people.

"It is different seeing only eight to 10 people when it was 30 people," she said.

This is Matthiesen's sixth year competing in the extemporaneous reading category.

She is a team captain with fellow seniors Xavier Carbonneau, also a six-year member, and Josie Golla, a four-year member.

Matthiesen competes in one of the draw categories in which students randomly select before each round the

story, topic or selection they will perform.

Instead of competing in a classroom with eight other students from different schools, Matthiesen is alone in a Luverne classroom and connects via Zoom with students in her same category delivering speeches at their own schools.

For this year's speech season there are no bus trips and no encouragement from teammates.

Competitors from the other nine categories video recorded their speeches prior to the tournament and don't meet in-person on Saturdays.

Veteran speech coaches Gavin Folkestad and Caroline Thorson continue to develop good public speaking skills in

Speech season/see page 13

Solar farm delayed/from page 1

Commission, the permit is valid for 30 years.

At the administrative hearing in October 2020, officials with National Grid Renewables targeted late 2021 to bring the first of two solar energy farms online. Construction for Elk Creek I was to begin as early as fourth quarter 2020.

During the initial permitting process, developers split the solar farm into two parts.

Original plans had both sites being constructed simultaneously until last year when, during the permitting

process, the project was split into two parts.

Elk Creek II consists of 980 acres still planned for sections 33, 34 and 35 in Vienna Township and Section 3 in Magnolia Township.

This project will need to complete the state permitting and certificate of need process before moving forward. No specific timeline has been released to the public.

If finished, the Elk Creek Solar Farm would be the largest single-location project in Minnesota and would employ 10 full-time employees.

COVID vaccine/from page 1

"We are prioritizing the list by age," he said. "Older people will be contacted first."

He said SWHHS continues to follow the vaccination guidelines developed by the Minnesota Department of Health.

"Vaccination supply is becoming more available," he said.

"Sanford Luverne is focusing on vaccinating people 65 years and older. SWHHS will continue to offer vaccination clinics to identified essential workers."

Tammy Loosbrock at Sanford Luverne said signs are pointing in a more positive direction in terms

of gaining ground on the pandemic.

"The biggest update is that we are now in the 65 and older group, so we need to encourage people to call in and get scheduled," she said.

"We don't currently have any inpatients and our testing is down too — all very good signs.

Kloss said the goal is to continue getting vaccine into the arms of local residents.

"As we work together to provide the vaccine to those that want it, we continue to make progress in vaccinating an increasing percentage of Rock County residents," he said.

Total Card Inc. closes March 31/continued from page 1

Pawlenty and dignitaries from state economic agencies and elected officials.

As a part of JOB Zone, TCI was forgiven property tax, income tax for major investors and sales tax for business improvements for 12 years.

TCI was looking at other cities to expand in when Luverne came into the picture, promoting the former Tri-State building as a future JOBZ site.

The city offered incentives of its own, including financing the property's mortgage of \$500,000 for 20 years at 4.5 percent interest.

Other incentives included a new roof, a \$24,000 training grant, reduced housing lot prices for employees, pool and fitness membership discounts, and establishing a nearby child care center.

City leaders at the time acknowledged it was a "good deal" for Total Card, but they noted the city owned the vacant Tri-State Insurance lot, and it was no longer generating property taxes.

When the building was last occupied, it paid about \$33,000 in property taxes.



Employees work in their offices in the newly remodeled former Tri-State Insurance building in Luverne in 2005.

Having TCI in the building would put the city ahead over the 12-year term of the TCI loan, considering electric and utility income and financing charges.

City officials said Monday that the company had met its financial obligations.

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Rock County STAR HERALD



Lori Sorenson photos/0304 student painters

Local artist McKenzie Wieneke leads student painters in mixing their colors Feb. 24 in the Lord Grizzly Gallery building's lower level. The space was formerly used for Luverne Tae Kwon Do, which now meets on the main floor. Students are (from left) Kaleb and Charlie St. Clair, Cameryn Schepel, Athena DeBoer, Kenzi Petersen, Clara Sandager, Peyton Reverts, Gracelyn Lonneman and Alex Gangestad.

Students paint a 'Winter Wonderland'/continued from page 1

turn telling a story for each page.

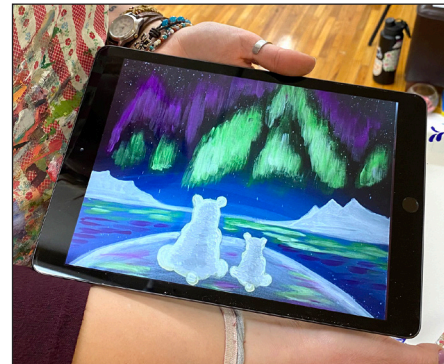
After a snack and juice pouch, they rolled up their sleeves and started painting.

The students followed Wieneke's directions and applied their own brush strokes toward an end result that featured two polar bears watching the northern lights from their perch on an iceberg.

"It's funny how each personality comes out on each painting," Wieneke said. "We can all follow the same process, but they all come out so differently."



Above center, lead artist McKenzie Wieneke adds streaks of color to the night sky to create northern lights on the horizon over icebergs. Above, Gracelyn Lonneman adds blue and white to create her desired foreground shades. At left, Clara Sandager gets bold with her colorful brush strokes that create the northern lights in her painting. At far left, Wieneke shows what the finished canvas paintings will look like.



ATLAS volunteering results in 'Dutch lady' cleaning lessons

There are two types of clean at my house: "clean" and "Dutch lady clean."



THE NORTHVIEW

By Brenda Winter, columnist

My husband and I coined the phrase "Dutch lady clean" after observing a trio of Dutch ladies clean a public restroom at a Christian music festival. With gloves, buckets, rags and spray bottles in hand, the ladies stormed the filthy bathroom like troops storming Normandy, leaving behind a sparkling path of defeated germs, dirt and grime.

The new ATLAS building is also Dutch lady clean. I've been volunteering with a squadron of others who worked with military precision to move ATLAS of Rock County from Main Street to Maple Street by March 1.

Mission accomplished. Turning a former motorcycle sales and repair shop into a mentoring office in just a few weeks' time has been an act of God — and Dutch ladies.

Some of the Dutch ladies have allowed me, a German, to experience their Dutch lady cleaning ways.

Did you know you can wash vent cover "screws"? I did not. I marvel at things seen only by Dutch ladies. "Those ceiling tiles! Oh dear!"

I take a long, hard look at the ceiling tiles and wonder, "What's wrong with them?"

A second Dutch lady enters the room and exclaims, "I'll get the bucket! You get the ladder!"

Again I wonder, "Why?" After the Dutch ladies remove, wipe down and paint the ceiling tiles, then remove and wipe down the fluores-

cent light fixtures — and then scrub the ceiling tile grid, I have to admit the ceiling looks like a million bucks.

They move on to the walls. "Pine-Sol!" The floors, "Simple Green!"

Really bad floors, "Norwex!"

The Dutch ladies took Saturday off from cleaning ATLAS to clean their houses. "Some of my rooms haven't been dusted in a week!"

I also took Saturday off, and after surveying my own house, I spent the day reading with my feet up ... because I didn't really see anything that needed cleaning.

REAL ID ready?

Plan ahead of Oct. 1, 2021, deadline

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

The federal REAL ID full enforcement deadline is less than eight months away, and Minnesotans need to know their options so they're prepared on Oct. 1, 2021.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2021, Minnesotans will not be able to use their standard driver's license or ID card to board domestic flights or enter federal facilities.

Instead, they will need one of three options: a passport or passport card, a REAL ID, or an enhanced driver's license or ID.

Driver and Vehicle Services Director Emma Corrie said Minnesotans who already have a passport or passport card have what they need to fly or enter federal facilities now and after Oct. 1, 2021.

"Those who don't plan on flying this year may choose to wait and apply for a REAL ID at a later time," she said.

"The important thing to know is there are options, and we want to make sure Minnesotans are informed and prepared."

Apply for a REAL ID

Minnesotans may apply for a REAL ID when they renew their license or ID card or apply for a REAL ID early for an additional fee.

Those who choose to apply for a REAL ID or enhanced driver's license or ID card are strongly encouraged to pre-apply online at drive.mn.gov before completing the application process in person at a DVS exam station, deputy registrar or driver's license office.

Federal and Minnesota laws require a person to submit their original required documents, pass a vision screening and have a new photo taken to complete their application.

Pre-applying online at drive.mn.gov is the best way to make sure applicants have everything they need before they visit a driver's license office.

This feature allows Minnesotans to enter a significant portion of their application online, reducing the time they spend in the office.

It also lists the required documents for each license type so applicants can have all necessary documents ready when they visit their local office.

REAL ID required documents

Minnesotans are required to provide additional documentation when applying for a REAL ID, compared to a standard driver's license or ID card.

A person must provide the following in person when applying:

- One document proving identity, date of birth and legal presence in the United States. (If the name on the identity document is not the same as a person's current name, a name change document must be submitted.)
- One document proving social security number. (If you have not

updated your name change with the Social Security Administration, you must do so prior to applying for a Real ID.)

•Two different documents proving current residency in Minnesota. (Must have applicant's current legal name and current address in Minnesota. A P.O. Box will not suffice as proof of current residency in Minnesota.)

Applicants must provide original documents or documents certified by the agency that issued them.

DPS-DVS cannot accept laminated documents or digital documents shown on your phone or other electronic device. A full list of accepted documentation is on the REAL ID website.

DPS-DVS has a variety of resources online at REALID.dps.mn.gov.

What is the REAL ID Act?

Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act establishes minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and ID cards.

The Act refers to federal anti-terrorism laws and regulations that control access to federally regulated commercial aircraft and federal facilities requiring identification to enter, such as military bases or nuclear power facilities.

ED FISCHER



Meinerts: 'We do not need to live in fear of a virus'

To the Editor:

We the People have had enough. We value our loved ones. If you choose to not see your loved ones in person, so be it. But don't tell us we can't. Go visit your grandparents, quit living in fear. You don't know what tomorrow holds, embrace those you love now.

We value the right to protect our freedom and safety. If you don't like guns, then don't buy one. We've never tried to force you to own one.

This country was founded by wise, brave men who risked all to give us freedom, and we do

VOICE OF OUR READERS

not need to live in fear of a virus that has a better than 99-percent survival rate. If you choose to live in a bunker like your leader, that is fine with us.

Value our freedom to gather to worship. If you feel unsafe, then stay home.

We value our freedom of speech. Without it, we are another

step closer to communism. Even though you have "dominion" over us, we will try again to vote out those who want to take our freedom away.

We have our values and beliefs that we adhere to. We don't need big tech/social media censoring and telling us what we should believe. Being wealthy

does not give you a PhD in infectious disease, make you an expert on farming or ranching, or an authority on green power.

We are able to form our own opinions. Hollywood actors and pro athletes are famous for a very specific reason, and it is not for their political advice. You guys can debate amongst yourselves on which bathroom to use and we'll keep mining, drilling, farming, trucking, manufacturing, and helping this country to thrive. God Bless America!

Todd Meinerts
Luverne

Ladd: Need to investigate 'free and fair elections'

To the writer of "thumbs down":

This note is regarding the "thumbs down" post in the February 27, 2021, issue of the Star Herald. You might want to do some of your own investigative reporting before carelessly throwing around the phrase "free and fair elections."

Sherri Ladd
Luverne

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

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

Feb. 19
 •Complainant reported a runaway in Luverne.
 •Complainant on N. Spring Street requested subject notified of jail release.
 •Complainant on E. Park Street and Highway 75 reported a driving complaint.
Feb. 20
 •Complainant on Rock Island Avenue, Kenneth, reported possible missing person.
 •Complainant on S. Fairview Drive reported a scam phone call.
 •Complainant on N. Garfield Street, Magnolia, reported suspicious activity.
 •Extra patrol was conducted on S. Kniss Avenue.
Feb. 21
 •Complainant on 487th Avenue, Valley Springs, reported suspicious activity.
 •Complainant on Uithoven Avenue reported an open door.
 •Complainant on County Road 4 reported littering.
 •Deputy conducted extra patrol detail in city of Kenneth.
 •Complainant on Interstate 90 and Highway 75 reported a hit-and-run with property damage.
Feb. 22
 •Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported suspicious activity.
 •Complainant on County Highway 4, Luverne, reported garbage in the ditch.
 •Complainant in rural Luverne reported theft.
 •Complainant reported harassing communications.
Feb. 23
 •Complainant on S. Walnut Avenue reported spill from fire suppression system.
 •Complainant on Oak Drive reported a possible gas leak.
 •Complainant on E. Warren Street reported theft of license plate tabs.
 •Complainant on E. Luverne Street reported a

stolen package.
 •Complainant requested investigation assistance.
 •Complainant reported a phone scam.
 •Suspicious activity was reported on N. Kniss Avenue.
Feb. 24
 •Complainant on W. Adams Street reported threatening behavior.
 •Complainant on Sioux Valley Drive reported threatening behavior.
 •Complainant on S. Kniss Street requested deputy at location.
 •Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 11, Luverne, reported debris on the roadway.
 •Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 1, Beaver Creek, reported debris on roadway.
 •Complainant on 131st Street, Luverne, reported a vehicle complaint.
Feb. 25
 •Complainant on W. Lawn Park reported suspicious vehicle parked near location.
 •Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 1, Valley Springs, reported a driving complaint.
 •Complainant reported harassing phone issues.
 •Suspicious activity was reported on S. Kniss Avenue.
Feb. 26
 •Complainant on County Highway 4 and 100th, Luverne, reported a vehicle with their flashers on.
 In addition, officers responded to 3 motor vehicle accidents, 4 deer accidents, 1 vehicle in ditch, 8 escorts, 29 ambulance runs, 1 parking violation, 4 paper services, 5 animal complaints, 1 fingerprint request, 13 burn permits, 2 vehicle impounds, 1 background check, 3 gas drive-offs, 2 alarms, 17 purchase and carry permits, 16 traffic stops, 15 abandoned 911 calls, 5 tests, 1 report of cattle out, 1 OFP and 1 follow-up.



Mavis Fodness photos/0304 School Build Media Center

Glass windows are installed in the new media center above the commons area at Luverne Public Schools. Below left, workers paint the ceiling Feb. 24 in the performing arts center that's currently under construction at Luverne Public Schools. Concrete is complete in the balcony seating with construction of the lower level seating still unfinished.

Luverne school calendar includes prom/continued from page 1



After-prom activities organized by parents will also take place and will also be subject to public health guidelines.

In other business, the school board members

•hired Lucas Larson as head boys' tennis coach, Tara Sudenga as B-squad softball coach and Stephanie Roozenboom as assistant track coach.

•approved a medical leave of absence for Jennifer Radtke, special education teacher, for four to six weeks beginning Feb. 24, and hired Vicky Henderson as the long-term substitute teacher for Radtke.

•accepted the resignation of Staci Bundeson, elementary administrative assistant, effective March 31.



Workers check the plumbing for the various work stations in the new Luverne Middle-High School kitchen Feb. 24.

New dentist takes over Luverne practice/continued from page 1



taken over Dr. Vis' lease of the Main Street building space.

Ford said Brolsma will be the primary dentist in Luverne, and the other partners will support him.

"We are pretty much just helping him run some of the administrative tasks so he can focus on the dentistry," Ford said. "Sara and I will also be out there to help out in any way we can and will be doing some dentistry as needed as Dr. Brolsma gets busier."

He also said Luverne Family Dental is also working with the oral surgeons who are planning to come to South Highway 75 in Luverne.

"We have been in discussions with them on how to best serve Luverne and surrounding areas," Ford said. "That will be a great addition to the community when it happens."

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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:

First Bank & Trust
 Wealth Management Services
 Attn: Kerri Brand
 P.O. Box 1347
 Sioux Falls, SD 57101-1347

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.

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Iditarod!

English lesson takes sixth-graders into this year's Alaskan sled dog race



Mavis Fodness photo/0304 Iditarod Lesson

A "Welcome Brent Sass!" poster leans against a desk Monday afternoon as sixth-graders at Luverne Middle School conduct a Zoom interview with the Alaskan musher. Right: After answering questions by the sixth-graders, sled dog breeder and racer Brent Sass shows students the 60 dogs he currently cares and trains at this remote Eureka, Alaska, home. Each of the sled dogs has its own house to stay out of the cold.

By Lori Sorenson

Sixth-graders in Deb Hoogendoorn's English class have been reading "Woodsong," an autobiography by Gary Paulsen, a northern Minnesota sled dog racer.

As the class discussed what they knew about sled dogs and the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, Hoogendoorn learned that Stacey Thone has a connection to a musher who is racing in the 2021 Iditarod Saturday.

Thone's son, Coy, is in Hoogendoorn's class, and she connected with her high school classmate, Alaskan musher Brent Sass.

Sass won the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest international sled dog race in Alaska in 2015, 2019 and 2020, and he placed fourth in the 2020 Iditarod.

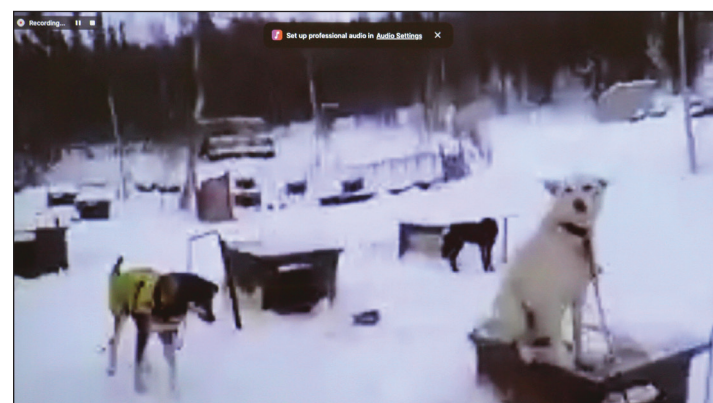
According to his racing profile, he is well known for rescuing other mushers along the Yukon Quest trail throughout his dogsled racing career. Sass agreed to meet with the Luverne sixth-graders via Zoom Monday, and the students were ready with their questions.

For example, they wanted to know about the dogs, their names, their training and how they work together.



Mavis Fodness photo/0304 Iditarod Lesson

Brent Sass from Eureka, Alaska, poses from his position on the Smartboard with teachers Stacey Thone (left) and Deb Hoogendoorn. Thone is a high school classmate of Sass' and arranged the virtual meeting with sixth-graders.



They asked about Sass's favorite racing experience, how he handles the cold, what his sled is made of and how fast the dogs can go.

Hoogendoorn said she was excited to have Sass join her classroom and was grateful he took time for the students, despite his training schedule so close to the race.

The students will track Sass' race progress through wildandfreealaska.com.



REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2011)

•Just over a year ago, retired optometrist George McDonald spent a week in Mexico helping more than 550 patients get eyeglasses.

In February 2010 he traveled south through the Volunteers in Optometry for Service to Humanity (VOSH) organization, along with his daughter Julie Deters and grandson Harrison, both of Fort Collins, Colo.

Although all three had to pay their way there and back, McDonald said that is was a "million-dollar experience."

"With 40 years in Luverne, 12 to 15 patients was a big day," McDonald said, comparing that schedule to the staggering number of individuals seeking glasses in Mexico.

McDonald was one of eight optometrists on the trip in 2010. Of the 50 states, 31 have VOSH organizations, including South Dakota and Minnesota.

25 years ago (1996)

•Making plans for the Minnesota Border to Border Triathlon is a monumental challenge.

The time involved organizing all the details to pull off the four-day event, which begins in Luverne and ends 500-plus miles later on Crane Lake, has turned into a huge task for the five people who have made the triathlon work for a better part of 15 years.

According to Steve Apt, who has played a role in staging the annual August ritual for 13 of the last 15 years, preparing for the event has become too much of a burden. That's the main reason why the 1995 triathlon probably was the last one.

"We're not going to do it (organize the triathlon) any more, and to be honest, I don't see how anybody else could do it," Apt said from his Chaska home Tuesday night. "The time involved organizing this thing is the No. 1 reason why we're calling it quits. It takes 300 to 400 hours of preparation every year, and that's not including the time we spend on it during that week of the race."

In one capacity or another, Apt has helped make the triathlon a reality for 13 years. For the past eight years, he recruited

the help of his wife, Joni, who served as the race director.

50 years ago (1971)

•Four Luverne wrestlers competing in the snow-bedecked Region II mat tournament Monday made an impressive showing by placing eighth out of 14 competing qualifiers. Kevin Petersen will advance to the state tournament on Thursday by virtue of his second place in the Regional. Bob Kontz copped a third and Tony Miller placed fourth.

Coach Tom Serie was elated at the performance of the four matmen. "When you figure we were one point behind Sherburn, who won their district tournament and had nine men in regional competition, you've got to give our wrestlers credit," he said.

At 120 pounds, Lowell Jauert was decided by Hoehn of Waldorf-Pemberton in the first round, 3-0. In the wrestle-backs, he was decided by Jackson's baker, 2-0.

Kevin Petersen at 145 pounds took Blue Earth's Stevens, 7-5, in the preliminary. In the semi-final, he pinned Hunt of Lakefield in 1:40. He lost to Sherburn's Cain in the championship round, 11-3. ...

Bob Kontz began his chores on Friday with a 13-0 decision over Blanchfield of St. James at 165 pounds. On Monday, he came back with a 6-4 overtime win over Porisch of Jackson. Kubu of Wells who went on to win the championship, pinned Kontz in 5:20, but Kontz grabbed third with decision over Blue Earth's Malcolm, 12-6.

Luverne junior Tony Miller lost to the eventual champion from Waldorf-Pemberton, Schwichtenberg, 10-5, in the heavyweight preliminaries. Miller then pinned Winnebago's Jordan and then in the consolation round was pinned by Spear of St. Clair in 2:50.

75 years ago (1946)

•Announcement that the new Dodge motor car would be on display Saturday, March 9, at the Service Auto Company

Remember When, continued on page 7

1931: Luverne Lagoon becomes recreation center

The following appeared in *The Rock County Herald* on Septmeber 18, 1931.

Luverne Lagoon Will Be Recreation Center

Excellent Swimming and Skating Facilities for Grading; Bridge Nears Completion

An excellent opportunity for swimming and skating will be afforded the people of Luverne and Rock county when the new lagoon now under construction north of the Luverne public park is completed. Lack of space, which has hampered facilities for a "good swimmin' hole" and skating rink, will be a thing of the past. Not only that, but there will be a good sand and gravel bottom and the depth of the lagoon will be sufficient to make diving apparatus feasible.

The lagoon, which will be slightly larger than three acres in area, presents a scene of pronounced activity. There is a continual line of spectators watching the huge tractor-propelled dump carts carry the dirt used for grading the highway approaches to the new Rock river bridge. A dragline was secured last week from the Graupmann Brothers company, at Adrian, and has been operating twenty-four hours a day speeding the immense fills. Flood lights illuminate the area under excavation, in order that the work might go on uninterrupted by darkness.

In making the fill east of the bridge it was found necessary to divert the channel of the river. The drag-line machine first corrected this by digging a new channel about 300 feet north of the old one. The lagoon, nearly rectangular in shape, will



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

parallel the new highway. Rock river will flow into it from the east, make a curve to the north and flow under the bridge at a direct angle from the north.

Workmen are busy painting the railings of the bridge of a light green this week, and these will be put in place as soon as concrete supports have been finished. Four lamps approximately eight feet high will illuminate each side of the bridge. The large amount of filling required on the west approach of the new structure made it necessary to construct a concrete tunnel for the steam heat pipes which run under Main street. A manhole is being built flush with the street and bridge level so that access to the steam pipes will be available without tearing up the paving after it has once been laid.

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

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to mannmade@iw.net.

CELEBRATIONS

Card showers

Gloria Aanenson will celebrate her 90th birthday on Monday, March 8. Greetings may be sent to her at 200 South Freeman, #103; Luverne, MN 56156.

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

Monday, March 8: Salisbury steak and gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner roll, cake with frosting.

Tuesday, March 9: Barbecued chicken breast, baked potato with sour cream, California Normandy, bread, gelatin with whipped topping.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Security Savings Bank.

Wednesday, March 10: Chicken wild rice casserole, Oriental blend, peaches, bar.

Thursday, March 11: Pork loin, can-

died yams, broccoli, bread, bar.

Friday, March 12: Beef chili with beans, creamy coleslaw, corn muffin, fresh orange, cookie.

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.

GENERATIONS MENU

OBITUARIES

James Ebert

James Leroy "Jim" Ebert, 68, Garvin, formerly of Truman, died unexpectedly Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021, at the Tracy Hospital.

A funeral service was Monday, March 1, with military honors following the service at the church.

James Ebert was born on July 11, 1952, to Vance and Doris (Warner) Ebert in Clear Lake, South Dakota. He was raised and educated in Luverne, graduating in 1970. He then attended Winona State University, giving him the "Jimism" of getting four years done in just one. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, hoping to see the world, only seeing the sights of Plattsburgh, New York. He continued to serve for six years before his honorable discharge.

Jim married Mary Wilcox on Nov. 22, 1975, while living in Luverne. This union was blessed with two children. Jim was employed by Teledyne Aerospace Systems in Fairmont for many years, eventually transferring to Bemidji with the company. While in Truman, he was an active EMT with Truman Ambulance. This gave Jim the desire to become a paramedic,



mentoring others in the field. At career's end, he was able to enjoy his hobbies which included art, hunting, camping, being outdoors and music. He loved being with people, family and friends. Jim was regarded as a mentor and teacher.

Jim is survived by his wife, Mary Ebert of Garvin; daughter Jessica (Ethan) Harvey of Wrenshall; son Jake (Nicole) Ebert of Truman; grandchildren Jordyn Harvey, Peyton Harvey, Riley Harvey, Alex Ebert and Reese Ebert; brother Paul (Dyan) Ebert of Big Lake; sister-in-law Terri Ebert of Luverne; in-laws Ethel (Pete) Nelson of Duluth and Grant (Janice) Wilcox of Bayfield, Wisconsin; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Chuck Ebert; and parents-in-law Don and Charlotte Wilcox.

Donations are preferred to the Truman Ambulance.

Arrangements were provided by Zaharia Family Funeral Home in Truman, www.ZahariaFamilyFuneral.com (0304 F)

Harold Hixson

Harold Dean Hixson, 86, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, died Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021, at Avantara Salem in Salem, South Dakota.

A memorial service was Monday, March 1, at Grace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. Interment will take place at a later date.

Harold Hixson was born on July 15, 1934, to Cyrus and Irene (Cozad) Hixson at home in Hills. He attended school in Hills, graduating in 1952. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1953. He attended training at the U.S. Naval Academy of San Diego and was stationed in Key West, Florida, assigned to the USS Quillback submarine, where he served for four years. He is a veteran of the Korean War. Harold studied electronics at Dunwoody College in Minneapolis for two years.

On Aug. 2, 1958, Harold married Dorothy Kindt in Valley Springs, South Dakota. In 1960 Harold started working for IBM in Sioux Falls. While with IBM, he transferred to Rapid City, South Dakota, in 1961 and to Marshall in 1980. In 1988 he retired from IBM and started



working for Eastman Kodak in Sioux Falls. He retired at age 63.

Harold enjoyed camping, fishing, wood working, traveling, golfing and attending his grandchildren's events. He volunteered for many church activities and was a member of the American Legion.

He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Hixson of Sioux Falls; four daughters, Kristi (Mark) St. Aubin of Omaha, Nebraska, Kellie (Mark) Brewers of Marshall, Kim (Troy) Barber of Garretson, South Dakota, and Karol (Greg) Koopman of Sioux Falls; and 10 grandchildren, Kayla Queen, Lindsey Collins, Kyle St. Aubin, Luke Brewers, Kody St. Aubin, Taylor Hixson, Koly St. Aubin, Blake Barber, Alex Koopman and Mason Barber.

Harold was preceded in death by his parents and two grandchildren, Jennifer St. Aubin and Brock Barber.

Memorials are preferred to the Alzheimer's Association, South Dakota Chapter.

Arrangements were provided by George Boom Funeral Home of Sioux Falls, www.georgeboom.com. (0304 F)

Evelyn Ykema

Evelyn J. Ykema, age 89, of Luverne, Minnesota, died peacefully on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at the Sanford Luverne Hospital.

Public visitation will be Sunday, February 28, from 2-6 p.m. at Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne. Per MN Executive order, masks will be required and social distancing and occupancy guidelines to be observed. Private family funeral service will be live-streamed for the public to watch on Monday, March 1, at 10:30 a.m. at the Christian Reformed Church in Luverne. Burial will follow at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne. To view Evelyn's obituary or link for her live-streamed funeral service, please visit www.hartquistfuneral.com

Evelyn Joan Ykema was born June 20, 1931, on a farm in Eagle Township near Inwood, Iowa, to Peter and Jennie (Herman) Van Egdome. When she was eight years old, the family moved to a farm near Hawarden, Iowa, and it was here she attended Pleasant View Country School through the eighth grade. She would have liked to attend high school but was needed to help on the farm with housework and the chores.

On October 19, 1951, Evelyn married Norman Ykema at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa. The newlyweds rented a house a couple of miles from Norman's parents' home place. A year later, Norman was drafted and Evelyn went and lived with her parents for the two years Norman was away. She worked various jobs and took part-time housecleaning jobs. When Norman returned the couple began farming on their own and Evelyn was a busy homemaker and mother. After eight years of farming, the family moved to Luverne, Minnesota, in 1962. They put their roots in Luverne where the couple celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary this past year.

Evelyn was an active member of the Christian Reformed Church in Luverne, Minnesota. She sang with the church choir in her younger years and was a counselor in Calvinettes which later became known as GEMS. Evelyn was an advocate and

volunteer for Friendship group, a faith-based organization serving those with intellectual disabilities. She clocked many enjoyable hours as a volunteer working with the American Cancer Society, especially the annual daffodil fundraiser.

Traveling with Norman made for many memories throughout the couple's years together. In their earlier years, they traveled through much of the United States and explored the national parks. In their later years, the couple appreciated sitting back and letting someone else drive as they took bus trips. Some of her favorite vacations were their Hawaiian cruise, visiting Niagara Falls and taking in the history of New York City and Washington, D.C. Above all else, Evelyn loved spending time with her family. She relished birthdays, holidays and any and all reasons to get together as a family. She liked baking for her crew, especially her "nana" bread, cinnamon rolls and cupcakes. Evelyn also liked to sew and attend small town performing arts programs. She enjoyed spending time bird watching and gardening, particularly flowers.

Evelyn will be lovingly remembered by her husband, Norman Ykema of Luverne; daughter, Brenda and her husband Gary Barrett of St. Joseph, Minnesota; five grandchildren, Jennifer (Shawn) Groen, Sheryl (Kyle) Moss, Micah (Jeanine) Barrett, and Jordan (Morgan) Barrett; nine great-grandchildren, Jonathan and Mya Moss, Emma and Sophie Groen, Blaycie and Emersyn Remme and Roger, Nora and Mara Barrett; brother, Donald (Lois) Van Egdome of Sioux Center, Iowa; and sisters-in-law, Zeanna Van Egdome of Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Anita Van Maanen of Rock Valley, Iowa. She was preceded in death by her parents, Peter and Jennie Van Egdome; infant son, Norwyn; daughter, Noreen Moss; five brothers, John, Edward, Elmer, Peter Jr., and Theodore "Bud" Van Egdome; and two sisters, Nellie Vande Stroet and Elizabeth Vander Esch. (0304 V)



DEATH NOTICES

Douglas Bork

Douglas A. Bork, 59, rural Beaver Creek, died unexpectedly on Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021, at his home.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne, www.hartquistfuneral.com. (0304 DN)

Kenneth Bowen

Kenneth E. Bowen, 82, rural Edgerton, died Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at his home.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne, www.hartquistfuneral.com. (0304 DN)

Remember When/from page 6

in Luverne was made this week by Orville Orloske, proprietor.

"It's the smoothest car afloat", says Mr. Orloske, in claiming the 1946 model. "It has a new and greater all fluid drive; a new and greater powerflow engine, designed for finer performance and economy than even the popular postwar Dodge motors; there's better maneuverability, making Dodge tops when it comes to easy handling in all kinds of traffic.

"Dodge has added a number of new safety features, and it has new and greater beauty, both on the inside and the outside."

100 years ago (1921)

A minstrel show will be given at the Palace Theatre on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings next week, March 8th and 9th, under the auspices of Dell Hogan Post No. 123, American Legion.

The entertainment promises to be unusually snappy and attractive, with many novel features in singing, dancing and comedy. The costumes are said to be the most attractive in the minstrel business. Sixty people will take part in the performance, while six orchestras will furnish music. Five balladists will present some of the most beautiful ballad hits of the season. Six end men, two big sketches, one single act, with the big minstrel farce comedy afterpart with twenty-one people, mostly girls, will be among the other notable features.

Mr. Jack McLoughlin, of Mitchell, S.D., will act as interlocutor and director, and comes highly recommended as a leader with unusual snap and ability to keep things moving. This will be the 22nd minstrel that he has put on with amateurs.

Ruth Van Westen

Ruth Caroline Van Westen, 96, Ellsworth, died Sunday, Feb. 28, 2021, at the Parkview Manor in Ellsworth.

A funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 5, with visitation beginning at 9:30 a.m., at Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne. Burial will follow at Memory Gardens Cemetery near Luverne. Masks will be required and social distancing and occupancy guidelines will be observed. The link for her live-streamed funeral service is at www.hartquistfuneral.com

Ruth Klaassen was born on June 6, 1924, to John and Edith (Klaassen) Klaassen in George, Iowa. She was baptized at Zoar Presbyterian Church in George. Ruth attended Little Rock Public High School and graduated in 1942. She then attended Cedar Falls Teaching College, graduating in 1943. Ruth taught country school from 1943 to 1947. She then taught third-fourth grade at Little Rock Public School from 1947 to 1950. She then was secretary at the Iowa Highway Commission in Rock Rapids, Iowa, from 1950 to 1952.

On Dec. 6, 1952, Ruth married Albertus Van Westen at Salem Reformed Church in Little Rock. Ruth and Albertus resided in Rock Rapids after their marriage. In December 1953 they moved to

a farm northwest of Luverne where Ruth was a homemaker and housewife. In 2008 Bert and Ruth moved to Luverne, where they lived until 2018 when they moved to Parkview Manor Nursing Home in Ellsworth. There they enjoyed many visits from Bert's sisters, other relatives and friends.

Ruth was a member of the American Reformed Church in Luverne. She enjoyed collecting cookbooks, spoons and mugs of the individual United States.

Ruth is survived by her two sons, Keith (Caroline Marion) Van Westen of Luverne and Kevin (Kathy) Van Westen of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; three grandchildren, Sarah Van Westen, Justin (Amanda) Van Westen, and Brandon (fiancée Elizabeth Soukup) Van Westen; and two great-grandchildren, Megan and Daniel Van Westen.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bert, on March 12, 2020; six brothers, Harmon, Raymond, John, Paul, Ronald and Alfred Klaassen; and five sisters, Esther Klinkenborg, Alma DeBuhr, Lois Snitselaar, Erma Wagenaar and Helena Sprock.

Arrangements are provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne. (0304 F)



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Reisdorfer sets two program records for Cardinals' gymnastics

By Brennen Rupp

It was a good night for the Luverne gymnastics team on Thursday, Feb. 25.

The Cardinals defeated Marshall 131.357-116.050, and Ella Reisdorfer set two school records. As a team the Cardinals scored their highest point total of the season.

Reisdorfer set the record on the beam with a score of 9.35, and she broke the old record held by Samantha Pierce, who posted a score of 9.15 in 2015.

In the all-around Reisdorfer set a new record with a score of 35.2, just barely topping the old record held by Courtney Fodness (35.1) which was set in 2007.

It's no surprise that Reisdorfer finished first overall in the all-around.

Amira Cowell finished second in the all-around with a score of 33.750.

Sarah de Cesare finished with a score of 30.125 and finished third overall.

The Cardinals dominated the vault, with four gymnasts finishing in the Top Five.

Cowell finished first in the vault with a score of 9.025.

Reisdorfer finished second in the vault with a score of 8.975.

Tiana Lais took third with a score of 8.725.



Brennen Rupp photo/Gymnastics

Ella Reisdorfer performs on the beam during Luverne's home meet against Marshall on Thursday, Feb. 25. Reisdorfer set the program record in the event with a score of 9.35. Reisdorfer also set the record in the all-around with a final score of 35.2.

On the bars, it was once again Luverne dominating the leaderboard, with four Cardinals finishing in the Top Five.

Reisdorfer finished first with a score of 7.875.

Cowell finished second with a score of 7.825.

Hailey Como finished third with a score of 7.100. Reisdorfer took home first on the beam with her record-setting score of 9.350.

Cowell finished second with a score of 8.575.

Reisdorfer led the way

with a score of 9.000 to take home first place.

Cowell finished second with a score of 8.325.

Woods finished third with a score of 8.300.

LHS hockey boys hitting their stride

By Brennen Rupp

It's not how you start, it's how you finish, and the Luverne Cardinals boys' hockey team is playing some of their best hockey at the right time.

After losing to Waseca 7-1 on Friday, Feb. 19, the Cardinals responded by defeating the Blue Jays in Waseca on Tuesday, Feb. 23, 5-4 in overtime.

They then took a red-hot New Ulm Eagles team to the brink. The Eagles entered Thursday's contest against the Cardinals riding a nine-game winning streak.

The Cardinals gave New Ulm everything they had but ultimately lost to the Eagles, 4-3 in overtime.

"This group has shown that they are resilient," Luverne head coach Phil Paquette said. "Last week's effort was outstanding. If we can continue to play the game that way, we will have a lot of success in the final two weeks of the season.

Our hope is that this group starts to believe in what they can do when they play the game the right way and we finish the regular season peaking at the right time."

LHS 5, Waseca 4

The Cardinals picked up their fourth win of the season on Tuesday in Waseca by defeating the Blue Jays 5-4.

Waseca scored the

"This group has shown that they are resilient. Last week's effort was outstanding. If we can continue to play the game that way, we will have a lot of success in the final two weeks of the season."

- Luverne head coach Phil Paquette

lone goal in the first period to take a 1-0 lead into the locker room.

It was all Luverne in the second period, as the Cardinals scored three goals to take a 3-1 lead into the third period.

Carlton Oftedahl started the scoring to tie the game at 1-1. Cade Wenninger and Brock Behrend both recorded assists on Oftedahl's goal.

A goal from Zach Kruse put the Cardinals up 2-1. Henry Hartquist recorded the assist on Kruse's goal. Behrend wrapped up

Boys hockey/Page 9

Defense leads way for LHS girls' basketball

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals girls' basketball team put the clamps on Jackson County Central in Jackson on Friday, Feb. 26.

The Cardinals held JCC to 11 points in the second half en route to a 61-37 victory over the Huskies.

"Our defensive execution was the determining factor in the game," Luverne head coach TJ Newgard said.

The Huskies came into the game averaging 61 points per game and were coming off a game in which they scored 90 points.

"To hold a high-scoring team to 11 second half points is almost unheard of," Newgard said. "Each and every girl played a part in the victory, from the starters to the players on the bench."

Elizabeth Wagner posted a double-double for the Cardinals with a team-leading 21 points and 11 rebounds. Wagner also recorded six steals.

Christina Wagner recorded a double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds. She also blocked four shots.

Elise Ferrell reached double figures with 10 points. Ferrell also dished out nine assists.

With the win over JCC, the Cardinals completed the regular season sweep against the Huskies.

The win improved Luverne's overall record to 5-7 and snapped a three-game losing streak. They'll be back in action on Tuesday, March 2, when they hit the road to take on the Marshall Tigers.

Luverne boys' basketball storms back from 17-point deficit against Windom



Brennen Rupp photo/0304 LHS BB

Nathaniel Cole-Kraty looks for a teammate during Luverne's home game against Windom Area on Thursday, Feb. 25. The Cardinals defeated Windom 72-63.

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals looked like they were going to get run out of their own gym Thursday, Feb. 25, by the Windom Area Eagles.

The Eagles came out like world beaters, taking an early 13-0 lead. The Cardinals finally got on the scoreboard when Gannon Ahrendt hit a jumper with 13:15 left in the first half.

The Eagles then went on a 7-0 run to take a commanding 19-2 lead.

The battle-tested Cardinals never panicked. They didn't abandon their gameplan.

Instead, they slowly chipped away at that lead.

LHS BB/Page 9

Shutout streak ends for Cardinal girls' hockey

By Brennen Rupp

All good things must eventually come to an end. Following an 11-0 win over Waseca in Luverne on Tuesday, the Luverne Cardinals extended their shutout streak to 17 periods.

That streak ended on Friday night when the New Ulm Eagles scored with 13 seconds left in the first period to tie the game at 1-1. The Eagles went on to beat the Cardinals 4-1.

LHS 11, Waseca 0

After defeating Waseca 10-0 on Friday, Feb. 19, in Waseca, the Cardinals returned home on Tuesday, Feb. 23, and once again shut out the Bluejays, 11-0.



Brennen Rupp photo/0304 LHS Hockey

Mallory Nelson handles the puck during Luverne's home game against New Ulm on Friday, Feb. 26. The Cardinals lost 4-1.

The Cardinals scored seven goals in the first period, leaving little doubt which team would leave Blue

Mound Ice Arena as victors. Reghan Bork scored the

Girls hockey/Page 9

Patriot boys drop hard-fought contest against Eagles

By Brennen Rupp

The Southwest Minnesota Christian Eagles entered Thursday's matchup against Hills-Beaver Creek with a 10-1 record.

They're one of the best teams in the area, and for the second time this season, the Patriots played a tough game against the Eagles but were unable to come out on top.

In the first meeting, the Eagles topped the Patriots 80-72. In the rematch, the Eagles defeated the Patriots 74-62 in Edgerton on Thursday, Feb. 25.

The Eagles outscored the Patriots in the first half 44-32. That double-digit halftime lead proved to be too much to overcome for the Patriots.

The two Red Rock Conference rivals played an even second half with the two teams both scoring 30 points.

Cole Baker scored a team-leading 20 points for the Patriots. Baker also grabbed five rebounds.

Zander Wysong recorded a double-double for the Patriots. The senior post player scored 15 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Wysong also dished out five assists.

Drew Leenderts

chipped in with eight points.

With the loss, the Patriots dropped to 4-7 overall. They'll be back in action on Tuesday, March 2, when they hit the road to take on Mountain Lake Area-Comfrey.

The Patriots will then play back-to-back home games when they host Adrian-Ellsworth on Thursday, March 4, and then Red Rock Central on Saturday, March 6.

H-BC 32 30 62
SWMC 44 30 74
Points: Baker 20; Wysong 15; Leenderts 8; Bundesen 6; Raymon 6; Harris 5
Rebounds: Wysong 12; Baker 5
Assists: Wysong 5
Steals: Bundesen 5; Harris 4

H-BC girls go 2-1 in conference play

By Brennen Rupp

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team went 2-1 in conference games last week.

H-BC opened the week with a 55-43 loss to Edgerton on Tuesday. Following that loss, the Patriots bounced back to defeat Westbrook-Walnut Grove 51-28 on Friday, Feb. 26, in Hills.

Then on Monday, March 1, the Patriots edged Mountain Lake Area 45-42.

Edgerton 53-43

The Patriots' offense went cold in the second half on Tuesday, Feb. 23, in Edgerton.

The Patriots started the second half trailing 28-24 but could only muster 19 points in the second half and ultimately lost 55-43.

Taryn Rauk led H-BC in scoring with 20 points. The senior added five rebounds to her stat line.

H-BC 51, 28

The Patriots used a strong first half on Friday to run away from the visiting Chargers.

The Patriots took a 28-14 lead into the locker room and then outscored WWG 23-14 in the second half to secure their ninth win of the season.

Rauk led the Patriots with 18 points. The senior also dished out four assists.

Abby Knobloch recorded a double-double for the Patriots. Knobloch scored 17 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

With the win over



Brennen Rupp photo/0304 HBC H-BC's Allie LaRock puts up a shot against WWG on Friday, Feb. 26. The Patriots defeated the Chargers 51-28 to bring their overall record to 10-2.

Mountain Lake Area on Monday, March 1, the Patriots improved to 10-2 overall.

H-BC 24 19 43
Edgerton 28 27 55

Points: Rauk 20; LaRock 5; Deelstra 4; Bos 4
Rebounds: Rauk 5; Bos 5; Knobloch 5
Assists: Deelstra 2
Steals: Knobloch 3; Rauk 3; Deelstra 3

HBC 28 23 51
WWG 14 14 28

Points: Rauk 18; Knobloch 17; Bos 4; Moser 4
Rebounds: Knobloch 10

Luverne boys' basketball/Continued from page 8

In the end, the Cardinals came all the way back to defeat the Eagles 72-63.

"We've had a ton of games where we've gotten down 10 points or whatever it is," Luverne head coach John Sichmeller said.

"Sometimes you'll see kids get down on themselves or bad body language. With this team, I haven't seen that with them. They always think they have a chance."

He said he coached the players to be patient and take the right shots.

"There is no home run in basketball," he said. "You have to stay disciplined.

They stuck with it and that's why we keep winning these close games. We haven't had a lot of blowouts. We've had a lot of close games."

The Eagles knocked down four three-pointers in the early stages of the game to help them take a 19-2 lead over the Cardinals.

Following a three-pointer from Windom, Ahrendt knocked down a three-pointer of his own and then hit another jumper to cut Windom's lead to 19-7.

Jayson Rops scored a bucket to trim Windom's lead to 10.

An Ethan Beyer three-pointer cut Windom's lead back down to single digits at 21-12.

With the Cardinals trailing 23-14, the Eagles hit back-to-back three-pointers to take a 29-14 lead.

An Ahrendt three-pointer made the score 33-23.

With the Cardinals trailing 33-25, the Eagles hit another three-pointer to make it a 36-25 ballgame.

At the half, the Cardinals trailed Windom 40-27.

In the second half the Cardinals outscored the Eagles 45-23. A big reason for the second half success was the team's effort on the defensive end of the court.

"We knew Windom was going to be tough for us," Sichmeller said. "They have four shooters on the court all the time."

He said Luverne usually plays a 2-3 zone, but at the start of the second half the Cardinals went to a 1-3-1 zone.

"That threw them off their rhythm a little bit.

Then we ended the game by playing man-to-man defense," Sichmeller said.

"The kids really focused and stayed disciplined on what they were supposed to do. That was some of the best man-to-man defense we've played in a long time. We switched up our defense a little bit and got our offense going off that."

Ahrendt led the team with 31 points. The sophomore also grabbed six rebounds, recorded four steals and blocked three shots.

Bailey Cowell recorded a double-double for the Cardinals. The senior guard scored 16 points and dished out 11 assists. Cowell also grabbed five rebounds.

Nathaniel Cole-Kraty grabbed 10 rebounds.

Rops reached double figures with 10 points. Rops also grabbed five rebounds.

With the win the Cardinals improved to 10-2 overall. They'll be back in action on Tuesday for their final regular season home game against the Marshall Tigers.

The Tigers defeated the Cardinals earlier this season 59-42. If the

Cardinals are going to upset the seventh ranked team in class AAA, they'll have to take care of the basketball.

"The biggest thing when we play Marshall is avoiding turnovers," Sichmeller said.

"They put a lot of pressure on you. They have so many kids and good athletes that they throw at you. We really have to be disciplined and keep the turnovers down."

"We held them to 21 first-half points in the first meeting," Sichmeller said. "Part of that is because we weren't turning the ball over. They get a lot of points off their defense. The big key is not turning it over and handling their pressure."

LHS 27 45 72
Windom 40 23 63

Points: Ahrendt 31; Cowell 16; Rops 10; Bose 7; Beyer 6
Rebounds: Cole-Kraty 10; Ahrendt 6; Cowell 5; Rops 5
Assists: Cowell 11
Steals: Ahrendt 4
Blocks: Ahrendt 3

Girls Hockey/From page 8

first goal of the period and was assisted by Kamryn Van Batavia.

Van Batavia scored the second goal of the period. Shelby Kracht and Peyton Behr both recorded assists on the goal.

Bork scored her second goal of the period to put the Cardinals up 3-0. Van Batavia and Kracht both recorded assists on Bork's goal.

Roz Oye put the Cardinals up 4-0 and was assisted by Rylee Gee and Mallory Nelson on the goal.

Bork scored her third goal of the period. This time it was a short-handed goal to put the Cardinals up 5-0. Van Batavia and Regan Feit both notched assists.

Oye scored her second goal of the period to put the Cardinals up 6-0. Bork recorded the assist on Oye's goal.

Gee wrapped up the scoring in the first period to put the Cardinals up 7-0.

Bork opened the second period by scoring her fourth goal of the game. Kracht and Brenn Siabenahler both recorded assists on the goal.

A goal from Anika Boll put the Cardinals up 9-0. Zariah Holmgren and Bork both notched assists on the goal.

Oye opened the third period by scoring her third goal of the game to put the Cardinals up 10-0. Sophie Holmberg and Gee both recorded assists on Oye's goal.

Feit scored the final goal of the game, and the Cards defeated the Bluejays 11-0. Mallory Von Tersch and Van Batavia both recorded

assists on Feit's goal.

New Ulm 4, LHS 1

The Cardinals struck first against the Eagles when Van Batavia put one between the pipes to give Luverne a 1-0 lead.

With 13 seconds left in the first period, the Eagles got on the board to tie the game at 1-1. New Ulm's goal was the first goal the Cardinals had given up in 17 periods.

The Eagles scored a goal four minutes into the second period to go up 2-1.

In the third period the Eagles added two more goals to secure a 4-1 road victory against the Cardinals.

Luverne and New Ulm will square off in New Ulm on Tuesday, March 2.

Following the road contest in New Ulm, the Cardinals will return home to take on the Marshall Tigers Friday, March 5.

As of press time the Tigers owned a 7-4 record.



Brennen Rupp photo/0304 Wrestling Hunter Baker attempts to pin his opponent on Friday, Feb. 26, against New Ulm. Baker won by fall over his opponent.

Luverne grapplers go 0-3

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals went 0-3 on the mat this past week.

The Cardinals opened the week on Thursday, Feb. 25, in Springfield. The Tigers and Cardinals played to a 39-39 tie, but Luverne ultimately lost due to forfeits.

The Cardinals then returned home for a triangular against New Ulm and Blue Earth Area.

New Ulm defeated Luverne 51-13 and Blue Earth topped the Cardinals 66-12.

Springfield 39, LHS 39

The Cardinals opened the dual against the Tigers by winning the first four matches by fall.

Uriel Hernandez won by fall over Will Schmidt in the 106-pound division.

In the 113-pound division it was Cameron McCreary defeating Dominick Rivers by fall.

Rayden Boyenga won by fall over Paytin Johnson in the 120-pound weight class.

In the 126-pound division Riley Cowell defeated Wyatt Schmidt by fall.

Braydon Ripka won by fall over Joe Jensen in the 145-pound division.

In the 160-pound weight class, Hunter Baker won by decision (5-4) over Ashtin Johnson.

New Ulm 51, LHS 13

Cowell won by decision (10-5) over Winsten Nienhouse in the 120-pound division.

Ripka won by major decision (13-4) over Ryan Wildscheck in the 145-pound weight class.

Baker won by fall over Ty Frederick in the 152-pound weight class.

Blue Earth 66, LHS 12

Cowell won by fall over Carson Sturk in the 120-pound class.

Ripka won by fall over Parker Meyers in the 145-pound weight class.

In the 152-pound class it was Baker winning by decision (4-0) over Cory Kitchel.

LHS boys' hockey/Page 8

the scoring in the second period to give the Cardinals a 3-1 lead.

Wenninger recorded the assist on the goal.

The Blue Jays struck first in the third period to trim Luverne's lead to 3-2.

Behrend scored his second goal of the game to put the Cardinals back up by two. Wenninger and Oftedahl both recorded assists on the goal.

The Blue Jays scored the final two goals in regulation to force overtime.

In the overtime period, Behrend scored the game-winning goal to give the Cardinals the 5-4 victory. It was Behrend's third goal of the game. Oftedahl and Wenninger both recorded assists on the game-winning goal.

Shaid Shearer recorded 44 saves in the winning effort for the Cardinals.

New Ulm 4, LHS 3

The Eagles got on the board first by scoring a goal four minutes into the game. That New Ulm goal

would be the lone goal in the opening 17 minutes.

Wenninger scored the first goal in the second period to tie the game at 1-1. Behrend recorded an assist on the goal.

Behrend then gave the Cardinals a 2-1 lead when he put one between the pipes. Oftedahl recorded an assist on the goal.

The Eagles answered back by scoring the final goal of the period to make it a 2-2 game heading into the third period.

Hartquist put the Cardinals up 3-2 when he scored a goal two minutes into the final period.

An Eagles goal with less than four minutes to play tied the game at 3-3.

A Keagan Shiro goal 4:30 into the overtime period gave the Eagles the 4-3 victory.

Shearer finished the game with 60 saves.

The Cardinals currently own a 4-8 record and will host New Ulm on Tuesday, March 2.

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
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
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

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

GRAVEL BIDS:
BEAVER CREEK TOWNSHIP
Class 5, pit run, and screened to be spread on Beaver Creek Township roads. Bids will be expected on, before or at the monthly meeting on
Tuesday, March 9th at 2:30 p.m.
at the township hall.
Bids may be sent to:
Beaver Creek Township: JoEllen Benson, Clerk
PO Box 67, Beaver Creek MN 56116
JoEllen Benson, Township Clerk

Star Herald CHURCH

Page 10 March 4, 2021

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. To add information call the Star Herald or email editor@star-herald.com.

St. Catherine Catholic Church
203 E. Brown St., Luverne
St. Catherine Ph. 283-8502; 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/stcluverne/videos/>. Visit 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.luverncrc.com — office@luverncrc.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 — 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 — graceluverne@iw.net
Ann Zastrow, Pastor
Thursday, March 4: Missions in Action. Saturday, March 6: 5:30 p.m. Worship service with Communion. In-person worship service in Sanctuary. Sunday, March 7: 9 a.m. Worship service with Communion. 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 9: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. 6:45 p.m. Ministry meetings. 8 p.m. PPC meeting. Wednesday, March 10: 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, 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
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor
Sundays, 10:15 a.m. Worship service; worship online as well. Mondays, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne). Also visit eis.org with our sister churches for online worship opportunities.

American Reformed Church
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne
Ph. 283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org
Mike Altana, Pastor
Friday, March 5: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible study. 1:30 p.m. World Day of Prayer service. Sunday, March 7: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 10:50-11:50 a.m. Sunday school. Monday, March 8: 7 p.m. Commons reserved. Tuesday, March 9: 12 Noon staff meeting. 7 p.m. Consistory meeting. Wednesday, March 10: 5:30 p.m. Midweek meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Clubs; Youth groups. Thursday, March 11: 9 a.m. Classis meeting. Friday, March 12: 6:30 p.m. Community Men's Bible Study. 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.

United Methodist Church
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4529; email: luverneumc@iw.net
Thursday, March 4: 1-3 p.m. Food Shelf curbside. Friday, March 5: 1:30 p.m. World Day of Prayer at American Reformed Church. Saturday, March 6: 8 p.m. AA meeting.

Sunday March 7: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Worship service with Communion — 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 8: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Tuesday, March 9: 7 p.m. M&M meeting — cards. DCOM LLP review. Wednesday, March 10: 6:15 p.m. FUEL. 6:30 p.m. Confirmation. 8 p.m. AA Meeting. DCOM LLP review. Pizza Ranch takeout night. Thursday, March 11: 1-3 p.m. Food Shelf curbside.

First Presbyterian Church
302 Central Lane, Luverne
Ph. 283-4787; email: Firstpc@iw.net — 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
www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org
Rev. Dr. Phil Booe, Pastor
Saturday, March 6: 5:30 p.m. Worship service. Sunday, March 7: 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. Monday, March 8: 3:15 p.m. staff meeting. Wednesday, March 10: 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.

First Lutheran Church
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.
Ph. (605) 757-6662
Mark Eliason, Pastor
Sunday, March 7: 9 a.m. In-person Worship at First Lutheran Church with Holy Communion. Facebook live. Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFcU4>

Palisade Lutheran Church
211 121st St., Garrettsville, S.D.
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Mark Eliason, Pastor
Sunday, March 7: 10:30 a.m. In-person Worship at Palisade Lutheran Church with Holy Communion. Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFcU4>

First Presbyterian Church
201 S. 3rd St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek
Ph. 507-935-5025
email: lori.firstpres@gmail.com
Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Worship service. Second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Session meeting.

Magnolia United Methodist Church
501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia
Ph. 605-215-3429
email: magnoliannumc@gmail.com
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
Friday, March 5: 1:30 p.m. World Day of Prayer at American Reformed Church. Sunday, March 7: 9 a.m. Tuff Chapel service. 10 a.m. Worship service with Holy Communion at Bethlehem. 10 a.m. Sunday school. 5:30-7 p.m. 9th-12th grade Youth Night. 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. Tuesday, March 9: 2 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff Home. 2:45 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff Home. Wednesday, March 10: 9 a.m. Quilting. 7 p.m. Lenten service; council meeting following service.

An ugly mess or beautiful design?

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Andrew Palmquist, Bethany Lutheran Church, Luverne

human viewpoint, it all seemed like an ugly mess. But from God's perspective and plan — from eternity's viewpoint — this was the beautiful, necessary design for our salvation!

And it is also the case for us in our lives, with all of the challenges, difficulties and obstacles we face.

From our viewpoint, at times we may echo Peter's sentiment in that upper room: "What in the world are you doing, Lord? This is all wrong — this is an ugly mess!"

When we begin to feel like that, the words that Jesus spoke to Peter also apply to us: "You do not understand now, but you will later!"

As we look at our own life situations, it might appear like the back side of that fabric. It may look like an ugly mess. But the Lord God perceives our lives and situations we face from the other side. He can see his own unique design and plan being produced in the lives of his people — and it is a thing of beauty!

When we do face those challenging "ugly" messes in our lives, we also take comfort in knowing that God has not abandoned us. It might appear that way to us at times, but the Lord has promised us: "I will never leave you, and I will never forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

He also reminds us, "All things work together for the good of those who love God." (Romans 8:28) This is part of the weaving together of the colorful lines (events and experiences) in the fabric of our lives.

Just as it was with our Savior's own afflictions, suffering and death, the things that appear from this earthly side to be an ugly mess will be, from God's view, part of his design of beauty!

Yes, thankfully, the Lord is with us each and every day, and he is working in spite of — and through — the ugliness to produce something exquisite. You and I can look forward to that day when we will enjoy that other perspective — the "other side" — the viewpoint of Heaven for ourselves, and we'll fully appreciate and marvel at God's beautiful design!

It was just hours before Jesus would be arrested, face an illegal trial, and be brutally killed by crucifixion. He and his disciples were gathered together at the "Last Supper" in the upper room.

Jesus then gets up from the table, takes a towel and a basin of water, and proceeds to wash each of his disciples' feet! This was a job for the lowliest servant; and yet the master, the rabbi (teacher), the divine miracle-worker, the very Son of God, takes this task upon himself.

"What in the world are you doing, Jesus?" The apostle Peter tried to stop Him. "No, Lord! You shall never wash my feet!"

Jesus then calmly responds: "You do not understand what I am doing now, but later you will understand." (John 13:7)

These words were fitting, not only for that foot-washing, but for all of the events that would take place in the following days. Peter and the disciples would be confused, dumbfounded, disappointed, and terrified. They would watch in horror as their Lord Jesus was arrested, tortured, and then crucified.

Feeling helpless and in anguish, they must have wondered how things got so bad, so quickly. How did this all progress into such an ugly mess?

The story is told of a person who was visiting a fabric factory. The owner of the factory took the man out on the production floor, and they stopped before a giant loom reaching from the floor to the ceiling. It was whirring and humming — with spindles spinning, and shuttles flying back and forth, and yet as the visitor looked at the fabric being made, all he could see was a jumble of threads and yarn, loose ends in a mish-mash of color.

"What an ugly mess! I think your machine must be broken. Who would want this fabric?!" exclaimed the man to the factory owner.

With a chuckle, the owner motioned to the man and said, "You're not seeing it from the right side! Come over here and look!"

They both walked around to the other side of the machine, and there the man saw the true nature of the fabric. It was a flowing, balanced, beautiful design! It was fabric of the highest quality. From the back it would be most difficult to understand what was being formed — but when viewing the fabric from the front, you could see the lovely, intricate design that was being produced.

This is similar to Jesus' innocent passion and death. From an earthly,

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ISD #2184 School Board meets Jan. 28

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

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, ISD #2184, was held in the District Office and also via Zoom on January 28, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Katie Baustian, Jodi Bosch, Eric Hartman, Tim Jarchow, Reva Sehr, Jeff Stratton and David Wrigg. Also present: Craig Oftedahl, Marlene Mann, Jason Phelps, Stacy Gillette, Becky Rahm, Amy Sahly, April Wallace, Ann Rigney, Lloyd Hemme, and Lori Sorenson – Rock County Star Herald.

Chairperson Jodi Bosch called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion made by Baustian, second by Jarchow, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Administrative reports were given.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Hartman, to approve the December 17, 2020, School Board minutes as presented. Motion unanimously carried. It was noted that Donations Received will be a recurring item on the consent agenda. There were no donations received this month.

Superintendent Oftedahl extended the Oath of Office to Tim Jarchow, Jeff Stratton and David Wrigg. Election of officers was held. Motion made by Bosch, second by Baustian, to nominate Eric Hartman for Chairperson. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to nominate Tim Jarchow for Vice-Chairperson. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Baustian, second by Stratton, to nominate Reva Sehr as Clerk. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Bosch, second by Wrigg, to nominate Katie Baustian as Treasurer. Motion unanimously carried. Eric Hartman assumed the Chairperson duties at this time.

Business Manager Marlene Mann reviewed the school district bills with the School Board. She noted that we are adjusting how bills are paid so this month's report includes both the December and January payrolls as well as a bond principal and interest payments. Motion made by Baustian, second by Jarchow, to accept the district bills as presented in the amount of \$4,075,714.88; building project bills in the amount of \$558,327.67; and student activity bills in the amount of \$2,229.00. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Bosch, second by Sehr, to receive the student activity report showing the balances as of December 31, 2020. Motion unanimously carried.

Committee Assignments for 2021 were discussed and reviewed. Motion made by Baustian, second by Bosch, to approve the revised committee assignments. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Member Bosch, second by Member Jarchow, to adopt the following:

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REDUCTIONS IN PROGRAMS AND POSITIONS AND REASONS THEREFORE

WHEREAS, the financial condition of the School District dictates that the School Board must reduce expenditures, and,

WHEREAS, there has been a reduction in student enrollment, and

WHEREAS, this (reduction of expenditures and (decrease in student enrollment) must include discontinuance of positions and discontinuance or curtailment of programs, and,

WHEREAS, a determination must be made as to which teachers' contract must be terminated and not renewed and which teachers may be placed on unrequested leave of absence without pay or fringe benefits in effecting discontinuance of positions;

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2184, as follows:

That the School Board hereby directs the Superintendent of Schools and administration to consider the discontinuance of programs or positions (to effectuate economies in the School District and reduce expenditures) and, (as a result of reduction in enrollment), make recommendations to the School Board for discontinuance of programs, curtailment of programs, discontinuance of positions or curtailment of positions.

Motion unanimously carried.

The School Board reviewed the listing of District owned vehicles. Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to authorize the purchase of one suburban with the trade-in of suburban S-11. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Bosch, second by Stratton, to set March 4, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. to accept bids for EFIS repair/maintenance. EFIS is the material on the outside walls of the Elementary gymnasium. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to request proposals for group health insurance coverage to be received by March 29, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Motion unanimously carried.

Member Baustian introduced the motion and Member Jarchow seconded the motion to approve the following:

RESOLUTION FOR USAGE OF COOPERATION AND COMBINATION FUNDS

WHEREAS, the Luverne Public Schools is in the process of completing a construction project with remodel areas and new construction,

WHEREAS, the Luverne Public Schools has a committed cooperation and combination fund, a reserved fund, that originally was reserved for technology with the consolidation of the Magnolia School District and the Luverne School District,

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the Luverne School District is seeking a flooring upgrade in the new construction area utilizing terrazzo flooring,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Independent School District #2184, Luverne, Minnesota, to designate funds from the Cooperation and Combination committee fund to fully upgrade the terrazzo floor project in the current construction project.

Members voting in favor of stated resolution: Jarchow, Baustian, Hartman, Bosch, Sehr, Stratton and Wrigg; members voting against stated resolution: none; motion was unanimously carried.

Motion made by Bosch, second by Sehr, to approve the Custodial Seniority List as presented. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Sehr, second by Bosch, to approve the Paraprofessional/Food Service/Administrative Assistant Seniority List as presented. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Baustian, second by Jarchow, to approve the Alternative

School Seniority List as presented. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Bosch, second by Sehr, to approve the ECFE/Learning Readiness/Discovery Time Seniority List as presented. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to approve the Licensed Staff Preliminary Seniority List as presented. It was noted this list will be posted for 30 days for the staff to review. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Bosch, second by Sehr, to approve a medical leave of absence for Katie Mostad, sixth grade teacher, beginning January 21, 2021, for approximately 4 weeks. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Wrigg, to approve the hiring of Jon Schomacker as Summer Recreation Director for a salary of \$9,200.00. This reflects a \$200 increase from last year. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Stratton, to approve the hiring of Amy Chapa as long-term substitute teacher for Katie Mostad, Sixth Grade Teacher. Motion unanimously carried.

There were no committee reports. It was noted the Technology Committee will be meeting via zoom on February 4. The upcoming meeting dates were reviewed.

Motion made by Bosch, second by Sehr, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Dated: January 28, 2021

Reva Sehr, Clerk
(03-04)

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)

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

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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.

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746 20th Ave.
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(02-18, 02-25, 03-04)

City of Luverne adopts Ordinance No. 15

ORDINANCE NO. 15, FOURTH SERIES

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF REAL ESTATE (102 S WALNUT AVENUE, LOT 1, REPLAT OF LOPAU ADDITION, CITY OF LUVERNE, ROCK COUNTY, MINNESOTA)

THE CITY OF LUVERNE DOES HEREBY ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to City Charter, Section 12.05, the City Council is authorized to sell or convey the following described real estate located in the City of Luverne, County of Rock, State of Minnesota, described as follows, to-wit:

102 S Walnut Avenue, Luverne, Minnesota
Legally described as follows:
Lot 1, Replat of Lopau Addition, City of Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota
To Greg and Janet Burger

SEC. 2. The Mayor and City Administrator are hereby authorized and directed to execute such legal documents as are necessary to accomplish this sale and are further authorized to execute and deliver a warranty deed upon complete fulfillment of all terms and conditions.

SEC. 3. This ordinance takes full force and effect seven (7) days after its publication.

(03-04)

Willers probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF ROCK

FIFTH JUDICIAL COURT

DISTRICT COURT

Court File No. 67-PR-21-39

In Re: Estate of Burdell D. Willers,
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on March 15, 2021, at 8:30 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at the Rock County Courthouse, 204 Brown East, Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the decedent's Will dated, April 17, 2019, and for the appointment of James B. Willers, whose address is 1406 Evergreen Drive, Luverne, MN 56156 and Lisa M. Hoff, whose address is 415 100th Avenue, Steen MN 56173, respectively, as personal representatives of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the personal representative will be appointed with full power to administer the estate, including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses; sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate.

Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. §524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the decedent's estate are required to present the claims to the personal representatives or to the Court within four (4) months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

Date Filed: February 25, 2021

BY THE COURT
/s/ Terry Vajgrt
Judge of District Court
/s/ Natalie Reisch
Court Administrator
By: /s/ Jennifer Thode

/s/ Katherine A. Morgan
Attorney Katherine A. Morgan
Bonander Law, PC
PO Box 186
Larchwood, IA 51241
Attorney License No: MN #393289
Telephone: (712) 477-2902
FAX: (712) 477-2301
Email: katie@bonanderlaw.com

(03-04, 03-11)

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

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

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Page 12 March 4, 2021

CARDS OF THANKS

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls and encouragement after my surgeries. It is a great comfort to live in a community that cares about one another.

Ken Hoime
(2.27-3.4)

The family of Don Mitchell wants to thank friends and family for their prayers, words of encouragement and visits during Don's journey with cancer and his passing. Thank you to the staff at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls and Luverne. Your compassionate care will not be forgotten. Jeff and his staff at Hartquist Funeral Home for their guidance and support meant so much. We appreciate the visits by Pastor Baker and his sermon at the funeral about the Christmas village was so appropriate. Thank you to Bluestem Catering for the delicious lunch served at the Event Center.

**God Bless,
Marvis Mitchell,
Jon,
Jeff and Sarah**
(3.4-3.6)

The family of ORV DREESSEN would like to thank our family, friends, neighbors, and customers for all the texts, cards, visits, food, flowers, and gifts. We are very blessed to live in such a caring area. The memorial gifts will be donated to the Luverne Hospice. A special thank you to Dr. Powell, the Hospice Crew, Stacy Domesy, Tasha Domesy, Brian Chapa, Pastor Scott, Beaver and Sandi Schweitzer, Dell and Marge Harms, Larry and Lorna Harms, Mary Boom, Rhonda Groen, the Feikema families, Lila Bauer and the Dingmann Funeral Home.

**Karen Dreesen,
Tania and Randy Heikes
Family,
Chad and Becca Dreesen
Family,
Jerry Dreesen**
(3.4-3.6)

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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) to Craig Oftedahl, Supt. of Schools (c.oftedahl@isd2184.net), 709 North Kniss, Luverne, MN 56156. EOE. (2.13-3.4)

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 for an application or stop in and talk to Chad or Julie 507-443-5372. (2.25-3.6)

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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. (tc)

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Submit letter of application/resume to Luverne Public Schools, 709 North Kniss, Luverne, MN 56156. EOE

Luverne Public Schools is seeking applications for an
DIRECTOR OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- Schedule and supervise maintenance and grounds staff.
- Assist in management and budgeting of facilities and facility maintenance equipment.
- Requires training or experience in HVAC and facility management.
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Submit letter of application/resume to Luverne Public Schools, 709 North Kniss, Luverne, MN 56156. EOE

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parkviewmanor@frontiernet.net

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Luverne speech season/from page 3

the 20-25 seventh- through 12th-grade students on this year's team.

"Even with the challenges of doing speech in a brand new format, we still have high expectations for our students and team," Folkestad said. "We have a good mix of quality veteran members and new members who have a lot of potential."

Luverne continues to excel as a team.

In its first virtual hybrid meet Feb. 13, Luverne placed second as a team followed by first-place finishes at the Adrian invitational on Feb. 20 and Feb. 27 at Redwood.

Golla recorded her speeches for each of the first three meets. She competes in the prose category and in duo interpretation with teammate Mia Wenzel.

She said she misses the interaction with other speech students and the energy created by a group.

"It is a nod to how much of a family we are," said Golla.

"It's not like you compete as an individual but we compete as a team - not so much with COVID because we haven't been able to get on a bus and go somewhere and have fun on the bus."

She said camaraderie occurs on a smaller scale.

"Right now it is about personal growth in your category and being the best speaker that you can be," she said.

As the speech season progresses through March and into post-season tournaments in April, Folkestad said organizers might turn toward virtual live performances.

Instead of videotaping speeches, all students will meet at their home high schools and compete virtually in three competitive rounds, the more traditional speech tournament format.

As Luverne students come together for tourna-



Mavis Fodness photo/Speech 2021 Captains for the 2021 Luverne High School speech team are seniors Xavier Carbonneau (sitting), Destiny Matthiesen (left) and Josie Golla.

ments, Carbonneau sees an opportunity for the team captains to nurture the team's younger students.

"This isn't the best year for speech in general, and I hope they do well enough that they want to come back," he said.

Under the new tournament format, Folkestad said he's hopeful this year's speech season will lead to a state meet.

The pandemic ended the prior season with no subsection, section or state tournaments.

Luverne's remaining speech schedule (and the host sites) includes:

- Saturday, Montevideo.
- March 8-12, South-west Minnesota State University.
- March 18, Big South.
- March 20, Russell-Tyler-Ruthton.
- March 27, Minnesota.
- April 6, subsection 10, Adrian.
- April 17, sections, SMSU.
- April 24, state tournament, Eastview High School, Apple Valley.



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A note from Mayor Patrick T. Baustian *We're All in This Together*



The trend of good news continues to be a sign that we are headed in the right direction in the fight against COVID-19. The Luverne School District celebrated its 100th day of school with zero new Covid-19 cases reported. Once again the Luverne School District has been a model for other districts across the state to take notice. Our local district is one of only 29% of the 537 public and charters school at are meeting entirely in person. As Superintendent Oftedahl said "We really want to see this end" so let's as a community help them do that by wearing a mask, social distancing and washing our hands.



Luverne celebrates 100 days of school with zero COVID-19 cases

Excerpts from 02/25 Star Herald - 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

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. 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."

Read the rest of this story in the February 25 Star Herald or find the story online.

State Launches New Tool to Connect All Minnesotans to COVID-19 Vaccines



February 18, 2021 — Today, Governor Tim Walz announced the launch of the **Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector**, a tool that helps all Minnesotans find out when, where, and how to get their COVID-19 vaccine. The Vaccine Connector is the next step of the state's vaccination strategy to meet Minnesotans where they are and connect them to vaccine opportunities, no matter where they live or their personal circumstances.

The Walz-Flanagan Administration has worked relentlessly to develop a reliable and stable network of different ways Minnesotans can get vaccinated. The state has mobilized health care systems, local pharmacies, federally qualified health centers, local hospitals, local public health, and state-run community vaccination sites to make sure everyone will be able to get a vaccine when the federal government ships more doses. The Vaccine Connector will help connect Minnesotans to that network once it's their turn to get a shot and will also improve the ability of communities of color to access the vaccine.

Minnesotans who have not yet been vaccinated are encouraged to sign up for the COVID-19 Vaccine Connector, regardless of their current vaccine eligibility status. There will be no cost and no restricted time period for signing up.

When a Minnesotan becomes eligible to receive a vaccine under state guidelines, the Vaccine Connector will alert them of their eligibility, connect them to resources to schedule an appointment, and notify them if there are vaccination opportunities in their area. Minnesotans will still make appointments directly through a registered vaccinator, but the Connector is an easy way for Minnesotans to stay apprised of their eligibility and find opportunities to get a shot.

Minnesota Adds Hy-Vee to Expanding Pharmacy Vaccine Network

February 22, 2021 — Governor Tim Walz announced today that Hy-Vee will be added to the expanding network of pharmacies vaccinating Minnesotans across the state. Hy-Vee joins two other retail pharmacies in Minnesota — Walmart and Thrifty White — that are participating in the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program that launched earlier this month. Hy-Vee will administer more than 10,000 doses of the vaccine this week to adults 65 years of age and older at more than 30 Hy-Vee sites in the state.



I am confident that Luverne Area Residents, working together, will emerge from this pandemic much stronger as a community.



Sincerely,

Patrick T. Baustian
Mayor Patrick T. Baustian

Congratulations

2021 Mock Trial

Good Luck at State!



For the seventh-consecutive year the Luverne High School mock trial team will compete in the 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 VerSteeg, 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 Toffeland.

Record for 2021

State

Seventh-consecutive year earning a trip to the state Mock Trial Competition
Competing against 15 teams at the March 3-4 event

Regular season

Jan. 7, Defense won vs Rochester Century, 229-221
Jan. 14, Plaintiff won vs Owatonna, 190-174
Jan. 20, Defense won vs Waseca, 228-221
Feb. 2, Plaintiff won vs Fairmont, 200-170

State qualifying match

Feb. 10, Plaintiff won vs Albert Lea, wins under all three judges



Defense attorney Kaitlyn Anderson (far left) questions her defense witness Ella Lanoue (pictured front, at right) as plaintiff attorneys (seated from left) Chance Tunnissen, Lauren VerSteeg and Griffen Jarchow listen. Jeff Haubrich (front, at left) is the presiding judge over this mock trial.



Plaintiff attorney Lauren VerSteeg listens to an objection by the defense team.



Bailiff Simon Boyenga (left) swears in plaintiff witness Riley Swayne (portrayed by Xavier Carbonneau).



John Miller (left) jots a note to defense team members Kaitlyn Anderson and Ross Bergman.

Mavis Fodness photos

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