



Rock County

# STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, April 1, 2021

## Vaccine rollout continues; Rock County at nearly 30 percent

By Lori Sorenson

Nearly 30 percent of Rock County residents have received a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. On Wednesday a second-dose clinic was offered for K-12 staff at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne, and 165 first-dose appointments were added to this clinic.

Jason Kloss of Southwest Health and Human Services worked with local leaders to get the message out with

information on how to sign up for appointments.

"We initially were offering this clinic for essential workers in Phase 1b," Kloss said.

"However, the governor announced last week that starting on March 30, anyone 16 years and older is eligible to receive the COVID vaccine."

SWHHS is currently dispensing the Moderna vaccine at its clinics, so it's available only

to people 18 years and older.

Kloss said Rock County is making good progress with vaccinations.

"Sanford Luverne continues to have weekly vaccination clinics," he said. "Tammy Loosbrock (hospital director) reported to me that her staff have vaccinated over 2,000 people since December."

SWHHS conducted a vaccination clinic at Premium Pork on March 25 when 80

employees received their shots. "We were hoping to vaccinate more, but it's a start."

Kloss said vaccine hesitancy continues to be a barrier, as was observed with employees at Premium Pork.

"Even though the COVID-19 vaccines have received FDA emergency use authorization, the vaccines are held to the same safety standards as all vaccines," he said. "In addition, no

significant safety concerns were identified in the clinical trials, although a small number of severe allergic reactions were reported during the initial rollout."

FDA and CDC monitor safety and side effects once vaccines are in use, and all providers are required to report incidents.

"In our region, we have observed only a very small number of allergic reactions," Kloss said.

## City clears more hurdles for Towne Square lots

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne City Council members approved a series of resolutions at their March 23 meeting related to the Town Square development on South Highway 75 and Hattling Street.

- They named Midwest Sustainable Consulting LLC as the developer of record for the Towne Square project, which will initially consist of two three-story, 27-unit apartment buildings.
- The Texas developer will coordinate plans and specifications of the apartments, arrange financing and meet requirements of the \$680,000 workforce housing grant and the \$550,000 deferred loan from the city.
- The council approved an ordinance on March 23 to convey the real estate from the city to the developer for \$1. Closing will be by April 15, and the land transfer would be after that.
- At the March 23 meeting, the council also took action to modify the TIF plan to reflect additional city commitments spelled out in the development agreement.

The city will grade the site to elevations necessary for the construction of the two apartments and provide hard surface parking for the entire site, as well as all ingress and egress access lanes for the entire site.

The estimated cost for these site improvements, including an inflation factor is \$1.5 million, and that's in addition to the city's initial investments in preparing the site for development.

The tax increment financing plan will need to be adjusted by that amount, and a public hearing is required to amend it. The council set May 4, 2021, as the

Towne Square/see page 5A

## Happy Easter!



Mavis Fodness photo/0401 April Lambs 2021

### Babydoll sheep bring April smiles

Sue Stueven said she fell in love with her Babydoll sheep due to their woolly teddy bear appearance and perpetual smiles, as demonstrated by Poppy the Lamb and her mother, Fiona, and by recent newborn Olive (pictured at right).

Monday, as temperatures rose into the mid 70s, the youngsters and their moms were let out of the barn at the Stueven farm east of Hills to enjoy the sunshine.

When born, Babydoll lambs weigh less than five pounds and are similar in size to a typical barn cat. Even mature, the Babydoll Southdown breed remains small in height and weight when compared to other sheep breeds.



## Local yields improve over 2019, above state average

By Mavis Fodness

Local corn and soybean yields improved in 2020 by double-digit margins over the 2019 growing season, according to final county estimates released recently by USDA officials.

Local yields also topped the state averages. Rock County corn production averaged 196.4 bushels per acre for 2020, up from 149.4 bushels per acre in 2019. The state average for 2020 was 192 bushels per acre.

The top five corn producing counties were Fairbault (216 bushels per acre), Dodge (210.4), Watonwan (209.1), Nicollet (207) and Wabasha (206.5).

Soybean yields also increased in 2020 to an average of 57.1 bushels per acre, up from 48.8 bushels per acre average in 2019. The state average for soybeans was 49 bushels per acre.

Fairbault County had top soybean yields of 63.4 bushels per acre followed by Waseca (63.1), Nicollet (61.7), Brown (60.8) and Watonwan (60.5).

Rock County's record-setting corn yields of 206.1 bushels per acre occurred in 2017. The top soybean yield was 61.9 bushels per acre set in 2016.

**Average prices also climbed**

Minnesota's 2020 corn price averaged \$4.20 per bushel, an increase of 94 cents from the last marketing year, according to the USDA crop value summary.

The average per bushel price for soybeans was \$11.10 in 2020, up \$2.81 per bushel from 2019.

Overall Minnesota's field crops were valued at \$11.7 billion in 2020, the highest value since 2012 when crop values totaled more than 16 billion.

In 2019, crop values were the lowest since 2011 at \$8 billion.

County shares feedlot numbers/see page 3A

## School hires Schmuck to oversee buildings and grounds

By Mavis Fodness

Cory Schmuck of Luverne will become the new director of buildings and grounds at Luverne schools later this month.

Luverne School Board members approved his hire at their March 25 regular monthly meeting.

Schmuck graduated from LHS in 1992 and attended South Dakota State University in Brookings. He was hired by the city of Luverne in 1995, starting in



Schmuck

the refuse department.

Currently he is the senior public works worker. He'll start his new position no later than April 19. "I'm really excited," Schmuck said Monday.

As director of buildings and grounds, Schmuck will assist in the management of the district's health and safety programs, overall maintenance, budgeting and improvement of

Schmuck/continued on page 2A

## County releases updated feedlot numbers

By Mavis Fodness

The number of new livestock facilities built locally in 2020 increased over the previous year. However, the increase is attributed to the cattle industry rather than the hog industry.

Doug Bos of Rock County's Land Management Office, briefed county commissioners of the shift March 16 as they approved the county's annual feedlot report.

Bos said the Land Management Office in 2020 permitted 11 feedlots, including five new hog barns, five cattle feedlot expansions and one dairy barn expansion.

*"We had about eight on the books but when COVID hit and they shut down production plants, it was a disaster for us. We had a few that backed out or pulled back."*

— Doug Bos, Land Management

Bos highlighted the change in the hog permit requests. "We had about eight on the books but when COVID hit and they shut down production plants, it was a disaster for us," he said. "We had a few that backed out or pulled back."

This year permit requests have been slow with only two permit requests in the first three months of the year.

"Normally we'll have upwards of five sites being permitted or going through the process," he said.

In 2018, Land Management personnel



# COVID CORNER

County	Total Cases	DAILY average in last 7 days	Percent Change
Rock	1,190	1	+0.4%
Pipestone	1,046	2	+1.2%
Nobles	3,913	2	+0.4%
Minnehaha (SD)	29,582	74	+2.5%
Lyon (IA)	1,502	3	+1.1%

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

Date Range	2/7-2/20	2/14-2/27	2/21-3/6	2/28-3/13
Rate	7.44	9.56	15.94	14.87

**Vaccine Dashboard: ROCK COUNTY**

- People with at least one dose: 2,665
- People with completed series: 1,620

Data as of 03-28-2021

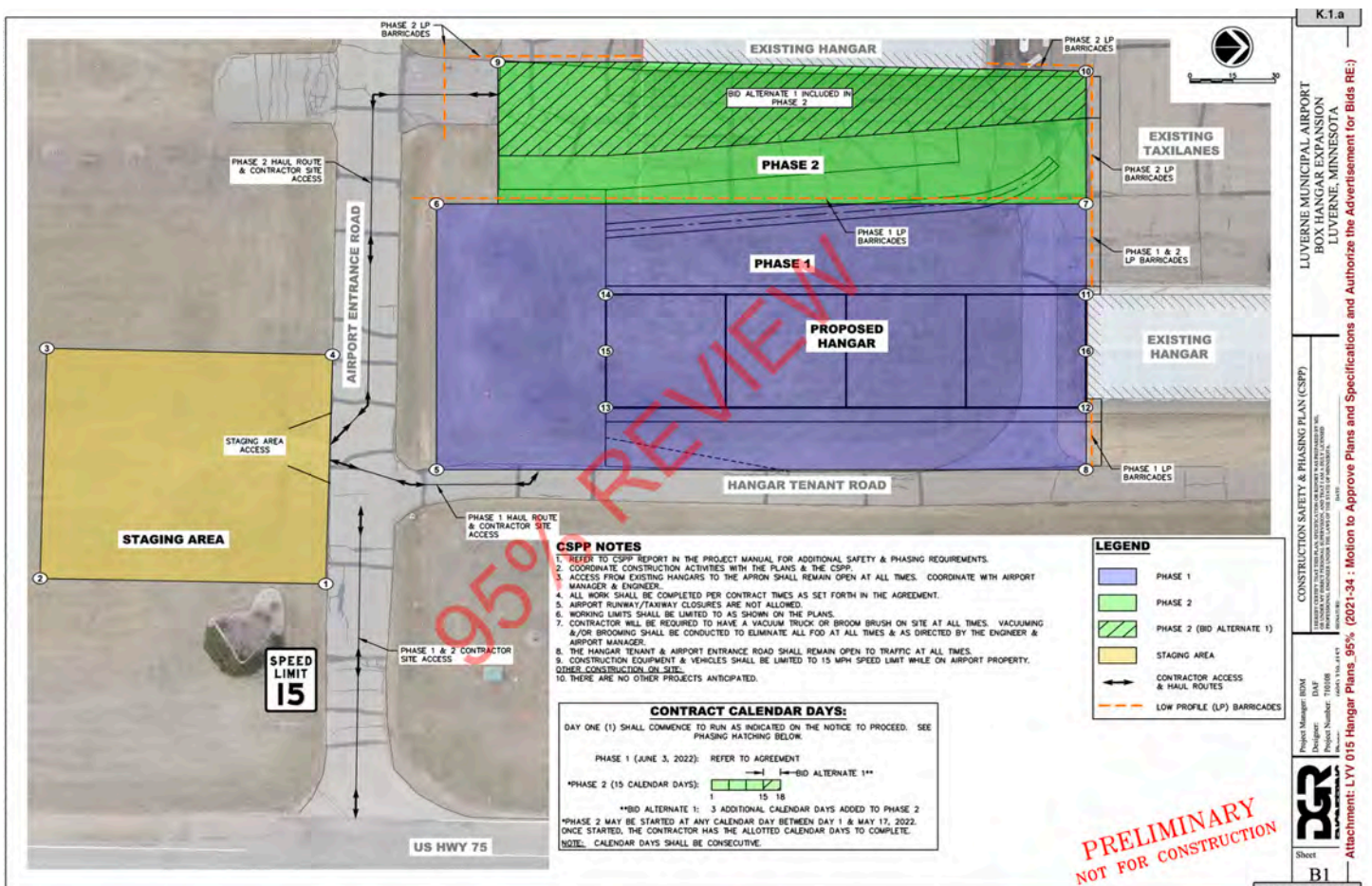
For more Covid-19 vaccine information, please visit:  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/vaccine.html>

**School Status**

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

Current data as of March 30, 2021. Sources: MDH & The New York Times

Sponsored by: Rock County Emergency Management



The Luverne Airport Board is planning to build another four-plex hangar to help meet regional demand for hangar space.

## City sells bonds for pool funds, seeks bids for hangar

**By Lori Sorenson**  
 Luverne City Council members at their March 23 meeting adopted a resolution to issue and sell \$6,460,000 in general obligation bonds.

Of that, more than 75 percent is to finance the pool expansion and renovation project and the rest is to refinance an existing 2012 bond issue for Highway 75 water and sewer improvements and for the city hall roof replacement.

Bids were received Tuesday morning, and George Eilertson of Northland Securities shared details of the proposals with the council that night.

He praised city finance director Barb Berghorst and staff for a smooth process.

He said the city's strong bond rating, an AA-minus,

can be attributed to the city's strong management and budget flexibility tied to available fund balances, which are 37 percent of operating expenditures.

"Of course, the better the rating, it drives down interest rates when you issue debts, so that's working quite well for the city," Eilertson said.

At the morning bid letting, there were four financing proposals, and the bid was awarded based on true interest costs.

The four bids were close, between 1.62 percent and 1.64 percent, and FHN Financial from Memphis, Tennessee, was the low bidder.

"True interest cost of 1.626 percent results in a nice bond issue," Eilertson said. "Locking into a true interest cost of less than

1.7 percent is a nice result there."

Refinancing the 2012 bonds cut the interest rate in half — about 1 percent, resulting in interest cost savings of roughly \$46,000 over the remaining term of the bonds.

Mayor Pat Baustian praised Berghorst, City Administrator John Call and the finance staff for their work on the refinance project.

"It's a long process and kudos to our staff. It's no easy task. You all do a great job, and it shows on this. Thank you for a job well done."

### Airport hangar

The Luverne Airport Board is planning to build another four-plex hangar that will help to alleviate

the backlog of airplane owners in the area that are looking for hangar space.

The airport has had 100-percent hangar occupancy for many years and there's a waiting list with frequent active inquiries for hangar space.

The project is estimated to cost roughly \$600,000 and engineering is estimated at \$57,800.

DGR Engineering Company has completed the plans and specifications for the hangar, and Luverne City Council members took action at their March 23 meeting to move forward with the project.

Council members approved the plans and specifications for the new hangar and decided to advertise for bids. Federal and state grants will also pay 95 percent of the costs.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Prairie Ally pruning workshop

Prairie Ally food forest will host a fruit tree pruning workshop from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 10, at the at 308 N Blue Mound Ave. in Luverne led by Blackshire Farms' Sean McFarland. The cost is \$12 per individual or \$18 per family. Register for the outdoor, hands on experience at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pruning-workshop-tickets-142596593249> or call 605-951-0227.

### Pleasant View annual meeting

Pleasant View Cemetery Association annual meeting will be at 6 p.m. Monday, April 12, at the cemetery with a potluck. If the weather is poor, the meeting will be at the Brent and Jodi Taubert home.

### Vienna Township meeting

Vienna Township Board will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 13, in the Kenneth Community Center.

### 'Stay Active and Independent'

ACE of Southwest Minnesota will offer a free eight-week balance and fitness class via Zoom from 10 to 11 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, April 5 through May 28. Call 1-855-215-2174 to register for class #2380. Or go online: <https://yourjuniper.org/Classes/Register/2380>. There is no cost to attend, however donations are welcomed.

### Six-week Grief Support Group

Sanford Luverne Hospice will offer a six-week Grief Support Group from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Mondays, April 5 through May 10, at Sanford Luverne Medical Center. This group is for anyone in the area grieving the death of a loved one, whether they were involved with hospice or not. Meetings are free and facilitated by Jill Roemen, licensed social worker. Call to register at 507-283-1805.

### Rock the Edge seeks projects

Rock The Edge Youth's Service Over Self will be June 21-25, and the group is seeking a variety of community projects, such as painting, cleaning, organizing, yard work or other projects. Call 507-227-1978, 605-261-4000 or email [rocktheedgegm@gmail.com](mailto:rocktheedgegm@gmail.com)

### Lutheran Women Spring Rally

LWML Spring Rally - Pipestone Zone will be Saturday, April 10, at St. James Lutheran Church in Holland. Registration is at 9 a.m. and the rally starts at 9:30. Rev. John Grein will present "Living As A Christian In A Secular World." Gifts of the Heart monetary donations will benefit Pipestone County Food Shelf. No lunch will be served.

### April 14 and 15 dental clinic

#LuvLuvAll Rock County Oral Health Task Force organized dental clinics on Wednesday, April 14, and Thursday, April 15, at Rock County Health and Human Services. These clinics provide dental care for all ages. Call 612.746.1530 to schedule an appointment. Exams, x-rays and general services will be provided. All forms of insurance accepted.

## Schmuck/from page 1A

equipment and facilities.

Schmuck will also schedule and supervise maintenance and grounds staff.

Board members discussed the director position at their March 11 workshop. They reviewed job duties and salaries of similar directors in other school districts.

The director position has been vacant since 2011. Since then, head custodians were appointed in the separate elementary and middle-high schools.

Currently construction is underway that will connect the buildings, with work slated to be complete in June. "With the new construction, new systems in the remodeled portion, and the retirement of Todd Mann (head custodian at the middle-high school), it seemed like a good opportunity to look at this," said Superintendent Craig Oftedahl.

The director of

buildings and grounds position was first advertised last fall, but no one applied until the position's reposting this spring, which yielded five applications.

Schmuck's salary was approved at \$70,000. Board member Jodi Bosch didn't attend the March 25 meeting.

### In other personnel matters, the board also:

- hired Angela Sneller as elementary administrative assistant beginning April 5;
- Connor Hoffman, volunteer baseball coach; Mike Buss, middle school baseball coach; Corey Stroeh, middle school boys tennis coach; and Danielle Kneip, middle school softball coach.

- accepted retirements of Marcia Boeve-Alfano, activities administrative assistant, effective June 30; and Diana Erickson, middle school computer and high school business teacher, effective June 2.

## Luverne Veterans Home receives Pinnacle Award

The Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne has been recognized with the Pinnacle Customer Experience Award, through Pinnacle Quality Insight.

The company helps senior care providers improve patient experience and retain employees through survey platforms.

The Luverne Veterans Home "customer experience" is measured through Pinnacle's monthly telephone interviews with the residents and/or their families.

The survey results are reviewed throughout the year to better understand residents' needs and make improvements when necessary.

By qualifying for the Pinnacle Customer Experience Award, the Luverne Veterans Home

has satisfied the rigorous demand of scoring in the top 15 percent of the nation across a 12-month average.

"This award is a testament to our excellent staff who are honored to serve our nation's heroes," said Scott Buchanan, Luverne Veterans Home administrator.

All four of the Minnesota Veterans Homes skilled nursing facilities have received this recognition for the past four years starting in 2018.

"We have set the standards high and have a track record of receiving these awards," said Deputy Commissioner Douglas Hughes.

"Even a pandemic cannot impact our commitment to the highest quality of care and experience for our residents."

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# Luverne School Board considers budget revisions

**By Mavis Fodness**

With an anticipated shortfall of \$1.6 million reflected in the revised 2020-21 budget, Luverne School Board members postponed action on the budget until all receipts are noted.

District business manager Marlene Mann presented the revised budget at the March 25 regular board meeting, showing anticipated revenue of \$17.9 million with expenditures at \$24.3 million.

Mann said school districts typically revise budgets once during the spring of the current school year. Due to the complexity of this year's budget accrual, she recommended another possible revision closer to the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

"Previously we rolled over the old budget," she said. "This year it may need to be different than just a rollover."

Included in the expenditures is \$4.8 million in construction costs, some of which board members approved for the upgrade of materials used in the current construction project. The upgrades were approved from the general budget.

Board member Reva Sehr requested that the construction expenditures not be included in the revised budget.

The report included only the interest revenue

of \$46,707 (accrued during the current fiscal year) from the \$30 million building bond passed three years ago.

"I feel we are expending more than we really are," she said.

The exclusion brings general fund expenditures to \$19.5 million and a deficit of \$1.6 million.

"To me that seems a more realistic picture if we throw that (building expenditures) out of there," she said.

However, the revised report of revenues and expenditures was not in sync with one another.

Revenues reflected eight months of the current fiscal year while expenditures reflected nine months.

"The summary report is a little deceiving," said administrative assistant Brenda Teal. "It is dated March 25, but the (revenues) entered are only through Jan. 31."

The revenue lag is attributed to delays in the release of grants and aid packages from state and federal programs associated with the coronavirus pandemic.

"It is a little tricky here with budgeting because of the COVID," cautioned Superintendent Craig Oftedahl. "It might not be as bad as it appears it might be."

Luverne School Board's next meeting is at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 22. A board work session is planned for April 8.



The city hired Luverne High School senior Cade Wenninger to photograph progress on the city wastewater treatment plant construction. Wenninger's Skygenix business started through CEO. The drone video is on the city's website.



Drone images taken in May 2020 (top photo) and again in March (above and below) compare construction progress.

## Drone offers bird's eye view of construction

**By Lori Sorenson**

Luverne city officials got a bird's eye view of construction progress on wastewater treatment plant improvements, thanks to drone images by Cade Wenninger.

They hired the Luverne High School senior through his Skygenix business started through the CEO program (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities).

The city paid Wenninger \$200 to photograph construction progress in May 2020 and March 2021, and the video was shared with council members and staff last week.

It shows overviews and closeups of various stages of work, which

includes:

- demolition of the 1950s trickling filter.
- oxidation ditch enhancements (two parallel oxidation ditches.)
- replacing the 1955 anaerobic digester with a new one.
- new electrical building with an emergency generator.
- new chemical storage building.
- new oxidation ditch treatment.
- increasing sludge storage from 650,000 gallons to 1,050,000 gallons.
- increased monitoring, control and automation of treatment processes.

Construction costs are being financed through bonds over the

next 30 years for the plant that's expected to last for the next 50 years.

Premium Minnesota Pork, which needed the extra wastewater treatment capacity, paid \$6.7 million toward the \$14 million project.

Gridor Construction, Buffalo, was awarded the bid and is more than 90 percent done with the work.

The city's Loop biking hiking trail follows the east side of the plant construction near the Rock River, and work on that part of the trail will be completed after wastewater treatment plant construction is finished this fall.

## Feedlot update/from page 1A

permitted 10 new hog barns and one hog feedlot expansion. The number dropped to four in 2019.

Cattle feedlot expansions in 2019 involved one new barn. The previous year three barns were built.

Bos said his office stays in contact with all 600 feedlots in Rock County, even if no or very few livestock animals are kept at the location.

"We still register them as a feedlot," he said. "It kind of keeps it as a placeholder as far as zoning, and they can do everything a feedlot can do in the way of confining animals."

Of the 600, 547 feedlots are required to be registered with the county, either due to location near a shoreline or the ability to house between 10 to 999 animal units in feedlots.

According to the local report, there are 62 feedlots in Rock County permitted directly through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to house 1,000 AU or more.

Land Management officials regularly inspect 7 percent of the feedlot sites and oversee any complaints, as per a contract agreement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

In 2020, 49 feedlots were inspected and two

complaints were filed with the local office. Both complaints were resolved.

"Our farmers really do try to do a good job," Bos said.

"Sometimes you can get into a bit of a neighbor feud if they are spreading too close to a waterway or stream ... and sometimes setbacks to road ditches (50 feet). People might forget or they may not have been aware."

Budget for the feedlot program in 2020 was \$105,000 with the state allocation of \$56,341 and a local county match of \$39,650. An extra \$9,021 is earned from the MPCA for extra programming conducted by the local personnel.

Bos said the answer continues to be "yes" as it pertains to the county having enough land available to farmers with livestock.

"We are running about half of our acres with manure application," he said. "The rest with commercial fertilizer – so we have room."



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**APRIL 4<sup>th</sup>**  
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 Magnolia Township will be accepting gravel bids for gravel to be applied on township roads by July 1, 2021. Bids must be received by April 12, 2021.  
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 Magnolia Township Board

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**10 A.M. SHARP**  
 (RAIN OR SHINE)  
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**THINK GREEN**

## Competitive grandmothering Activities with the 'other grandma' put shadow over upcoming visit by grandchildren

One of my grandmas could make a jumping mouse out of a handkerchief.



### THE NORTHVIEW

By Brenda Winter, columnist

The other grandma let us have a sip of her beer and eat supper without washing our hands.

One grandma took us to the store to buy pop and candy, the other entertained us for hours by telling stories from her childhood in Germany.

I loved both of my grandmas. I didn't love them for what they could do. I loved them because they were "my grandma."

And now I'm the grandma. I share my Indiana granddaughters with Other Grandma.

The competition between us is subtle. So subtle, I'm not even sure the Other Grandma is aware of it.

It begins with breakfast. This Grandma says, "Finish your banana and you may have more oatmeal." Other Grandma makes unicorn pancakes with whipped cream and sprinkles.

For entertainment, I ask, "Who wants to pet the cat?" Other Grandma takes the girls for pedicures at the local spa.

Gifts from me are practi-

cal, sensible. Other Grandma sends sparkles and dresses and crowns. This Grandma sends story Bibles – small print, no pictures.

When I visit the girls, I usually organize and paint a room for their mother. The girls have asked before I visit, "Which one is coming? Playing Grandma or Painting Grandma?"

The girls arrive at my house tomorrow. They've just spent four days with Other Grandma playing games, eating sprinkles and getting pedicures.

This Grandma is planning to take them to a friend's hobby farm to see a baby cow.

As a small gesture of love, I've also placed soft pillows on the floor next to the guest bed they will share to lessen the blow if one of them falls out.

I realize the girls love their grandmas equally. Grandmas are more than sources of activities, food and gifts, but ... I'm thinking about learning how to make a jumping mouse out of a handkerchief – just in case.

## Everything's coming up ... 'thumbs up'

### STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

It's been a good news week here at the Star Herald, and it's worth pointing out that we have a lot to be happy about.

For example, in our Home Yard and Garden edition in Section B, we have several uplifting stories of local young business people chasing their entrepreneurial dreams.

Please take time to read their stories and, if you're looking for ways to spend your pandemic stimulus money, take a gander at their products and services.

Other recurring good-news stories we've enjoyed sharing are those that follow a cause and chronicle the path to help. On page 6A, for example, we're reminded of Team

E Fieldhouse in Hills, where local families who have faced adversity are turning their challenges into ways to help others.

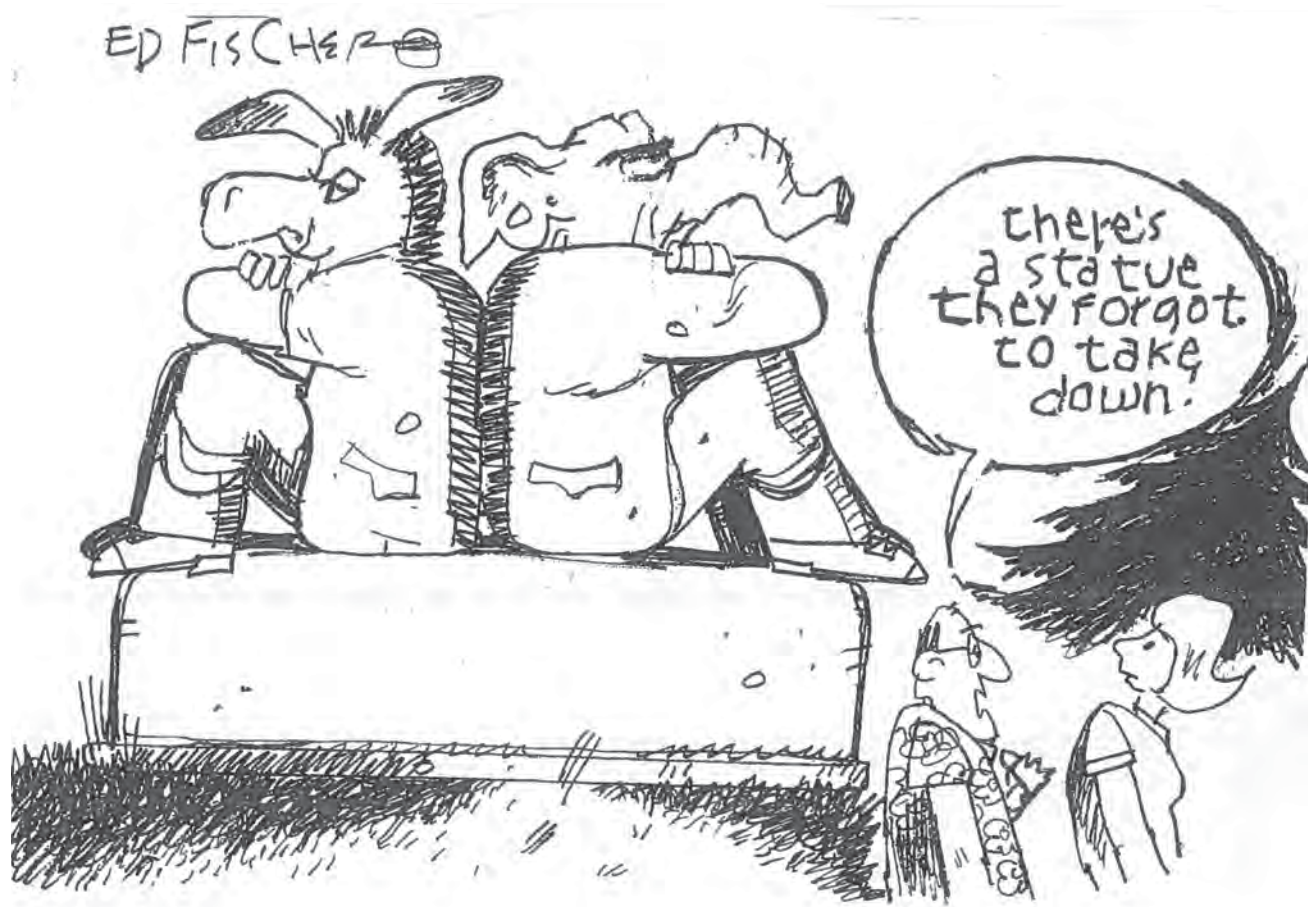
It's easy to criticize government and complain about taxes and spending, but if we take time to read some of our city stories this week, they reveal ways our local government is investing in future growth.

It takes a long view to appreci-

ate, but in the case of the former Sharkee's lot, we'd still be looking at that rotting building if city leaders hadn't taken action to improve it.

... And, seriously, how often do we get to see fuzzy lambs on the front page? If that doesn't tell the story of spring and hope, we don't know what would.

Have a good news week, Star Herald readers.



## Nelson: 'We will keep masking up and doing what is right'

### To the Editor:

We have been reading Todd Meinerts' weekly letters to the editor, and we feel it should be known there are many of us in Rock County who do not agree with his opinion.

However, he is correct that we are not all in this together.

It seems as though it is those of us willing to consider the safety of others versus those who are not.

If we all worked together, we could have been done with this by now. Wear a mask. Stay home if you can. However, we are more than a year in with over half a million deaths in the United States. There are still individuals and

### VOICE OF OUR READERS

businesses who refuse to wear masks. Why? For "personal freedom"?

Amazing how the "my body my choice" argument suddenly applies to anti-maskers, but certainly not when it comes to a pregnant woman's choices.

You can make the choice not to wear a mask, but the unsuspecting person you infect with COVID did not get to choose. You chose for them. Is that freedom?

Meinerts asked if we would

know we were in a pandemic if not for the media.

Ask our medical professionals and first responders who live the horrors of COVID every day. Ask the countless people who have lost loved ones to COVID. Ask someone with a compromised immune system. Better yet, ask someone with a child with a compromised immune system.

In his letter, Meinerts suggested the "Democrats in the sea of red" just leave. But it

is attitudes like this that only serve to further divide us.

We are husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, friends, business owners, and neighbors. We grew up in Luverne, and we are transplants. We are people you see every day. We are raising our children to be open-minded and compassionate. Our children know the importance of kindness, even when you disagree with someone.

We will keep masking up and doing what is right. Despite our political differences, we still care about all human beings.

We're not going anywhere.  
**Rae Nelson,  
one of the Democrats  
in the Red Sea**

## Meinerts: 'We are not in this together'

### To the Editor:

Mr. Green, we are not in this together. It seems there are two sides; those who choose to live in fear while wearing a mask, social distancing, and being in isolation and those of us who choose to go on with life as normal.

After the initial fear perpetrated by the government, CDC, and media, we discovered it was just a virus like the flu that happens every year. It was not a dark year for all, with all of society suffering. We found places to eat and shop that aren't mask Nazis and will continue supporting them in the future.

Thank you, businesses that were patriotic. The financial future of this country looks bleak to me if we don't end all this craziness. We need to pump our own oil, shut the borders, quit being offended by plastic toys, syrup and the like, and fix the election process. We need to trust the science of only two genders and our climate is fine. I hope your shot that was not backed by years of clinical trials and research gives you comfort.

As far as the voice of Biden you mentioned, I've heard it and it's a rambling, incoherent, unintelligible bunch of nonsense. Quite embarrassing actually.

"The further a society drifts from the truth, the more it will hate those who speak it." -Selwyn Duke

God bless America!

**Todd Meinerts,  
Luverne**

## Frakes: 'We're in the money, and it's all free, and more is coming'

### To the Editor:

Halleluia! We're in the money! We're in the money! And it's all free! And more coming!

What do we get with this free money? The warm fuzzies! All of us, especially the upper crust ruling class in D.C., get the warm fuzzies from helping out our fellow Americans who are trapped in incalculable suffering

and starvation.

We all know that no taxpayer, now breathing, will ever pay a penny off of the national debt so future generations are footing our warm fuzzies. It'll probably be ten thousand billion dollars more debt in just this little panic. We will be lucky to even pay the interest.

As dedicated and honest as the upper crust ruling class is,

I'm sure they went the extra mile and polled our yet to be great-grandkids to ask if they would foot the bill for our warm fuzzies. I'm sure they said yes because I'm sure they got the warm fuzzies from helping the "old folks" get the warm fuzzies.

We also know that a bunch of our yet to be great-grandkids will end up in the medical waste

dumpster behind the abortion clinic. But, thanks to us, they had a chance at the warm fuzzies before they got snuffed.

Now I'm really getting an attack of the warm fuzzies. I think we should all have an extra scoop of ice cream with our dessert tonight!

**Bill Frakes,  
Luverne**

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

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

## ON THE RECORD

### Dispatch report

**March 19**

- Deputy out with vehicle at location on County Road 8 and 161st Street, Luverne.
- Complainant on County Road 6 and 161st Street, Luverne, reported property damage.
- Complainant on W. Bishop Street reported possible theft occurring.
- Report of train blocking roadway at location on 41st Street, Hills.
- Complainant had questions on proper license plate mounting.
- Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 20, Magnolia, reported a driver speeding.
- State patrol requested deputy assistance on Highway 23 and County Road 17, Beaver Creek.
- Complainant on 161st Street and 60th Avenue, Luverne, reported structure fire.
- Complainant on S. Church Avenue, Hills, reported vandalism.

**March 20**

- Complainant on Crawford Street requested information on transporting firearms.
- Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 13, Luverne, reported a reckless driver at location and moving east.
- Complainant on Rapp Street and Jackson Street reported suspicious activity.

**March 21**

- Complainant on Highway 23, Jasper, reported driving complaints.
- Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported an accident with property damage.
- Complainant on Evergreen Drive reported a stolen vehicle.
- Complainant on W. Warren Street and S. Donaldson Street reported a vehicle with an open door.

**March 22**

- Complainant on E. Fairway Drive reported issues with her medic alert pendant.
- Complainant on W. Main Street reported the back window on vehicle broken out.
- Complainant on 5th Street, Hills, reported threats from neighbor.
- Complainant on 41st Street and 50th Avenue, Hills, reported railroad crossing malfunction.

**March 23**

- Complainant on N. McKenzie Street reported harassment from subject.

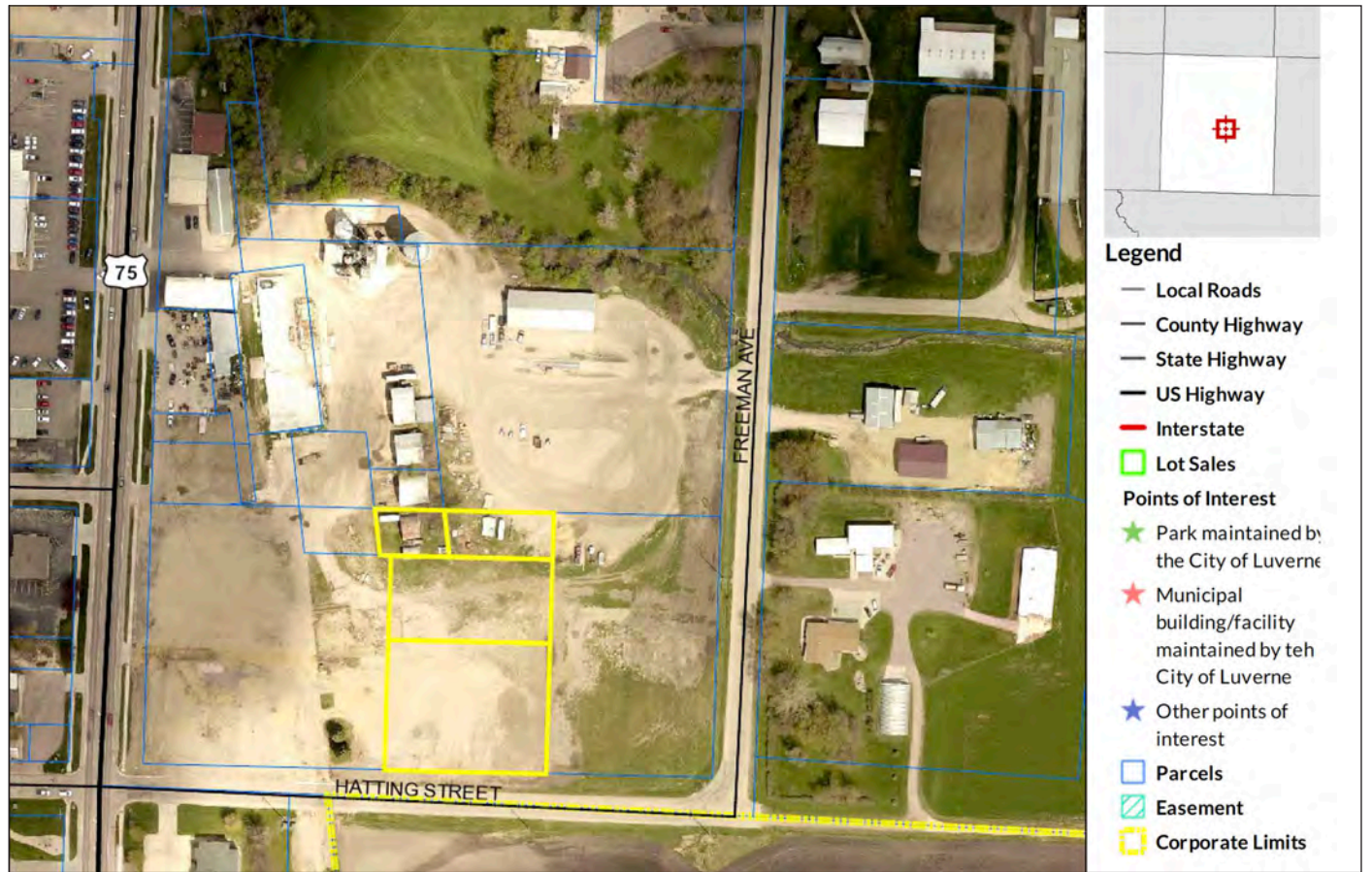
**March 24**

- Complainant on S. Church Street reported a social media harassment situation.
- Complainant on N. Cedar Street reported a suspicious phone call.
- Complainant on W. Bishop Street reported a social security scam.
- Complainant on Highway 60, Iowa, reported a reckless driver.
- Complainant in Steen reported a shed broken into at location.

**March 25**

- A warrant was issued.
- Complainant on W. Fairview Drive reported vandalism.
- Complainant on S. West Park Street reported a verbal dispute.
- Complainant on S. West Park Street reported property damage.

In addition, officers responded to 2 vehicles in ditch, 1 transport, 8 escorts, 21 ambulance runs, 1 parking violation, 2 paper service, 3 animal complaints, 3 fingerprint requests, 12 burn permits, 1 vehicle impound, 1 background check, 5 drug court tests, 5 purchase and carry permits, 3 stalled vehicles, 26 traffic stops, 8 abandoned 911 calls, 1 test, 2 welfare checks, 2 reports of cattle out, 1 OFP and 1 follow-up.



The apartments will be built along Hatting Street starting this spring. The overall plan is to redevelop the entire 6.5-acre area over the next five years into a commercial and housing neighborhood known as the Towne Square Addition.

## Towne Square development/continued from page 1A

hearing date.

### City invests up front for future returns

For background, the city purchased the condemned Sharkee's property and the Mert's Repair lot and approved the parcel as Tax Increment Financing District 23.

The city paid \$220,000 for the condemned Sharkee's property and \$160,000 for the piece that housed Mert's Repair (that moved to a new shop built on a city lot in the industrial park).

The city later purchased 2.13 acres from Gary Golla for \$155,000 to square the corner of Hatting and Freeman for the 6.5-acre lot.

The city razed the buildings and improved the property with water, sewer and electric hookups to prepare the site for future development.

The costs for acquisition, demolition, and site improvements of the

lots (more than \$600,000) will be recouped with future tax increments.

The project utilized a \$680,000 grant through the Department of Employment and Economic Development to meet workforce housing needs in Luverne.

The grant required a matching investment from the city, which fulfilled that obligation with its investment in the site improvements.

The way tax increment financing works, the new owners of the bare lot will pay full taxes on the improved property, but the difference between the current tax amount and the new tax amount will pay down the TIF debt.

After the TIF expires in 25 years, local governments will benefit from taxes paid on the full value of the developed lots.

The multi-phased project could produce up to \$10 million in market value once the whole area

is developed.

The overall plan is to redevelop the entire 6.5-acre area over the next five years into a commercial and housing neighborhood known as the Towne Square Addition.

Property will be sold off as it is developed into housing and commercial property in the mixed-use development.

At the March 23 meeting, Mayor Pat Baustian remarked that it's good to be at this point of movement on the development.

"There's 9.5 million (dollar) reasons why this needs to get going. We've been working on this a long time," Baustian said, referring to the city's investments in Towne Square so far.

"Our council has been proactive in cleaning things up and looking for housing options. It's a big project, but it's really a great opportunity for our city council and EDA to show what working together long term can accomplish."



## Highway 91 north of Adrian closed starting April 12 for bridge work

Motorists are advised that Highway 91 at the north edge of Adrian will be closed to replace the bridge over Interstate 90 beginning Monday, April 12, and traffic will be detoured.

While I-90 will always remain open to through traffic, at times I-90 traffic may be diverted to the ramps at Highway 91 during certain stages of

construction.

Highway 91 through traffic will be detoured to Nobles County Roads 35, 15 and 4 for the duration of the project.

The bridge project also includes guardrail replacement and drainage upgrades and should be complete by September.

For a detailed detour map and more information on the project

visit [www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/projects/hwy91bridge/](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/d7/projects/hwy91bridge/).

Redstone Construction of Mora was awarded the project with a bid of \$1,957,454.

## Anhydrous safety should be top concern

MDA offers safety tips for applying, transporting NH<sub>3</sub>

Many farmers and applicators will soon be applying anhydrous ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) ahead of the planting season. Even with a rush against time and the weather, safety should never be compromised.

Recent accidents involving anhydrous ammonia have proven how dangerous and deadly the chemical can be when not handled properly.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is providing the following tips to farmers and applicators so they can safely apply anhydrous ammonia.

- Always wear appropriate goggles and gloves. Never wear contact lenses.
- Be sure to have a clean,

adequate emergency water supply of at least 5 gallons.

- Exercise caution when making connections and disconnections as if lines contain anhydrous ammonia.

- Stand upwind when connecting, disconnecting, bleeding lines, or transferring NH<sub>3</sub>. Also, close, bleed, disconnect and secure valves and transfer lines when taking breaks or disconnecting lines, and be sure to handle hose end valves by the valve body.

- Position equipment away and downwind from homes, people, and livestock.

Safety is also key to those maintaining anhydrous ammonia equipment.

Never assume NH<sub>3</sub>

lines are empty; always wear proper protective equipment and have access to safety water.

When towing a nurse tank down the road, drive sensibly. Do not go any faster than 30 miles per hour, display a slow-moving vehicle (SVM) emblem visible from the rear, and be sure the tank is secured to the tractor or truck with two separate, independent chains that supplement the hitch pin/clip.

If an accident or spill occurs, immediately call 911 and then the Minnesota Duty Officer at 1-800-422-0798 or 651-649-5451.

You can find more safety, storage and transportation information on the MDA's website at [www.mda.state.mn.us/nh3](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/nh3).

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**SATURDAY APRIL 3**

**Easter Egg hunt**

AT THE COURTHOUSE SQUARE  
204 E Brown St, Luverne, MN  
BEGINS AT 10:00 AM  
\*\*\*FOR CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER\*\*\*  
DON'T FORGET YOUR BASKET  
In case of inclement weather the event will be April 5th @ 5:00pm

A Special guest - the EASTER BUNNY!

SPONSORED BY  
**SECURITY SAVINGS BANK**

**Starling's Cafe & Grille**

**EASTER Brunch Buffet**

Sunday, April 4th  
10am-1:30pm

Mimosas or Hibiscus \$3

**Lunch Entrees**  
Brown Sugar Glazed Ham  
Burgundy Steak Tips & Rice  
Seafood Scampi Penne

**Breakfast**  
French Toast  
Cheesy Scrambled Eggs  
Bacon  
Sausage

**Sides**  
Bread & Butter  
Garlic Mashed Potatoes  
Vegetable Medley  
Macaroni Salad  
Potato Salad  
Oreo Fluff

**Kid's Buffet**  
(Includes Full Buffet)  
Mini Corn Dogs  
Chicken Strips  
Fries

**Desserts**  
Assorted Cakes & Cookies

Adults: \$21  
Kids (16 & Under): \$10  
3 & Under Free

105 E. Main St.  
Luverne, MN

PRIVATE MESSAGE US ON FACEBOOK OR  
CALL FOR RESERVATIONS 507-449-0220

## FFA teams, individuals move on to state contests

Students from Luverne, H-BC to attend virtual convention

By Mavis Fodness

For the second consecutive year, all Minnesota FFA Convention events will be conducted virtually due to the coronavirus.

The April 18-20 event will feature FFA'ers from Luverne-Adrian and Hills-Beaver Creek chapters competing in the career exploratory activities as well as three students from H-BC receiving individual honors.

Teams earned berths to the state convention by placing at the recent Region 6 contests.



Samantha Moser



Hannah Fick



Carter Hartz

### Hills-Beaver Creek

Participating in the state virtual judging contests from Hills-Beaver Creek Secondary will be team members in soils, best-informed greenhand, wildlife and livestock evaluation.

Soils team members include Donavon Leenderts, Max Scholten, Zander Wysong, Carter Hartz and Casey Kueter.

Best-informed greenhands include Riley Tatge, Carter Vande Voort, Alexis Gardner-Swenson, Lanae Elbers, Layla Deelstra, Cooper Gehrke, Brynn Rauk, Sylvia Fick, Taryn Birger and

FFA, continued on page 7A



Mavis Fodness photo/0325 Sioux Valley Donation

Sioux Valley Energy CEO Tim McCarthy (left) and Operation Round Up Chairman Greg Benda present a \$5,000 check Friday to Trenton Bass (holding check), Jeff Bass, Missy Bass and Heather Erickson, who support families experiencing life-changing events.

## Team E Fieldhouse project in Hills receives \$5,000 boost

By Mavis Fodness

Sioux Valley Energy recently donated \$5,000 toward the \$135,000 fundraising goal to remodel the former grain elevator office in Hills into the "Team E Fieldhouse."

The funds from Sioux Valley Energy will support work on the multi-use facility that will house equipment, a public weight-lifting space and meeting room/offices for Game Plan 4 Hope.

The field house is named in memory of former Hills-Beaver Creek Secondary School student Ethan Erickson.

The average donation from Operation Round Up is \$1,000, but the organization increased the amount for the Fieldhouse

remodeling project.

"We just thought this was a very, very, very worthwhile cause," said Operation Round Up committee member Greg Benda. "Rather than carry the money over, we gave them more."

The Sioux Valley donation, which uses money from customers' "rounding up" their electric bills to the next highest dollar, brings fundraising efforts for Team E Fieldhouse to the 85-percent mark, according to Missy Bass.

"We are almost there," she said.

Bass applied to Operation Round Up for additional money to purchase materials for the remodel project. As materials arrive, Jeff Bass said construction will get back on track after a plumbing issue delayed the project.

The group anticipates a May 1 opening.

The Bass and Erickson families began Game Plan 4 Hope in 2019 after experiencing life-altering experiences of their own. They want to help others going through similar situations.

Both families live in Hills. Heather and Aaron Erickson's son, Ethan, died from Burkitt Lymphoma/Leukemia in 2019 at age 12.

Missy and Jeff Bass' son, Trenton, was paralyzed in a football accident in 2017. Trenton helps with Game Plan 4 Hope by talking to others about the recovery process and coping with life in a wheelchair. He's a student at South Dakota State University in Brookings.

## 1892: Old Settlers' association conducts annual meeting

The following appeared in *The Rock County Herald* on June 24, 1892.

### The Old Settlers

### The Annual Meeting Held at the Court House Last Saturday

Pursuant to the call published in these columns, the annual meeting of the Old Settlers' association of Rock county was held at the court room last Saturday afternoon. E. L. Grout, president of the association, called the meeting to order, and the usual routine business was dispatched. The following names were proposed for membership, and on motion each was selected by



### BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

acclamation: T. O. Tollefson, Aaron Baer, James Preston, Rev. Herman Ohs, W. M. Green, and B. I. Crossman.

The association then proceeded to the election of officers, and on motion the secretary was instructed to cast the vote of the association for the following:

E. L. Grout, president; Philo Hawes, recording secretary; Rev. E. Bronson,

corresponding secretary; A. Jaycox, treasurer; vice-presidents, C. C. Drew, Luverne; M. C. Smith, Clinton; Sydney Johnson, Kanaranzi; Sylvester Norton, Magnolia; Th. O. Opsata, Vienna; Frank Mitchell, Battle Plain; Lars A. Karterud, Denver; T. O. Tollefson, Mound; K. K. Steen, Rose Dell; W. P. Noble, Springwater; B. I. Crossman, Beaver Creek; G. Anderson,

Martin; executive committee, T. P. Grout, James Preston, Rasmus Halvorson.

On motion the secretary was instructed to have the notice and date of the annual meeting published in the county papers.

The president was authorized to appoint a committee of three to draft resolutions of condolence and sympathy to the families of all deceased members of the association, said resolutions to be forwarded to members of the families and also to be spread on the records of the association, and Rev. H. Ohs, Rev. E. H. Bronson and Deacon Drew were appointed as such committee.

It was decided, on mo-

tion, that at every annual meeting of the association hereafter, a reunion of the members of the association be held under the supervision of the executive committee.

Since the association was organized in January, 1886, six new members have been admitted, seven have died, and twenty-two have moved away.

*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 manmade@iw.net.*

## REMEMBER WHEN

### 10 years ago (2011)

A decade-long coaching run officially came to an end during a meeting of the District 2184 School Board Thursday.

The board accepted the resignation of Jason Phelps as Luverne High School's head girls' basketball coach. Phelps has been head coach since the 2001-02 season.

"It's time to step aside and give someone else a chance to move the program forward," Phelps said.

Phelps compiled a 76-166 record during his 10-year run as a head coach.

Four of Luverne's six girls to score more than 1,000 career points played their basketball during Phelps' tenure.

Although LHS never produced a title-earning season under Phelps, he did play a key role in turning a program that won four games in two seasons prior to his arrival into a program that played competitive basketball.

The most memorable years during the Phelps era came during the 2005-06 and 2006-07 seasons, when the Cardinals reached the semifinal round of the South Section 3AA Tournament.

His 2006-07 squad compiled a 17-8 record, the best mark produced by one of his teams.

### 25 years ago (1996)

Some Luverne IBP employees may see a bonus in one of their upcoming paychecks.

IBP has been ordered by the U. S. Department of Labor to pay back wages in one of the largest cases against an employer

for not paying employees for work performed.

The court order against IBP could amount to more than \$7 million for 23,500 employees at 11 plants in six states. All the plants involved at the time the suit was filed were non-union.

For two years, workers were not paid for jobs they performed before and after their regular shifts, according to a statement released Tuesday by the Department of Labor. ...

The court order includes a permanent injunction against IBP to prevent the company from committing future violations of the overtime and record-keeping provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. IBP was also ordered to pay interest on the wages owed to its workers.

### 50 years ago (1971)

Rock County can buy the Donahue Clinic building on West Main Street in Luverne for \$25,000, the county board announced Tuesday. Purchase of the building has been recommended by the county welfare board. It would be used as offices for county family services.

The board said that 35 percent of the purchase price would be reimbursed by the federal and state governments. The remainder would come from the county's court house building fund which has been accumulating over the years and now has reached a total of \$472,000.

If the building were purchased, it would be bought by the county as a whole, and then leased to the family services department. Estimated rental to be paid would be \$400 per month, part of which would come from federal and state funds, and the rest from county funds.

### 75 years ago (1946)

Mr. and Mrs. Phil DeBuck, of Hardwick, have purchased Walt's Café from Mr. and Mrs. Heinie Bell. Mr. and Mrs. DeBuck took possession of the business Monday noon. The café, in the future, will be known as Phil's Café.

Mr. and Mrs. DeBuck were formerly in the restaurant business at Hardwick but disposed of that business and also their filling station. They still own the pool hall there.

### 100 years ago (1921)

The settlement of taxes collected from November 1st, 1920, to March 1st, 1921, was completed last week by County Treasurer John P. Houg, and warrants for the payment of the sums due the different funds to which the collections have been apportioned, are being drawn by County Auditor Skyberg.

The total amount of the funds apportioned was \$115,243.23, the total receipts from the general taxes being divided as follows: State revenue, \$12,088.54; state schools, \$3,508.01; teachers' insurance and retirement fund, \$142.59, making the total amount of state taxes, \$15,739.14; county revenue, \$5,746.73; plus one half penalties and fines \$153.37. The total of these two county items being \$5900.10; county poor, \$515.49; roads and bridges, \$23,402.46; county sanatorium fund, \$1,810.65; towns and villages, \$25,698.36; school districts, \$34,504.84; state school loans, \$1,436.56; general town and village state loans, \$1,918.15; judicial ditch No. 2, state loan \$373.47; judicial ditch No. 3, \$1.92; current school funds derived from one half the penalties and fines \$153.36; bonds and interest, \$3,788.71.

# Berghorst credited for city's continual excellence in financial reporting

By Lori Sorenson

For the 26<sup>th</sup> year, the city of Luverne has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

At their March 9 meeting, Luverne City Council members formally recognized city finance director Barb Berghorst for her efforts in qualifying the city for the award.

"Thanks for the great job you do," Mayor Pat Baustian told Berghorst.

He pointed out that when Berghorst started working with the city in 1991, it had a bond credit rating of BBB minus. Today, it's AA minus.

Berghorst thanked the council but also credited her staff for their hard work.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. It represents a "significant accomplishment by a govern-



Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian presents city finance director Barb Berghorst with the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting in City Hall Council Chambers Tuesday, March 9.

Lori Sorenson photo/0401 berghorst finance award

ment and its management."

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the city of Luverne for its comprehensive annual financial report every year since 1994.

It is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the high standards for preparation of state and local government financial reports.

Berghorst is the person primarily responsible for achieving the award for Luverne.

## FFA/continued from page 6A

Megan Vis.

Wildlife team members include Austin Allen (ninth-place overall individual), Oliver Deelstra, Cole Baker, Tyson Bork and Calvin Erickson.

The livestock evaluation team was led by Lanae Elbers (third-overall individual), Samantha Moser, Sean Elbers, Chase Bosch and Tory Knobloch.

The H-BC FFA food science and technology team of Olivia Bork, Taylor Huisman, Amalia Ternus and Sophia Van Surksom completed at the regional event but did not qualify for the state convention.

Samantha Moser, Carter Hartz and Hannah Fick will be recognized for their proficiency applications and Fick will also receive the state FFA degree.

Advisor for the H-BC FFA Chapter is Cloey Anderson.

Luverne-Adrian

Two Luverne-Adrian FFA Chapter judging teams placed first at the Region 6 state-qualifying events and will compete in the state contests.

The horse judging team of Destiny Matthiesen, Cassie Flanagan, Julia Hoogland and Morgan Bonnet placed first overall. Individually Hoogland placed third and Flanagan fifth at the virtual event.

Members of the ag mechanics team will also compete at the state event.

Placing second overall in the team competition at the Region 6 virtual qualifying event were Justin Dohlmann, Hunter Sandbulte, Peter Baustian, Camron Kopp, Jacob Hansen, Nick Hansen, A.J. Ossefoort and J.T. Remme.

Remme had the high score for the team. The top five scores move on to the state contest.

At the Region 6 virtual fish

and wildlife, Destiny Matthiesen competed as an individual, placing in the top half of the competition.

Matthiesen also competed individually in the wildlife management virtual contest and also finished in the top half of the competition.

Luverne FFA places first at ag bowl

Members of the ag mechanics team also competed at the virtual Southwest Minnesota State University ag bowl conducted recently.

They placed first overall in the team competition

Competing were J.T. Remme, Peter Baustian, Lucas Hansen, Nick Hansen, Camron Kopp and A.J. Ossefoort. Remme achieved the high score for the team.

Dennis Moritz is the FFA adviser for the Luverne-Adrian chapter.

## More tips for spring gardening chores

It is Monday and I have been cleaning up the Healing Garden at Sanford.

As I was working, I noticed little sprouts of bluegrass that have been hiding among the stems of perennials that I didn't notice last year. That reminded me to remind you that this is the best time to remove perennials grass that may have begun invading your garden area.

Many of these grasses like blue grass or quack grass are rhizomatous, meaning that the root spreads underground, periodically sending up little grass plants. My pruning shears has a pointed tip so I can just push it into the soil under the grass and lift the grass root and then continue following that root, loosening the soil as I keep pulling to get the whole of the root dug out.

Right now the soil is moist and loose after thawing from winter, so now is the easiest time to get that grass removed. Wait just a couple of weeks and you'll be looking at much more of a challenge to remove it.

Blue grass is a slow spreader, but quack grass spreads very quickly and grows the entire season into the fall until the ground freezes. It is not unusual for quack grass rhizomes to grow 3 to 4 feet in one season, whereas blue grass might grow 6 inches. Now you understand why quack



### KNOW IT AND GROW IT

By George Bonnema, Luverne Horticulturalist

can become a problem in a perennial garden or a strawberry patch quickly if you aren't paying attention.

Yesterday I went out and cut some lilac branches. I put several stems in a deep vase of water with preservative added and set them in a bright area but out of direct sun. The process is called forcing.

At this point in the season, it will take a couple of weeks for the buds to open. I enjoy the fragrance of lilacs, and getting a jump on the regular bloom season is a bonus I can't pass up. If you are up for giving it a go, cut stems with fat buds from high on the bush so you get flower buds, not leaf buds.

So it is 70 out today, and tomorrow night they are predicting a low of 20. Wow! ... That's why our part of the country is considered Zone 4 on the hardiness chart. It amazes me that plants like daffodils and tulips that are about 4 inches tall can tolerate that much cold.

The heat will warm the soil today, and I am hoping that radiant heat will help protect the flower buds on the daffodils. The tulip buds are still protected because they haven't emerged from the leaf swirl. Another factor that helps these early arrivals survive is the fact that we still have freezing temperatures most nights.

If the cold isn't enough threat to your tulips, you can add rabbit damage. The fresh tulip foliage is a treat rabbits can't resist. The best and least expensive deterrent I have found is garlic powder. Just a light sprinkle directly on the foliage changes the "flavor" enough to discourage the pests. You do have to reapply if it rains, but the tulips grow so fast usually only a couple of applications will do the trick.

Bonnema is a gardening enthusiast and former greenhouse owner. He can be reached at [flowersgb@iu.net](mailto:flowersgb@iu.net).



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## CELEBRATIONS

### Card showers

**Edna Dirks** will celebrate her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, April 4. Greetings may be sent to 214 E. Veterans Drive #13; Luverne, MN 56156.

**Sylvia Niessink** will celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on Monday, April 5. Greetings may be sent to her at 1005 N. Jackson Street, Luverne, MN 56156.

**Jan Van Eck** will celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thursday, April 8. Greetings may be sent to 1006 Linden Street, Luverne, MN 56156.

## GENERATIONS MENU

**Monday, April 5:** Pork loin, sweet potatoes, broccoli, bread, bar.

**Tuesday, April 6:** Ham, scalloped potato, peas, bread, dessert.

Half-Price Day sponsored in memory of Ruth Van Westen.

**Wednesday:** Tacos salad with salsa and sour cream, corn chips, fresh fruit, dessert.

**Thursday:** Spaghetti, lettuce salad with dressing,

fruit, dessert.

**Friday:** Baked fish, brown rice, oriental blend, peaches.

LSS Dining offers well-balanced and affordable meals.

Call Lynette Hoiland at 283-9846 to make dining reservations or for home-delivered meals.

Gift certificates are available at the meal site or online at [www.lssmn.org/nutrition](http://www.lssmn.org/nutrition).

## Cardinals fall in opening round of state hockey tournament to undefeated Proctor/Hermantown

By **Brennen Rupp**

For the second straight year, the Luverne Cardinals girls' hockey team traveled to the Xcel Energy Center for state tournament action.

Last year the Cardinals opened the state tournament against Breck, the eventual state champions. The Cardinals fell to Breck 8-1. In the consolation bracket, the Cardinals lost to South St. Paul 8-4.

Fast forward a year and the Cardinals fell to undefeated Proctor/Hermantown 8-0 in the opening round.

The opening period was a competitive affair with the Cardinals killing off two penalties in the first 10 minutes.

With the game tied at 0-0, it appeared that the Cardinals and the Mirage were going to head into the locker room deadlocked. Then with 43 seconds left in the period, Proctor/



Brennen Rupp photo/0401LHS GH photo  
Luverne senior Shelby Kracht handles the puck during Luverne's state tournament game against Proctor/Hermantown at the Xcel Energy Center on Friday, March 26.

Hermantown's Alyssa Watkins put one between the pipes to give the Mirage a 1-0 lead.

In the second period the Cardinals simply had no answer for Watkins and the Mirage.

Watkins scored a goal 14 seconds into the period to extend their lead to 2-0.

She scored four more goals in the period, and her teammate Reese Heltzman added one for good measure to put the Mirage up 6-0 after the first two periods.

In the third period the Mirage added two more goals to make the final score 8-0.

With the loss, the Cardinals finished the season with a 16-5 record.

It marked the final game for LHS seniors Regan Feit, Roz Oye, Shelby Kracht, Rylee Gee, Brynn Thier and Sophie Holmberg. Gee finished her final

season as a Cardinal with 20 goals and 16 assists.

Oye scored 13 goals and recorded 12 assists for the season.

Kracht recorded 12 assists and scored four goals.

Thier recorded 11 assists and scored three goals.

Feit recorded seven assists and scored three goals.

Holmberg recorded seven assists and scored one goal.

The Cardinals will return three of their top four goal leaders, Kamryn Van Batavia, Reghan Bork and Peyton Behr, next year.

Mallory Nelson, Anika Boll, Mallory Von Tersch, Cheyenne Schutz, Zariah Holmgren and Brenn Siebenahler will all return as the Cardinals will look to try and make it three straight trips to the state tournament next season.

## Reisdorfer competes on the beam at state meet

By **Brennen Rupp**

For a second straight year Luverne's Ella Reisdorfer competed at the Class A Gymnastics State Tournament.

Last year as a seventh-grader, Reisdorfer earned a spot at the state tournament on the bars. This year she punched her ticket on the beam by recording a score of 8.875 at the section meet.

At the state tournament, Reisdorfer tied for 18th with two other individuals with a score of 8.80.

The two other individuals that tied with Reisdorfer were Britney Krumrel of Big Lake and Maura Panahon from Mankato West.

"Ella did a great job of representing Luverne at the state meet," Luverne head coach Phoebe Flom said.

"She stuck her beam routine, even after we

added her back tuck back into the routine. I am so proud of her."

Libby McGreary from Benson/KMS earned first place in the beam with a score of 9.50.

Worthington's Hali Bullerman finished 11th in the beam with a score of 9.10.

Gracia Elias, another Worthington gymnast, finished 14th with a score of 9.05.

All-around, Jada Olsen from Perham/New York Mills placed first with a score of 37.800.

Anna Mielke from Watertown-Mayer/Mound-Westonka finished second in the all-around with a score of 37.375.

Sawyer Gorman from Pine Island/Zumbrot-Mazeppa finished third in the all-around with a score of 37.175.

Spring is upon us and prescribed fire season will be here and gone in the blink of an eye.

Fire scares the heck out of most people and it should. Utilizing fire to benefit wildlife habitat is not something you can pick up in a weekend or two.

I have been active in prescribed fire projects for almost 20 years. Still today, I have a very high respect for fire, and this is the primary reason that in all of the fires I have participated, I have never had to call a volunteer fire department to save my behind.

There are many reasons for this, but the primary one is that I never light a fire if conditions are not just perfect. As a result, I don't get as many prescribed fires done as those professional, paid-for-service, organized

## Spring prescribed burning is 'short-term pain for long-term gain'



### THE OUTDOORS

By **Scott Rall**  
Outdoors columnist

operations do. They have enough equipment and manpower to be able to overcome some situations where the wind might be too strong or the difficulty index makes it too hard for me and my band of volunteers to handle.

Prescribed fire is poorly understood by most people. All they see and understand is that the fire burns up the grassland birds that are trying to nest in late April and early May. It is true that some nests get destroyed, but only in rare cases does the hen perish.

Pheasants, which are my passion, usually build a nest in mid-May and then lay, incubate and hatch a clutch in the second week of June. There are always a small percentage that start a little earlier and those that start later.

Lighting a fire to wildlife habitat can be akin to fertilizing your yard, as I covered in a recent column. The best explanation for spring burning is "short-term pain for long-term gain."

The few nests that are lost to spring burning

in most cases will be recovered when the hen nests again in nearby property. This is why you try to never burn the entire area at one time.

Burning 25 percent of a spot each year in a four-year rotation keeps the habitat the most robust it can be. This allows the carry capacity of the property to increase.

Carry capacity is the total amount of animals a spot can provide for. Grasslands in great shape can result in reproduction efforts significantly higher than in lower quality grasslands.

All of the science supports prescribed habitat fires for the total overall increase in wildlife populations. Fire as a management tool is highly desired but has never

**Rall, continued on 13A**

## Luverne's Rylee Gee commits to play hockey at Lindenwood University

By **Brennen Rupp**

Rylee Gee has been playing the game of hockey for as long as she can remember. She first started skating 11 years ago and then picked up the hockey stick a year later.

It's a game that she fell in love with at an early age.

"I love that hockey is so much more than a skills sport," Gee said.

"You can have the ability to stickhandle and shoot and skate, but it will be tough to get anywhere without your team. Everyone can have a strength that they bring to the game, and no two players are exactly alike."

The Luverne senior just played in her final game as a Cardinal at the Class A State Tournament on Friday, March 26. Gee played a key role in the Cardinals making it to the state tournament back-to-back years.

In her final season as a Cardinal, Gee scored 20 goals and recorded 16 assists.

"I'm going to miss the close team and the



Submitted photo  
Luverne senior Rylee Gee recently signed her letter of intent to play hockey at Lindenwood University. Pictured are Laura Gee (left), Rylee Gee, Paige Moling and (standing) Ryan Gee.

extra, extra supportive community," Gee said.

"The difference about being a Cardinal and just being a hockey player is the second you put on that Cardinals jersey, you represent the whole

community."

Gee said that she enjoyed representing the Cardinals on the ice and being an active member of the community off the ice.

"You never know what you can go out and

do to make an impact in your community, and for some of us, that impact is bringing respect and sportsmanship to the game of hockey," Gee said. "That's what I'm going to miss."

Laura Gee, Rylee's mother, said that the Luverne community has been everything they could have hoped for when they made the move from Colorado to Minnesota four years ago.

"It's been a pretty exciting ride," Laura Gee said. "Luverne hockey has been pretty much everything we hoped for when we moved here four years ago."

We were excited about her playing for a high school team and being part of the community. That's something you don't get in club hockey in Colorado."

The good news for Gee is that Friday's game won't be the last competitive hockey game she gets to play in.

Gee recently committed to play hockey at Lindenwood University in

Missouri.

The opportunity to play the sport she loves at the next level is a dream come true for Gee.

"It means so much for me to be able to continue playing hockey past high school," Gee said.

"It was every young hockey player's dream to one day play in the big leagues, and over time I have grown to love the game so much.

ACHA might not be the Olympics or anything, but it means the world that I get to be part of a team full of other players that love the sport just as much as I do."

Gee was one of 20 to receive the prestigious Sibley Scholarship from Lindenwood University, awarded for exemplary student leaders.

"That scholarship, the coaches and the program definitely put Lindenwood at the top of her list," Laura Gee said. "I'm super excited to see where her path takes her."

The Sibley Scholarship recognizes students who exhibit high academic

achievement, community service, co-curricular involvement and leadership.

"At the beginning of my college search, I wasn't exactly sure what I wanted," Gee said.

"I had toured a handful of colleges and I hadn't really found anything that felt like 'the' school. When I went onto the Lindenwood campus, I felt comfortable."

Located just outside of St. Louis, the campus is a mix of a big and small town that Gee grew up in.

"Overall, the university has beautiful buildings and views. The coaches and players were so welcoming, and the dorms, commons, and sports facilities were excellent," she said.

"The school also had been extremely cooperative with academic scholarships and even helped me toward one of the most prestigious academic scholarships offered by the university."

During her time at Lindenwood, Gee plans to major in pre-engineering and would like to put time toward a graphic arts degree.



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

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

Public mass will be celebrated at FULL capacity of the church. Masses: 9 a.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Sunday. No mass, communion service or rosary at care centers at this time. 5 p.m. Saturdays and 8:30 a.m. mass will be live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/stccluverne/videos/>. Visit [www.stscl.org](http://www.stscl.org) for more information.  
**Thursday, April 1: 5 p.m. St. Catherine mass. Friday, April 2: 3 p.m. St. Catherine service. Saturday, April 3: 8 p.m. St. Catherine Easter vigil mass. Sunday, April 4: 8:30 a.m. Easter mass.**

**Luverne Christian Reformed Church**  
605 N. Estey St., Luverne  
Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982  
[www.luverneccrc.com](http://www.luverneccrc.com) — [office@luverneccrc.com](mailto:office@luverneccrc.com)  
Roger Sparks, Pastor

**Sunday, April 4: 7:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise service. 9:30 a.m. Easter service.** We are streaming Sunday services live on Roger Sparks' Facebook page at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Send him a friend request if you're not connected. You may also visit our website for delayed broadcasts. Also our services are on local cable TV at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays. In all circumstances, may we joyfully declare: "Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 124:8.

**First Baptist Church**  
1033 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne  
Ph. 283-4091; email: [fbcluv@iw.net](mailto:fbcluv@iw.net) — [www.fbcluverne.org](http://www.fbcluverne.org)  
Walt Moser, Pastor

**Friday, April 2: 6 p.m. Good Friday service with Holy Communion. Sunday, April 4: 10:30 a.m. Easter service.** Sundays, 10:30 a.m. In-person worship service. Service is also on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m.

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

Thursday, April 1: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. 5:30 p.m. Seder Meal. 6:45 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion. Friday, April 2: 6:45 p.m. Good Friday service. Saturday, April 3: 5:30 p.m. Easter worship service with Holy Communion. Sunday, April 4: 7 a.m. Easter Sunrise service with Holy Communion. 9 a.m. Easter worship with Holy Communion. \*Please register for the special services this week. [www.graceluverne.org](http://www.graceluverne.org) No Sunday school or Adult Bible study. Tuesday, April 6: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, April 7: 7 a.m. Men's Bible study. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are still available. Online Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website [www.graceluverne.org](http://www.graceluverne.org), click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. — NEW TIME! Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 p.m.

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

Thursday, April 1: 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion. Friday, April 2: 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Tenebrae worship. Sunday, April 4: 8 a.m. Festive Easter Sunrise worship of Our Risen Savior. 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](http://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](mailto:office@arcluverne.org)  
Mike Altana, Pastor

Thursday, April 1: 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion. Friday, April 2: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible study. Saturday, April 3: 12 Noon Youth room reserved. 1 p.m. Multipurpose room reserved. Sunday, April 4: 8:30 a.m. Easter worship service. 10:30 a.m. Easter worship service. 12 Noon Fellowship hall reserved. Tuesday, April 6: 12 Noon Staff meeting. Wednesday, April 7: 5:30 p.m. Midweek meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer clubs; Youth groups. Worship services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

**United Methodist Church**  
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne  
Ph. 283-4529; email: [luverneumc@iw.net](mailto:luverneumc@iw.net)  
Thursday, April 1: 1-3 p.m. Food Shelf curbside. 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service. Friday, April 2: Good Friday service. Saturday, April 3: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Sunday, April 4: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 10 a.m. Easter egg hunt in the backyard. 10:30 a.m. Easter worship service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis to Revelation Bible study.

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

Thursday, April 1: 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday/Good Friday combined services with Holy Communion. Sunday, April 4: 8 a.m. Easter Sunrise service. 8:45-10 a.m. Easter Brunch. \*Must RSVP to attend brunch. Social distancing will be practiced. Egg bake, breakfast pastries and fresh fruit salad to be served. Call or email Emilie, [eboelman@vastfb.net](mailto:eboelman@vastfb.net) or call 283-4787. 10:15 a.m. Easter service. In-person Worship service and through Facebook Live Sunday. Our Facebook page can be found under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne. We are also on the local Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
803 N. Cedar St., Luverne  
Ph. 283-2316; email: [stjohn@iw.net](mailto:stjohn@iw.net)  
[www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org](http://www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org)  
Rev. Dr. Phil Booe, Pastor

Thursday, April 1: 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion. Friday, April 2: 7 p.m. Good Friday worship. Sunday, April 4: 7 a.m. Easter Sunrise worship. 9 a.m. Easter service. Worship service is 75 people. Services will be available on the Vast channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, [cityofluverne.org](http://cityofluverne.org).

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

Thursday, April 1: 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service at First Lutheran. Friday, April 2: 7 p.m. Good Friday service at First Lutheran. Sunday, April 4: 10:30 a.m. Easter worship service at First Lutheran Church. Masks are highly recommended. Facebook live. Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFcU4>

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

Thursday, April 1: 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service at First Lutheran. Friday, April 2: 7 p.m. Good Friday service at First Lutheran. Sunday, April 4: 10:30 a.m. Easter worship service at Palisade Lutheran Church. Masks are required. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook. Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFcU4>

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

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: [magnoliamnumc@gmail.com](mailto:magnoliamnumc@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

Thursday, April 1: 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service. Sunday, April 4: 9:30 a.m. Easter worship service. 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

Thursday, April 1: 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion. Friday, April 2: 7 p.m. Good Friday service. Sunday, April 4: 7 a.m. Easter Sunrise service with Holy Communion at Bethlehem. 9 a.m. Easter worship service with Holy Communion at Tuff Chapel. 10 a.m. Easter service with Holy Communion at Bethlehem. No Sunday school. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website [bchills.org](http://bchills.org).

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

Friday, April 2: 7 p.m. Good Friday service. Sunday, April 4: 9:30 a.m. Easter worship service.

## Jesus' sacrifice gives us life

### BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Walt Moser  
First Baptist Church, Luverne

Ralph was a heart-broken man who lived in poverty and filth. He felt like a failure in every way. Relationships seem shallow and insignificant. He knew something had to be better than this, but what? He wanted change, but how do you change? Life was such a disappointment. "Don't worry, be happy" didn't mean anything or satisfy the longing of his heart. What hope is there in life? There was no hope as he looked out the window of his life.

Yet, Ralph lived in a beautiful three-bedroom home, was married to a compassionate and loving wife. He drove a new Cadillac Escalade. He was a successful CEO of a very profitable company. On the outside everything looked great, but inside he was sinking into complete hopelessness.

Sin destroys. Sin gives poverty and filth of heart. Sin is failure to be and do what God expects. Sin destroys.

One day as Easter was approaching, Ralph found a Bible in the local coffee shop. There was a bookmark at Matthew 21, so he started reading the story of Christ coming into Jerusalem with crowds cheering him as a king, cheering him as if he was more than a king. As he kept reading, he was amazed that in just a week the crowd turned from cheering Jesus to calling for his death. What happened that one day they loved him, the next day they hate him?

Continuing, Ralph read of Jesus' trial, if you could call it that, but there was no evidence of him doing anything wrong. Then they executed Jesus on a cross. Ralph wondered, if Jesus is a king, if he is the Son of God, which he claimed, why would he let them beat him, leading to his execution?

Ralph got another cup of coffee and read on. He read, Jesus died and one of his friends buried him. Ralph wondered if this was the end of the story. He could see the newspaper headlines, "Man Claiming to be God is Dead," but he kept reading because there were a lot more pages in the Bible, so something had to happen after his death.

To Ralph's amazement he read that three days later this dead man came back to life. It wasn't just one person who saw him alive, it was many. It wasn't a ghost, because he ate fish with them, he talked with them, he even let them touch him. Jesus was alive.

Ralph wondered if this Jesus could do anything for his life. Could this Jesus help his life that was being destroyed by sin? As he read in the Bible, he understood that Jesus willingly came to earth, being obedient to God the Father and out of love for his father and humanity died on the cross to pay the price that God demanded as the consequence of sin.

Easter took on a new meaning for Ralph. Easter was not about bunny rabbits and Easter eggs but about giving purpose to life. Ralph's life changed as he understood that Jesus sacrificed his life to give life to Ralph and all who believe.

Jesus is alive and extends true life to all who believe. Do you believe?

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

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**Rock County Rural Water seeks bids by April 7**

**FILTER MEDIA REPLACEMENT ROCK COUNTY RURAL WATER  
LUVERNE, MINNESOTA  
SECTION 00010**

Notice is hereby given that the Rock County Rural Water will receive sealed bids for the construction of a media filter replacement project located near Luverne, Minnesota. The project consists of the following:

- Removal and disposal of existing filter media and air backwash piping for 3 existing pressure filter systems;
  - Existing filters were supplied by General Filters from Ames, Iowa (order number 02-1301);
  - Furnish and install new filter media, piping and air wash per specification;
- The Bids must be prepared on bid forms supplied in the Bidding Documents and submitted at the Rock County Courthouse, 204 East Brown Street, Luverne, Minnesota 56156-0745 not later than 2:00 P.M., Local Time April 7, 2021, at which time and place all Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud in the presence of the Bidders and their representatives. Bids that will be mailed ahead of time shall be mailed to the following address P.O. Box 507, Luverne, MN 56156. No bids will be received after the specified hour and date, and Bids which are not prepared and filed in accordance with "Instructions to Bidders" may be rejected.

Each Bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope. Each sealed envelope containing a Bid must be plainly marked on the outside as Rock County Rural Water – Filter Media Replacement. The envelope should also bear on the outside the name and address of the Bidder. If forwarded by mail or other delivery system, the sealed envelope containing the Bid must be sealed in another envelope, with the notation "Bid Enclosed" on the face thereof, and addressed to the Rock County Courthouse, P.O. Box 507, 204 East Brown Street, Luverne, Minnesota 56156.

Bidding Documents may be examined at the offices of Banner Associates, Inc. in Brookings, SD. A complete set of paper Bidding Documents will be provided upon request.

The Bidder to whom the contract is awarded will be required to furnish a construction performance bond and a construction payment bond to the Owner in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract award for each bond, in conformance with the requirements of the Contract Documents. The construction performance bond and construction payment bond shall remain in full force until the completion of the Contract as specified in the General Conditions.

Bids may not be withdrawn after the time fixed for opening them. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids, and to waive any irregularities therein. BY ORDER of the Rock County Board of Commissioners.  
Date March 8, 2021

By Rock County Board of Commissioners  
(03-25, 04-01)

**Notice of public hearing for variance requests**

**Close Proximity Owners and Local Officials  
of the Rock County Board of Adjustment**

Notice is hereby given that the Rock County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 12, 2021, at the Rock County Law Enforcement Center, 1000 North Blue Mound Avenue, Luverne, Minnesota, at 7:00 pm to act on the following applications:

Eric Sas has requested a variance to permit the construction of farm shop to be located no less than 95 feet from the centerline of the public right of way on the property located at 2058 241st Street in Section 11 of Battle Plain Township, T104N, 44W, Rock County, Minnesota. Said property is owned by Sas Holdings. The proposed structure would encroach upon the required setback from the public right of way as allowed in the Rock County Zoning Ordinance.

Daniel Fick has requested a variance to allow the placement of a feedlot to be located less than one-half mile from an existing dwelling, with the feedlot to be located in the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 section of Section 9 of Clinton Township, T101N, R45W, Rock County, Minnesota. Said property is owned by Morris and Elizabeth Fick. The proposed feedlot would encroach upon the required setback from the nearest dwelling/residence as allowed in the Rock County Zoning Ordinance.

To help mitigate the risk to public health by following the recommendations from the Department of Health and Human Services, along with Governor Walz' statewide response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the total number of attendees present at the meeting will be limited to 10 attendees as per the Governor's requirements AND all attendees shall be required to wear face masks.

If you wish to offer comments relative to the public hearings being held and do not need to be present, we ask you to submit that those comments by 4:00 PM on Monday, June 29. Comments can be submitted in writing to the Rock County Land Management Office, located at 311 West Gabrielson Road, Suite 4, Luverne, Minnesota, or submitted by e-mail to: eric.hartman@co.rock.mn.us

If you wish to actively participate in the public hearing process itself from an off-site location, we are providing live access to the meeting through a teleconferencing service. To access the meeting, dial the following phone number: (425)436-6320 Then, when prompted, enter the access code number: 108575

The properties described above are both zoned A-2, General Agriculture.

Dated: April 1, 2021  
By Order of the Rock County Board of Adjustment  
Eric Hartman, Zoning Administrator  
311 W. Gabrielson Road  
Luverne, MN 56156  
507-283-8862

(04-01, 04-08)

**City of Luverne adopts Ordinance No. 16**

**ORDINANCE NO. 16, FOURTH SERIES**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF REAL ESTATE (BLOCK 1, TOWNE SQUARE FIRST ADDITION, AND LOT 2, 3, AND 4, BLOCK 3, TOWNE SQUARE SECOND 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: Block 1, Towne Square First Addition, City of Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota

Lot 2, 3, and 4, Block 3, Towne Square Second Addition, City of Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota

To Town Square Development, LLC

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.

(04-01)

**Weichert, Realtors(r) - The Agents assumes name**

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

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

ASSUMED NAME: Weichert, Realtors(r) - The Agents

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 7505 S. Louise Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57108 USA

NAMEHOLDER(S):

Name: Meritus Group Real Estate LLC  
Address: 7505 S. Louise Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57108 USA

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

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

Signature: /s/ John Maurer, Owner

CONTACT PERSON: John Maurer

PHONE NUMBER: 605-521-1183

MAILING ADDRESS: 7505 S. Louise Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57108

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: choosetheagent@gmail.com  
(03-25, 04-01)

**DEADLINE FOR LEGALS is MONDAY @ 10 a.m.**

Star Herald  
**CLASSIFIEDS**

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

**Place a classified!**  
Call  
**283-2333**

EMPLOYMENT

**New Position**

Wild Rose Home Care LLC is looking for a part-time **Personal Care Attendant (PCA)** in Luverne.

10-15 hrs early AM hours per week working M-F. Every other weekend rotation. Flexible hours working with a female client. Must be able to pass a background check. This is a new position, qualified individuals must be dependable and reliable.

*Wild Rose*

Call for application  
507-337-1101

**Get Your Career On Track**

At Midwest Railcar Repair, Inc. we repair, maintain and upgrade railcars – keeping an entire industry on track.

Employment Opportunities available for individuals who are highly motivated with a desire to succeed. Excellent benefits and pay.

Check us out online at [mwrail.com](http://mwrail.com)

Midwest Railcar Repair, Inc.

25965 482nd Ave.  
Brandon, SD 57005  
605.582.8300

**Habilitative Services, Inc.**  
is hiring  
**DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS (FT & PT)**  
FT benefits eligible.  
Apply online at [jobs.thementornetwork.com](http://jobs.thementornetwork.com)

**Help Wanted**

**CITY OF HILLS**

Taking applications for

**PUBLIC WORKS SUPERINTENDENT**

for the operations and maintenance of streets, parks, buildings, grounds, water/wastewater system and facilities. Salary based on experience. Apply at Hills City Office, P.O. Box 172, 301 S. Main Ave., Hills, MN 56138 or call 507-962-3290. Applications accepted until position is filled.

**Would you like to earn a competitive salary, get a \$5,000 sign on bonus while driving well maintained trucks?**

Cliff Viessman, Inc. offers that and more! Now hiring regional & OTR TANKER & PNEUMATIC DRIVERS in the RENVILLE and MARSHALL areas. Industry leading benefits include:

- Health (single coverage: \$98/month, family coverage: \$520/month)
- Dental
- Life
- 401K (with 3% company match)
- Profit sharing (over the last five years, CVI has contributed 2-4% of employee earnings)
- Weekly settlements

Requirements: CDL with tanker endorsement, 1 year OTR or 6 months of experience for trucking school graduates, good driving record.

*Since 1961*  
**Viessman**  
CLIFF VISSMAN, INC.  
HAULER OF SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

To apply call Tim at 605-272-3333 or apply online at [www.viessmantrucking.com/careers/drivers/](http://www.viessmantrucking.com/careers/drivers/)



The Tuff Memorial Home is currently hiring:

- Weekend-only Day Shift CNA**
- Full-time Evening CNA**
- Part-time Evening Cook**
- Full-time Day Cook**

If interested, contact Eli Ripley at 507-962-3275 or email [eripley@tuffmemorialhome.com](mailto:eripley@tuffmemorialhome.com)

**Competitive Wage | Full Benefits Pension Plan | Friendly Atmosphere**



**Hills-Beaver Creek Public Schools**

**OPEN POSITIONS**

**Long Term Substitute First Grade/Preschool 2020-2021**

**Position:** Long term Substitute Teacher 1/2 Time First Grade, 1/2 time Preschool. Position begins May 10.

**Qualifications:** Current Minnesota Elementary Licensed Teacher and/or Preschool Teacher or ability to be certified.

**Application Deadline:** Open until filled.

**Apply To:** Todd Holthaus, Superintendent, Hills-Beaver Creek Schools, PO Box 547, 301 N Summit Ave, Hills, MN 56138 or email—[t.holthaus@isd671.net](mailto:t.holthaus@isd671.net) Send Letter of application, resume, copy of teaching license, transcripts, and three (3) current letters of reference.

**District Application:** Submit a completed, signed copy of the district employment application found here: <https://51l.co/ba8o>

**Hills-Beaver Creek School District**  
301 N. Summit Avenue – PO Box 547  
Hills, Minnesota 56138  
Website: [www.hbcpsd.net](http://www.hbcpsd.net)  
Email: [t.holthaus@isd671.net](mailto:t.holthaus@isd671.net)  
Phone: (507) 962-3240

- An Equal Opportunity Employer -

Every day, independent family farms across the country rely on Pipestone Veterinary Services for products to care for their livestock and assist in providing a wholesome food source to help feed the growing world. We strive to provide and ship solutions as quickly and most cost effectively as possible. We are looking for an entrepreneurial individual to join our fast paced team and help make us better as we continue our next phase of growth.

**ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS**

- Pick, pack and ship supplies and animal health products
- Receive product accurately & timely
- Inventory counts & controls
- Understand/adherence to bio-security requirements

**IDEAL CANDIDATE**

- Highly motivated for professional growth
- Willing to work in a team setting
- Strong interpersonal communication
- Adapt well to change while working in a fast paced environment

See website for full job description & to apply online [www.pipestone.com](http://www.pipestone.com)

**PIPESTONE**  
Veterinary Services  
[WWW.PIPESTONE.COM](http://WWW.PIPESTONE.COM)



## Rail/continued from page 8A

been used to its maximum potential. This is because the burning season is so short and there are very few people qualified or confident enough to use it.

The best prescribed burn is one where the grass is so green it will hardly carry the fire. The greened-up species are usually undesirable, and by burning late, you set that back and help the desired grasses.

Later is usually better. The downside to a late burn is that any acres enrolled in a Farm Bill program like CRP cannot be burned after May 15, as that is considered the primary nesting season.

If you only have one burn to do, you can get blown out, rained out or help-deficient out and still get done before May 15. If

you have 20 burns to complete, you don't have the luxury of waiting for the perfect conditions for each burn.

You can't wake up one morning in April and decide you want to do a burn. Preparatory work for these efforts is done in the fall.

A tractor and a mower are used to mow a path 15 feet wide, and the debris is usually moved off to the side. This allows the grasses in the burn break to green up early and act as a fire break as the fire won't easily cross these areas. You will need a burn permit, and in my county these are free and last for two years.

You have to call in to the law enforcement dispatch and let them know

when you ignite your fire. That way, they won't send the fire department to the scene when the neighbor calls in with a smoke sighting. When the fire is extinguished, you call them again to let them know you are done.

One of the coolest sights is watching a prescribed fire that is protected all the way around and burns into the night without the need of much oversight.

I did one last year that ended at 1 a.m. and looked like lava flows in the darkness. The next time you see a spring prescribed fire or hear someone complaining about them, you can teach them the science and biology behind this practice. Controlled fires can be wildlife's best friend.

## Save lives: Drive smart, slow down

**By Troy Christianson  
Minnesota State Patrol**

**Question:** I'm concerned about the high speeds of drivers I'm seeing these days, both in my city and on the Interstate. What can I do about it?

**Answer:** The Minnesota State Patrol is extremely concerned about the high rate of speed troopers are seeing throughout our state. In fact, as of Feb. 25, troopers have cited 132 drivers for speeds of 100 mph or more this year. That compares with 68 during the same time period last year.

With the alarming number of speed-related traffic incidents we're seeing, the Minnesota State Patrol is teaming up with law enforcement across the state with an educational and enforcement

campaign aimed at motorists who are driving dangerous speeds. It's part of a campaign that the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety is coordinating in collaboration with the Minnesota departments of Health and Transportation. In addition to enforcement, education and awareness influence positive behaviors as well. We're getting the message out through social media, media relations and advertising across Minnesota. Preliminary reports show 120 motorists died in speed-related crashes in 2020, the most since 2008 (125). The 395 traffic fatalities in 2020 (preliminary) are the most in five years, with speed contributing to 30 percent of all fatalities last year.

Twenty people have

already lost their lives this year in speed-related crashes in 2021 compared with 10 this time last year. Troopers don't want to meet you on the side of the road for dangerous driving behavior, or worse, respond to a crash with fatalities or serious injuries that involve you or your loved ones. If you speed, expect to be stopped.

If you are concerned about a person speeding or driving aggressively, find a safe place to call 911 and provide as much information about the vehicle as possible. By driving smart and slowing down, we can all save lives on Minnesota roads.

*You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober.*

# Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

EMPLOYMENT	EMPLOYMENT	EMPLOYMENT	FOR SALE	RENTALS	MISCELLANEOUS
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### HELP WANTED

#### Customer Service Representative (Full-Time)

Location: Hills, MN

**Security Savings Bank is looking for a Full-Time Customer Service Representative to join our growing team at our Hills, MN location.** The successful candidate will play a fundamental role in achieving customer satisfaction while enjoying opportunities for growth within our company. Attention to detail with the ability to handle a high volume of transactions is important. **Some of the essential functions and responsibilities for this position include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- Functions as the bank's primary contact; provides exceptional customer service to the public
- Opens and closes accounts
- Assists customers with checking and savings deposits, withdrawal requests, loan payments, cashier checks, internet banking, debit cards, ATM transactions, mobile deposits and other teller duties, to include proof operator duties
- Answers phone calls and handles customers inquiries and concerns
- Builds customer relationships
- Educates and cross-sells bank services
- Complies with all bank and regulatory requirements
- Stays updated on new bank products, services and policies
- Maintains discretion and confidentiality

**The following skills and attributes for this position are not required but beneficial:**

- Previous experience in conducting banking transactions and internal processing
- Experience in cash handling
- Previous experience performing duties in compliance with policy, procedure and process
- Self-motivated with attention to details
- Team player with a strong work ethic
- Ability to communicate effectively (orally and in writing)
- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications
- Ability to multi-task and organize priorities

**Education:**

- High school or equivalent (Preferred)

**Experience:**

- Minimum of one year experience in banking or financial services (preferred)
- Minimum of one year experience in customer service (preferred)

Security Savings Bank currently has eight locations in Larchwood, Inwood, George, Canton, Sioux Falls, Hills, Ellsworth and Luverne. We are proud to be a locally owned, community bank that is highly committed to the area and people we serve.

Security Savings Bank is a family-friendly organization that offers a competitive benefit package to all eligible employees that includes medical, dental, vision, and life insurance, short and long term disability, paid time off, a flexible spending account, and a generous 401k retirement plan.

**Pay:** \$12.00 - \$15.00 dependent on qualifications

If you are a qualified candidate for this open position, please visit [bankwithssb.com/about/careers](http://bankwithssb.com/about/careers) to view our open positions at Security Savings Bank and find instructions on how to apply.

Submitting an employment application does not guarantee an interview. Applicants are evaluated based on work history, job skills, credit report, background check and other job-related factors. All compensation and benefit programs are administered in compliance with state and federal law.

Security Savings Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, sexual preference or orientation), national origin, age, disability, and marital or veteran status.

**Help Wanted - Carpenter Needed.** Full-time, competitive wage based on experience. Call for more information. Mike 605-553-6571, Luverne. (4.1-4.17)

Client Community Services, Inc. is accepting applications for caregivers in Luverne! Caregivers to assist our consumers with personal cares/hygiene, program goals and more. There is some responsibility for medical needs. We are seeking individuals who are personable, reliable and interested in making a difference in the lives of individuals with physical and/or developmental disabilities. Applicants must be 18 or older to apply. Block schedules include working every other weekend and rotating holidays. To view our current openings, please visit our website, [www.clientcommunityservices.org](http://www.clientcommunityservices.org) or call Brenda at the CCSI office in Worthington at (507)376-3171 ext. 2 (4.1-4.17)

**For Sale:** Landscaping rock 1.5 and 3/4-inch rock. Also do stump grinding. Call Wayne Biever Construction at 507-227-4521 or 507-283-4614. Also have yard dirt. 715 SW Park Street, Luverne, MN. (3.13-4.1)

**Trees for Sale:** Pipestone County Pheasants Forever - Black Hills Spruce, Eastern Red Cedar trees. \$3 each, sold in lots of 50; Bare Root trees, 15-18". Call 507-227-6199. (3.27-4.1)

**CARDS OF THANKS**

Our online auction was a success! Thank you to all the bidders, people and businesses that donated items and businesses that graciously adjusted expiration dates on gift cards. Special thanks to the Star Herald for helping with advertising. We appreciate your support!

**Luverne Music Boosters** (4.1-4.8)

**For Rent:** Two-bedroom house now available for rent with stove and refrigerator furnished. No smoking; no pets. Call 507-283-4095 or 507-290-1948. (tc)

**For Rent in Luverne:** Two-bedroom apartment with central air, on-site laundry, includes water, heat and one-stall garage. No smoking and no pets. 507-920-0406. (3.20-4.8)

INDEPENDENT LIVING IN LUVERNE

### CENTENNIAL APARTMENTS

GET ON THE WAITING LIST FOR 1 BEDROOMS TODAY!  
For those 50+ or Disabled  
Includes ALL Utilities!  
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**RECYCLE!**

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

*Interested in Advertising?*

Call **Rick or Chantel** to advertise in the Announcer

**283-2333**

Security Savings Bank currently has eight locations in Larchwood, Inwood, George, Canton, Sioux Falls, Hills, Ellsworth and Luverne. We are proud to be a locally owned, community bank that is highly committed to the area and people we serve.

Security Savings Bank is a family-friendly organization that offers a competitive benefit package to all eligible employees that includes medical, dental, vision, and life insurance, short and long term disability, paid time off, a flexible spending account, and a generous 401k retirement plan.

**Pay:** \$12.00 - \$15.00 dependent on qualifications

If you are a qualified candidate for this open position, please visit [bankwithssb.com/about/careers](http://bankwithssb.com/about/careers) to view our open positions at Security Savings Bank and find instructions on how to apply.

Submitting an employment application does not guarantee an interview. Applicants are evaluated based on work history, job skills, credit report, background check and other job-related factors. All compensation and benefit programs are administered in compliance with state and federal law.

Security Savings Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, sexual preference or orientation), national origin, age, disability, and marital or veteran status.

## MCAN Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

<p><b>WANTED TO BUY</b></p> <p><b>WANTED:</b></p> <p><b>ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES</b></p> <p>Running or not. Titled or not. Cash in exchange. Sell now while prices are high! Call Dan at 612/720-2142</p>	<p><b>WRITINGS</b></p> <p><b>DBPROSE.COM</b></p> <p>Prose, A prayer and a poem. Good reads, unique gifts. Home to "A Baby's Prayer" and "A Minnesota Poem". Check it out.</p>	<p><b>MISCELLANEOUS</b></p> <p><b>4G LTE HOME INTERNET</b></p> <p>Now available! Get GotW3 with lightning fast speeds, plus take your service with you when you travel! As low as \$109.99/mo! 844/960-4698</p>
<p><b>WANTED 1970S MOTORCYCLES</b></p> <p>Running or not, no title okay! Get cash and make some room! Always paying more! Call Mike at 320/420-7675</p>	<p><b>MISCELLANEOUS</b></p> <p><b>HEARING AIDS!!</b></p> <p>Buy one/get one free! Nearly invisible, fully rechargeable In-Ear Nano hearing aids priced thousands less than competitors! 45-day trial! Call: 833/373-0926</p>	<p><b>DISH NETWORK \$64.99</b></p> <p>for 190 Channels! Blazing fast internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch &amp; get a FREE \$100 Visa gift card. FREE voice remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE streaming on ALL devices. Call today! 855/562-4309</p>
<p><b>HELP WANTED - DRIVERS</b></p> <p><b>CDL CLASS A</b></p> <p>Tanker Truck Driver. Annual compensation exceeds \$80,000.00, home weekends, benefits like no other. We haul our products! Contact Tony 608/935-0915 Ext 16</p>	<p><b>DONATE YOUR CAR</b></p> <p>truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 844/220-9501</p>	<p><b>AT&amp;T WIRELESS</b></p> <p>Two great new offers! Ask how to get the new iPhone 11 or Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e on us with AT&amp;T's Buy one, Give One offer. While supplies last! Call 855/332-0464</p>
<p><b>SEED/FEED/GRAINS</b></p> <p><b>PROTECT YOUR YIELD</b></p> <p>from soybean white mold and SDS. Ask your seed dealer for Heads Up® Seed Treatment. Cost-effective. Proven results. <a href="http://HeadsUpST.com/plant21">HeadsUpST.com/plant21</a> or 866/368-9306</p>	<p><b>TIMESHARE</b></p> <p><b>CANCELLATION EXPERTS</b></p> <p>Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt &amp; fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package &amp; learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 833/619-1117</p>	<p><b>YOUR AD HERE!</b></p> <p>One phone call &amp; only \$279 to reach a statewide audience of 1.7 million readers!!! 1-800-279-2979</p>

**BOGO 40% OFF ENDS 6/30**

Call for details

**833-314-1217**

**TRANSFORM YOUR BATH OR SHOWER IN AS LITTLE AS ONE DAY**

**CALL NOW**

**FOR \$500 Off**

OR

**NO PAYMENTS & NO INTEREST FOR 18 MONTHS**

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- Over 850 Authorized Dealers
- Factory-Trained & Certified Installers
- Lifetime Warranty
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**BCI BATH & SHOWER**

"We make bathing safer"

\*Includes product and labor, bathtub, shower or walk-in tub and wall surround. This promotion cannot be combined with any other offer. Other restrictions may apply. This offer expires June 30, 2021. Each dealership is independently owned and operated. \*\*Third party financing is available for those customers who qualify. See your dealer for details. ©2021 BCI Acrylic Inc.

**GENERAC**

**Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator**

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE! 855-984-8982**

**FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty\***

A \$695 Value!

Offer valid February 15 - June 6, 2021

**Special Financing Available**

Subject to Credit Approval

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

**Put on your TV-Ears**

...and hear TV with unmatched clarity

TV-Ears Original™ Adjustable Foam Tips Headset weighs only 2 oz. Rechargeable Battery ((WIRELESS!))

~~\$129.95~~

**NOW \$59.95**

Use promo code MB59 30-day risk free trial

**TV-EARS** Voice Clarifying TV Headset

**Call 1-833-406-1748**

M-F 6 am - 6 pm PST

# Easter is Jesus Christ's victory over death.

His resurrection symbolizes the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him.



Edna Buys, Marilyn VanSanten, Nancy VanDeBerg, Lynette Jessefort, Amy Sandbulte, Teresa Hup, Christina Koedam and David Riphagen

The office will be closed on Good Friday, April 2nd, 2021.

Securities offered through Registered Representatives of Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a broker-dealer member FINRA/SIPC. Advisory services through Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor. Cambridge and Main Street Financial Services, Inc., are not affiliated.

## Main Street FINANCIAL SERVICES

212 East Main Street, Luverne, MN  
507-283-9590 or 1-800-260-1014  
www.mainstreetfinancial.net



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Complete an application online or at the address below M-F 8 AM – 4 PM.

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Working for you - meeting your needs.



Maelyn Blomquist, CPCU Cory Blomquist, CIC



INSURANCE

South Hwy. 75, Luverne, MN • Ph. 507-283-2381

**Auto-Owners** INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS



Steve Smedstad, CIC

### Grand Opening



Clean Burning Candles

VASSHAUS  
Clean Burning Candles  
219 E. Main St. Ste. 3  
Luverne, MN 56156  
507-920-3441  
[www.vasshauscandles.com](http://www.vasshauscandles.com)

VASSHAUS is NOW OPEN. All products are handmade by us. Candles and wax melts are 100% soy wax and hand-poured.



Eco-Friendly

Grand Opening  
April 1 - 3  
Sales & Door Prizes

Star-Herald.com

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



Each week more and more of our residents our getting their first vaccination and many have received the second. As the vaccination numbers continue to grow, we are starting see signs of resuming day-to-day routine activities we used to take for granted. I would like to tip my hat to the residents, staff and administration at Poplar Creek for their sacrifice, dedication and determination to keep Covid-19 out of their facility. Not a single positive case was reported during the year long lockdown. Below is an excerpt from the March 25 edition of the Rock County Star Herald that highlights their story. Stay safe, social distance, mask up and wash your hands - the sacrifices are worth it.

#### Poplar Creek hosts first family visits

Excerpts from 03/25 Star Herald — Luverne World War II veteran Bill Holling saw his family Friday for the first time in over a year when his daughters and their husbands visited him at Poplar Creek apartments.

"This was such a joyous occasion," his daughter Patricia Jones said Monday morning. "I'm still on a high now." She and her husband, Bryan, drove more than five hours from Shenandoah, Iowa, Friday to meet her sister, Priscilla and Randy Pater, to celebrate their dad's 98th birthday, which is March 25.

They expected restrictions of one person at a time, but they were all allowed to come in. "They told us we could all see him, and guess what? We could hug and hold hands," Pat said. "Dad's not a hugger, but there definitely were hugs."

Holling's family members were the first visitors allowed inside Poplar Creek since the doors closed March 11, 2020, to protect the 26 tenants from COVID-19. Living in "lockdown" wasn't easy, but it paid off, according to Amy Dispanet VerSteege at Poplar Creek. "Only essential caregivers were allowed in," VerSteege said. "I've seen so many people languish for lack of family ... but we did it. We never had COVID in the facility, and now everyone's been vaccinated." Those sacrifices made Friday's first visit all the more poignant, she said. "Seriously, I had happy tears for them," VerSteege said.

As senior housing facilities are slowly reopening after pandemic closures, long-overdue reunions are playing out in families nationwide, especially after vaccination rates continue to improve. Director Elena Heronimus said Poplar Creek is seeing an uptick in visitors since pandemic restrictions lifted. "Everyone is just glad to do this," she said Monday. "I'm glad, too. It's been a long time coming."

Poplar Creek visitors will need to be screened at the door and will be required to wear masks and socially distance from those outside their family group. Also, visitors are encouraged to call 24 hours in advance of a visit in order to prevent large gatherings. The phone number is 507-283-1996.



### In-Person Visits RETURN

Submitted photo  
Poplar Creek tenant Bill Holling (center) celebrated his 98th birthday with his daughters Priscilla Pater (second from right) and Patricia Jones and their husbands, Randy Pater (far left) and Bryan Jones. They were the first family allowed to visit as a group in Poplar Creek since the facility closed March 11, 2020, amid the pandemic.

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**88.55%** of vaccine doses received in MN have been administered.

#### Minnesota Ranks First in the Nation in Vaccines Administered



March 23, 2021 — Governor Tim Walz announced today that Minnesota currently ranks first state in the nation for percentage of vaccine distributed administered. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Minnesota has administered 88.55% of vaccine doses it has received, surpassing every other state. Minnesota has consistently ranked in the top ten states for percentage of vaccine doses administered for nearly one month.

"I am so proud of all the hard work done in our state to make Minnesota a consistent leader in the nation in getting shots into arms," said Governor Walz. "From our providers working around the clock, to local public health organizing on the ground, to our community leaders providing invaluable services and educating their neighbors, to all the Minnesotans rolling up their sleeves when it's their turn, I am grateful for everyone in our state working together to end this pandemic. Now let's keep up the good work — we won't stop until every Minnesotan who wants a shot gets one."

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



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Mayor Patrick T. Baustian

# HOME, LAWN & Garden



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Spring 2021 ISSUE

## Bluestem adds 'smoking with style' to lineup

Chef Skyler Hoiland is tackling a new challenge with his portable, wood-fired smoker barbecue grill. He's been experimenting with recipes and looks forward to sharing new entrees this summer.

... Page 3B

## Think you want stone countertops for your kitchen remodel?

Mark Top's Mud Creek Countertops in Hills offers a stone-look counter resurfacing that has the durability and style of stone, but not the expense.

... Page 5B

## Perennials are low-maintenance but not 'one and done' options for landscaping

Luverne horticulturalist George Bonnema weighs in on options for growing the most color for the least amount of maintenance.

... Page 8B

## Metal art sculptures tell ag story in local food forest

Local artists created metal sculptures using vintage farm tools. They're on display in Prairie Ally.

... Page 9B



Photographs and text by Mavis Fodness

*"It was time for the tree to come down and begin a second life as a table."*

— Ryan Bullerman, Hardwick Bully's Big Wood Mill



The Lucas Mill used by Ryan Bullerman saws wood logs horizontally of any length but can only safely saw logs 6-feet in height.

## Bullerman's hobby allows others to preserve family history through wood

From his machine shed west of Hardwick, Ryan Bullerman is turning trees into workable slabs of wood.

Three years ago Bullerman purchased a Lucas slabbing mill, which allows him to cut trunks as thick as 6 feet wide into 3-inch-thick wood planks to become tables, countertops, decorative walls or china cabinets in people's homes.

"The thing we are finding out is more and more people want to try a lot of this stuff on their own— and have the tools to put it together — but are not able to get it into a form they need," he said.

Richard Gergen of Pipestone is one person with the skills but no means to render a tree into workable form.

Recently, with Bullerman's help, he turned the mature walnut tree into a table. A squirrel planted a nut that formed the tree in his yard for 36 years.

"It was time for (the tree) to come down and begin a second life as a table," he said.

Many of the trees Bullerman receives were destined to be burned but are instead finding a second life through his new hobby.

"It is different — I think that's what drew me to it. Not everybody is doing it," he said. "The machinery that it takes is pretty simple. It just takes time to figure it out."

*"It is a good release at the end of the day — to go out there and cut and not worry about anything."*

*I can clear my head. ... Finding different niches I can do makes me happy."*

— Ryan Bullerman, Bully's Big Wood



Ryan Bullerman shows samples of tabletops he milled and refinished in his machine shed west of Hardwick. More recently his hobby, Bully's Big Wood Wood Mill, has evolved into milling slabs for others to refinish.



Logs piled up outside Ryan Bullerman's machine shed wait to be milled and repurposed into countertop slabs. Mavis Fodness photo/0401 Home Tab 2021 Bullys

**'Bully's Big Wood' Wood Mill gives old trees new life as table tops and more/continued from 1B**

The tree removal and the preparation of the logs remind Bullerman of his youth when he and his dad, Bob, prepared firewood as a heat source of the family home and separate workshop.

"I think about all the trees we burned in the wood burner," he said, thinking of nice wood products lost to make heat.

Today he makes trades with his dad for more appropriate trees to burn, in exchange for trees that would be better repurposed.

"When I look at a tree now I can get a good idea of what it is," he said.

Dozens of logs line the outside of Bullerman's machine shed waiting to be cut into usable slabs. Bullerman saved many of the logs from a different fate.

"I would say 99 percent of these trees were going to be pushed down into a hole and burned," he said.

Bullerman charges \$1 per board foot to cut a tree into usable slabs. There is an extra charge if nails or other objects inside the trunk damage the saw's cutting chain.

One recent log held an unusual surprise when Bullerman was cutting slabs and cut a golf ball in half.

"I actually hit the thing dead center, half on each side."

He estimates 20 or 30 years of growth surrounded the golf ball, and it couldn't be seen from the outside of the log.



Pictured above, walls inside of Ryan Bullerman's office are constructed of cedar that he milled.

In the photograph at right, plastic wedges are driven between the slab and the log to prevent the mill's cutting chain from binding as it moves through the log.



Another log Bullerman placed in the mill was partially rotted, which created an unusual hole in the log's center.

"When I first cut this one I didn't see it right away — I cut it, slid it off and put it on the floor and asked 'Does that look like the Statue of Liberty?'" he said.

Those watching agreed, and the unique slab is stored in Bullerman's garage waiting for repurposing.

No tree goes to waste at Bullerman's mill.

"When I first started in the business, I am not sure I would have cut a tree like that. I would have been like 'The middle of the tree is gone' as well as a whole slab."

Advice from others has helped Bullerman find a niche.

Justin Kerkhove-Brandt operates Banking Barns in Hills and Steve Winters has a

woodworking shop and wood-drying kiln in Ocheyedan.

"What's so neat is all these people in this area being able to put stuff together like this," he said. "There is just room for everybody."

Bullerman discovered he likes cutting large tree trunks into something usable.

"A lot of guys who have mills and are hobbyists have (a mill) they can cut

dimensionally," Bullerman said. "They can only cut 2-by-4s."

From his first slab cut, Bullerman made a 3-foot by 9.5-foot dining room table from a single log.

The Lucas slabbing mill, which costs upwards of \$15,000, is similar to a chain saw and uses a long, sharpened chain to cut through logs horizontally.

**Bully's Big Wood/see page 7B**



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# Bluestem Catering adds 'smoking with style' to 'convenience with style' in Luverne

Portable smoker barbecue grill expands menu options for local business on site and on the go

By Lori Sorenson

Spring in Luverne will bring the debut of Chef Skyler Hoiland's portable smoker barbecue grill at Bluestem Catering in Luverne.

He had it custom-built last year by Kentucky manufacturer Sling 'N Steel Custom Smokers.

"They had one I liked," Hoiland said. "But I wanted them to add a few things."

His customizations include a long list of well-thought-out specifications.

They include a 72-inch grill, a 60-inch smoker, a 3-by-3-foot firebox and wood storage, a black stone flat top (cast iron), a turkey fryer on the end to deep fry food, and the whole works resting on a 6-foot-long apparatus with car tires.

"I had specific sizes I wanted," Hoiland said. "I know I can fit 75 ribeyes on a 72-inch grill. ... And the black stone flat top I'll use for O' Brian potatoes and hash browns, and I can do Phillis with onions and peppers."

It took 12 weeks to build the contraption, and over Labor Day 2020, Hoiland made the 24-hour round trip to Whitesville, Kentucky, to pick it up.

Within days, he had it set up at his East Main Street Bluestem Catering business to try it out.

"I did everything from chicken drummies to full-on pork butts," Hoiland said.

"I got in a solid month of practice, so I got a pretty good grasp of stuff."

He said the most challenging entree was a brisket.

"It's one of those things people love, but it takes time to perfect," Hoiland said. "You can't cook it too hot or too fast, or smoke it too long or too slow. That's the challenge that I love."

It's the challenge, in fact, that prompted him to seek out a wood smoker, which burns cut wood, not wood pellets.

"I wanted the challenge of a wood fire — not pellet feed, no temperature controls — nothing but wood on the smoker," Hoiland said.

"I enjoy something that holds me accountable. ... I have to tend to the fire, I have to be there, I have to nurture and do different things to make sure it's at 225 or 250 depending on what I'm cooking. That kind of pressure is what I wanted."

During the practice month last September, he said he experimented with different types of wood in the smoker.

"You want to use hardwoods," Hoiland said. "You want clean white smoke when you're cooking food. Others, like pine, burn black and it affects the flavor."

He's also learning how to set the right heating elements for cooking.

"It takes 2 to 2 1/2 hours to get a bed of coals going," Hoiland said. "Ash is good for getting the coals started to keep the temperature constant, and then I feed it with apple, cherry or walnut."

Weather conditions affect the grill temperature — the colder the outside air, the



Skyler Hoiland customized the portable smoker barbecue grill that he bought from Sling 'N Steel Custom Smokers in Whitesville, Kentucky, over Labor Day weekend 2020. Customizations include a 72-inch grill, a 60-inch smoker, a 3-by-3-foot firebox (pictured at right) and wood storage, a black stone flat top (cast iron), a turkey fryer on the end to deep fry food and road-worthy car tires.



*"It takes 2 to 2 1/2 hours to get a bed of coals going. ... You want to use hardwoods. Ash is good for getting the coals started to keep the temperature constant, and then I feed it with apple, cherry or walnut."*

— Chef Skyler Hoiland, Bluestem

more wood is required to heat the grill.

All of these variables add to the challenge of wood fire smoking, but that's what Hoiland was looking for.

"I want to be able to master the challenge of something new," said the LHS 2009 grad who trained at the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in Minneapolis.

"I have not smoked a lot, but my experience in culinary led me to this new challenge."

His Bluestem Restaurant, which closed amid the pandemic, featured his popular homemade pasta and French-style desserts.

Now, his Bluestem Catering kitchen includes a new line

**Bluestem Catering portable smoker grill/see page 6B**

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# University of Minnesota scientists discover attacking fungi that show promise against emerald ash borer

Since its introduction, the emerald ash borer (EAB) has become the most devastating invasive forest insect in the United States, killing hundreds of millions of ash trees at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars.

Now new research from the University of Minnesota's Minnesota Invasive Terrestrial Plants and Pests Center (MITPPC) shows a possible path forward in controlling the invasive pest that threatens Minnesota's nearly one billion ash trees.

In a recent study published in *Fungal Biology*, MITPPC researchers identified various fungi living in EAB-infested trees — a critical first step in finding fungi that may be harnessed to control the spread of EAB and ultimately prevent ash tree death.

"We discovered that several different species of fungi attack EAB and other insects, and they can now be further tested for their potential for biocontrol," said Robert Blanchette, the study's project leader and professor in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

"This is a very important first step in the search for a biocontrol for emerald ash borer," Blanchette said.

Larval EAB feed just beneath the bark, leaving behind tunnel galleries

## Emerald Ashborer Quick facts:

- **Emerald ash borer is a quarantined invasive species. Items that could transport this insect may not be moved without permission from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.**
- **The emerald ash borer (EAB) is a destructive insect pest of ash trees.**
- **EAB attacks all species of ash.**
- **Once an ash is attacked by EAB, it will be killed if it is not protected.**
- **Ash trees can be protected from EAB with available insecticides.**
- **EAB will move only about one half to one mile a year from infested sites. But people can carry it hundreds of miles when transporting firewood and other wood products or nursery stock.**
- **The Minnesota Department of Agriculture monitors this invasive species. Please report any EAB you spot at Arrest the Pest.**



that can stretch up to 20 inches long. Beneath the surface, fungi — some of which may be capable of parasitizing the EAB — may be carried by the larvae as they develop, or may enter the tree through the tunnel galleries. Some of these fungi also seriously affect urban trees, causing rapid wood decay which

result in hazardous tree situations.

From Rochester to Duluth, researchers gathered samples where ash is affected by EAB. Through DNA sequencing, scientists identified fungal isolates and revealed a diverse assemblage of fungi. This included entomopathogenic fungi that attack insects, as

well as other fungi that cause cankers — which help EAB kill trees — and some that cause wood decay.

"Before now, we simply haven't been sure what fungi are associated with EAB infestations in Minnesota. This project identified those species and, in doing so, opened up new possibilities for managing one of our state's most devastating tree pests," said Ben Held, the study's lead author and researcher in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

As research continues, the scientists will build on the work from this study to determine if any of the fungi can be used to kill the emerald ash borer. Results will also be of value in helping control the insect in other parts of North America where EAB is found.

"Ash trees are vitally important to Minnesota," said Rob Venette, MITPPC director. "They reduce air pollution, storm water runoff, and cooling costs, all while increasing property values in local communities. It's critical we work to protect them from this invasive pest."

The research was funded through the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.



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# Mark Top's home resurfacing business, Mud Creek Countertops, is affordable alternative to real stone

By Mavis Fodness

The first customer for Mud Creek Countertops in Hills was the owner himself.

Mark Top said he watched a Facebook video three years ago of someone creating a custom countertop design using paint and epoxy.

He said he was immediately intrigued and hooked on learning the process.

"I thought I could do that and I started messing around with it," he said.

Top resurfaced all the countertops in his Hills home — twice.

"The first time was OK, but I didn't like the colors and I didn't like how it turned out," he said. "Last spring — I was a nurse and our hours got cut — I didn't like my countertops so I redid them."

Now he's recreating surfaces in other people's homes with the look of marble, quartz or any other epoxied design at a cost that's a third less than the real materials.

Top charges \$30 to \$35 per square foot for one of his surface creations.

"I'm just a hair more expensive than laminate because you're getting a slightly better product," he said. "It is way less than stone. Stone can run you \$60 to \$100-\$200 a square foot."

In addition to kitchen countertops, any surface can get a new look, Top said. Bathroom vanities, backsplashes, shower walls, bar tops and even sinks themselves can be given new life.

"I can do any color, any design," he said. "Anything with a flat surface I can do this."

Since watching the video that inspired the creation of Mud Creek Countertops, Top experimented with different brands of epoxies and paints before settling on products from Stonecoat Countertops.

He said he likes how the products are easy to use, have less of a chemical smell and offer support to users.

### Longtime interest

Top's interest in woodworking projects began as a student at Hills-Beaver Creek High School, where he received basic carpentry skills in the industrial arts classes.

Top also worked for a former local carpenter where he learned about customers and customer service.

"(I) found out pretty quickly that people do not want to pay for custom work. They would rather drive to Sioux Falls to buy something already completed," he said.

His business goals are to offer affordable custom options locally with a strong service ethic.

"I tell my customers 'if I am not happy with something, I don't let it out the door,'" he said.

Top is able to construct new countertop surfaces out of medium density fiberboard by making a template from the existing surface or he can use his resurfacing technique on the existing structures.



Mavis Fodness photo/0401 Home Tab 2021 Mud Creek Countertops

Mark Top leans on a new tabletop coated with clear epoxy, paint and metallic powders for a shiny, marble-like appearance. Top's business, called Mud Creek Countertops, is located in Hills.

*"I tell my customers 'If I am not happy with something, I don't let it out the door.'"*

— Mark Top, Mud Creek Countertops

He prefers to complete projects in the heated workshop constructed in the former telephone repair office on East Third Street in Hills.

He uses a portion of the facility from his dad, Allan, who occasionally helps out when large projects need to be moved.

Each project begins with Top painting a sample. "I recommend customers go online and start looking at stone, send it (the desired look) and I'll make a sample," he said.

Examining the picture, Top studies the colors, design and where the surface top will be located. Then he gets to work.

### Creative techniques

His favorite technique is completing a "dirty pour," where clear epoxy and paint are mixed into a quart container and poured on the surface.

Patterns develop as the mixture runs over the surface edges and eventually dries.

Other surface designs involve Top using his hand to introduce the flowing appearance in the surface.

He has also used a paintbrush, spray paint, isopropyl or metallic powders to add sparkle or pops of color on the surface.

"The longer I work with it, the more I learn," Top said.

After the surface has received the desired look, Top

Mud Creek/continued on 13B



Using clear epoxy, Mark Top can create one-of-a-kind sinks like this one with tumbled stones (pictured above).

At left, samples of painted surfaces are stacked at Mud Creek Countertops.



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Chef Skyler Hoiland said briskets are among the most difficult meats to smoke. "It's one of those things people love, but it takes time to perfect," Hoiland said. "You can't cook it too hot or too fast or smoke it too long or too slow. ... That's the challenge that I love."

At right, racks of smoked ribs come off the portable grill during last September's smoking practice at Bluestem Catering.



Hoiland said he hopes patrons will be able to walk up to the grill this summer and select their smoked meat to enjoy along with some potato salad and coleslaw from the indoor coolers.

At far right, Hoiland tends to a grill full of chicken drumsticks on the portable smoker grill last September in the Bluestem Catering lot on East Main Street.



**Bluestem Catering portable grill adds 'smoking with style' to menu/continued from page 3B**

of menu items, including smoked meat that patrons can enjoy fresh off the grill onsite or prepared among other entrees on the take-and-bake menu.

"My hope is that people will be able to walk up to the grill and pick out what they want, like a half rack of ribs, and then go inside and grab a little potato salad and coleslaw from the cooler," Hoiland said.

"They can sit down with it outside at the catering business or take it to go."

Days and times for grill operation will be announced on the Bluestem Catering Facebook page.

"I think the smoker will bring a new aspect to the catering business," Hoiland said. "It's something different

and new that you can't get anywhere else."

The new cooking style is also prompting a new marketing campaign.

"The catering 'grab and go' business has been about 'convenience with style,' he said. "Maybe the grill will be about 'smoking with style.'"

Meanwhile, he'll take advantage of the first warm days of spring when they happen. "I'll be ready when the snow melts," he said.

The grill may travel to some of the 50-plus weddings and local events Bluestem is so far scheduled to cater this summer, including the Buffalo Days Cruise-In at the park.

*"I wanted the challenge of a wood fire — not pellet feed, no temperature controls — nothing but wood on the smoker. I enjoy something that holds me accountable. ... I have to tend to the fire, I have to be there, I have to nurture and do different things to make sure it's at 225 or 250 depending on what I'm cooking. That kind of pressure is what I wanted."*

*— Chef Skyler Hoiland, Luverne, about cooking with a wood smoker*

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Milled wood slabs stand ready for repurposing into something new.

### Bully's Big Wood/ from page 2B

Bullerman also added large planers to smooth the slab before it is taken to Ocheyedan to be kiln-dried.

"Good drying is key in this," he said. "When it is dry, it is stable."

A slab is also lighter (as much as a couple hundred pounds) after it's properly dried for months in a kiln. A dry slab is relatively straight, stable (no curling and cupping) and ready for finishing work.

While Bullerman can create a finished product, he's comfortable leaving the finishing work to professionals like Kerkhove-Brandt and Winters.

Bully's Big Wood Wood Mill will be just another hobby Bullerman keeps himself busy with.

"It is a good release at the end of the day — to go out there and cut and not worry about anything. I can clear my head," he said. "Finding different niches I can do makes me happy."

He's co-owner of VanBully's Bar and Grill in Iona, builds raised flower and vegetable garden beds and, with his wife, Brandee, buys and sells houses. Each house contains items from his slab-cutting hobby, such as an eye-catching counter, feature wall or island.

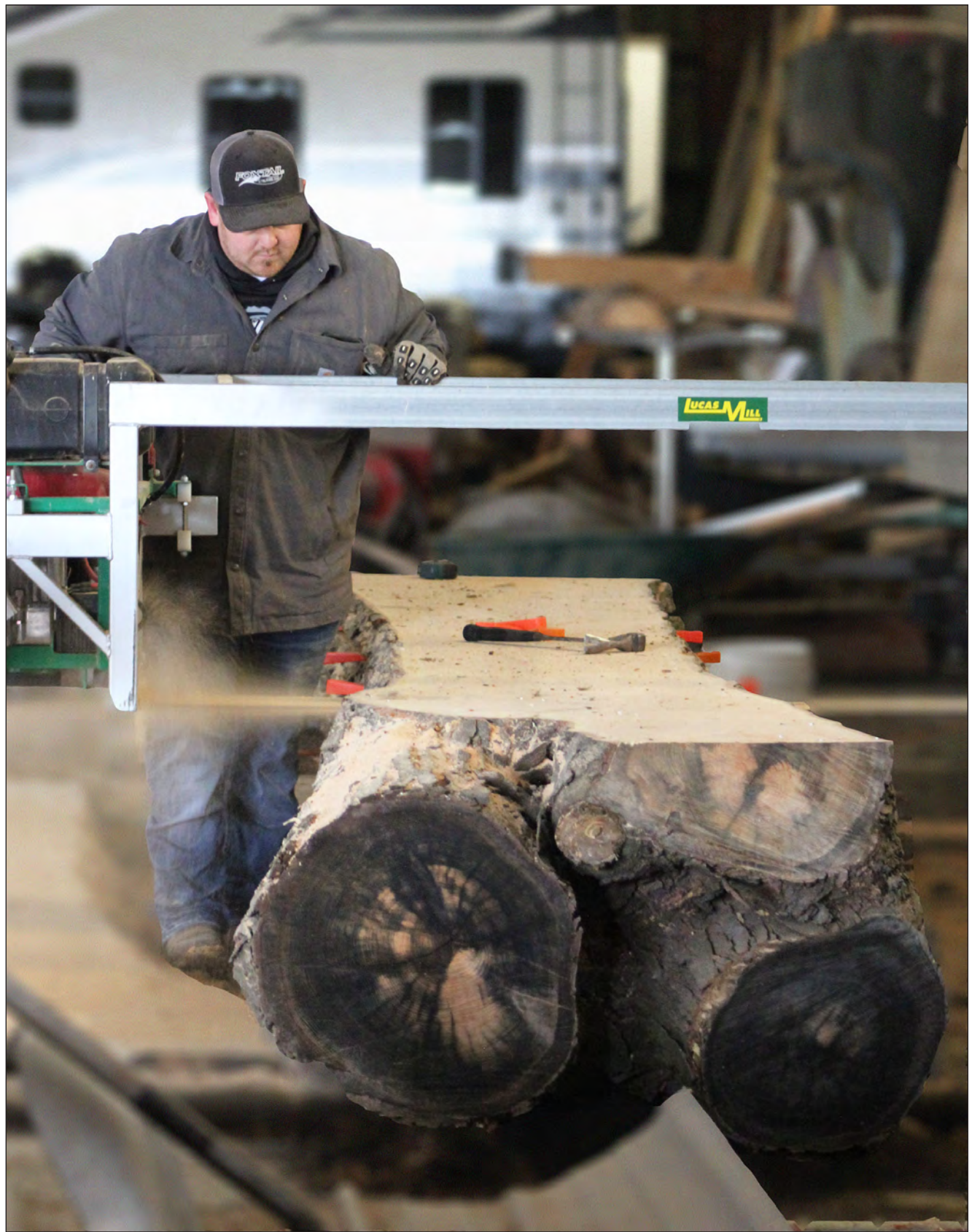
"We put something different into a flip house you don't see anywhere else," he said.

Others are turning to Bullerman and his slabbing mill to preserve a little family history.

He said he's worked with a couple of customers who built a new home on their grandparents' farm, where trees planted by the first generation were removed to make room for the larger house.

Bullerman made slabs that were repurposed as counters, tables or cabinets in the new home.

"I like doing stuff like that," he said. "To keep stuff on the farm."



Mavis Fodness photo/0401 Home Tab 2021 Bully's

Saw dust is discharged by the Lucas mill's chain saw as Ryan Bullerman moves the saw through the log.

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# Hardy perennials offer great flowerbed options, but most aren't 'one and done' plants

By George Bonnema, Luverne horticulturalist

In the realm of flower gardening, we have three types of plants: annuals, biennials, and perennials.

Annual flowers bloom for one season and that completes their life cycle. These are plants we mostly use in our planters and pots.

Biennials grow a rosette of leaves one year and bloom the next year. An example would be old-fashioned hollyhocks or foxgloves.

Perennials are plants that once planted, return year after year. In this article, we'll talk about perennials.

People like the idea of planting perennials because they reason that they'll plant it once and they're done. The planting it once it true. The being done isn't true.

Some perennials multiply very slowly and are happy growing in the same spot for years, actually not wanting to be messed with.

An example here would be peonies. They bloom in late spring every year and at the end of the season or the following spring, you cut them off at ground level and they do a repeat performance.

Most perennials aren't so tolerant. This classification of plants involves a herbaceous crown or a rhizome or bulb that gradually, and sometimes not so gradually, spreads or divides.

Frequently, perennials are used in the landscape where the soil is covered with plastic or fabric to prevent weeds and that plastic or fabric is covered with rock or other mulch.

A hole is cut in the plastic or fabric and the perennial is planted in that spot.

That's good ... for a few years and then it becomes a problem. The size of the hole determines



Peonies are the best example of "one and done" perennials. They can be planted and counted on to return year after year with very little care, compared with lillies or mums that need to be divided every several years.

how much space that perennial plant crown gets to grow. It eventually reaches the perimeter and then what? It might start spreading out above the plastic or fabric and become invasive.

Or most often you will notice a gradual decline in the plant itself or the amount of flowers it produces. That's called "complaining."

The way to remedy the problem is to dig the entire clump, use your spade to chop the crown into at least fourths and replant just one fourth back in that spot.

You will probably have to add soil to fill in for the mass that you removed. Now you have three more divisions to plant elsewhere, to share or throw away. The best time to do this dividing is late summer or very early spring.

**Grasses and daylilies are hardy standbys but must be divided every several years**

Karl Foerster Feather Reed Grass is a perennial that has become a very popular landscape choice in recent years. It is tolerant of most sites and creates a vertical line and color that gives contrast to make a landscape interesting.

This grass will definitely complain if not divided every five to six years. The center of the clump dies as the outside edge pushes outward until it can't go any further.

The center will not regrow so the clump will keep getting thinner with less vigor until it eventually dies. For this grass, even planted in an open area with no mulch, it will benefit from

periodic dividing.

Stella D'Oro was the first dwarf reblooming daylily introduced years back. It still is a winner in my book, but I think is one of the most abused plants in the landscape because people plant it and from there on ignore it.

I've seen those poor victims trying their best to put out some flowers, but they are so severely overcrowded and root-bound that they barely produce leaves.

They have great potential if you just give them a little attention by dividing every five or six years. So much for the "being done" I mentioned earlier.

**Plant for year-round color**

Every perennial has its time to bloom. For some it's a short

*"The neat thing about these plants (perennials) is that if you learn their time to blossom, you can have color in your landscape for the entire growing season. As one fades, another takes center stage and gives a splash of color."*

George Bonnema, Luverne horticulturalist

burst of color, for others, the bloom time can last for a couple of months.

The neat thing about these plants is that if you learn their time to blossom, you can have color in your landscape for the entire growing season. As one fades, another takes center stage and gives a splash of color.

I plan my flower gardens for color for the whole season. Bleeding hearts, daffodils and tulips start the display in spring and that display is ongoing until asters continue through our first frosts.

The variety of perennials available has increased dramatically in the last 15 years. New varieties give us better

Bonnema/continued on 12B

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# Challenge Grant adds metal sculptures to Prairie Ally

## Local artists commissioned to create sculptures with farm tools to reflect community ag history

**By Lori Sorenson**

The Prairie Ally Outdoor Center is establishing a more visual presence along North Blue Mound Avenue in Luverne with metal sculptures and signage.

Started in 2017, the local food forest grows perennial edible plants surrounded by four acres for prairie restoration.

During the 2020 growing season, community members harvested dozens of bushels of produce to consume and share.

They included raspberries, grapes, currants, gooseberries, pears, plums, apples, strawberries, annual vegetables, and flowers that double as medicinal plants.

Prairie Ally also grows a variety of lesser-known fruit and nut species that are gaining popularity again for their hardiness and health benefits. They include serviceberry, elderberry, aronia berry, honeyberry, hazelnut and paw paw.

Recognizing value in Luverne's food forest, AARP last year awarded the project a Community Challenge Grant to purchase signage and picnic tables and commission local artists for sculptural trellises.

Prairie Ally founder Kim Rockman said the pieces add visual impact to the site.

"Each round picnic table is placed within a garden bed surrounded by berry bushes and native flowers, offering visitors a place of peace and reprieve," she said.

### Commissioned artwork reflects farming history

The artists used pieces of old farm equipment and garden tools sourced from citizens in the area.

One of the sculptures created by Dean and Linda Wenzel, has a dairy theme with antique stanchions, milk cans and a strainer.

The sculptural trellis frame resembles a hip roof or gambrel barn and a note on the sign recognizes contributions from David and Patricia Swenson, Mike



One of the sculptures created by Dean and Linda Wenzel has a dairy theme with antique stanchions, milk cans and a strainer. The sculptural trellis frame resembles a hip roof or gambrel barn. Top right, the collaboratively built corn sculpture will double as a trellis for pole beans. Above right, a large "Prairie Ally Outdoor Center" sign marks the turn-in driveway at Luverne Street and Blue Mound Avenue by the parking lot.

Gehrke and the Stegemann family.

"This fits nicely with the land, which operated as the Rock County Creamery in the 1800s," Rockman said about the Prairie Ally site.

Lori Hallstrom, a stained glass and metalwork artist, incorporated a variety of objects into her creative sculpture, and a third sculpture collaboratively pieces objects together to represent corn.

"This is where we hope to honor agricultural history that goes back beyond European settlement," Rockman said.

"The Dakota settled in the prairie areas in southern Minnesota. ...

They grew corn, beans and squash, a planting style known as The Three Sisters."

The corn sculpture will double as a trellis for pole beans.

A large "Prairie Ally Outdoor Center" sign marks the turn-in driveway

at Luverne Street and Blue Mound Avenue by the parking lot.

This spring, landscape edging will be installed along with botanical signs to mark most of the species planted at the food forest.

### Honoring history, while inspiring regenerative farming

Rockman said the grant and its resulting artwork have helped increase community awareness of the food forest and its mission.

"This project will literally and figuratively

create new space for connection, reflection and healing. Nature nourishes, she said. "Nutrient dense, regeneratively grown food nourishes; connection to community nourishes."

She said at Prairie Ally

**Prairie Ally art/see 14B**

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# Want to improve your local wood duck population? Follow these tips for making a successful wood duck bird house

A few weeks ago, when temperatures were sub-zero, I encouraged you to build a wood duck box. I still have the plans for these boxes; email me at [scottarall@gmail.com](mailto:scottarall@gmail.com) to request one.

Today the temperatures are reaching the mid 50s and soon it will be time to make sure these boxes are up and ready when the ducks make their return trip back to the Midwest.

Cavity nesting waterfowl are really cool creatures. There are many different ducks that nest in either natural cavities in old dead trees or in the man-made structures we erect for them.

In our area the most common ones are wood ducks and common mergansers. It seems today that if someone sees an old dead tree, the first thing they want to do is cut it down and burn it.

It is this mentality that has reduced the number of suitable natural nesting cavities for these birds to use to a level not high enough to support their healthy populations.

A wood duck brings no nesting material to the cavity. This is why it is important for our structures to be filled about one-third full of coarse wood shavings. Sawdust is a big no-no because when it gets wet, it takes forever to dry out and in many cases will get moldy.

You don't want to fill the box all the way to the top with this material because if you do, the predators will be able to reach in the hole and catch the nesting hen. She should be at least 8 inches below the opening when on the nest.

A wood duck, when ready, will lay one egg and then leave the nest for the day. She will return each day for about 12 days, laying only one egg per day. She will pluck some down from her breast and cover the eggs when she leaves. Because waterfowl nest earlier than other upland birds, it often freezes overnight.

If she did not cover the eggs,



## THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall,  
Outdoors columnist



### Tips for a successful wood duck house:

- Don't attach it to a tree. Predators like raccoons will find these boxes and harass the hen until she abandons the nest and they can then reach in and eat the eggs.
- Install a predator guard. This looks like a big upside-down funnel that the creatures cannot navigate around.
- Set the box at a height you can reach from the ground — about 5 feet off the ground.
- Remove all of the old debris and install new wood shavings. Wood peckers, screech owls, black birds and especially wrens will fill these up with junk. House wrens don't want anyone else nesting near them.

they would in some cases freeze and become unviable. She leaves the nest each day until she is ready to incubate the clutch.

Nature is a marvelous thing. When the first egg hatches, the hen will wait for approximately 24 hours and then leave the structure with whoever is capable of following her.

If she had stayed in the nest for those first 12 days, while laying one egg per day, the first egg would have hatched before all the others and she would leave with that duckling, leaving the others that would hatch one per day for the next 11 days to perish.

By laying one egg per day and

leaving for the balance of each day, all of the eggs then get incubated for exactly the same amount of time and will all hatch within the 24-hour nature window. Even under great conditions the number of ducks that live to reach maturity is very small.

A 10-percent recruitment success rate is considered super good. On average about 4 percent of all eggs laid will reach the age of a year.

In order to improve the success rate for ducks using your nesting boxes, it is vital to do several things.

The first is to try to never erect a wood duck box by attaching it to a tree. The predators like raccoons will find these boxes and harass the hen

until she abandons the nest and they can then reach in and eat the eggs.

The other is when you erect your nesting box on a post, whether metal or wood, always install a predator guard. This looks like a big upside-down funnel that the creatures cannot navigate around.

Success in properly managed boxes runs around 80 percent in the string or structures I manage every year. Boxes should be at a height you can reach from the ground — about 5 feet off the ground is more than enough.

The other important action for success in nesting boxes is to make sure that you remove all of the old debris and install new wood shavings. Wood peckers, screech owls, black birds and especially house wrens will fill these up with junk. House wrens don't want anyone else nesting near them.

Email me for the plans and make a few of these boxes for erection in the next 3-4 weeks.

I can say that you will feel like mama or papa nature person when you see how successful you can be with this fun and satisfying outdoor activity.

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

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## Bonnema: Perennials are hardy, but most aren't 'one and done' flowerbed plants/from page 8B

disease resistance and much longer bloom time.

The growers have made container-grown perennials available so planting can happen anytime during the growing season rather than a frantic attempt to get everything planted in the spring.

As each perennial finishes its bloom cycle, it is good to cut off the spent bloom stalks to prevent the plant putting energy into producing seeds.

This keeps the landscape neat, prevents unwanted seedlings, and for some varieties, encourages another crop of flowers.

### Effects of cold and heat on Zone 4 and 5 perennials

The winter determines the survival rate. Cold is not the only problem. Alternating cold and warm days as we transition from winter to spring is actually more of a problem.

This year was a prime example: going from below 0 to almost 70 degrees in a matter of a couple of days.

The snow cover is what saved many of the tender perennials. When soil freezes, it expands, just like water. Sometimes that expansion tears the plant roots loose in the frozen ground.

As the ground thaws, those roots reestablish and the plant is good to go.

If not, the plant is dead. That is where a snow cover is a bonus. It insulates the soil and the plants so those temperature fluctuations are moderated.

Many of the plants



Bleeding hearts, daffodils and tulips start the display in spring and that display is ongoing until asters continue through our first frosts. The neat thing about these plants is that if you learn their time to blossom, you can have color in your landscape for the entire growing season. As one fades, another takes center stage and gives a splash of color.

*“People like the idea of planting perennials because they reason that they’ll plant it once and they’re done. The planting it once it true. The being done isn’t true.”*

listed as hardy for Zone 5 could work in our Zone 4 if it were not for that issue.

We might try “cheating” a little by covering tender plants with a layer of mulch to guarantee that insulation because we don’t have a guarantee of snow ... or we could just stick with Zone 4 perennials.

Some perennials are favorites of mine but are considered “half hardy” or short-lived. Gaillardia, delphinium, and mums are three that come to mind. All three add excellent color but never guarantee reappearance.

Sometimes it is just an issue of too much moisture

around the crown of the plant going into winter and it rots.

### New mum varieties offer options with more color and additional hardiness

For mums particularly, leaving the stems in place going into winter gives added protection.

They capture snow right over the crown and if you have ever noticed, next season’s growth is already visible in the fall.

Here is where new varieties give us confidence. The University of Minnesota introduced a series called Mammoth.

They have proven hardy in my garden. Original colors were lavender, coral, bronze and yellow, and just added three years ago was white. They have lived up to my expectations.

Also, here is an example of a plant that does great in the open garden but not so much in a landscape with fabric and rock mulch.

The crown moves quite a lot and demands space to move, but not to the point of becoming an invasive nuisance.

### Sun versus shade

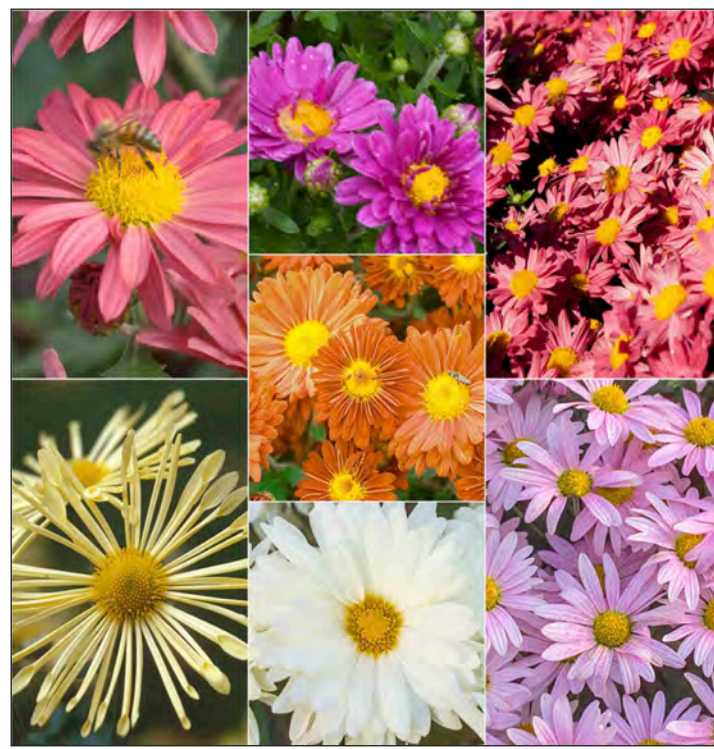
Sunny areas offer the most options for perennials. Shade gardens can be really pretty, but challenging as often we need to rely more on contrast of foliage color and texture.

There are perennials that bloom in shade but most often have a short window of color. I use Virginia Bluebells and Old Fashioned Bleeding Hearts for early color.

Astillbe would follow but that is a plant that demands continuous moisture and our climate doesn’t guarantee that.

Hosta, Japanese Ferns, brunerra, and a new introduction, Sun King Aralia, all do well in shade.

If you really want to add flower color to a shade area for the entire summer, consider adding a large container planted with annual plants like impatiens, begonias or coleus.



The University of Minnesota “Mammoth” Chrysanthemum collection includes a variety of colors to brighten flowerbeds and yet remain hardy options. They are creatively named “Bronze Daisy,” “White Daisy,” “Pink Daisy,” “Yellow Quill,” “Lavender Daisy,” “Red Daisy” and “Coral Daisy.”

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## Mud Creek Countertops/ from page 5B

seals the top with food-grade matte finish epoxy.

"This is what I recommend pretty much to everyone because it looks more natural and this gives you 95-percent coat against scratches," he said.

The bottom of the resurfaced project will receive a moisture preventative, especially if the counter is near a sink or a dishwasher.

"Sometimes I will do the whole thing, especially if it's a young family with kids," Top said.

Currently Mud Creek Countertops (named after the creek located east of Hills) is a hobby for Top.

Current orders will take a couple of months to complete, as work time on countertops is limited to the weekends.

"If I get a stack of jobs consistently, I am pretty sure I will go full time," he said.

Inquiries to Mud Creek Countertops can be made on the business's Facebook page.

Top regularly posts videos and pictures of projects he is currently completing so people can see samples of what he can complete.



Mud Creek Countertops can create countertop edges that look like quarried stone or edges that are smooth.

Owner Mark Top sands the paint drips from the epoxy processes flat before installation.

This (at right) bathroom vanity top has a painted finish to look like granite.

Pictured at far right, various metallic powders are used to create a variety of finishes at Mud Creek Countertops.



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**Prairie Ally food forest has metal art created by local artists to reflect ag history/**from page 9B

visitors can experience all of that through the recreation, education, food and habitat it provides.

And with its Challenge Grant award, the sculptural pieces showcase community's agricultural history and its current commitment to sustainable farming.

"We hope to inspire the next generation of growers and land stewards who have the opportunity to build a more equitable and regenerative food system," Rockman said.

"We believe this project will build more and more intergenerational connections," she said.

"We hope that people of all backgrounds and cultures come together to share farm and garden memories and wisdom with one another as they stop to stare at the sculptures or sit and enjoy the space."

Open daily, dawn to dusk, at 308 N Blue Mound Ave., Prairie Ally posts harvest updates on Facebook and Instagram throughout the season.

"Come for the beauty and the bounty," Rockman said.



The artists used pieces of old farm equipment and garden tools sourced from citizens in the area.



*"We hope to inspire the next generation of growers and land stewards who have the opportunity to build a more equitable and regenerative food system."*

— Kim Rockman, Luverne, Prairie Ally food forest

## New Twin Homes

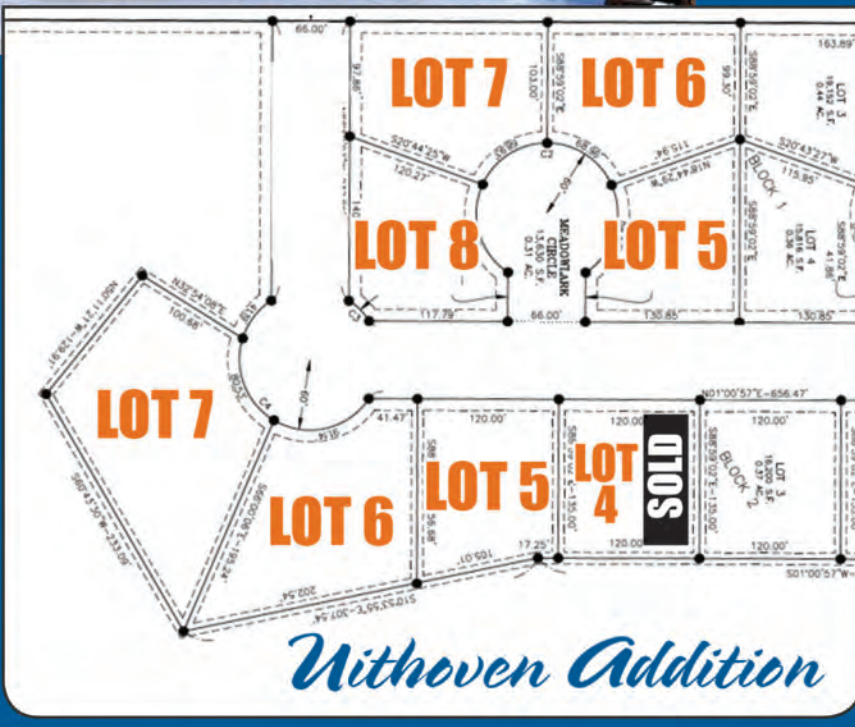


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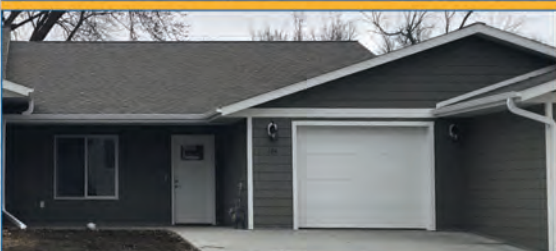


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