



Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, April 9, 2020

County turns to local suppliers for PPE orders

By Lori Sorenson

Rock County Emergency Management Director Kyle Oldre has been coordinating efforts to secure personal protective equipment for local health care workers and others on the front line of coronavirus prevention.

Because items like masks, gowns, face shields and hand sanitizer are in short supply, he's turning to creative local manufacturers, like Fey Industries in Edgerton, to source inventory.

Sheri Stratton, Luverne, has worked at the Edgerton company for seven years. Until two weeks ago she was making screwdrivers with custom name imprints for companies and private parties.

Now she's working with a team to make heavy duty protective hospital gowns — the kind with thumbholes to provide full coverage to a gloved hand made from vinyl that can be decontaminated, rinsed and reused.

"You hear every day that there's more cases, so you feel like you have to stay at it," Stratton said about a renewed purpose for her work. "It makes you feel like you're really needed by whomever they ship them out to."

She said she and her team have streamline processes to make better gowns and make them more efficiently. "We made 1,000 gowns today," she said Monday. "We've done 10,000 since last Monday."

According to company president Mike Fey, one-third of the Fey workforce was laid off last month when the economy tanked, but more than half of them have been hired back to help fill orders for personal protective equipment like the gowns, face shields and other new products.

"It's been a rollercoaster these past few weeks," he said Monday. "It's just crazy how many people are needing these supplies ... I just sent 1,000 plastic face shields to Colorado with next-day air. Usually freight expense is a big concern, but they need them

Coronavirus supplies/see page 3



Mavis Fodness photo/0409 In It Together

'We're in this together'

The Joe and Sandy Buysse family assembled a lawn display with the message, "In This Together," at their farm south of Jasper on Highway 23 shortly before Minnesota's April 3 shelter-in-place order. Using large round bales (spaced the social distancing minimum of 6 feet apart) the Buyssees, along with daughter and son-in-law, Stacy and Jerney Stickling, of Sioux Falls, spray-painted faces on the bales and included the message and a heart. White bed sheets were used to make facial masks to represent the caution people should take to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. "That fits what's going on," Stacy said. "It's meant to get a smile from passersby."

Sanford trains for surge, uses video doctor visits

By Lori Sorenson

Sanford Luverne has tested 68 patients so far for coronavirus and so far none have been confirmed in Rock County.

As of late Monday there were 986 cases in Minnesota, most of them in the Twin Cities, and a handful confirmed in neighboring southwest Minnesota counties.

In nearby South Dakota, only 30 miles to the west, there are more than 160 confirmed illnesses in the Sioux Falls metro counties of Minnehaha and Lincoln. That number is

estimated to double every three days.

Meanwhile, employees are cross-training under various patient scenarios for an expected surge of coronavirus patients.

And, in addition to stocking up on supplies, doctors and staff are finding ways to care for existing patients while sheltering in place.

"We added video visits with iPads in order to keep our providers in the clinic or at their homes so that they can continue to provide care to our nursing home patients, protecting both the patients and staff from

potential exposure," said Sanford registered nurse care manager Casey Westphal.

The Tuff Memorial Home in Hills was Sanford's first trial Thursday, April 2, when Dr. Jennifer Thone saw 22 patients from her home on an iPad.

"The rounds took a little longer than usual, but the actual visits were good," Westphal said. "She said an organized staff helping her was important to make it go as smoothly as possible."

The Minnesota Veterans Home also began the video visits with Dr.

Judy Chesley, who saw patients from her clinic office via iPad.

"Rounding here happens twice a week," Westphal said. "The Vets Home staff and the doctor said the visits were a success."

Luverne doctors will see three more nursing homes with video rounds this week and next week.

"I'm very grateful for the ingenuity and tenacity of our staff and the flexibility of our nursing home employees to continue to ensure the residents get care," Westphal said. "Out of adversity or scarcity comes innovation."



Mavis Fodness photo/0409 Gas Price Drop

Gas prices hit 10-year low

Gas prices in Luverne continued to drop as the coronavirus pandemic lessened the demand for oil around the world. On Friday the price per gallon at the Sunshine gas station was \$1.63. On Monday the price was \$1.59, the lowest early April price in a decade. According to GasBuddy.com survey, gas prices in Minnesota fell 10.1 cents in the past week and the price is 58.3 cents lower than last month. Last year at this time, a gallon of gas in Minnesota cost an average of \$2.63. The previous low from a gallon of gas in the past decade in Minnesota was \$1.88 in 2016. The highest was \$3.80 in 2012.

School year continues via distance learning

By Mavis Fodness

Last week Luverne High School freshman Ashlyn Johnson sang her classroom assignment on her choir teacher's deck.

"She even played the piano for me," said the daughter of Jim and Heather Johnson of Luverne.

Instructors like LHS choir teacher Seana Graber resumed teaching online March 30, after completing a nine-day transition from face-to-face instruction to at-home distance learning.

The transition was mandated after schools closed March 16 to avoid the spread of the coronavirus. Distance learning continues through May 4.

Graber organized choir assignments using an app called FlipGrid.

Students like Johnson record themselves performing the assignments, much like Johnson's brother Ryker, a seventh-grader, did for band teacher James Jarvie.

For Ryker, completing the assignment was easy. "I record myself playing the assignment and save it to Smart Music for Mr. Jarvie to view," he said.

Local teachers have turned to various apps like FlipGrid for individual assignments but some apps allow for group participation.

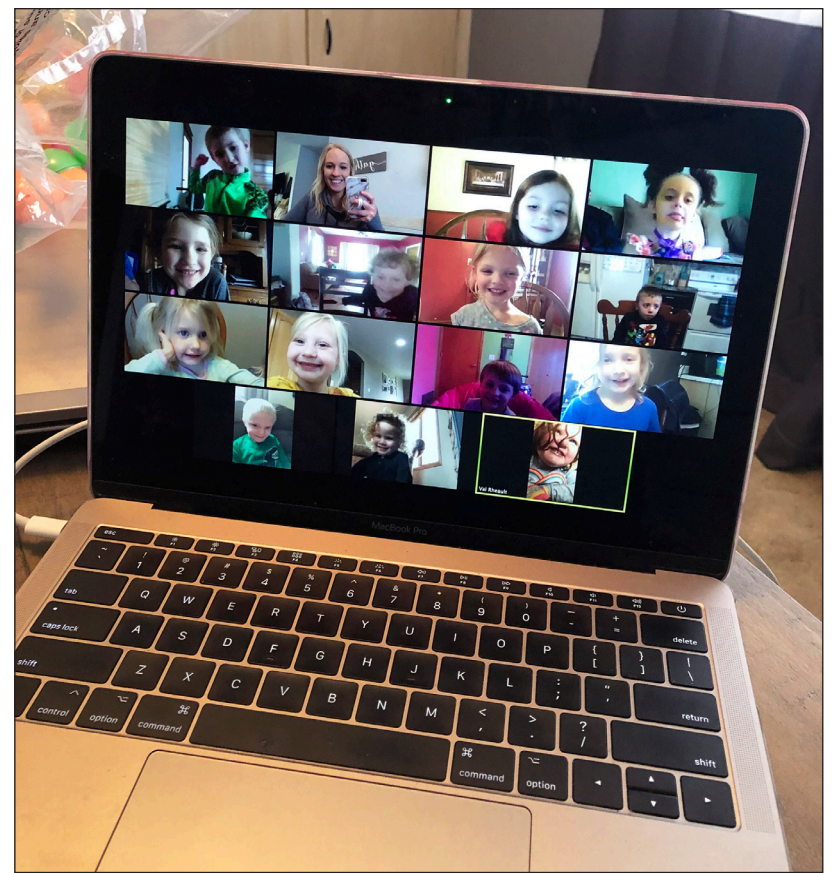
Hills-Beaver Creek preschool teacher Macy Ellingson used the videoconferencing app called Zoom with her 14 Little Patriot students on April 2.

"Everyone got to say 'Hi, friends' and the rest of the kids waved to them," Ellingson said. "This is similar to what we do at circle time in the classroom."

Most teachers like Ellingson are instructing from home, conducting lessons, answering student email questions or preparing future lessons.

The halls in the normally busy schools in Luverne, Hills and Beaver Creek are empty, but H-BC Superintendent Todd Holthaus notes learning is taking place.

Schools continue distance learning/see page 2



Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary preschool teacher Macy Ellingson (top, second from left) snapped a picture of her class April 2 participating via Zoom in a distance learning session from each of their homes. Pictured top row from left are Leland Morris, Teacher Macy Ellingson, Claire Kruger, Raelynn Poncelet, (second row) Hadley Miller, Rydr Klosterbuer, Aubrey Nuffer, Kale Smith, (third row) Jaelyn Fick, Harper Uittenbogaard, Elliot Engelkes, Harper DeJong, (fourth row) Ryker Mathers, Vivienne Tatge and Maylee Rheault.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

A note about community events:

The Announcer and Star Herald will not list the activities and events that are canceled; it is assumed that most planned gatherings are canceled, per CDC mandates for safe social distancing. However individual inquiries should be directed toward appropriate planners. See www.star-herald.com, for the latest coronavirus coverage.

Battle Plain virtual meeting

Battle Plain Township Board will have a virtual meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 14. Contact Mark VanderPol for an email link to join the meeting.

Kindergarten Round-Up canceled, but paperwork due

Luverne Kindergarten Round-Up in-person meeting has been canceled, but Luverne Elementary School personnel still needs the registration paperwork by April 10. The paperwork can be sent electrically to s.bundes@isd2184.net or placed in the drop box at Community Education door. Call 507-283-4497 for more information.

Spring weight restrictions in place

Spring weight road restrictions are in place on Rock County roadways. Ending dates are variable, and drivers must check for updates throughout the spring. Call Rock County Highway Engineer Mark Sehr at 507-283-5010 with questions and updates.

Help others struggling with coronavirus challenges

In response to residents and organizations overwhelmed by challenges related to the coronavirus, the Luverne Area Chamber is lining up volunteers to shop and/or deliver for those individuals who are unable to leave their homes.

The intent is to coordinate this as a service to residents supporting our local businesses. A protocol will minimize contact between volunteers and people requesting services. To join the list of volunteers, call the Chamber at (507)-283-4061.

Hospice dinner rescheduled

Sanford Luverne Hospice Dinner and Auction scheduled for April 18 has been postponed and tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, Aug. 29. Ticketholders should save their tickets to use at the rescheduled event. Raffle drawings for the Blue Mound Quilters quilt and the cash raffle have been rescheduled for Aug. 29 also. Call the Hospice office at 507-283-1895 or email Helen Saum at helen.saum@sanfordhealth.org with questions.



Luverne parent Heather Johnson shared on Facebook what Day 1 of distance learning in the Luverne School District looked like in her house on March 30. She included the caption "Distance Learning Begins!" and pictured her four children (from left) Burke, Ryker, Ashlyn and Luella completing their online school assignments.

Schools continue distance learning/continued from page 1

"School is not closed," he said. "We are still educating."

Attendance was not perfect but 95 percent of H-BC's 373 students and Luverne's 1,202 students checked in virtually on the first day of classes.

In his weekly letter to parents, Luverne Superintendent Craig Oftedahl said, "Despite many challenges we have had a very positive response to our start and are proud of how well everybody has adapted to our new platform for learning."

Distance learning is not strictly online learning.

Teachers can reach out with telephone instruction, assignments in textbooks, and/or through paper packets or worksheets.

In the Johnson family, physical education for Luella, a fourth-grader, is directed to a website teachers developed specifically for their Luverne students.

"Luella goes to her section of the site and each day has a different warm-up video to watch on YouTube to do with the teachers," mom Heather said. "Then she does a specific activity — yoga, dance party, ball throwing — later I even see juggling."

Big brother Burke, a sophomore, finds distance learning of band, German, American History, biology, English and Core Math to his liking. Last week he completed math papers, questions in Google Forms, a videoconference with teachers and used Khan Academy for math.

"I found it's easier to get work done if I take breaks every hour," Burke said.

Luverne Middle-High School student council mem-

bers put together a video giving tips on organizing assignments and using the various apps with one important message.

"Just want to remind you to stay at home," said senior Anita Cole-Kraty. "Don't go out unless you have a reason to because the more we all stay home the sooner we will be able to get back to the things we love and miss."

For students who need extra support, distance learning can include help from paraprofessionals.

Luverne school psychologist Renee Guy said at the middle and high school levels several paraprofessionals are assigned to specific students.

"We have also attached some paraprofessionals to classes (Core Math, economics, etc.) in general so that any student may tap into that support," she said. "In the elementary, paraprofessionals may be working with individual students through distance learning, helping teachers or assisting with child care and food delivery."

School health services, counselors and other student support staff are also available electronically.

"Depending on the level of need, we may be connecting with the students two to three times a week for support," Guy said.

Technology is key

Linking with students, however, is primarily done through electronics.

At H-BC a recent grant allowed the district to purchase Chromebooks for every student.

At the beginning of

the school year, personal Chromebooks were assigned to all ninth- through twelfth-grade students, which they used in school as well as at home.

Superintendent Holthaus said prior to the March 30 distance learning start, 90 Chromebooks were distributed to kindergarten through eighth-grade students.

In Luverne 120 computers were distributed to students.

In Rock County fiber-to-the-premise network was installed five years ago and broadband Internet service is available to all residents.

Alliance Communications serves the cities in Rock County with the exception of Luverne, which is served by Mediacom.

Both companies worked with the school districts to connect families to the Internet for distance learning.

Susan Beers is the Luverne district technology integrationist.

Prior to the pandemic, Beers' role was to help teachers immerse technology into their daily lessons.

Now she's supporting the district's 100 teachers as they work their way through the use of various apps to teach distantly.

"It is so new to everybody," Beers said. "The whole world is trying to figure this out."

Parents are working their way around distance learning too.

On the Luverne district website, links have been established to explain the various apps used in each of the schools as well as helpful tips for learning at home.

The Johnson family has established a regular schedule for starting and ending the school day.

"We expect them to manage their day and school work pretty much on their own," Heather said.

Summaries sent by the teachers, either daily or weekly, are reviewed at suppertime.

"Not all classes are included in the summaries so we try to ask about those other classes at that time and just make sure they are staying on top of their assignments," she said.

Standardized tests waived

One test the Johnsons or other families won't have to worry about is the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments. Minnesota received a federal waiver not to complete them this year.

Luverne Middle School Principal Jason Phelps is also the district's assessment coordinator.

School districts will miss one year of student data for reading, math and science.

"The upside of the MCAs is that it gives us the big picture (for 2020)," he said.

Without 2020, using a five-year average around the missing data along with teachers' classroom observations are also useful assessments of specific curriculum.

While distance learning appears to be successful, Phelps noted technology doesn't replace the importance of daily human interaction in education.

"You can't 100 percent replace face-to-face instruction," he said. "Having students in classrooms is the best."

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Jasper newspaper ceases publication

By Mavis Fodness

Monday marked the final issue of the Jasper newspaper. The decision to cease publication ends the newspaper's 131 years of service to the community.

Pipestone Publishing Co. in Pipestone owned the newspaper.

"The Jasper community, to no fault of anyone, has changed," said publisher John Draper. "It's very difficult to continue to print, mail and maintain all the resources necessary to continue the paper as we've known it."

The article, headlined "A sad farewell to the Jasper Journal," also pointed to recent effects of the coronavirus pandemic and recent shelter-in-place orders.

"We have been deeply impacted by the loss of ad-

vertising revenue due largely to the various state of Minnesota executive orders requiring businesses to cease operations and events to be canceled," the article stated.

"In light of these losses, we will be reducing employee work hours and evaluating the best use of resources."

Pipestone Publishing also publishes the weekly Pipestone County Star newspaper.

Journal subscribers will have their remaining subscription transferred to a Pipestone County Star subscription. Current subscribers to both papers will have the balance added to the County Star subscription.

"Our staff will continue to cover your events, your city government, your civic organizations and your people," the article also stated.

#BeTheLightMN commemorates spring sports season

By Lori Sorenson

Students nationwide are missing out on their spring sports events, and seniors are missing the final season of their high school careers.

Luverne coaches and administration are coordinating with more than 170 districts across Minnesota to light up track infields, tennis courts and ball diamonds once a week.

The movement, #BeTheLightMN, calls for schools to light up their facilities for 20 minutes and 20 seconds at 8:20 p.m. once a week for the Class of 2020 athletes.

In Luverne, the first "light-up" will be Wednesday, April 8, according to Tim Jarchow, vice president of the Luverne Baseball Association.

"We're doing it to show unity," Jarchow said. "It commemorates our seniors who are missing out on lots of

events in the spring of their last year of high school."

This week would have been a full schedule of sporting events, had it not been for the coronavirus shelter-in-place order.

Instead, at 8:30 p.m. Wednesday stadium lights will flood the diamonds and infields to remember what could have been.

Jarchow specified that the weekly lightings are not intended to be events for gathering.

"If you want to drive by or walk by, that's fine, but we can't have people gathering because it wouldn't be safe for social distancing," he said. "Please do not gather."

The fields will be lighted weekly through the end of May and will be shared on the Luverne Baseball Association Facebook page and on other social media.

Rock County coronavirus supplies/continued from page 1

"These are all key players and we need to keep them healthy. I'm getting requests for masks from people who don't normally need them, and as we go forward, the standards for PPE continue to get higher. This is a different way that we're having to do business."

— Kyle Oldre, EM director

right away."

In Rock County, Oldre and other local leaders are hoping to avoid last-minute equipment shortages.

That's meant dozens of conference calls and online meetings with state and regional health and emergency response personnel, in addition to regular discussions with local leaders in schools, hospitals, law enforcement, fire departments, city governments and more.

"We're all in this together," Oldre said. "For now we're making sure the right equipment gets to key players when they need it to keep them safe."

While state and federal offices continue to ration supplies to local agencies, the Rock County Courthouse has become a receiving area for supplies that Oldre then distributes locally.

"It's just easier for me to call these guys directly," he said. "And they've all been great to work with."

As supplies arrive, the courthouse has become a shipping and receiving area for PPEs. On Thursday county employees Gary Kurtz and Nathan Meyer commandeered the break room table to transfer bulk sanitizer from Century Farms Distillery in Spencer, Iowa, into hundreds of 8-ounce flip-top containers from Sailor Plastics in Adrian.

The bottles are then distributed in the community where they're needed.

The goal is to have enough protective equipment distributed throughout the community to protect the people who need it most, and that list is changing as information filters down from larger cities already under a surge of coronavirus patients.

The most urgent need is with hospitals, nursing homes, fire departments and first responders, but others, such as funeral home directors, bus drivers and food delivery workers, are now advised to wear protection.

"These are all key players and we need to keep them healthy," Oldre said.



As supplies arrive, the courthouse has become a shipping and receiving area for PPEs. Below, county employee Nathan Meyer fills one of hundreds of 8-ounce plastic bottles with bulk hand sanitizer from an Iowa distillery.



"I'm getting requests for masks from people who don't normally need them, and as we go forward, the standards for PPE continue to get higher. This is a different way that we're having to do business."

Despite the fact that Rock County has yet to report its first confirmed case of coronavirus, Oldre said there's urgency to his work, especially considering the community spread is assumed to be underway and a surge of cases is expected to peak in southwest Minnesota within a month.

Oldre's efforts now are focused on having the right supplies on hand to prevent the rapid spread of the virus.

"We're burning through equipment now," he said. "We have to continue to bring supply in to meet that need and keep people safe."

Equipment, though, is only part of the battle. He said the most important responsibility falls on the shoulders of residents to "flatten the curve" so that medical professionals can accommodate critical cases in manageable numbers.

"It's up to the people of Rock County," Oldre said. "Are we following the guidelines to shelter in place and wash our hands to avoid all the big numbers at once?"

The longer it takes for cases to surge locally, he said, the more time the community will have to prepare for it.

"We know it's coming, but if we can push it far enough down the road to let the really smart people figure it out," Oldre said. "For every week we push it out, it's another week of production for the equipment we need."

Community sews homemade masks

By Lori Sorenson

With increasing numbers of coronavirus cases confirmed in the region, homemade fabric masks are becoming increasingly common in grocery stores and other places of essential business.

Barb Bork of the Sewing Basket in Luverne has been helping to meet demand for fabric and supplies while also accepting mask donations to redistribute where needed.

"When this started, we didn't have a spool of white thread in the store. It was like bread and toilet paper. I couldn't believe it," Bork said Monday after trying to keep her store stocked with sewing supplies for masks.

"We were out of elastic in the first half hour after the governor announced sheltering in place."

Since then, her store has been closed to the public, and she's been there Wednesdays and Fridays to fill orders for sewers and to accept donated masks that will be distributed to people who need them.

Mayor Pat Baustian requested Bork's help with the effort. "It's just the right thing to do," he said Monday. He said several church sewing groups, in addition to many independent sewers, have converted quilting efforts to mask making, and they need a central place to donate the masks for distribution.

Bork said she's not sure how it's going to work, but



Barb Bork consulted with daughter-in-law Annie Bork, who uses masks at Southwestern Mental Health Center, and they've arrived at one that's comfortable and relatively protective.

she will be at her locked store in Luverne on Wednesdays and Fridays, and people with mask donations can call her and she'll arrange to accept them. The phone number is 507-283-9769.

Meanwhile, Bork has been experimenting with her own pattern. "Everyone's making them and there are so many different sizes and kinds," she said.

She consulted with daughter-in-law Annie Bork, who uses masks at Southwestern Mental Health Center, and they've arrived at one that's comfortable and relatively protective, Bork said.

Her version uses a soft

inner layer against the skin and an outer decorative layer with a panel of pillow ticking sewn between them. Since elastic has been in short supply, she uses stretchy leggings material for the ties.

The CDC maintains that surgical masks are the only way to protect against contagion from a known symptomatic coronavirus carrier. And because they're in short supply, they're reserved for health care professionals.

However, the CDC isn't discouraging the use of basic fabric masks that meet basic guidelines (covering the nose and lower part of the face). Late last week it announced the homemade barriers prevent the wearer from spreading germs and serve as a reminder not to touch faces.

The Minnesota Department of Public Health has also issued guidelines and a suggested pattern at www.health.state.mn.us.

Sanford offers homemade mask tips

Sanford Luverne on Tuesday offered information about homemade masks — how they should be used, cleaned, stored and more.

Essentially, they're a good alternative to medical-grade masks, which should be conserved for those providing direct care for patients.

They serve as a barrier for someone who does not have signs or symptoms, as a way of limiting transmission.

"Masks or cloth face coverings can help with preventing your germs from infecting others, especially in situations where you may spread the virus without symptoms," the information stated.

"Wearing a mask does not protect you from others who may spread the virus. ... Whether or not you wear a mask, you still need to wash your hands frequently, cover your cough, and stay at least six feet away from others."

Other points in the information include:

- People who are sick should still stay home. Wearing a mask does not mean people who are sick should go out into the community. If you are sick and need to go to the doctor, call your health care provider before going in and wear a mask to the clinic.

- CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.

- CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmit-

ting it to others.

- A cloth facemask prevents people from touching their face, as that is a likely way to transmit the virus.

- Alternative facemasks are NOT considered personal protective equipment (PPE) since they have not been proven to protect people from contracting a virus.

- Cloth masks have to be washed in very hot water (160 degrees if possible) and detergent daily. When not in use, fabric should be stored in a clean, closed paper bag or breathable container, folded like a taco, outside to outside (dirty to dirty).

How to wear masks

- Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sani-

Homemade masks/see p. 7

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My oldest son earned a law enforcement degree a couple of years ago at a time when



ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

mothers might worry about their sons working in law enforcement.

So, when he took a job in security and surveillance at Avera McKennan, I felt comforted to know he'd be less often in harm's way. How many armed bad guys hang out in the ER waiting room?

Lately, with the coronavirus closing in from all sides, it seems there's no safe place for our children.

Jonathan is the first person in line for people who enter the front doors of the facility. And lately he said foot traffic is picking up and it's his job to screen patients for the virus.

He tells me he's well protected and the protocols are designed to protect everyone.

He's not scared, but I am.

I'm scared he'll be exposed and possibly get sick. Possibly deathly ill. Statistically most people won't die, but tell that to the mothers of healthy young people who did suffocate when the disease invaded their lungs.

I try not to worry.

And I try to find comfort among the dozens of other local parents whose children are on the "front lines" of the coronavirus defense.

Many of them are doctors and nurses and first-responders, but all it takes is one drop of mucus from an ill-timed sneeze — which could happen in the ER lobby or in the ER patient room.

One drop of snot could prove more deadly than a single round at close range from a handgun.

Also consider this: The person complaining of symptoms and seeking care might pose less risk to the public than the person carrying the disease but not yet showing symptoms.

These people, my friends,

are everywhere. It could be me. Or you. How would we know until we show symptoms? Would we even have symptoms or know?

We have yet to report a confirmed case in Rock County, but that doesn't mean it's not here already circulating the community.

That's why it's imperative that we hunker down and stay home now. Because these carriers and everyone else they exposed when they were asymptomatic will start showing symptoms and start needing medical attention, and we pray they're not all sick at the same time.

We are a small medical community, and about the time our Rock County folks start getting sick, Sioux Falls hospitals will already be feeling the strain.

There are only so many ventilators to keep alive the very sick patients, and there are only so many "front line" workers to help.

The virus will strike in Rock County, and people we care about will get sick. "There's not much we can do about it," one might say. But that's a lie.

There is one very important thing we all can do: stay home. Don't be the asymptomatic carrier who inadvertently infects your mom or Uncle Marvin. And don't be the one who feels safe around your friends at the store because they seem healthy.

"Shelter in place" is ordered for a reason. Please do this now so that our loved ones on the front lines aren't overwhelmed and in harm's way.

The coronavirus way of life is inconvenient, but it's not about us. It's about creating better outcomes for everyone in the community, including our loved ones on the front lines.

Walz: It will get worse before it gets better, but we'll get through this

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

Gov. Tim Walz on Sunday delivered his second State of the State address from the Governor's Residence where he has been in self-quarantine.

"Self-quarantine. Self-isolation. Social distancing," he said at the start of his speech. "Phrases that many of us never used before now roll off our tongue in daily conversation."

Walz lamented with all Minnesotans that the new vocabulary defines a new reality. "A hard, cold reality," he said. "One that far exceeds the reality of Minnesota's harshest winters."

He spoke about shuttered businesses, daily disruptions, loss of companionship and deserted streets, classrooms, restaurants and church pews, in addition to postponed graduations, weddings and funerals.

But he pointed out Minnesotans are resilient people "with a deep reserve of courage, optimism, and grit," referring to our winter survival skills.

"But this will be a winter like we've never seen before. ... There's no stopping the storm of COVID-19 from hitting Minnesota, but we are preparing for it."

Walz shared a long list of specific actions the state and its commercial partners are taking to prepare for the storm, but he said staying at home is the most

critical work of all.

"I know it doesn't feel that way for many of you. Minnesotans are hardworking people who step in to help," he said. "In many storms, that means plowing out your neighborhood, filing sandbags, or trudging through the snow to check on your loved ones."

But he said reducing human contact reduces transmission by up to 80 percent, so staying home is, in effect, a vaccine.

"You are slowing the spread of this disease. You are protecting your neighbors. You are giving hospitals time to prepare to care for the many who will fall ill," Walz said. "You are making a difference. You are saving lives."

Walz empathized with students and athletes missing big moments in their lives. "But what you are doing matters. Your sacrifice is keeping people safe. You are protecting people. Someday when you have children of your own, you will tell them about this moment in history and what you did to help the people of

your state. Thank you."

He empathized with parents watching their children while trying to work themselves. "This is hard for everyone. Take a deep breath. Be kind to yourself. We are all doing the best we can — and that's all we can do."

And while the last few weeks have been difficult, he warned it's only going to get harder. But he pointed to dozens of little acts of kindness he'd been made aware of and encouraged Minnesotans to weather the "storm" this way.

"We will grieve all that was taken from us, but we will also celebrate all that's given to us," Walz said.

"We will cherish each other's humanity. We will have endless gratitude for the lives we lead."

We in Rock County are a long way from the Governor's Mansion, but his words ring as true for us as they do for Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Stay home, and stay healthy, Minnesota," Walz said at the close of his address.

And that goes for you, too, Rock County.



VOICE OF OUR READERS

Commander in chief's missteps now felt here

To the Editor:

Thank you, Kat Dahl, for your thoughtful, intelligent editorial.

Tragically, our dangerously inept commander in chief ignored experts on the science of contagion and didn't take the steps necessary to attack its spread. Now his missteps are affecting us here in Rock County, and we are paying the price for his lack of intelligent leadership in the form of human lives.

Suanne Ohme
Luverne

Other morning sounds abundant now that constant clammer is absent

It's been almost a month now that we have been in a virtual state of shutdown.

Social distancing, shelter in place, essential business and hand washing — and now face masks have turned our worlds upside down. But really, has it been that unbearable?

The whole day-to-day lifestyle changes pale in comparison to the mounting worries we are all facing. For me, I find it difficult to be living, working or even paying attention to what I am doing at that particular moment in time.

My mind is worried more about tomorrow than today, more about next week than tomorrow. Honestly, I struggle with how to handle it, so if you find yourself in the same boat,



IN OTHER WORDS

By Rick Peterson,
Tollefson Publishing General Manager

let's take a little comfort in the fact that we aren't alone.

I have noticed my sense of hearing has been heightened. You can't hear it, but that sound of laughter in the background is my wife and co-workers laughing at such a statement.

Actually they are missing the point. While it's true I still can't hear what they're saying most of the time, that's not my point.

What I am getting at is I hear some sounds more clearly now and appreciate them a whole lot more. I

am an early riser so I am outside well before the sun is up.

The traffic noise at that time of day is considerably less and now even more so. The birds have been chirping away and the sound is crystal clear.

The sounds of the big rigs moving up and down the interstate a mile away come across as if I were standing in the Papik car lot.

I can hear the garbage truck coming my way before it crosses Highway 75.

While I am enjoying my clearer sense of hearing these days, there are a number of sounds that I miss.

The sound of the umpire shouting out, "Let's play ball," or the sound of "On your marks, get set" and then

the sound of the starter's pistol, or "You're next on the tee," or "Whose serve is it?"

As many of you know, one of my bucket list items for this year is to attend at least 12 Sunday services at 12 different churches. I'm sorry to say I am not off to a good start in that quest.

That said, I have an idea, and I need the help of all the churches in town and all across Rock County, for the matter.

Wouldn't it be cool if all the churches rang their bells at the same time Easter Sunday for five minutes? That would be the best sound these ears of mine could ever hear.

God bless, stay safe and happy Easter.

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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 27
 •Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant on W. Bishop Street and N. Kniss Avenue reported suspicious activity at location.

•Complainant reported an NSF check.

March 28
 •Deputy assisted state patrol westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 12, Luverne.

•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue requested deputy for trespasser.

•Complainant in Hills reported an open door.

•Complainant on W. Dodge Street reported kids won't come home.

•Deputy on State Highway 23 and County Road 20, Jasper, assisted MSP.

March 29
 •Complainant on S. Donaldson Street reported runaway at location.

•Complainant on Highway 75 and 41st Street, Steen, reported motor vehicle theft.

•Runaway was reported at location on W. Lincoln Street.

•A culvert was washed out at location on 91st Street and 180th Avenue, Magnolia.

•Report of burning at location on N. Estey Street.

•Complainant on E. Barck Avenue requested deputy at location for disturbance.

March 30
 •Complainant on W. 1st Street, Hills, reported a suspicious activity.

•Complainant on E. Barck Avenue reported he needs to retrieve property.

•Complainant on W. Luverne Street reported someone ordered on her Walmart account.

•Complainant on County Road 3, Hardwick, reported lease and tenant issues.

•Complainant on County

Road 7, eastbound past 180th, Hardwick, reported bad driving conduct.

•Complainant reported a quad tearing around at sale barn.

•Complainant on W. Veterans Drive reported a runaway child.

•Complainant on S. Freeman Avenue reported a disturbance in the area.

•Complainant on County Road 5 and 110th Avenue reported two pedestrians in ditch.

•Complainant in city of Steen reported a lift station bypass of sewage.

•Suspicious activity was reported from location on 214 E. Sanford Avenue, Steen.

•Accident was reported.

April 1
 •Deputy reported littering on 150th Avenue and 131st Street.

•Suspicious activity was reported at location on Crawford and Freeman.

•Assistance from other department was requested westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 20, Magnolia.

April 2
 •Outage was reported at location on W. Luverne Street, Magnolia.

•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported hitting a light pole.

•Complainant on Rowe Drive reported an assault.

•Complainant on Oakley Street reported a suspicious vehicle.

•Complainant on S. Highway 75 reported a rollover.

In addition, officers responded to 4 transports, 6 escorts, 16 ambulance runs, 2 paper services, 6 animal complaints, 21 burn permits, 2 vehicle impounds, 2 stalled vehicles, 1 background check, 4 purchase and carry permits, 4 alarms, 12 traffic stops, 5 abandoned 911 calls, 4 tests and 1 report of cattle out.

Chandler Feed seeks variance for taller, 600,000 bushel grain bin in Hardwick

By Mavis Fodness

Chandler Feed Co. is seeking a height variance to add an additional grain bin at its First Street location in Hardwick.

A public teleconference hearing is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 14. No in-person hearing will be conducted in order to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

The proposed grain bin will be 107 feet tall with a grain leg reaching 114 feet.

The new 600,000-bushel bin almost doubles the elevator's current grain storage capacity of 675,000 bushels.

Hardwick location manager Miles Brown submitted the variance application at the March 11 Hardwick City Council meeting.

Chandler Feed Co. manufactures livestock feed and merchandises corn and soybeans. The company has locations in Chandler, Leota, Edgerton and Woodstock.

"It (the grain bin) is an important part of our business plan to grow ... and keep as much grain off the ground as possible," Brown indicated on the application.

Hardwick's building ordinance restricts in-town structures to less than 60 feet.

The new bin would be located south of the elevator's main storage area on property owned by the feed company. The new bin will tie into the existing grain dump and grain leg system to fill and empty the bin.

The bin will be next to the elevator's existing 350,000- and 250,000-bushel bins already on the feed company property.

The 350,000-bushel bin is 95 feet tall with a height variance granted in 2006.

Hardwick councilman Sam Hansen serves on the city's Board of Appeals and Adjustments.

He and Hardwick residents Tom Johnson and Don Patton measured the location of the proposed bin.

Hansen said the bin's location met setback requirements from public roads and other properties.

The adjustment board will support the height variance if no residents raise concerns at or before the April 14 public hearing.

Grain piles have attracted

wildlife into town and concerns about the smell from spoiled grain on the ground have been brought to the city council in the past.

Hansen sees the new bin as a solution to previous concerns because most of the grain could be stored inside.

"This is going to help us because they used to pile up grain at the south location," he said.

To join the 6 p.m. April 14 teleconference, call 877-549-5018 and enter the meeting ID number 41237.

Prior to April 14, written comments can be mailed to Tammy Johnson, Hardwick City Clerk, P.O. Box 31, Hardwick, MN 56134. Delivery of comments for the public hearing can be arranged by calling 507-669-6635.

All written comments will be read at the public hearing. Immediately after the public hearing, the Hardwick City Council considers the variance request.

If approved, Brown said construction on the bin will begin immediately in order for use this fall.

Chandler Feed Co. purchased the Hardwick elevator from Mouw's Feed and Grain in 2018.

Controlled grass burn gets out of control

The Beaver Creek Fire Department spent Sunday afternoon controlling a wildfire that charred a quarter section of ground northwest of Beaver Creek.

According to the Rock County Sheriff's Office, the call came in at 1:53 p.m. from Mike Gehrke, who said a controlled burn had gotten out of control. Crews remained on the scene for several hours and were assisted by farm equipment that provided a perimeter of dirt to contain the flames.

Lori Sorenson photos/0409 ground fire



Exchange students return home as classmates distance learn

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek foreign exchange students' experiences in the U.S. have been cut short as three return home and one stays with his host family to begin distance learning.

"I feel bad for them," said Alex Haan, a local coordinator for the exchange program. "They won't experience prom or a graduation ceremony to the extent we do them here."

With all school extracurricular activities on hold until May 4 due to the coronavirus, American Field Service-USA, who organizes student exchanges in the U.S., ended all programs March 25 and began returning students to their home countries.

Juan Anabitarte Guzman left March 27 for his home in Galapagar, Spain. His host family is Alex and Karen Miller of rural Hardwick.

"I didn't want to leave," Guzman said. "I met a lot of great people that I'm not going to see again."

A shelter-in-place order was already implemented in Spain with only trips to the grocery store allowed.

"I am going back to a worse situation than Luverne," Guzman said. "The leaders of all AFS countries decided it was best, and Spain wants all of its citizens home as soon as possible."

Guzman flew out of a deserted Joe Foss Field in Sioux Falls March 27. Alex Miller indicated that Guzman's flight to Chicago was possibly the only flight out of the airport that day.

Guzman waited in Chicago until other Spanish exchange students arrived to a single chartered flight back home.

Katia Proissl left Luverne March 30 for Germany. Her host family was Nate and Sandy Rud of Luverne.

Haan said Proissl had a 15-hour layover in Chicago before all the students flew back to Germany.

Hills-Beaver Creek exchange student Batuhan Kivrak is already back home in Izmir, Turkey. He left the U.S. March 25.

H-BC secondary principal Molly Schilling indicated "Ali" sharing insights of his culture with staff and students.

"He was a great kid that we learned a lot from," she said.

Kivrak stayed with Haan in Luverne along with Ukrainian native Stepen Orietsky.

Orietsky continues his exchange experience in the U.S. and Luverne due to his country barring flights in and out of the country for the next 30 days. Orietsky began distance learning in the Luverne district from the Haan home.

Orietsky is a FLEX or Future Leaders Exchange student, and organizers have not made a decision whether to bring exchange students home early.

Early departures are rare exchange occurrences.

"We have not experienced anything like this," said Haan, who is in his sixth year with the exchange programs.

Once home, the exchange students are self-quarantined for two weeks.

The students can apply for another exchange experience. Each program is taking applications for the 2020-21 school year. Deadline is Aug. 1.

"Hopefully by then this (coronavirus pandemic) is way behind us," Haan said.

USDA launches pilot program for Prairie Pothole producers to plant cover for conservation

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced a new pilot program that enables farmers in Prairie Pothole states to receive payments for planting perennial cover for conservation use on their land for three to five years.

The new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP) pilot is available to producers in Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. The signup for this pilot started March 30, 2020, and ends Aug. 21.

Through SHIPP, producers have the option of three-, four- or five-year CRP contracts to establish perennial cover for conservation use on less productive cropland in exchange for payments.

This pilot enables producers to plant perennial cover that, among other

benefits, will improve soil health and water quality while having the option to harvest, hay and graze during certain times of the year. Up to 50,000 acres can be enrolled.

Perennial cover, whether used in a single-year rotation or over multiple years, can improve the productivity of soils and soil health on a farm for generations and increase the bottom line for the farmer.

Soil health, or soil quality, by definition, is the capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals and humans.

The SHIPP pilot is the latest option in a full suite of opportunities available to producers through CRP and other conservation programs offered by USDA.

Farmers and ranchers are encouraged to talk to their FSA county office soon about whether this pilot fits their operation or consider another longer-term option such as the CRP Continuous Signup that is ongoing.

For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp and contact your local office. To find your local USDA Service Center office, visit <https://www.farmers.gov/service-locator>

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HEARTLAND MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY ANNUAL MEETING

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Annual Meeting of the policyholders of Heartland Mutual Insurance Company that was scheduled for April 9th, 2020, has been cancelled. This decision was not made easily, we believe that cancelling the meeting is the right thing to do for the health and well-being of all involved.

BY ORDER OF THE DIRECTORS
Randall Wiertsema, President
Robert Newman, Secretary



Submitted photos

The Janiszkeski family (from left) Evren, Angie, Peter, Camden, Eden and Owen pose for a picture in honor of Peter's completion of the 2018 Twin Cities Marathon. His time qualified him for this year's Boston Marathon. The kids' shirts read "My Dad can run faster than your Dad." Below: As a gift, Peter Janiszkeski received a warm-up jacket commemorating the 2020 Boston Marathon, which is now postponed to September.

Luverne runner turns Boston Marathon miles toward local families

By Mavis Fodness

Avid runner Peter Janiszkeski planned to run the 2020 Boston Marathon on April 20. But when the 26.2-mile event was postponed to September due to the coronavirus outbreak, Janiszkeski decided to run the marathon at home and dedicate the race to three area families.

Dubbed the "Luverne Marathon," Janiszkeski will be the only participant, but the memories of Anthony Boyenga, Brooke Thompson and Jackson Facile will be with him.

"I want to turn the disappointment of not getting to race in Boston into something positive for my community and shining gifts of home, light and love onto others," he said. "We as individuals can't obviously help everyone, but we can help someone through acts of kindness."

The three died within the past year. Two of them were former students of the Luverne High School mathematics teacher, and one was an infant. All three belonged to the same faith community of St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne.

Monetary donations for Janiszkeski's Luverne Marathon can be dropped off at Security Savings

Bank locations in Luverne, Hills and Ellsworth.

"This is a very challenging time financially for a lot of people, so whatever is donated is awesome and generous, regardless of the amount," Janiszkeski said. "My thoughts for uses of the money are for scholarships, living expenses (and) medical expenses."

Janiszkeski was completing a planned 22-mile training run on March 14 when the idea of the Luverne Marathon began forming.

"I just found out that the race (Boston Marathon) was being postponed and I didn't want to 'waste' - I don't believe any training is ever wasted - all the hard work," Janiszkeski said. "I wanted to turn it into something positive."

Running has been a lifelong passion for 41-year-old Janiszkeski.

As a child growing up, first in Canby and then in Minneota where he moved with his family as a sixth-grader, Janiszkeski found running to be a "you-versus-you" activity, and it fit his competitive nature. He would continually challenge himself to break his personal best times with each competition.

The outdoor training time to become stronger and faster now is where Janiszkeski also finds solitude,

'We as individuals can't obviously help everyone, but we can help someone through acts of kindness.'

— Peter Janiszkeski

his time to think, and say prayers for his family and others. He runs five to seven days a week, in all kinds of weather, which gives him plenty of time to think.

"I can focus on becoming not just the best runner I can be, but the best person I can be," he said. "I love sharing my love of running with those I am blessed to coach and anyone else who takes an interest."

Janiszkeski has taught for 18 years, all in Luverne, where he became the assistant cross country coach 14 years ago.



The last 12 years he has been the head coach for the fall sport. In the spring he has been an assistant track and field coach, also for 14 years, with the last four years as head coach.

According to Janiszkeski, anyone can become a runner.

"Just start," he said. "Even if it's just for 10 minutes or you have to run a minute and then walk and then repeat. Then you just slowly build up from there."

Janiszkeski's run/see page 10

CELEBRATIONS

Card showers

Charlie Goehle will celebrate his 80th birthday on Friday, April 17. Greetings may be sent to him at 514 N. Fairview Drive, Luverne, MN 56156.

MENU

Monday, April 13: Tater Tot casserole, green beans, peach halves, breadstick.

Tuesday, April 14: Ginger-citrus chicken, brown rice, Oriental vegetables, pear halves, fruit crisp.

Wednesday, April 15: Cubed beef, mashed potatoes, carrots, bread, pudding dessert.

Thursday, April 16: Roasted turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli florets, dinner roll, cookie.

Friday, April 17: Hamburger on a bun, potato salad, baked beans, ice cream.

LSS Dining offers well-balanced and affordable meals in a community atmosphere.

Call Lynette Hoiland at 283-9846 to arrange to pick up a dinner or for home-delivered meals.

Gift certificates are available at the meal site or online at www.lssmn.org/nutrition.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Luverne native joins ag company in Brookings

Luverne native Jesse Reisch was recently hired as a farm marketing consultant for Hurley and Associates, an agriculture risk management company in Brookings, South Dakota.



He's a licensed commodities broker working with crop producers' budgets, cash flow and risk management strategies.

Reisch is a graduate of South Dakota State University, Brookings, with experience in insurance sales and small business ownership. He has also been involved in the family livestock auction barn and cattle feeding business for many years and continues to have cattle on feed.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2010)

A downtown commercial property will go on the auction block in May after Gabe's Clothing and Shoes vacates its building. Yvette VanderBrink is serving as the auctioneer for the property, and Bob Cook is the owner seeking to sell it.

VanderBrink said the 6,700-square-foot building has an assessed value of \$64,700, and she said the building contents are worth \$15,000.

"There are a lot of beautiful fixtures in there," she said. She said the roof was replaced in the mid 1990s, and the full basement is "clean" and has two bathrooms.

The auction will be set up to sell it as a turn-key operation. This means the entire building and its contents will be sold.

"It will include all the racks, display cases and countertops," VanderBrink said. "So it will be all set up for retail."

The sale begins at 6 p.m. inside the building, and hotdogs will be available.

25 years ago (1995)

It's always painful to receive snow after the first warm, delightful days of spring, but Minnesotans have learned it's not uncommon for April snow to accompany April showers.

In fact, Rock Countians remember well the April 29 blizzard last year that blanketed sprouting tulips and budding trees with seven inches of snow.

During our recent five-day winter storm, several inches of slushy snow accumulated in Rock County, creating familiar winter problems all over again.

According to the National Weather Service, Sioux Falls, normal snowfall in April is 2.2 inches. As of Tuesday at 5 p.m., the area had already received 8.6 inches.

50 years ago (1970)

Nuclear-age technology may help Weather Bureau hydrologists produce more accurate flood forecasts and warnings if a research project currently under way proves successful.

Involved in the experiment is the Rock River watershed between Luverne and the Iowa-Minnesota boundary, and an area near Steamboat Springs, Colo.

A low-flying, white twin-engine airplane which was seen from time to time flying over the area south of Luverne several times this winter, was one of the testing devices. A ground crew of two men made a radiation test on the ground to be used as a check against the results obtained in the aerial tests.

The twin engine air-plane was provided by the Atomic Energy Commission and instrumented and operated by EG&G, Inc., Las Vegas, Nev., and under contract with the Commerce Department's Environmental Science Services Administration. Purpose of the flights was to find out if it is possible to accurately measure the quantity of water in the snow pack by airborne techniques.

75 years ago (1945)

The dental practice of the late Dr. Charles T. Brown has been purchased by Dr. Marvin Dale of Minneapolis, son of Rev. and Mrs. Stephen Dale of St. James. The transaction was completed Monday and Dr. Dale, who is now engaged in a practice at St. Paul, will be in Luverne to begin his practice on May 1.

Dr. Dale was graduated from St. James high school in 1938, and spent three years at St. Olaf college in Northfield, before enrolling at the dental college at the University of Minnesota from which he was graduated in August, 1944. He was discharged from the army in September, 1944.

While attending high school at St. James, Dr. Dale was a

member of the high school basketball team and played in the regional tournament in 1938 when the St. James team lost to the Luverne high school team in the regional tournament.

He has three brothers in the navy, one of whom is a physician, who graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1943; another who graduated last June 7th from the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis and is now on a destroyer in the Pacific; and a third brother, who is graduating from the Columbia University Midshipmen's school April 26, 1945.

100 years ago (1920)

Plans now under consideration by R. B. Hinkly provide for the erection of a modern three-story, brick apartment building as a means of meeting demand and steadily increasing demand for residence quarters in this city.

Mr. Hinkly owns a lot on Estey street, just across the alley on the north from the Baptist church, and this convenient location is to furnish the site for the proposed apartment building.

The lot is 68x100 feet in dimensions, and the plans provide for a building 58x100 in size. This will make it possible to retain a ten-foot strip along the north side of the building, which will guard against the light being shut off on that side by the erection of any future building, while the alley will serve the same purpose.

The plans provide for two and three-room apartments on the ground floor, and smaller size suites of rooms on the second and third floors, the apartments on each floor to be equipped with all modern conveniences usually found in the apartment houses of the large cities.

Mr. Hinkly believes that such a building will materially relieve the great house shortage that now exists, and at the same time prove a highly satisfactory undertaking from an investment viewpoint. Building operations are to start soon.

OBITUARIES

Alice Severtson

Alice Lorraine Severtson, 93, Hills, died Wednesday, March 25, at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills.

A funeral with Christian burial will take place at a later date. Memorials may be given to Tuff Memorial Home in Hills.

Alice Wiesner was born on April 22, 1926, to Louie and Agnes (Koppman) Wiesner near Clear Lake, South Dakota, where she grew up in a farming community. She attended the Sioux Valley School of Nursing in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and received her nursing degree in 1947. She worked as a nurse and nursing director in Denver and Fairplay, Colorado, until her marriage.

She married Virgil Severtson on June 12, 1949. The couple settled on the Severtson family homestead in Hills, where they lived until retiring in Pipestone in 1988. She continued her nursing career, culminating with her position as director of nursing at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills.

Alice continued working in her nursing profession well



into her 80s as a nurse consultant for Progress, a day care center for disabled adults.

Alice was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pipestone. She was recognized as a blue ribbon baker and an African violet grower at the fair. She enjoyed playing bridge and was also a gifted pianist and organist.

Alice is survived by a son, Lyndon Severtson of Hills, and four daughters Marie (Ed) Crouch of Yorktown, Virginia, Yvonne (Phil) Hoffman of Colton, South Dakota, Cynthia (Marc) Aldrich of Rapid City, South Dakota, and Teresa (Jon) Klosterman of Pipestone; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; a brother Larry (Debbie) Wiesner; and many nieces and nephews.

Alice was preceded in death by her husband, Virgil; her parents; and her sister, Lucille Wiesner King.

Arrangements are provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Pipestone, www.hartquistfuneral.com. (0409 F)

Erling Severtson

Erling Milton Severtson, 88, Kenneth, died Monday, April 6, 2020, at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne.

A private family Christian graveside service will be Thursday, April 9, at the Kenneth Cemetery in rural Kenneth.

Erling Severtson was born on Dec. 28, 1931, to Bernhard and Sena (Anderson) Severtson on the family farm near Kenneth. He was baptized and confirmed at Kenneth Lutheran Church in Kenneth. He was raised on the family farm south of Kenneth. Erling attended school in Kenneth and then Augustana Academy in Canton, South Dakota. Following high school, he attended school at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for two years before being drafted into the United States Army. Erling honorably served his country from 1953 until 1955 as a Military Police officer in Germany, attaining the rank of Corporal. Upon his return, Erling finished his schooling and graduated with honors from the University of Minnesota in 1957 with a degree in animal husbandry. He then returned to the farm and continued in his lifelong passion of farming.

On April 4, 1959, Erling married Roberta Zehe at Kenneth Lutheran Church. The couple made their home on the family farm north of Kenneth.

Erling was a lifetime member of Kenneth Lutheran Church where he was active in council and until its closing on June 28, 2015. He then became a member of Zion Lutheran



Church in Hardwick. He was also a member of the Kenneth Cemetery Association and served in the past as its president. Erling belonged to the Rock County Cattleman's Association and was especially proud of his Black Angus cattle. He was active with his daughters' 4-H animal exhibits and loved being able to share his passion for farming with the next generation of farmers.

Erling loved spending time with his wife, children and grandchildren. He enjoyed snowmobiling, memories made at the lake cabin, get-togethers with his Augustana Academy friends, and food — especially lefse and lutefisk.

Erling is survived by his wife, Roberta, of Luverne; four daughters, Valora (Richard) Putnam of Blaine, Janelle (Douglas) Halverson of Rochester, Sherilyn (Wes Grieme) of Valley Springs, South Dakota, and Kristin (Dale) Schiferl of Elk Mound, Wisconsin; 11 grandchildren, Alex Putnam, Lauren Putnam, Courtney Putnam, Calvin Halverson, Dayton Halverson, Bryan Halverson, Parker Grieme, Gabrielle Grieme, Tarynn Grieme, Kaitlin Schiferl and Aidan Schiferl; and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and three siblings, Marian Johnson, Arlyn Severtson and Luther Severtson.

Arrangements are provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, www.hartquistfuneral.com. (0409 F)



Easter cheer shines through windows

Windows around the community are turning into personal expressions of cheer and Easter greetings amid coronavirus shelter-in-place orders.

Pictured at right is the downtown office front of the Luverne Area Community Foundation, decorated by a local day care.

Also pictured (above) is a rainbow of hearts in the window of Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne.

Luverne Area Chamber staff built on this enthusiasm last week by encouraging more positive decorations and social media shares. "Decorate your garage door, the front door of your business or your home," said Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere. "We are going to invite the community to drive through town on Easter Sunday to see all the decorations and messages. We'll ask people to post photos of their family adventures. We are all in this together...so let's do something to put smiles on people's faces."



1873: Mound Township starts out named as Gregory

Rock County will celebrate its 150th Anniversary this year. The news will be the history of Rock County, townships, and communities. The following appeared in the Rose History of Rock County, printed in 1911.

County and Township Organization — 1870-1878 (continued from 04-02 edition)

Gregory (now Mound)

The whole north half of the county, which from the earliest days had formed a part of Luverne township, seceded from the mother township in the spring of 1873, leaving Luverne with the boundar-



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

ies it has at the present time. The action was taken on April 10, when the board of county commissioners authorized the six northern congressional townships to organize under the name of Gregory. The name was bestowed in honor

of the Gregory family. The first town meeting was held May 2, 1873, in the stone house on the northeast quarter of section 35, in the present Mound township, then occupied by Horace G. Gregory. Gregory township is now a thing of

the past. During the next few years after its organization the several townships comprising the mammoth precinct withdrew and set up governments of their own. The township became involved financially and when it lost its last bit of territory and its name, nothing was left to apportion among its offspring except a good sized debt.

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 to mannmade@iwi.net.

Homemade masks/continued from page 3

tizer before touching the mask.

- If the mask has a stiff bendable edge on the top and is meant to mold to the shape of your nose.

- Facemask with ear loops: Hold the mask by the ear loops. Place a loop around each ear.

- Facemask with bands: Hold the mask in your hand with the nose piece or top of the mask at fingertips, allowing the headbands to hang freely below hands. Bring the

mask to your nose level and pull the top strap over your head so that it rests over the crown of your head. Pull the bottom strap over your head so that it rests at the nape of your neck.

- Mold or pinch the stiff edge to the shape of your nose, if your mask has a stiff edge.

- Pull the bottom of the mask over your mouth and chin.

How to remove

- Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer before touching the mask. Avoid touching the front of the mask. The front of the mask is contaminated. Only touch the ear loops/ties/band.

- Hold both of the ear loops and gently lift and remove the mask.

- If you have a facemask with bands: Lift the bottom strap over your head first then pull the top strap over your head.

- Store folded like a taco, outside to outside (dirty to dirty)

- Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer.

Luverne
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Place branches parallel to curb
Citywide Spring Clean up has been postponed. Potential new dates will be determined at a later date.

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Star Herald CHURCH

Page 8 April 9, 2020

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.

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

Services are live-streamed through the St. Catherine Facebook page at 9 a.m. Sundays. Cable channel 3 will air the service at 3 p.m. Wednesdays.

Luverne Christian Reformed Church
605 N. Estey St., Luverne
Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982
www.luvnecrc.com — office@luvnerc.com
Roger Sparks, Pastor

We are streaming Sunday services live on Roger Sparks' Facebook page at 9:30 am and 6:30 pm. 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 pm on Wednesdays and at 6:30 pm on Thursdays. In all circumstances, may we joyfully declare: "Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 124:8.

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

Sunday 10:30 a.m. worship service can be viewed live on Facebook through a link on the website: www.fbcluverne.org or directly on our Facebook page: First Baptist Church of Luverne MN. Services are posted to the website on Tuesday and are available to view, along with past sermons. Vast Channel 3 will also air our service Thursdays at 8 p.m.

Grace Lutheran Church
500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4431; www.graceluverne.org — graceluverne@iw.net

Ron Nichols, Pastor / Ann Zastrow, Associate Pastor

Online, TV and Radio Worship. Pr. Ann, Pr. Ron and organist Beryl Haugen will be recording worship services until we can meet together as a group. Each week we will update our recorded1 worship. On-line: Sundays at 9 a.m., our worship service can be viewed live from our website at www.graceluverne.org on the Facebook insert, 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 PM and Fridays at 6:30 PM. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 AM.

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

Online worship and devotions at home. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne). Also visit els.org for online worship opportunities with our sister churches.

American Reformed Church
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne
Ph. 283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org
Mike Altner, Pastor

Join us for live online worship Sundays at 9:30 AM at www.arcluverne.org/watch-live/ or on our Facebook page @arcluverne. Services can also be viewed at a later time through these same avenues. Worship services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 PM and Wednesdays at 4 PM. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

First Assembly of God Church
1075 110th Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4

United Methodist Church
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4529; email: luverneumc@iw.net

Thursday, March 26: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf – drive up. Sunday, March 29: 9 a.m. 10 a.m. Worship Service – live streamed. Monday, March 30: 9:30 a.m. Folding team. Wednesday, March 25: 5:30 p.m. Community Meal by delivery or take out only; call or email church office, 283-4529 or secretary@umcluverne.com. Thursday, April 2: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf. – drive up.

First Presbyterian Church
302 Central Lane, Luverne
Ph. 283-4787; email: Firstpc@iw.net— www.fpcluverne.com
Jason Cunningham, Pastor

Worship through Facebook Live at regular 10:15 time on Sunday morning. 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: stjoh@iw.net
www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org
Gary Klatt, Pastor

Sunday Morning Service will be recorded at 5:30 p.m. with necessary personnel and will be available on the Vast channel 3 Tuesday at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and online at the chamber website. Pastor Klatt is available for family visits in their homes by invitation or at church for groups of less than 10 for the purpose of worship and prayer.

Living Rock Church
500 E. Main St., Luverne
Ph. 449-0057; www.livingrockswmn.org
Billy Skaggs, Pastor

New Life Celebration Church
110 N. Oakley, Luverne
Ph. 449-6522; email: newlifecelebration@gmail.com

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
305 E. 2nd St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick
Ph. (507) 669-2855; zionoffice@alliancecom.net
Jesse Baker, Pastor

Ben Clare United Methodist Church
26762 Ben Clare Ave., Valley Springs, S.D.
igtwlb@WOW.net
Bill Bates, Pastor

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

Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFcU4>

Palisade Lutheran Church
211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Laura Phillips, Pastor

Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFcU4>

First Presbyterian Church
201 S. 3rd St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek
Ph. 507-935-5025
email: lorl.firstpres@gmail.com

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

Magnolia United Methodist Church
501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia
Ph. 605-215-3429
email: magnoliannumc@gmail.com
Nancy Manning, Pastor

Steen Reformed Church
112 W. Church Ave., Steen
Ph. 855-2336
Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 962-3270
Maggie Berndt-Dreyer, Pastor

Worship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills will be online only through the end of March. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills MN Sunday morning at 10:30AM. You can find more info on our website blchills.org.

Hills United Reformed Church
410 S. Central Ave., Hills
Office Ph. 962-3254
hillsurc@alliancecom.net
Alan Camarigg, Pastor

Keep Christ close in difficult times

We are experiencing life like we have never seen it before. This threat of Covid-19 is hitting us like nothing we have ever known. It is on a path to shut down our lives and quarantine us in our homes for an indefinite period of time. All this is precautionary so that we don't experience a lot of deaths.

But don't lose hope in who you are and in the God that has claimed you as His own. This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your family to dive into a closer relationship with God. Take advantage of some of this time that you have at home to sit together and read the Bible. Then discuss what you have read and what it means for you personally. Join together in prayer and share with God what you are feeling and thinking.

Martin Luther once wrote a simple little booklet (A Simple Way to Pray) for his barber who had requested guidance on strengthening his prayer life. Luther suggested that he should read a portion of Scripture or the Catechism and then read it again a second time and pay attention to which words seem to have greater meaning for him and his family. Talk about these words and what they might mean for him. Then follow this little format for a follow-up prayer: "I. T. C. P."; I is for Instruction; T is Thanksgiving; C is Confession; and P is Prayer.

Instruction means to repeat back to God what you believe He is teaching you in what you have read and how that teaching is to apply to your life.

Then offer Him thanks for the teaching and whatever else you have to be grateful for.

Confession is an opportunity to acknowledge your sins in general or to address something specifically to your reading. Confession also might be simply listing some of the things that you believe

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Gary Klatt
St. John Lutheran Church, Luverne

about God and what He has done for you.

Finally, put forth your requests to God for yourself and the rest of the world. If you allow each person in your family to contribute where they are comfortable, this can become a very rewarding and positive experience for everyone.

After all, this is what worship is all about: God sharing with His people the words of life and salvation that we need to be at peace with Him.

The Bible is also filled with real life experiences of people trying to deal with life on their own terms (without the wisdom of God) and those who with the power of the Holy Spirit allow God to train them in His ways. The latter are those who experience peace and joy much more than those who do their own way.

During this time of upheaval in our lives, don't allow anything to distract you from worship and the building of your relationship with God. It is during times like this that our relationship with God is most important for you and your neighbors.

If you choose not to gather for worship in church, please make a point to do it at home as often as you can. It can be as formal as you like with lighting candles or simply sitting around a table and following Luther's example for prayer. You will not be disappointed because God will be with you just as He has promised.



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EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted: Klarenbeck & Son Rendering, Corp. is in need of a daily route driver. Class B CDL with air brake. Clean driving record; paid holidays and vacation. Call Alan 507-220-5669. (tc)

The City of Hills is taking applications for a part-time seasonal maintenance position. Must be 18 or older to apply. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Contact the Hills City Office at 301 South Main Avenue or call 962-3290 to request an application. (3.21-4.16)

Parkview Manor has a position available for a 32-hour per week, Business Office Manager. Duties would include responsibility for a facility accounts receivable, payable and payroll. Accounting experience and/or training is required. Health care billing experience is preferred. Benefit package includes: health insurance and PERA retirement. Send resume to: Administrator, 308 West Sherman Ave., Ellsworth, MN 56129 or email: parkviewmanor@frontiernet.net (4.2-4.18)

CARDS OF THANKS

The Family of Henrietta Elbers would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers, memorials, food and acts of kindness in our time of sorrow. A special thank you to Pastor Sparks for his visits, prayers & words of comfort to our family. Its so awesome to live in such a caring community and your thoughts, prayers and acts of kindness were all greatly appreciated.

Gilbert Elbers,
Kevin Elbers,
Dean & Sharla Broesma and families
Keith & Annette Elbers and family
Kurt & Lanette Elbers and family

RENTALS

For Rent: Small house for rent in Luverne. Single stall garage; central air. No smoking, no pets. Call 507-227-4335. (3.28-4.11)

For Rent: Two-bedroom, ground level apartment with AC available in Luverne. On-site laundry; off-street parking. Close to downtown and Senior Center. No pets; no smoking. Heat/water included in rent. 507-290-0266. (4.9-4.25)

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Westside Township
virtual meeting April 24

ASSESSMENT NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Township of Westside in Nobles County, Minnesota, will be a VIRTUAL MEETING, at 10:30 A.M. on Friday, April 24th, 2020, for the purpose of reviewing and correcting the assessment of said Township for the year 2020. All persons considering themselves aggrieved by said assessment, or who wish to complain that the property of (another is assessed too low, are hereby notified to CALL BY PHONE (BELOW IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO DIAL INTO THE MEETING) to said meeting, and show cause of having such assessment corrected.
PHONE NUMBER: 1-312-626-6799
MEETING ID NUMBER: 652 712 568
(04-09)

Van Westen probate

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

In Re: Albertus Van Westen
Deceased

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

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:
It is Ordered and Notice is given that on April 27, 2020, at 8:30 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 204 E. Brown Street, Luverne, MN 56156, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated May 2, 2017, and codicil(s) to the Will dated _____, and separate writing(s) under Minn. Stat. 524.2-513 ("Will"), and for the appointment of Keith Van Westen, whose address is 114 W. Dodge Street, Luverne, MN 56156, and, of Kevin Van Westen, whose address is 2600 S. Grinnel Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57106, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.
Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.
Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.
A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minn. Stat. 501B.41, subd. 5.

Attorney for Petitioners
Benjamin Vander Kooi, Jr.
Vander Kooi Law Offices, P.A.
127 E. Main, PO Box 746
Luverne, MN 56156
Attorney License No.: 112124
FAX: 507-283-9629
Email: lawkooi@gmail.com
BY THE COURT
/s/ Terry S. Vajgrt
District Court Judge
/s/ Denise Brandel
Court Administrator
(04-02, 04-09)

Rock County Commissioners
meet March 10

Herreid Board Room 9:00 A.M.
Rock County Courthouse March 10, 2020

The The meeting was called to order by Chair Overgaard with all Commissioners present. Also in attendance were County Attorney Jeff Haubrich, Assistant County Attorney David Owens and Deputy Administrator Susan Skattum.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by members and guests.
Motion by Williamson, seconded by Burger, to approve the March 10, 2020, County Board agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.
Motion by Burger, seconded by Thompson, to approve the February 18, 2020, County Board minutes, declared carried on a voice vote.
Motion by Reisch, seconded by Williamson, to approve the consent agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.
1. Set County Board of Appeal and Equalization for June 16, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.; Herreid Board Meeting Room
2. Safe Assure Service Contract Renewal - \$6,510.09
3. Resolution No. 04-20, RCRW Well Head Nitrogen Reduction Project Loan Agreement
Eric Hartman, Land Management Office, presented (3) conditional use permits for Central Specialties:
1. Motion by Burger, seconded by Thompson, to approve conditional use permit for the placement and operation of temporary hot mix asphalt plant located in the W 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Section 35 of Mound Township, declared carried on a voice vote.
2. Motion by Williamson, seconded by Reisch, to approve conditional use permit for the placement and operation of temporary hot mix asphalt plant located in the NW 1/4 of Section 13 of Vienna Township, declared carried on a voice vote.
3. Motion by Reisch, seconded by Burger, to approve conditional use permit for the placement and operation of temporary hot mix asphalt plant located in E 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 23 of Denver Township, declared carried on a voice vote.
Deputy Administrator Skattum presented a follow up regarding township assessing and stated that Tom Houselog, Land Records Director indicated that their department has adequate staffing resources to accommodate the additional workload.
The County Board briefly discussed the AMC Legislative Conference that was held February 26-27; no action was taken.
Commissioners Williamson and Thompson presented an update regarding their attendance at the Naco Conference and Short Line Rail Association meetings held in Washington D. C. They had met with US MN Representative Jim Hagedorn and representatives from Amy Klobuchar's office and Tena Smith's office along with South Dakota Representatives Dusty Johnson, Mike Rounds and John Thune. During the conference, they were informed that Elis & Eastern was awarded the \$14.5 million federal CRISIS grant.
Ashley Kurtz, Auditor/Treasurer, presented the claims and per diems of \$400.00; motion by Burger, seconded by Reisch, to approve the claims and per diems and presented, declared carried on a voice vote. A complete listing of the claims is available upon request at the Auditor/Treasurer's office.
MARCH 10, 2020 CLAIMS OVER \$2,000
A & B BUSINESS INC \$2,364.36
ADVANCED WEIGHING SYSTEMS INC 3,760.00
ALLIANCE COMMUNICATIONS COOP 9,544.35
BAKER & TAYLOR 2,311.57
BURLINGTON-NORTHERN/SANTAFE RAILWAY COM 46,432.94
CONVERGINT TECHNOLOGIES LLC 11,424.24
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE INC 6,285.00
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MASTER BLASTER 6,157.66
MN COUNTIES COMPUTER COOP 4,620.00
MORRIS ELECTRONICS 2,072.55
NOBLES COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER 14,620.48
PLUM CREEK LIBRARY SYSTEM 3,546.55
SEACHANGE 4,894.53
SW MN REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY BOARD 4,000.00
TEXAS REFINERY CORP 4,387.31
THYSENKRUPP ELEVATOR CORP 5,685.47
TOLLEFSON PUBLISHING 2,495.79
TOWMASTER 8,461.18
WEX BANK 2,212.87
ZIEGLER INC 49,445.50
85 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000 34,096.14
TOTAL \$234,331.42
The County Board was in receipt of the Fund Balance report; motion by Williamson, seconded by Thompson, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote.
The Auditor/Treasurer informed the County Board that she was

in receipt of the 2019 Wind Production Revenue Tax for the amount of \$734,294.57 which reflects a small decrease from 2019. The Auditor/ Treasurer also provided the following distribution of the wind revenue tax:

Rock County	\$587,435.66
Beaver Creek Township	783.83
Denver Township	78,294.86
Martin Township	495.58
Rose Dell Township	56,274.43
Springwater Township	11,010.21
	\$734,294.57

The Auditor/Treasurer requested to open a separate checking account for the E911 Fund Account, as per compliance of Minnesota Statutes 403.11, Subd. 2. (b); motion by Thompson, seconded by Burger, to open approve, declared carried on a voice vote.
The Auditor/Treasurer presented a Rock County Home Initiative application from Tyson Metzger for property at 202 Ridge View Road, Beaver Creek, MN; motion by Burger, seconded by Reisch, to set a Public Hearing for April 4 @ 9:00a.m. in the Herreid Board meeting room of the Rock County Courthouse, declare carried on a voice vote.
The Auditor/Treasurer presented a follow up of the March 3rd Primary Election stating that twenty-four percent of the county's registered voted in the Presidential Primary; presented as information only.
The County Board was in receipt of a meeting notice the Rock County SWCD Local Work Group scheduled for March 16, 2020 @ 8:30 a.m. at the Rock County Land Management Office.
The County Board was informed of an employee resignation from Leah Van Meeteren, Transit Bus Driver for Rock County; the County Board directed Administration to invite Van Meeteran to a future County Board meeting.
The County Board was in receipt of a request to adopt an ordinance preserving the 2nd Amendment. County Attorney Jeff Haubrich stated that the State Attorney's Association is currently researching the issue and developing some type of policy; he requested time to allow him to develop a legal opinion of the draft policy. After considerable discussion from the County Board and the attending audience, the request was tabled by Order of the Chair.
Commissioner Reisch stated that he had attended the following meetings: Luverne Economic Development Committee and Workforce Development event.
Commissioner Thompson stated that she had attended the following meetings: SWHHS, AMC Legislative Conference, Naco Conference and Canvassing Board.
Commissioner Williamson stated that he had attended the following meetings: Rock County Opportunities, SW Mental Health, Naco Conference and Canvassing Board.
Commissioner Burger stated that he had attended the following meetings: SWHHS, AMC Legislative Conference, Child Care Committee meeting.
Commissioner Overgaard stated that he had attended the following meetings: Planning & Zoning, AMC Legislative Conference. Also stated that Gevo is hosting a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and the SW Mental Health has hired an Interim Director, Luke Carneil.
With no further business to come before the County Board, motion by Burger, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn, declared carried on a voice vote.
(04-09)

Mortgage foreclosure sale
set for April 30

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:
DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 02, 2007
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$31,500.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Neale G. Hamann, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Peoples Bank
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING:
Recorded: August 14, 2007 Rock County Recorder
Document Number: 167229
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE:
-And assigned to: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
Dated: August 02, 2007
Recorded: August 14, 2007 Rock County Recorder
Document Number: 167230
-And assigned to: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation
Dated: March 06, 2017
Recorded: March 14, 2017 Rock County Recorder
Document Number: 190262
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
Transaction Agent Mortgage Identification Number: 1003445-0001089259-6
Lender or Broker: Peoples Bank
Residential Mortgage Servicer: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corp.
Mortgage Originator: Not Applicable
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock
Property Address: 819 201st St, Hardwick, MN 56134-4048
Tax Parcel ID Number: 10-0122-000
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: That part of the SW 1/4, Section 25, Township 104 North, Range 46 West of the 5th P.M., Rock County, State of Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest Corner of said Section 25, thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East (assumed bearing) along the South Line of the SW 1/4 of said Section 25 for a distance of 741.29 feet to the point of beginning, thence continuing North 90 degrees 00 minutes and 00 seconds East along said South Line for a distance of 746.44 feet; thence North 01 degrees 21 minutes 41 seconds East for a distance of 689.32 feet; thence North 83 degrees 17 minutes 46 seconds West for a distance of 169.66 feet; thence South 00 degrees 07 minutes 03 seconds West for a distance of 184.58 feet; thence South 89 degrees 31 minutes 22 seconds West for a distance of 612.69 feet; thence South 02 degrees 03 minutes 55 seconds East for a distance of 519.59 feet to the point of beginning
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE: \$10,772.39
THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;
PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above-described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 30, 2020 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Law Enforcement Center, Lobby, 1000 N. Blue Mound Ave., Luverne, Minnesota
to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorney fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within twelve (12) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.
If the Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2021, or the next business day if April 30, 2021 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.
Mortgagor(s) released from financial obligation: NONE
THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.
THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.
DATED: March 12, 2020
ASSIGNEE OF MORTGAGEE: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation
Wilford, Geske & Cook P.A.
Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgagee
7616 Currell Blvd; Ste 200
Woodbury, MN 55125-2296
(651) 209-3300
File Number: 037264F02
(03-12, 03-19, 03-26, 04-02, 04-09, 04-16)

Join our growing team!
Sanford Luverne is currently accepting applications for FT (Full-Time) and Part-Time as Needed (PRN) positions:
• EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN - PRN
• LPN | CLINIC - FT
• RN | HOME CARE - PRN
To apply, visit sanfordhealth.jobs, search "Luverne" in the location search bar.
SANFORD
Luverne
877-673-0854

Employment Opportunity
The Minnesota Veterans Home-Luverne is seeking applicants for the following positions:
HST/Certified Nursing Assistants - PT, PRN
Licensed Practical Nurse - Day Shift, part time
Screening Assistants - part time, temporary
(Screen Assistants ensures everyone entering the building is properly screened for COVID-19.)
Apply online: <https://mn.gov/mmb/careers>
Call 612-214-0974 for more information. AA/EOE
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

MN VETERANS HOME
STUDENT WORKER Custodial/Maintenance
Assist with the maintenance of the facility and grounds including lawn mowing, trimming, painting and other light maintenance duties. Basic knowledge of lawn care and valid drivers license required. Part-time/temporary (May-August). Applicants must be enrolled in a secondary educational program or planning to enroll within three months of initial appointment. Hourly wage: \$15.00
Apply online: <https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/>
Application deadline: April 10, 2020. For additional information call 507-283-6262.
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



Lori Sorenson photo/0409 latten easter bunny

Hoppy Easter

Brenda Latten donned an Easter Bunny costume Monday to raise money for the Rock County Emergency Food Shelf. Waiving at passersby from Casey's convenience store on Highway 75, Latten attracted enough attention to raise more than \$100 for the food shelf while also spreading cheer in the community.

Janiszkeski's run/continued from page 6

Marathons, especially the Boston Marathon, provide a challenge for experienced runners. Janiszkeski began training for the 2020 marathon 13 months ago.

In order to run in Boston, runners must meet a qualifying time based on age and gender at a previous event and then apply for the Boston event.

Janiszkeski met the Boston criteria at the 2018 Twin Cities Marathon by finishing in 2 hours and 40 minutes.

Janiszkeski was selected in September among the limited number of runners accepted to participate in the Boston Marathon.

It would have been his ninth appearance in Boston, and he planned to finish in a personal best time.

"I've been blessed to finish all eight marathons that I've started. The first four to five were learning experiences," he said. "The thing about running 26.2 miles - or any race, for that matter - is that you never quite know how it's going to go on a given day."

Arriving at the starting line feeling fit and confident hasn't always meant a smooth race.

"In those first five, I had parts that I was forced to walk for some reason or another, be it my knee popping out of place, or getting too hot or just plain running out of gas," Janiszkeski said.

He finished the last three



Submitted photo

Peter Janiszkeski of Luverne runs in all types of weather, including when snow and wind chills below 20.

'I want to turn the disappointment of not getting to race in Boston into something positive for my community and shining gifts of home, light and love onto others.'

rances without walking and achieved personal-best times in the two marathons in the Twin Cities and the 2013 Boston Marathon, which was interrupted by bombings.

"Even on training runs, you have those days that you hit it out of the park, hit all of your paces and feel invincible, and then you have those days where you don't feel so great and your paces are off," Janiszkeski said.

He is not planning for an off day at the Luverne Marathon on April 18 (weather dependent). His wife, Angie, and children, Camden, Owen, Eden and Evren, will cheer him on

along the route that includes five-mile loops around the former Interpretive Center at Blue Mounds State Park and three-mile loops around the Sanford Luverne hospital.

On Janiszkeski's mind will be the three families who lost loved ones.

He wrote about his plan on his social media page.

"Let's make something positive out of all the craziness in our world right now and lift up those around us," he wrote.

The donations will be split evenly among the families.

Checks are payable to "Peter Janiszkeski Benefit Account" and dropped off at Security Savings Bank locations.

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.
John 11:25

Main Street
FINANCIAL SERVICES

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507-283-9590 or 1-800-260-1014
www.mainstreetfinancial.net

Closed
Good Friday
April 10th.

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

It's been a hectic and overwhelming few days. Like all of you, I have been following updates regarding the COVID-19 virus. The spread of COVID-19 has changed everything, and we are all grappling with how this rapidly evolving situation will impact the health, well-being and daily lives of our families, our communities and ourselves.

Steps we are taking immediately: JUST UPDATED

- All in-person, non-essential city meetings are canceled or moved to online/phone meetings until further notice. Please refer to the city website for meeting cancellations and updates. <https://www.cityofluverne.org>. All non-city meetings planned for city buildings are canceled.
- Beginning Monday, March 30th through Friday, April 10th, the Luverne City Offices will be closed. This includes the Luverne Area aquatics and Fitness Center, Blue Mound Ice Arena, Carnegie Cultural Center, and Palace Theatre. Appointments can be made if necessary. Information to pay your utility bill electronically can be found at www.cityofluverne.org payment. The payment drop box will be checked daily. Office staff will be available by calling 507-449-2388.
- Building permits will be available by calling 507-449-5031.
- Garbage/Recycling schedules will stay the same.
- Blue Mound Liquor will remain open. In order to minimize contact, we are encouraging our customers to take advantage of our delivery service (\$50 minimum, city limits of Luverne only). Or, you can call in your order and drive in for curbside pickup. Within the store, we are keeping both check outs open to help everyone maintain social distancing. Open M-T 10-9, Fri & Sat 9-10 Ph: (507) 449-5052
- For updates on what city facilities are open and closed and for information on work adjustments from individual city departments, please see the city's website <https://www.cityofluverne.org>. Updates will also be shared on Facebook pages: City of Luverne, Luverne Area Aquatics and Fitness, and Blue Mound Liquor.

Parks and Playgrounds Temporarily CLOSED

- All Parks and Playgrounds, including basketball courts, baseball fields and tennis courts are temporarily closed due to the Governor's Stay At Home Order. Please Stay Out!

Spring Cleanup is POSTPONED

- Luverne's City Wide Spring Clean Up has been postponed. Potential new dates will be determined at a later date.
- Branch Pick-Up is still on as scheduled for April 13.

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

Help US keep YOU informed!

The City of Luverne occasionally needs to contact customers with important notifications. Please provide contact information so you will receive notifications about City services. You may receive automated messages about changes in City Operations including the City Offices, Liquor Store, Pool & Fitness Center, Refuse and Recycling pickup, Electric, Water & Sewer services as well as temporary water shutoffs, planned electric outages and other important messages.

Please update your contact information by completing the online form at www.cityofluverne.org/info.

Sincerely,



Mayor Patrick T. Baustian



For Minnesota-specific information on the virus, along with resources about keeping yourself and those around you safe, the MDH <https://www.health.state.mn.us/> website has everything you need. Otherwise, read more from the CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/> on how to stay healthy and safe.



Thank you Luverne Fire Department and Rock County Ambulance for the parade!