



Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, April 16, 2020

Farmers reeling from coronavirus economy, now Smithfield closing

By Lori Sorenson

Smithfield Foods closed its Sioux Falls pork processing plant over the weekend after more than 230 workers tested positive for coronavirus.

The plant is one of the nation's top pork processors, and it has many in the ag sector worried about food supply chains.

"It is impossible to keep our grocery stores stocked if our plants are not running," said Smithfield President and CEO Kenneth Sullivan in a statement.

"These facility closures will also have severe, perhaps disastrous, repercussions for many in the supply chain, first and foremost our nation's livestock farmers." The Sioux Falls facility processes



roughly 14,000 hogs per day, and its closure left suppliers scrambling for alternate pork buyers.

"... if you take away the processors ... It's not like I can deliver a steer to your front yard and say, 'Here's your beef.' You're going to see a disruption in the supply chain."

— Peter Bakken, Rock County Farm Bureau president

Smithfield back online, the better ... before the next plant goes down."

Barnhart, Luverne, works for Schwartz Farms, Rock County's largest hog supplier, which trucks thousands of animals per week from Rock County barns to Smithfield.

"Where will they go? Good question," he said Monday.

In addition, several other local operations truck finished hogs to Smithfield.

The hogs that were en route to Sioux Falls when the plant closed Sunday went to other processors in the region, such as JBS in Worthington, Tyson in Storm Lake, Hormel in Austin and Prime Pork in Windom.

But these plants are already operating over capacity to absorb

other truckloads intended for Smithfield, which is closed for at least two weeks.

Barnhart supports closing the plant for human safety, but he sees the backside of the hog market when a processor that large is shut down.

In addition to farming out loads to other processors, he said growers have suddenly put the brakes on production.

"We've adjusted ratios to maintenance levels to slow growth so we can buy ourselves a week or two," Barnhart said.

"We're also co-mingling weaned pigs with larger animals and double-stocking the nursery."

None of these options are ideal,

Farming economy/see page 8

Rock County has first two confirmed COVID cases

County seeks better flow of information from MDH officials

By Lori Sorenson

Rock County learned of its first two confirmed cases of coronavirus this week as numbers continue to climb across the state and nation.

As of Tuesday, there were no more additional local cases, and local emergency management officials continued to prepare for an anticipated "surge" of patients weeks from now.

In addition to securing personal protective equipment for "front line" workers — medical workers, first responders, fire departments and others — local public health officials are working on streamlining information.

According to Jason Kloss, environmental health manager for Southwest Health and Human Services, when a Rock County resident tests positive, goes to the Minnesota Department of Health which notifies local public health workers and the patient.

Information about the patient's town, where they work and their specific address is not made known to the public, although law enforcement and first responders are made aware

Coronavirus update/see page 5



Mavis Fodness photo/0416 Easter Blizzard

Easter Sunday brings winter weather

Last week's spring field work came to a halt Sunday when a spring blizzard left about a half foot of snow in its wake as it passed through Rock County. With the county already under the state's shelter-in-place order, the blizzard did not interrupt Easter Sunday services for area residents as almost all the county's churches were able to worship online. The forecast the rest of the week calls for milder, more spring-like weather.

City offers economic relief through utility bill deferment

By Lori Sorenson

The Luverne Economic Development Authority will provide relief for local businesses suffering economic hardship as a result of temporary closures for coronavirus prevention.

Qualifying businesses — nearly 80 non-residential accounts — will see a credit on their May utility statements equal to half of three months worth of their average bills.

Members of the LEDA, which met via conference call Monday morning, approved the "Stop Gap Utility Deferred Loan Program" in an attempt to lessen the economic blow of lost business during state-mandated closures.

Director Holly Sammons used the example of an account with a \$200 average monthly bill. Three months is \$600, so the one-time credit would be \$300.

"And the best part is, we calculate it for you; you don't have to do anything," she said. "We wanted to make this as reasonable and easy as possible."

State and federal relief programs have complicated application process-

"The LEDA recognizes the adverse impact these orders may have on small businesses within our community while still waiting for state and federal programs to become available."

— Holly Sammons, EDA

es, and relief may not arrive for several months. That's why Luverne leaders wanted to do something in the interim.

Qualifying businesses are any listed under Gov. Tim Walz's executive orders 20-04, 20-08, and 20-20 mandated to close in order to slow the spread of the virus. The list is long and includes

Utility bill relief/see page 8

Area legislators seek solutions to virus struggles, ask for local citizen stories

By Mavis Fodness

As Rock County enters the third week of Minnesota's stay-in-place mandate, area state legislators are reaching out to various groups to discuss legislative action amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Sen. Bill Weber and Reps. Rod Hamilton and Joe Schomacker hosted several videoconferencing calls with school and county leaders last week, and they will talk with city administrators this week.

"The role that we play is that we can send information to the governor about the issues that residents are concerned about," Hamilton said.

Since March 13 Gov. Tim Walz has issued nearly three dozen executive orders, starting with a peacetime emergency declaration in response to the pandemic reaching Minnesota.

Other orders temporarily closed schools, non-essential businesses and cautioned residents to stay at



Sen. Bill Weber (right) and Joe Schomacker, both Luverne, hosted videoconference meetings with local community leaders this week.



home. The governor extended the original two-week stay-at-home order an additional four weeks, to May 4. And on Monday he extended it to May 13.

These orders have resulted in economic hardships, and legislators have shared these stories with the governor, who has made some changes as a result.

Rep. Schomacker is a Luverne business owner and his family's appliance store was not originally classified as an essential business and

closed during the original two-week stay-at-home order. He said his potential customers simply went to larger stores across the border where there weren't state restrictions in place.

"We weren't prepared for, obviously, having something like this to where we would have thought out these policies and inconsistencies ... had we, we would've had a much better response to it than what we've had,"

Legislators seek stories and solutions/see page 3



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

A note about community events:

The Announcer and Star Herald will not list the activities and events that are canceled; it 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.

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.

Battle Plain Township meets April 14

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

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.

Hospice dinner and auction 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.

New Life Celebration

food distribution set for April 16

New Life Celebration's free food distribution will be at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, April 16, at the Generations building at 319 East Lincoln in Luverne.

FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS:

For those in vehicles: drive to the double glass doors on the WEST SIDE of the building.

Volunteers will load your groceries.
STAY IN YOUR CARS.

For those who are walking: go to the EAST SIDE of the building. Volunteers will have your groceries pre-packed for you to pick up.

Call 507-283-4366 with if you have questions.



Lori Sorenson photos/0416 chalk art

Chalk artists brighten mood

On April 8, a Star Herald reader notified the paper about inspirational chalk messages that appear intermittently on the Luverne Loop path northwest of the school ball diamonds. The Star Herald shared them on Facebook and later discovered the artists belong to Peyton Elbers day care. She's pictured with them at their daycare April 8: Amelia Delowe, Breña Delowe, Kodac Rivas, Hunter Cook, Greyson Sowles, Lawton Sowles, Luke Elbers, Hayden Elbers, Brody Elbers, Camden Elbers and Anaya's Rivas. These — along with other sidewalk messages and window displays around town — are signs of social outreach amid coronavirus social distancing that are helping to provide cheer for residents during the coronavirus troubled times.



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Permits granted for Walleye Wind, gravel extraction

By Mavis Fodness

Two conditional use permits erecting meteorological towers in Beaver Creek Township received approval from Rock County Commissioners April 7.

The towers, located in sections 6 and 35, record wind speeds, direction, pressure, temperature and other assessments for the development of a potential wind farm.

NextEra Energy of Juno Beach, Florida, submitted the conditional use permit request.

Earlier this year, NextEra submitted site and certification of need requests to the Minnesota Energy Commission for the proposed Walleye Wind Farm.

The 100-megawatt wind farm consists of 36 turbines in Beaver Creek and Martin townships along with portions of Rose Dell, Springwater, Luverne and Mound.

The 196-foot-tall towers are allowed to operate through

Dec. 31, 2025, on property owned by David and Shirley Huiskes in Beaver Creek Township Section 6 and on property owned by Roger and Lisa Hoff in Beaver Creek Township Section 35.

Both towers are secured into place using guy wires with marker balls, as per Federal Aviation Administration recommendations.

The commissioners also approved:

- Four gravel mining, processing and stockpiling permits to Buffalo Ridge Concrete in sections 3, 16, 10 and 28 in Battle Plain Township. A condition was added to section 16 before the permit is granted to complete a wetland delineation/review.

- Three gravel mining, processing and stockpiling permits to Northern Con Agg in Section 1 of Luverne Township, Section 19 Vienna Township and Section 36 Mound Township.

H-BC plans May 22 graduation for now

By Mavis Fodness

Hills-Beaver Creek School District is planning commencement ceremonies for its original date, Friday, May 22.

The H-BC School Board met in regular session Monday night via Zoom, hours after Gov. Walz announced that the state's peacetime emergency declaration to fight the spread of the coronavirus is extended to May 13.

"I don't know what it means (for school districts)," said Superintendent Todd Holthaus. "But, if I speculate, it means a push out into the future."

The peacetime declaration allows the governor to also extend the state's stay-at-home order, which directed schools to conduct distance-learning classes through May 4.

If the order is extended, H-BC officials agreed commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2020 would take place, but maybe not on May 22.

"We go day by day," Holthaus said. "We take the information and then make changes."

Secondary Principal Molly Schilling said a planned Zoom meeting with the district's 17 seniors Wednesday discussed various options for activities including prom and commencement.

Due to the stay-in-place order, H-BC will not conduct prom activities later this month as originally planned.

Potential rescheduling until May or this summer may be possible.

"It might look a little different but it will still be a memorable experience," Schilling said. "Commencement is my No. 1 concern right now."

Superintendent Holthaus agreed.

"We want to make sure we honor and recognize our 'Super Bowl,' which is our commencement."

The district plans for students to return to the actual classrooms and normal activities and athletics on May 5.

In late March the Minnesota State High School League banned any activities or athletics by any member school until the governor's stay-in-place orders are lifted.

MSHSL has suspended spring events but has not formally canceled spring activities.

In other business, the H-BC School Board approved:

- a 4-percent increase in health and hospitalization premium rates for the 2020-21 school year.

- NextEra Energy's donation of \$2,000 to purchase 25 Fire HD tablets for the elementary school.

- agricultural instructor and FFA adviser Katie Rogers' resignation effective at the end of the 2019-20 school year.

- the next school board meeting on April 27 conducted via Zoom.

Feedlot expansions in county may slow down

By Mavis Fodness

Arealivestock producers are planning three new hog barn sites, three cattle barns and one dairy feedlot expansion for 2020.

Three additional hog barns are in the planning process, according to county feedlot officer Doug Bos, who presented the county's 2019 Feedlot Summary Report to county commissioners.

"Challenges with the coronavirus may slow this down," Bos said.

The number of proposed feedlot permits is slightly higher than last year when the county saw four new hog barns, one new cattle barn and two cattle feedlot expansions completed. In 2018 there were 14 expansions including nine new hog barn sites.

The Land Management Office oversees Rock County's 620 feedlots for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Of these, 529 are registered with a capacity to raise 50 animal units or more.

For the oversight, LMO received \$52,935 from the state with an additional \$13,600 based on the added inspections staff members completed last year.

Each year, LMO staff inspects 7 percent (about 37 sites) of the county's feedlots.

In 2019, 51 sites were inspected.

The increased number is due to rain events in 2018 and 2019 that caused some manure pits to overflow. Producers are required to report the manure spills and divert the overflow away from streams and field tile intakes.

"As long as manure storage lagoons are built to MPCA standards — which they are in Rock County — farmers do not have to add additional measures (other than to divert)," Bos said.

Feedlot numbers have remained constant for the past two decades. Bos noted that those feedlots under 50 animal units are declining, replaced by feedlots that require registration in the county.



Beaver Creek City Council members accepted a bid of \$175,000 from MC&R, Sioux Falls, for a splash pad at the city park on the southeast side of town. Construction will start this spring or summer.

Beaver Creek Council accepts splash pad bids, appraises former bank building for sale

By Lori Sorenson

Beaver Creek City Council members accepted a bid of \$175,000 from MC&R, Sioux Falls, for a splash pad at the city park on the southeast side of town.

At their Wednesday, April 8, meeting via Zoom, council members discussed the cost of the splash pad with regard to the coronavirus-depressed economy.

"I'm worried about public perception," said councilman Jeff Dysthe, who voted against the measure. "It's public tax dollars, and people aren't working right now."

Councilwoman Pat Bender made the motion to accept the MC&R bid (the only one submitted). "Yes, but you're giving people something to look forward to," she said, responding to Dysthe.

"The costs are only going to go up if we wait another year."

The council discussed that grants will cover more than \$70,000 of the project, and

the rest they plan to pay for through reserves.

Drawings show a 20-by-40-foot oval splash pad surrounded by an 8-foot-wide observation deck attached to a wider cement deck between the splash pad and the picnic shelter.

A cement pad will house a fenced outdoor pump, which will save the expense of an equipment shed and prevent corrosion associated with trapped indoor moisture. Its fence would share the baseball diamond backfield fence.

Splash pad pumps, which aren't much louder than air-conditioning units, activate water spray jets for 10, 15 or 20 minutes at a time with the press of a button, similar to a public hot tub.

The water jets would operate on a timer that allows their use between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. during the summer months between Memorial Day and

Labor Day.

With the bid awarded, work will begin on the splash pad this spring or summer.

Bank appraised, for sale

The Beaver Creek City Council accepted the former bank building in January as a donation from Minnwest Bank, which closed the branch office.

At Wednesday's meeting the council reviewed a recent appraisal and decided to put together a bid packet, along with interior and exterior photos, for interested buyers.

The building was appraised at \$35,000, and as long as the council is using it for city purposes, it will be insured for \$300.

Until a buyer is found, city maintenance manager Travis Helgeson will use it for an office and light storage.

Bank withdraws request to adjust county agreement

By Mavis Fodness

Security Savings Bank officials withdrew a request to change a professional agreement with Rock County, just weeks after asking commissioners for a temporary amendment.

County Administrator Kyle Oldre updated commissioners April 7 about the bank's decision. "They recognized the impact it would have on the county,"

he said. "They wanted to be a good partner."

When contacted after the announcement, Ryan DeBates, Security Savings Bank Luverne market president, said after meeting with commissioners on March 17, bank officials better understand the county budgeting process, which is determined annually.

"Considering the state of the economy due to the

COVID-19, we have decided to table our request and work with Rock County at a later date to get the best possible outcome."

The agreement, signed in 2016, charges no fees to the county for the five checking accounts and an annual interest rate of 0.85 percent.

Bank officials wanted interest rates to change quarterly, along with establishing a new floor rate beginning

this month.

The change could have saved the bank a potential \$100,000 in payments to the county. Last year the county garnered \$263,000 from the professional agreement.

Since the coronavirus was first reported in the U.S. in December, stock markets declined sharply, taking a reported \$10 million out of the markets. As of last week, markets remain volatile.

Legislators seek stories, solutions/continued from page 1

Schomacker said.

"It seems he (the governor) is more open (to changing an order) as soon as businesses have a proposal of how to open back up, to do that."

Small businesses like the Schomackers have since been classified as essential and his family has put into place a plan to keep contact between people at a minimum. Schomackers Home Gallery is open by appointment only and have a detailed disinfecting plan in place.

Other concerns have resulted in executive orders to reopen under certain conditions.

Rock County's vehicle licensing center reopened last week via mail-in or drop-off vehicle tab and license plate requests to the courthouse.

Emergency officials now have access to otherwise private data about where positive coronavirus cases are located

in the county in order to keep law enforcement and first responders safe from infection.

However, the effects of the restaurant and school closures have rippled within the ag industry, which currently doesn't have solutions to operate safely under the current pandemic conditions.

Weber said pork industry officials told him that restaurants and other commercial food lines use 75 percent of the bacon in the industry and now, without buyers, packing plants are shutting down worker lines or closing entirely due to the virus. (See the related story about Smithfield Foods.)

Wisconsin companies are dumping milk because the majority of cheese products are sold in restaurants, food lines and schools.

Egg producers are being told their eggs are not needed because there is no longer a

market for their products in the bakery and food line industries.

"The longer these types of things continue, the more and more industries that will be negatively affected by this," Weber said.

Since the governor's peacetime declaration, the 2020 Legislative session has foregone many regular issues as senators and representatives try to conduct business without in-person contact.

"These are very challenging times, and I believe that state senators, the governor and others are doing the best job they possibly can with the information they have available," Hamilton said.

For the past several weeks, the state has operated by executive orders without input from state legislators.

"I think right now people are willing to go along and see how things work out," Weber

said. "But I do believe... at some point, we need to make sure that those things he needs legislative approval on, he seeks legislative approval."

The 2020 Legislative session is currently transitioning to senators and representatives attending committee meetings remotely and completing limited business at the Capitol.

Prior to the pandemic, legislators were debating the allocation of an anticipated \$1.5 billion budget surplus.

"We don't expect that to be there anymore," Weber said. "Now it is a question on how deep the deficit is going to be and how to deal with the deficit."

Financial assistance of \$2 billion is expected from the federal government with about \$180 million earmarked for education.

"If they need assistance, they have to let us know," Weber said.

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When 19 in COVID-19 represents pounds

The curves are not flattening.

Like you, I've responded to the news that the coronavirus is more likely to kill chubby people over the age of 60 by losing weight, exercising more and getting plenty of rest and water.



THE NORTHVIEW

By Brenda Winter, columnist

This virus is terrible.

Oh, wait, that didn't happen. Actually, like you, I've responded to the news that the coronavirus is more likely to kill chubby people over the age of 60 by saying, "Glad I'm not over 60!"

Then I bought another box of Frosted Flakes, doubled down on the Doritos and started adding extra heavy whipping cream to my three (or four) cups of morning coffee.

I've stopped swimming, of course, because the pool is closed. I've stopped going to the park because the park is closed. I've stopped walking with friends because all of my friends are closed, too.

I have nothing left but Netflix, Doritos and heavy whipping cream.

Today my five-year-old nephew told me, "You have a big tummy," which made me think perhaps I should spend a little less of my quaran-time eating and a little more time working out.

Nah. Sunday I tried a little gymnastics. Not on purpose, of course.

It was Easter. I was making deviled eggs. We were having a blizzard.

To cool the eggs, I placed them outside in the blizzard. I retrieved the plate of hard-

boiled eggs from the blizzard and quickly stepped back into my kitchen with snow-covered shoes.

The shoes were slippery. Let's just say my "flying Brenda" routine was worthy of the 2020 Olympics.

Eggs went everywhere and I stared at the ceiling wondering if I would ever walk again.

(I will, but the bruise on my hip is impressive.)

So, along with swimming, going to the park and walking with friends, I have also given up gymnastics and possibly hard-boiled eggs.

But what I have not given up on is me and you — the good people of Rock County.

This virus is terrible. The government's response to the virus and resulting economic fallout is terrible.

So many things are out of our control. But one thing still in your control (and mine) is how we take care of ourselves.

So lighten up a little on the Frosted Flakes, would ya? Don't wear slippery shoes. Take a walk. And for Pete's sake, look out for that big tummy.

We are here for you

Dear readers, advertisers and subscribers:

While we learn to live with the new normal in our community for the next several weeks, we are determined to make the best of it.

So, please be aware that the Rock County Star Herald remains committed to reporting on news and information that offers glimpses of our community a week at a time ... every week, every month, every year. As we have for nearly 150 years.

We plan to continue our normal publication schedule for the Rock County Star Herald and the Luverne Announcer, despite the fact that our coverage of community events and activities looks anything but normal. And we'll continue sharing news online at www.star-herald.com — for free — during the coronavirus stay-at-home order to make sure everyone has access to the important updates. (Of course, a subscription to support our work is appreciated.)

Knowledge is power, and as we spend less time in face-to-face dialogue with each other, publications like ours can help maintain the sense of community we share. We need to

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

share good news with each other, so that while our community is honestly aware of the challenges we face, we can still be uplifted by our continued joys and successes. That is what community newspapers do. Connect community members ... with shared experiences, both good and bad.

We ask that you keep us posted on the news in your world at editor@star-herald.com. Especially your good news, but also your heartaches. Because that's how life is — good and bad.

Accuracy matters more than ever. Because the pandemic is the most talked-about event of our time, it is also the least accurately talked-about event of our time.

We encourage you to do what good journalists do and go to the primary sources of information as directly as possible. For more infor-

mation on the virus — symptoms, preventative measures and recommendations — go to the CDC website at CDC.gov.

A final word. Tomorrow will belong to those who make the best use of their time today. Change, even unwelcome change, brings opportunities. New ways of doing things will present themselves.

Those who use this uncomfortable time to observe the changes and prepare for their effects will be far more likely to find prosperity on the other side. Stay healthy, stay vigilant and never allow complacency to set in.

We wish good health to our readers and advertisers and look forward to the day we can shake hands with you again amid new opportunities awaiting us on the other side of this crisis.



Purchase the right model the first time and it will last forever

I have the very first gun I got when I was 11 years old. It is a lever action .22 rifle made by Browning. It looks brand new and I would never consider selling it. My dad gave it to me.

Firearms are truly family heirlooms. I would never consider selling any gun I got from my dad. Buying a young hunter or shooter their very first gun is a once-in-a-lifetime event. Unfortunately, I see lots of first gun purchases for youth that I think are really bad choices.

In the world of shotguns the most common first gun purchased is a single shot break open shotgun in a variety of sizes. This gun breaks open on a hinge and allows for the insertion of only one round. This is a strong point of this kind of gun. The youth needs to concentrate on one shot and only one shot. This makes it easier to produce and develop proper gun safety.

There are two drawbacks to this kind of gun. One, there is no dedicated safety mechanism. When the hammer is in the down position, it is considered in the safe position. The second drawback to this kind of firearm is that in order to discharge



THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall, columnist

the gun you need to manually pull the hammer back with your thumb. When you pull the trigger, the hammer falls and the shell is fired. But what happens when you pull the hammer back and then the duck or other game does not come close enough to shoot? Now the operator has to put their thumb back on the hammer and actually pull the trigger and then slowly lower the hammer back into the safe position.

This is not hard for an experienced hunter but is much harder for a youth or any new hunter for that matter. Add to this equation cold hands, thick gloves, inclement weather and other factors and it makes lowering the hammer safely more difficult. If you fail in

the attempt, the gun will discharge.

A better option for kids is a pump action shotgun. It comes in all gauges and both youth and adult sizes. A pump action shotgun can hold between three and five rounds, but you don't have to fill it to capacity. A youth can load one shell only and still operate the gun like a single shot. There is no hammer to pull and these guns have a mechanical safety. If a duck looks to be coming your way, you can click off the safety and be ready to shoot. If the duck passes by with no shot, you can simply click the safety back on.

The additional benefit of buying your youth a pump action shot gun is they can use this same gun for

their entire lives if you purchased an adult-sized gun. If you bought the youth model, which has a shorter barrel and stock, then the child will outgrow it and need an adult-sized gun later. I have loaned out my youth shotgun to at least six other kids. It looks the same, functions the same and has helped lots of new hunters enter the sport.

One other mistake I see parents make is to purchase their child a top-shelf semi-automatic shotgun as their first gun. This is a firearm that shoots one round for every time you pull the trigger and can cycle four shots in about three seconds. This is too much gun for a new hunter in my opinion.

Spending an afternoon social distancing with your family shooting clay pigeons on a warm spring afternoon is a great pastime. Shooting for recreation or hunting is still one of the safest things a young person can do.

Scott Rall, Worthington, is a habitat conservationist, avid hunting and fishing enthusiast and is president of Nobles County Pheasants Forever. He can be reached at scottarall@gmail.com.

VOICE OF OUR READERS

Frakes: 'Thanks again, kids'

To the Editor:

Holy buckets of septic tank covers! People hoarding T.P.! Did I miss something? Did Bernie win the election?

Actually, T.P. is soft and cuddly and can be comforting to us in this time of near apocalypse. Better than an old newspaper or a corn cob anyway.

And speaking of better than an old newspaper or corn cob, we are extremely lucky to have a cutting-edge, sharp-as-a-tack, upper-crust ruling class in Washington, D.C., that is also looking after our comforts. Our comforts are paramount, after all. Cripes, we've been uncomfortable for well over a month now. No soup kitchens or tent cities for the crowd. We're so much more deserving than that.

Their plan is to steal four, five or even six thousand billion dollars from our grandkids and great-grandkids so we can all feel good. Yea!

I sure hope the little dickens appreciate how much we do appreciate their contribution. Thanks again, kids!

Bill Frakes, Luverne

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

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

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

April 3
 •Complainant on W. Warren Street reported electricity is out.

•Complainant on Winterdyke and Minnesota, Steen, reported neighbors are shooting a gun.

April 4
 •Complainant on 91st Street and Highway 75 reported unsafe behavior.

•Complainant on N. Freeman Avenue reported cars come and go from location all the time.

•Complainant on N. Brooks, Magnolia, reported a suspicious vehicle.

•Complainant on W. Lincoln Street reported more than 10 people partying at location.

•Report of an abandoned vehicle at location on 181st Street, Jasper.

April 5
 •Complainant on S. Water, Hills, reported someone tried to break into their car.

•Complainant on W. Main Street reported a possible breach of personal information.

•Report of a controlled burn out of control in Beaver Creek Township, section 19.

•Report of all city parks in Luverne are reserved.

•Complainant on County Road 9 and 91st Street reported vehicle for excessive speeds.

•Accident was reported at location on N. Kniss Avenue.

•Fire was reported at location on US Highway 75.

April 6
 •Deputy reported an abandoned vehicle.

•Complainant on S. Summit Avenue, Hills, reported a license plate theft.

•Assistance from another department was conducted eastbound on Interstate 90, Beaver Creek.

•Suspicious activity was reported at location on 111th Street.

•Report of trespassing was reported on S. Kniss Avenue.

April 7
 •Complainant on 150th Avenue reported someone hit a shed on his property.

•Complainant on 3rd Street East, Jasper, reported vandalism.

•Complainant on W. Luverne Street, Magnolia, has a health concern issue.

•Complainant on W. Mead Court reported an attempted break-in.

•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 17, Magnolia, requested a deputy to assist a trooper.

•Complainant on W. Luverne Street, Magnolia, reported four juveniles running from location.

•Complainant on W. Crawford Street reported loud

music at location.

•Complainant on E. Main Street reported a man acting strange.

April 8
 •Deputy reported an open door on Dodge and Donaldson.

•Complainant in Brandon reported a car was stolen.

•Complainant on S. West Park Street reported a stolen vehicle.

•Complainant on S. Cottage Grove Avenue reported a stolen vehicle.

•Complainant on N. Washington Street, Magnolia, reported a truck stolen.

•Complainant on E. Dodge Street and N. McKenzie Street reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant east of Fireleaf Road reported a fire possibly out of control.

•Complainant on 150th Avenue, Steen, reported threats.

•Complainant reported a car eastbound in the westbound lane on Interstate 90, mile marker 8.

•Complainant east of Winterdyke and Minnesota, Steen, reported neighbors are shooting off fireworks.

•Deputy is out with trooper on Interstate 90, mile marker 14, Luverne.

April 9
 •Complainant on County Road 270, Hills, reported her daughter left home.

•Complainant N. Cottage Grove Avenue reported girls looking into cars.

•Complainant in Kenneth reported harassment by phone.

•Report of a vehicle parked along the roadside on County Road 8 and County Road 9.

•Complainant on Interstate 90 and Highway 23, Manley, reported suspicious activity.

•Assistance from another department was provided on County Road 4, Beaver Creek.

•Parking issue was reported at location on S. Kniss Avenue.

April 10
 •Burglary was reported at location on W. Bishop Street.

•Complainant on N. Spring Street reported finding methamphetamine.

In addition, officers responded to 1 transport, 7 escorts, 20 ambulance runs, 7 paper services, 2 animal complaints, 1 fingerprint request, 48 burn permits, 1 vehicle impound, 1 background check, 2 alarms, 10 purchase and carry permits, 1 stalled vehicle, 7 traffic stops, 6 abandoned 911 calls, 1 welfare check, 2 reports of cattle being out, and 2 follow-ups.

Luverne, Edgerton, and Adrian Sanford clinics encourage video visits

As communities are urged to practice physical distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, Sanford Luverne, Edgerton, and Adrian clinics are encouraging patients to take advantage of video visits with their health care provider.

"We've had questions about whether or not to come into the clinic, or if we can do this a different way," said Tammy Loosbrock, senior director. "For a lot of those visits, we have been able to switch to video visits, so patients can meet with their provider and still receive high quality, safe care."

Sanford Health offers virtual care options for a variety of health concerns, including aches, pains and everyday care, as well as urgent care.

"Even though it's not the same as an in-person visit, virtual care is a way for us to see you from the comfort and safety of your home," said Dr. Diane Kennedy.

"We are still here for our patients, and making sure they get the care they need in a safe way is our highest priority."

Patients are encouraged to contact their Sanford Health clinic to evaluate

whether a new or upcoming appointment should be in-person or virtual care. At that time, staff can assist with walking the patient through the process for a video visit.

Together we can determine if we still need to see you in person, or whether a virtual care visit is a good fit," Kennedy said. "For many scenarios, like prescription refills or following up on test results, virtual care is a wonderful option."

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call your nearest clinic or visit sanfordhealth.org.

About Sanford Health

Sanford Health, one of the largest health systems in the United States, is dedicated to the integrated delivery of health care, genomic medicine, senior care and services, global clinics, research and affordable insurance.

Headquartered in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, the organization includes 44 hospitals, 1,400 physicians and more than 200 Good Samaritan Society senior care locations in 26 states and nine countries.

For information, visit sanfordhealth.org or Sanford Health News.

Coronavirus COVID-19

PRIORITIES FOR TESTING PATIENTS WITH SUSPECTED COVID-19 INFECTION



COVID-19 Symptoms: Fever, Cough, and Shortness of Breath

PRIORITY 1

Ensures optimal care options for all hospitalized patients, lessen the risk of healthcare-associated infections, and maintain the integrity of the U.S. healthcare system

- Hospitalized patients
- Healthcare facility workers with symptoms

1

2

PRIORITY 2

Ensures those at highest risk of complication of infection are rapidly identified and appropriately triaged

- Patients in long-term care facilities with symptoms
- Patients 65 years of age and older with symptoms
- Patients with underlying conditions with symptoms
- First responders with symptoms

PRIORITY 3

As resources allow, test individuals in the surrounding community of rapidly increasing hospital cases to decrease community spread, and ensure health of essential workers

- Critical infrastructure workers with symptoms
- Individuals who do not meet any of the above categories with symptoms
- Healthcare facility workers and first responders
- Individuals with mild symptoms in communities experiencing high numbers of COVID-19 hospitalizations

3

NON-PRIORITY

NON-PRIORITY

- Individuals without symptoms

For more information visit: coronavirus.gov

Coronavirus update/continued from page 1

of coronavirus cases if they're involved with those addresses.

Kloss said there's no way to confirm if Rock County residents work at Smithfield Foods (which shut down Sunday after an outbreak in the hog processing plant).

"But it is likely that some employees that work at this plant also live in Rock County," Kloss said. "Community members should be mindful of this and practice recommended disease prevention strategies."

According to Kloss, 73 coronavirus tests were conducted at Sanford Luverne so far, but of these, none of the positive cases involved Rock County residents.

"However, tests kits are still in short supply," Kloss said. "There are limitations on which patients are tested for COVID."

He said what's important is to focus on what local leaders are able to do.

"Members of the Rock County COVID-19 Response Team are working closely with the Sanford Luverne Team as the community prepares for a potential surge in disease," Kloss said.

According to Rock County Emergency Management Director Kyle Oldre, this flow of information needs to improve at the regional level among all hospitals affected.

"There's a jam somewhere," Oldre said. "We're not convinced the information is

coming down in a timely order."

He's referring to a Magnolia resident who said he tested positive as a Smithfield Foods worker, but local public health officials have yet to be notified.

"Somebody should draw a flow chart with times on it, so we know the time frame from when a person tested to when we're notified," Oldre said.

Kloss said everyone needs to be cautious, regardless of confirmed numbers.

"The report of confirmed positive cases reaffirms that community members should continue to practice good hygiene, social distancing, most importantly staying home when sick," he said.



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REVISED APPEAL PROCESS FOR ROCK COUNTY LOCAL BOARDS OF APPEAL AND EQUALIZATION PLEASE TAKE NOTICE


To all taxpayers and property owners in the cities of HARDWICK AND STEEN

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the governor's executive orders there have been many changes to the Local Board of Appeal and Equalization process. Because of the pandemic, and to insure the health and safety of all concerned, these two cities have opted to go the Open Book format. The Open Book format is an informal meeting with the Rock County Land Records office to review your concerns to see if they can be resolved. Please contact this office by May 1, 2020 @ 507-283-5022 with any questions or concerns. If these concerns are not resolved you will be allowed to meet with the Rock County Board of Appeal and Equalization on Tuesday, June 16, 2020 from 7:00 to 7:30pm at the Rock County Courthouse. In order to get on that agenda, taxpayers need to contact the Rock County Land Records office by May 29, 2020. By choosing this option there will be NO actual in-person meetings as indicated on your valuation notice that was mailed to you earlier.



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LHS junior captures first #BeTheLightMN moment with CEO business tool

By Mavis Fodness

Sometimes pictures from the ground don't tell the whole story.

Luverne High School junior Cade Wenninger last week showcased aerial photographs he captured through his Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities class.

"I always thought the drone pictures on the Internet were really neat," he said.

Late last year Wenninger began business plans for Skygenix, an aerial photography company. He researched and purchased

#BeTheLightMN commemorated spring sports activities and seniors who are missing their final season of their high school careers.

a DJI Mavic 2 drone and camera, which folds to the size of a small brick for easy transport.

He has since completed the necessary Federal Aviation Administration classes to commercially fly a drone, which follows similar air

space rules as airplanes do

"It teaches rules (of where to fly a drone) but it also teaches how to read maps of the area," he said about the three-week online FAA classes.

Wenninger's business won't fully take off until he



Mavis Fodness photo/0416 CEO Wenninger Pics

Cade Wenninger, a Luverne High School junior, developed an aerial photography business called Skygenix and uses a drone to take the pictures. Last week, Wenninger used the drone to document LHS' participation in #BeTheLightMN in which the school turned stadium lights on at each of the spring sport venues including the track (above) and tennis courts (left).



takes his in-person test, and he can't do that until flight schools reopen after coronavirus closures.

So, he is using his time to perfect a hobby he started several years ago with a mini drone.

With his new \$1,800 (retail) drone, Wenninger views and captures images through his cell phone,

which is placed in a two-handed remote control. Photos are saved on a small photo card inside the drone.

He's mastered framing aerial shots but various lighting conditions have been a challenge. "I've learned to pay attention to the time of day," he said.

Bright sun and resulting shadows often have unin-

tended results, but an evening picture-taking session matched those he admired on the Internet.

Luverne Public Schools participated in the April 8 #BeTheLightMN event, which commemorated spring sports activities and seniors who are missing their final season of

Wenninger, see page 8

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2010)

•Eleven of the 16 plots in Luverne's new community garden have been spoken for, and there's still time for latecomers to get in the game.

Community garden volunteers Deb DenHerder and Vicky Henderson attended Tuesday morning's meeting of the Luverne Economic Development Authority to report on the project.

The garden will be located near the city's animal pound located south of Redbird Field baseball diamond.

It will measure 49 feet by 49 feet. Each garden plot will be 10 feet by 10 feet with 3-foot-wide walk paths between each plot. A \$20 plot fee covers water usage, tilling, fencing, plot markers, hoses and other expenses.

The group needs \$400 to get started, and so far \$320 has been generated by fees and donations.

At Tuesday's meeting, the LEDA agreed to fill in the funding gap to get the project off the ground.

Mayor Andy Steensma said he likes the idea of the community garden and said he hoped it could become a reliable food source. "That thing could really grow into just a huge garden, and help some people who really need food," Steensma said.

25 years ago (1995)

•The gathering at the corner of Freeman Avenue and Main Street Friday evening wasn't social.

Postal Service employees, the Luverne Police Department and Luverne Fire Department were all called around 7 p.m. to put out a fire in a mailbox.

They removed three burned letters from a melted carrying case in the drop box and investigated the incident. Postal customers whose return addresses could be read were notified

of the incident.

Assistant Police Chief Mike Winkels said two juvenile girls, both age 12, are being investigated in connection with the arson. He said police received a tip from people who were in the area of the box at the time of the incident.

According to Winkels, damage to postal property is a federal offense. However, such cases are often turned over to local authorities, in which case penalties are set by the local court.

50 years ago (1970)

•Vandals who caused an estimated \$270 damage to a car owned by George Nuffer, Hills, are being sought, Sheriff Ole Hommen reported.

Nuffer's 1968 Javelin had the windshield and the rear window smashed out, and the radio and outside mirror damaged, the night of April 13 or the morning of April 14, the sheriff said.

Nuffer had left the car at the Henry Rozeboom service station on the night of April 13, so that Rozeboom could service it the following morning. When Rozeboom came to work the following morning, he discovered the damage, and reported it.

Investigation has led to several clues, but there have been no arrests as yet, the sheriff stated.

75 years ago (1945)

•Sale of the Wm. Rathjen Grain Co. to D. E. Boyer, Kenneth, was announced this week. Mr. Boyer, who for ten years has been manager of the Kenneth Farmers Elevator Co., will take possession of the business on June 4.

Mr. Rathjen has been in the grain and feed business for the past 32 years in Kanaranzi, Beaver Creek and Luverne. He has

been in business in Luverne for the past 23 years.

Mr. Boyer came to Kenneth from Round Lake, and since that time has been active in the affairs of that community. He has served a number of years as the village clerk, and has served as chairman for his community in various war bond drives, Red Cross drives, and similar community projects.

100 years ago (1920)

•A new high record price for the sale of a Rock county farm of any size was established Thursday of last week when Chas. E. Tatge sold his thirty-nine and a half acre farm in the northwest part of this city, to L. J. Meyers, of Adrian, at \$1,012.66 an acre.

This farm is the southeast quarter of the former LaDue 160-acre farm, and was sold in August, 1918, by the LaDue Bros., to E. W. Miller, of Rock Rapids, at \$450 an acre.

A few months later Mr. Miller sold the farm to W. F. Martens at \$475, and on May 24th, 1919, Mr. Martens sold the farm to Mr. Tatge at \$580 an acre.

A few months ago Mr. Tatge sold the cottage and a half acre plot to "Dick" Streeeter, and it was the remaining 39 1/2 acres which Tatge sold to Mr. Meyers for \$40,000, or \$1,012.66 an acre. This sale was made by Wm. Larkin.

Under the terms of the sale Mr. Meyers, is to receive possession of the land at once, but will not receive possession of the residence until August 1st. The sale nets Mr. Tatge a profit of \$432.66 an acre, or \$17,380.04, through less than a year's ownership.

The new owner did not purchase the farm for agricultural purposes, however, but will eventually plat the entire farm and place it on the market in the form of residence lots.

OBITUARIES

Alberta Kremin

Alberta Mae Kremin, 76, Ash Creek, died Tuesday, April 7, 2020, surrounded by her family at home.

A private family service was Friday, April 10, at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne. A celebration of Alberta's life will be at a later date.

Alberta Kruger was born Nov. 3, 1943, to Martin and Elizabeth (Giesen) Kruger in Steen. She was raised in Ash Creek and baptized into the Christian faith. She attended school in Ash Creek, Adrian, Hills and Luverne. Following her education, Alberta did a variety of jobs including caretaking, waitressing and cooking at multiple cafes including her own in Magnolia for a short period of time.

Alberta married Darrell Kremin on Dec. 1, 1965, in Hemet, California. They made their home in Ash Creek where they raised their seven children. In addition to being a homemaker and good cook, Alberta enjoyed attending rummage sales and hunting for antiques. She also liked mowing the lawn and drinking coffee with family and friends. Her faith was the



source of her strength in life.

When her daughter Kim died on Sept. 22, 2000, Alberta took on the responsibility of raising Kim's four children, Mandi, 8, Tanner and Travis, 6, and Tara, 2.

Alberta is survived by five children, Kevin Kremin of Kenneth, Lisa Kremin of Marshall, Jason (Tamara) Kremin of Tyler, Brian Kremin of Kansas City, Missouri, and Nicole (Ron) Wilhelmi of Steen; 21 grandchildren, Ashley, Mandi, Alyssa, Tanner, Travis, Paige, Emily, Evan, Jordan, Skyler, Tara, Madayla, Trace, Kaden, Preston, Austin, Connor, Mason, Mekiah, Gracie and Jenna; seven great-grandchildren; a brother, David Kruger of Steen; and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Darrell Kremin; two children, Jared Kremin and Kim Kremin; Martin and Elizabeth Kruger; a sister, Viola Swenson; and a brother, Melvin Kruger.

Arrangements are provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, www.hartquistfuneral.com.

(0416 F)

Eva Lu Hemme

Eva Lu Hemme, 98, Luverne, died Friday, April 10, 2020, at the Sanford Luverne Hospice Cottage.

A private family graveside service was Tuesday, April 14, at the Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne. A celebration of Eva Lu's life will be at a later date.



working in her garden, tending to her flowers and baking. She was a passionate Minnesota sports fan and followed the Luverne High School teams. She especially enjoyed the family gathering of more than 50 relatives in June 2019 at the Luverne City Park.

Eva Lu Margaret Mann was born on Jan. 10, 1922, to Albert and Hilda (Wulf) Mann of Luverne. She was raised on the Mann homestead and attended country school. Following her education she spent a short time in California working as a housekeeper and nanny. She returned to Minnesota and worked at John Morrell in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, until she was married.

On June 11, 1944, she married Melvin Hemme. They lived in Luverne and raised their seven children. Their second child, David James, died of polio at age 2 1/2. Eva Lu's family was her greatest joy. She dedicated her life to her children and their interests. The family was very active in 4-H Club.

After her children were grown, she worked as a caterer for the Blue Mound Inn until retirement. She enjoyed

Eva Lu was honored as the oldest living member of the founding families of St. John Lutheran Church where she was baptized and confirmed.

Eva Lu is survived by six children, Dennis Hemme of St. Cloud, Joan (Randy) Boomgaarden of Zumbrota, Pamela Bindert of Greenfield, Alan (Amy) Hemme of Bena, Gloria (Mark) Aanenson of Brooklyn Park, and Robyn Hemme of Luverne; 13 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and a daughter-in-law, Colleen Hemme of Sleepy Eye.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Melvin; a son, David; a son-in-law, Craig Bindert; her parents; and her sisters and brother.

Arrangements are provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, www.hartquistfuneral.com.

(0416 F)

John Buysse

John Joseph Buysse, 75, Granite Falls, died Monday, April 6, 2020.

Due to the current health concerns, the family is planning a funeral Mass and Celebration of Life at a later date.

John Joseph Buysse was born Aug. 11, 1944, to Leo and Mary (Vandendries) Buysse in Marshall. He attended school in Luverne and graduated and enlisted in the Marines in 1962.

John served in the Marine Corps from 1962 to 1966. At the age of 22 he was awarded the Bronze Star for valor in combat at the Legion hall in Luverne. After his honorable discharge from the Marine Corps in 1966, he worked for the Luverne Creamery and met Sharrel (Sherry) Hoffman from Hills. They were married on Nov. 12, 1966, and moved to Lomita, California, where John worked as a wastewater treatment operator.

In 1980 they decided to move back home to Minnesota with their children. They made their home in Granite Falls, and John worked for the city of Granite Falls until his retirement in 2009. In retirement he worked as a handyman, helped at farms, and took care of homes for



people when they were away. Keeping busy was his passion.

John enjoyed fishing, playing Buck with friends, and spending time with family and friends. He especially loved spending time with his grandchildren, Samantha and Steven, and his great-grandchildren.

John is survived by his children, Charisse Meyer, Tyler, and Joshua (Terri) Buysse of Minneapolis; two grandchildren, Samantha (Ben) Schulte of Canby and Steven Meyer of Yankton, South Dakota; five great-grandchildren, Chad, Katlyn, Sierra and Alec Schulte and Natalie Meyer of Canby; siblings Ann (Art) Lonneman of Luverne, Marlene (Bob) DeSplinter of Luverne, Rick Buysse of Luverne, and Mike Buysse of Lismore; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and other family members.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sherry Buysse, his parents, and a brother, Ronald Buysse of Spartanburg, South Carolina.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the family at 101 McGoudy Street, Tyler, MN 56178.

(0416 F)



Lori Sorenson photo/0416 Pastor Dorie Paper Heads

Pastor Dorie Hall sits in the sanctuary of the United Methodist Church in Luverne, where she's taped pictures of congregation members to the church pews so she won't deliver messages to an "empty" church.

Local pastor uses congregants' pictures to fill empty church sanctuary

By Lori Sorenson

Many local churches are worshipping online amid coronavirus distancing, but preaching to inanimate cameras isn't the same as speaking to a live audience.

Pastor Dorie Hall has been video recording her messages in the sanctuary of United Methodist Church in Luverne but

found it difficult to minister to the empty benches.

"You draw so much energy from the people in the room; you end up having conversations with them," Hall said. "You just don't get that when you're not there together."

To help visualize her congregation members, she requested they email photographs of themselves

to be placed in the pews.

"I told them I'd put them in their usual seats, but I moved everyone toward the front," Hall said. "It's the one time they're going to sit in the front, because I say so."

She and many local pastors continue ministering in their churches, but Hall said social distancing is difficult for Christians

accustomed to social closeness.

"It's not easy," Hall said. "It's an interesting time, for sure. But it's working."

Hall's sermons and other messages can be found at www.umcluverne.com.

See the Star Herald church directory on page 8 for a complete listing of local churches and their online links.

1874: Vienna Township conducts first town meeting Feb. 28

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 04-09 edition)

Vienna

The first step in the disintegration of Gregory township took place early in 1874, when Vienna withdrew. D. A. Hart, whose name headed the petition for organization, was responsible for the naming of the township. The commissioners authorized the organization on February 10, 1874, and named the residence of D. A. Hart as the place and February 28 as the time for holding the first town meeting. On that date the township's first



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president
Rock County Historical Society

officers were chosen, as follows: Seth Mitchell, chairman; W. R. Stowe, Ole O. Haga, supervisors; W. R. Stowe, clerk; Nelson Mitchell, Sr., treasurer; Joseph McMullin, assessor; D. A. Hart, Nels Atleson, justices of the peace; A. G. Lincoln, Ole O. Opsata, constables. The government granted patents to land in Vienna township to the following persons: Eugene N. Darling (31), Arne Arneson (18), Patrick F. Kelley (30), Sarah McNiel (28), Joseph McMullin (34), William J. Moran (34), Henry

Gastle (12), Levi Whitsell (32), Nelson Mitchell, Sr. (26), James Gillard (32), James H. Levery (26), Ole Nelson (18), Marget O. Opsata (18), Willis R. Stowe (24), Ole T. Opsata (20), Fred C. Fritsch (24), Knut Austensen (18), Andrew Johnson (20), Ole Olson (20), Halvor Rasmussen (6), James Halley (32), Kittil Olsen (14), Rasmus Engebretson (22), Mathilda Larson (4), Elisha B. Robinson (20), Iver I. Peterson (14), Hosea Ellis (34), Oliver Lincoln (28), Nathaniel Lester (12), Alvey H. Lester (12), Nels Atleson

(8), Engebret Frederickson (8), Ole S. Hagen (4), Iver Tastenson (8), William O'Donnell (32), Hans J. Thomte (14), William Maynes (26-28), Gunder N. Remme (10), John Scully (12), Ole T. Berg (20), Tollef Opsata (22), Albert A. Campbell (28), Abraham H. Turner (2), William H. Glass (10), Hans J. Engebretson (4), James E. Devy (6), Ole O. Haga (22), Ole Amundson (4), George Lytle (34), Knud Nelson (14), Ole Helgeson (4), Ole Nelson (22), Rasmus Johnson (10), Sampson S. Start (30), Jacob J. Berg (8), Charles E. Kleine (24), Irving Smotel (6).

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@iu.net.

Luverne Rotary announces winners of Four-Way Test essay contest

The Luverne Rotary recognized three Luverne Middle School students as winners of the club's annual Four-Way Test essay contest.

The contest introduces students to the test, which asks four questions to gauge whether thoughts, words and actions are appropriate. Students were asked to incorporate the four questions into their essays.

Questions are: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? and Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Anna Banck, daughter of Tim and Becky Banck (pictured, right), was selected as the essay winner. Her winning essay is printed below.

Runner-up was Ella Hoogendorn. Hannah Kempe won third place. All students are in the sixth grade.

Do You Think Before You Post?

By Anna Banck
Most everyone my age uses social media and texting to talk to their friends. Some kids don't think before they post a picture or send a message.

About 20 years ago they used to call each other or just talk in person. It is a lot easier to send or post something fake



or mean in a text rather than saying it to their face. This is why you should think about the Four-Way Test before you send or post something.

First, ask yourself, "Is it the Truth?" Do you know for sure that what you are putting out there is truthful? If not, it could really hurt someone's feelings.

Next, "Is it fair to all concerned?" Does your message or image say or show bad things about others? You also should get permission from others to post something about them. Never just assume that they will say yes.

Then ask yourself, "Will it build goodwill and better friendships?" Will people want to be your friend after things you post?

Will they think your post is nice and good?

Lastly, "Will it be beneficial to all concerned?" Is your post going to make them feel good and happy or will it make them sad or mad? Is it beneficial to your friendship with them? Will it result in something good?

So, the next time you want to post or send something on social media, make sure you take the Four-Way Test into consideration before you post or send. If everyone took the Four-Way Test into consideration, then there wouldn't be cyberbullying or negative posts or comments and everybody would be so much happier on social media.

MENU

Monday, April 20: Beef stroganoff, egg noodles, California vegetables, mandarin oranges, fruit crisp.

Tuesday, April 21: Meatballs, mashed potatoes, stewed tomatoes, breadstick, brownie.

Wednesday, April 22: Chicken wild rice casserole, winter blend vegetables, pears, bread, poke cake.

Thursday, April 23 (Home Run Day): Bratwurst on a bun, sauerkraut, potato wedges, summer fruit salad, sugar cookie.

Friday, April 24: Beef stew, lettuce salad, corn bread muffin, fruited Jello.

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.

SBA Coronavirus Relief					
	Existing SBA 7(a) Loans	Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)	SBA Express Loans	SBA Express Bridge Loans	Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL)
Maximum loan size	\$5 million	\$10 million	\$1 million (temporarily)	\$25 thousand	\$2 million. \$10 thousand advance
Deferment	Through December 31, 2020	6 months to 1 year	Through December 31, 2020	Through December 31, 2020	May be deferred up to 4 years, currently through December 31, 2020
Maximum guaranty	85% for loans up to \$150,000 and 75% for loans greater than \$150,000	100%	50%	50%	N/A
Maximum interest rates	Prime + 2.75%	0.5%	Prime + 6.5%	Prime + 6.5%	3.75% for businesses and 2.75% for nonprofits
Size Eligibility	Based on SBA's size standards	500 or fewer employees	Based on SBA's size standards	Based on SBA's size standards	Based on SBA's size standards
SBA Turnaround Time	5-10 business days	"Same day"	36 hours	36 hours	2-3 weeks for disbursement
Collateral	For loans over \$350,000, collateralize the loan to the maximum extent possible	No personal guaranty or collateral	Lenders' existing collateral policy for loans over \$25,000	No collateral requirement	Personal guarantees have been modified and/or eliminated
Forgiveness	Yes	Yes	No	May be repaid in full or in part by proceeds from an SBA EIDL loan	Does not need to be repaid if used for payroll

Economic downturn brings return of lot in Luverne industrial park

By Lori Sorenson

Members of the Luverne Economic Development Authority addressed a number of coronavirus-related business items during their Monday morning conference call.

With the economic downturn, a lost opportunity in the industrial park prompted the return of a commercial lot to the LEDA.

Luverne Surgical and Dental

Due to the impact that the coronavirus pandemic is having in the health care industry, Dr. Denis Miller is requesting an extension to the timeline of the surgical and dental business planned for South Highway 75.

The business, a subsidiary of Siouxland Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Sioux Falls, purchased the 2.69-acre lot between the hotel and Ed Elbers office on the east side of Highway 75.

The purchase price was \$70,000 and construction

was set to start in fall of 2019 with the business operational by spring of 2021.

Plans call for a \$2 million single-story L-shaped building, possibly built in two phases or as two separate buildings, up to 24,000 square feet total.

The new facility would include office space for an oral surgery office with build-to-suit spaces for other tenants — possibly a restaurant, coffee shop or other professional businesses and offices.

The purchase agreement stipulated that construction must start within 12 months. However, the coronavirus has affected health care labor markets and Miller asked the city of Luverne for more time in launching his business.

The LEDA approved a 12-month extension Monday and will revisit the situation as time progresses.

Industrial park lot

John Beck originally purchased Lot 3 in the Wal-

nut Industrial Subdivision with the intent of building a facility to lease out — possibly as a meal kitchen for workers — during the construction phase of the proposed tru-Shrimp project.

After the scope of that project has changed, Beck sought other ways to utilize the property, possibly leasing to other tenants. However, he has decided to forgo the project as planned within the given time frame and convey the \$25,000 lot back to the LEDA.

Coronavirus guidance

"We recognize the impact the COVID-19 virus is having on our local and regional economy, as well as the national economy," Sammons wrote in her report.

"Since the new laws and programs can be overwhelming at this point, there are some simple suggestions to local businesses during this time of uncertainty."

•First, check with your insurance company.

•Next, call your bank. Your banker will have advice for you on your personal situation, the resources they have available, any SBA programs they have access to, or other lending programs available from the state or federal government.

•If you've been denied credit by a bank or the SBA, call any of the approved lenders for the Small Business Emergency Loan Program.

•All businesses are recommended to visit the COVID-19 Information for Employers and Business page on the DEED website for more resources related to business assistance, unemployment insurance, etc.

•It is also suggested to follow the City of Luverne on Facebook for additional updates and announcements.

•Also during Monday's meeting, the LEDA approved a Stop Gap Utility Deferred Loan Program to give Luverne businesses a break on their utility bills (see related story on page 1).

Farming/continued from page 1

because most swine barns operate on finely tuned biosecurity for animal health. When it's compromised, Barnhart said, there's more risk for disease.

The other alternative, which he said local plants haven't opted for, is to euthanize piglets and cull weaker animals to cut production.

The hope, Barnhart said, is to maintain production flow (rather than stop altogether), because disruption takes time to overcome, and inefficiencies cost money. And most pork producers can't survive any more losses.

"I hope we don't lose any independent producers because of this," Barnhart said. "It's not one thing. It's a buildup of things. And it's not just hogs. ... When our farmers don't do well, we don't do well in Rock County. We live and die on the backs of our farmers."

Coronavirus impact hits all sectors of farm economy

The Smithfield plant closure and closures of large processors in the United States have all livestock producers — not just pork producers — nervous.

Beaver Creek cattle farmer Peter Bakken said the coronavirus effect on the farm economy is already disastrous in terms of decrease demand due to closed restaurants and school kitchens.

But he said the nail in the coffin for livestock growers would be the closure of meat plants.

"While everyone else is sheltering in place, we're still calving, and we're going ahead with spring planting. ... And we're telling people the food supply is safe," Bakken said.

"But if you take away the processors... It's not like I can deliver a steer to your front yard and say, 'Here's your beef.' You're going to see a disruption in the supply chain."

As president of Rock County Farm Bureau, Bakken was interviewed in an April 3 national press call with a dairy farmer from Idaho and a produce grower in Florida.

The 25-percent crash in the cattle market after coronavirus closures resulted in a million dollar loss to his family's operation in a few weeks' time.

"It's very frustrating that we've worked so hard, yet we have no control over whether we can recover from this loss," Bakken told the national press. "I consider myself to be a well-established farmer and even for me this is going to be a major hit. It would be that much tougher if you were just getting started."

He said the interview was an opportunity to give voice to agriculture.

"It was a perspective for consumer awareness," he said. "You don't miss the water until the well runs dry. ... To a certain extent the country is now aware, 'Our food doesn't come from the grocery store.'"

And he said people are learning about the interconnectedness of economies.

"The consumer is pleased about gas prices, but the trickle down of that is that

'Everybody's working at staying safe.'

— Dan Paquin, CEO, Premium Minnesota Pork

the ethanol people aren't employed anymore and the farmer can't move his grain anymore because there's no demand," Bakken said.

"It's business as usual on my farm from a health standpoint, but the health of my business is more impacted than the health of my respiratory system."

The \$2.2 trillion CARES Act stimulus law provides \$9.5 billion to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to provide financial support to farmers and ranchers, as well as \$14 billion for the Commodity Credit Corporation.

The aid package includes help for food banks, which farmers would like to supply, but Bakken said just getting product out of the field and onto the shelves may cost more than some can afford.

"If I'm a produce grower, just to donate it, I have to pick it, package it, put it on the truck and pay my employees," he said. "I have to pay to go to work. If I don't do anything with it, at least I get zero."

Premium Minnesota Pork still on track for May startup

Meanwhile, Premium Minnesota is still on track to start processing 2,500 hogs per day at the Luverne plant that's undergoing a \$30 million retrofit and expansion.

May 4 was the planned start date, but CEO Dan Paquin said it will open when it's safe to do so.

The parent company, Lynch Livestock, operates Premium Iowa Pork in Hesperia, Iowa, where workers are prepared to accept Luverne's antibiotic-free pork if need be.

Those employees are temperature-checked at the start of their shifts and regularly cleaning their work areas — in addition to taking hand sanitizer home to their families. "Everybody's working on staying safe," Paquin said.

In addition, he said the Hesperia plant has been diligent about not allowing visitors or vendors in the building and employee temperatures are taken as they show up for their shifts.

He said the Smithfield Foods coronavirus spread is taken seriously in his industry, but for smaller operations, prevention is more manageable.

"We have 400 employees — not 3,700 — that's a huge difference. Our groups are pretty intimate, so we are better able to visit with our employees," he said. "If you don't feel well, don't come to work."

He said coronavirus measures may delay the start of processing in Luverne, but the plant will be ready the first week in May, and many management employees are already hired.

He also said he's not worried about hiring 200 employees on short notice. "There will be plenty of people looking for jobs," he said. "And we have good-paying jobs."

City offers utility relief/continued from page 1

includes restaurants, bars, gyms, theaters, bowling alleys, coffee shops and more.

"The LEDA recognizes the adverse impact these orders may have on small businesses within our community while still waiting for state and federal programs to become available," Sammons said.

She and Luverne Finance Director Barb Berghorst have

identified qualifying accounts, determined their average utility bills from the past 12 months and calculated their loans based on 50 percent of three months of average bills.

The total amount the city will defer comes to roughly \$89,000.

"We want to make sure every single business in Luverne is open for business when this

economic downturn is past," Mayor Pat Baustian said during the meeting. "A little shot in the arm with financial utility help is a great thing that we can do."

The EDA also determined that if an executive order is made at the state or federal level indicating the closure of certain business operations extending past

May 4, or the review committee determines the local business climate remains unimproved, the deferred loans may be forgiven.

A review committee will consider applications from other businesses inadvertently missed or not originally selected to be eligible to determine if they should qualify for the deferred loan.

Area veterans can apply for emergency grants

Governor Tim Walz and the Minnesota Legislature recently approved \$6.2 million to provide \$1,000 emergency grants to Minnesota veterans financially affected by COVID-19.

Veterans can apply for a Disaster Relief Grant, administered from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA). In addition to

the Disaster Relief Grant, veterans who have experienced a more significant impact may also apply for an MDVA COVID-19 Special Needs Grant.

Rock County Veterans should contact Dave Haugom at 507-283-1770 or dave.haugom@co.rock.mn.us for eligibility requirements and assistance with the grant application process.

How to apply: As one of the main points of contact for grant applications, County Veterans Service officers also have access to a specially created portal to submit required documents and expedite the grant process.

The Special Needs Grant must be filed through County Veteran Service Officer or MDVA, but the Disaster Re-

lief Grant may be submitted directly by the veteran or surviving spouse. Application materials will be made available at www.MinnesotaVeteran.org/COVIDRelief.

To be eligible for the Special Needs or Disaster Relief Grants, Minnesota veterans or surviving spouses, fined by Minnesota Statute 197.447, must meet **ONE** criteria.

Wenninger/continued from page 6

their high school careers.

The event called for schools to turn on the stadium lights to their sports facilities for 20 minutes, 20 seconds at 8:20 p.m. The weekly stadium lighting will continue through the end of May.

Wenninger captured each vacant sports venue in aerial drone shots that included the track and field, tennis courts, baseball and softball fields.

In this CEO business plan, Wenninger takes aerial pictures of anything including vehicles, homes, farmsteads, commercial properties, activities, etc., as well as video.

Wenninger will display his Skygenix business with 14 other CEO students on June 17 during a showcase that was originally planned for May.

About CEO

This is the second year of the CEO program that immerses students in real-life learning experiences via part-



Mavis Fodness photo/0416 CEO Wenninger Pics

The drone takes pictures using a small camera mounted under the main body. The drone is steered with a hand-held control.

nerships with area businesses including partnering with a mentor. The yearlong program culminates with students developing their own businesses.

The program is open to senior and junior students from Luverne, Hills-Beaver Creek, Ellsworth, Adrian,

Southwest Minnesota Christian, Pipestone and Edgerton. Students apply to the program each year.

Wenninger, 17, plans to attend college and keep building his aerial photography business. "It will be a good way to make money," he said.

City of Luverne

Fire Hydrant Flushing

will begin

Monday, April 20- Friday, April 24

(All week long)

Residents should check for signs of discoloration before using water. If discoloration appears, run tap water until it is clear.

For more information contact Al Lais at 449-5030

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, priest

Services are live-streamed through the St. Catherine Facebook page at 9 a.m. Sundays.

Luverne Christian Reformed Church
605 N. Estey St., Luverne
Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982
www.luverncrc.com — office@luvernecrc.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
Wait 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 Altana, 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
Sunday, 10 a.m. Worship Service – live streamed.

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: newlifecelbration@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.
igtwb@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: lori.firstpres@gmail.com
Thursday 10 a.m. worship service on VAST and Mediacom. 7 p.m. Sunday 10:15 a.m. worship service viewed live on First Presbyterian Church Facebook page. Tuesday 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. worship service on VAST and Mediacom.

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

Afraid?

Don't be ... You have peace

"On the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were together behind locked doors because of their fear of the Jews. Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord." (John 20:19-20)

Are you afraid? Are you anxious? Are you worried?

Right now, as our nation continues to fight a COVID-19 pandemic, understandably many people are distressed. They are worried for themselves and for their loved ones. The entire world is standing face to face with its own mortality — and it is not comfortable!

This is, sadly, not new to human experience. Throughout history humanity has faced difficult situations where we are forced to stop and make huge changes. There have been many times when the entire world has been shaken — thrown into fear and worry. This also affects us individually. There are frightening times in our own lives when we face our own trials and hardships. There are occasions where we don't see a clear path forward or out of the trouble that we're facing.

Jesus' disciples found themselves in a situation like that after our Savior had been crucified. In a sense, they were "self-isolating." They had locked themselves away because they were afraid. Those disciples, who only days before had boldly proclaimed that they would gladly die with Jesus, were now hiding by themselves, afraid of dying.

And it wasn't an unfounded threat that they faced. The threat was real. Jesus had told them just days before, "You are not of the world ... for that very reason the world hates you." (John 15:19) Our Lord warned them to expect persecution and even death because they followed him. But now, having witnessed Jesus being brutally tortured and killed upon a cross, they were suddenly filled with fear, anxiety and worries. They were very shaken and didn't see a clear path forward.

But in that moment, Jesus himself, truly risen bodily from the dead, appeared in front of the disciples and proclaimed some amazing words: "Peace

BUILT ON A ROCK

**By Rev. Andrew
Palmquist
Bethany Lutheran
Church, Luverne**

be with you!" They had all seen him die. But now, here he was right in their midst, proving himself to be no longer dead, but alive! And he assured them that they had real peace.

Jesus' resurrection from the grave also brings peace to you and me. What is there to worry about? Even a brutal crucifixion can't stop Jesus! And neither can death stop those who trust in Him. The fact that Jesus is risen from the dead gives peace because it assures us that everything our Lord said is true and that his work has been totally accomplished. It means that before God, Jesus' perfect, righteous life now counts for us who have so often failed. It means that his innocent suffering and death upon the cross has redeemed us — bought us back — from sin and death. All of our sins and guilt are paid for! It also means that even though we will have to face our own physical death, that's not going to stop us. We too have a promise from almighty God that we will rise again with our body and soul to enjoy new eternal life with Him.

Yes, what great peace belongs to you and me because of our resurrected Lord Jesus. Especially during this time as many in our world are hiding out in fear of death, those who have Christ have true peace. We have nothing to fear. Even if the coronavirus reaches us and brings death to us, we have peace with God. And so death itself doesn't need to frighten us. All who have faith in Jesus their living Savior have the peace of knowing that eternal life is theirs.

You and I can rejoice in the peace that comes from our victorious Lord. Happy Easter! Jesus is risen indeed! And know with confidence that the God of all peace is with you. He loves you and is taking care of you.

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

Call Rick or Chantel to place your ad!

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Pizza Ranch
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Rock County Highway Department seeks bids by May 1

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
C. P. 067-401-021

Sealed proposals will be received by the Rock County Highway Department at Luverne, Minnesota until 11:00 A.M. on Monday, May 11, 2020.

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

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

Proposals will be opened and read publicly in the presence of the Rock County Highway Engineer at the Rock County Highway Building located at 1120 North Blue Mound Avenue in Luverne, Minnesota, immediately following the hour set for receiving bids for the following Rock County Highway work. Bids will be awarded on Tuesday, May 19, 2020, at the regular Board of Commissioners Meeting held in the Law Library at the Rock County Courthouse.

The Quantities of Work are: 2,830 gals of 4" ReflectORIZED Edgeline Pavement Marking Paint - White & 1,440 gals of 4" ReflectORIZED Centerline Pavement Marking Paint - Yellow.

Plans, specifications, and proposals may be viewed, and downloaded at www.questodn.com and at the Rock County Highway Department website, www.co.rock.mn.us/highway.

The non-refundable cost for plans and one proposal will be \$50.00

Bids must be accompanied by a certified check or corporate surety bond drawn in favor of the Rock County Treasurer in the amount of at least five percent (5%) of the proposal. Sealed bids shall be clearly marked "PROJECT NO. SAP 067-401-021".

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

Rock County is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

Mark R. Sehr, P.E.
Rock County Highway Engineer
(04-16, 04-23, 04-30)

Veldkamp applies for livestock feedlot permit

NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
MINNESOTA RULE 7020.2000, SUBP. 4
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR
LIVESTOCK FEEDLOT PERMIT

Notice is hereby given per Minnesota Statutes 116.07, subd. 7(a), that Jim Veldkamp has made application to the County of Rock, for a permit to construct a feedlot with a capacity of 500 animal units or more.

The proposed feedlot will be located in the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of section 2 in Rose Dell Township, Rock County, Minnesota.

The proposed facility consists of a total confinement barn to house 2400 head of swine between 55 and 300 pounds. Using 0.3 animal units per head, total animal units are 720. The building shall have a poured reinforced concrete pit for manure storage. The total animal unit capacity will be 720.

This publication shall constitute as notice to each resident and each owner of real property within 5,000 feet of the perimeter of the proposed feedlot as required by Minnesota State Law.

(04-16)

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 56134-0408

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 12.69 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 Mortgage

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)

Organic Gatherings assumes name

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

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

ASSUMED NAME: Organic Gatherings

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:

1373 60th Avenue Luverne, MN 56156 USA

NAMEHOLDER(S):

Name: Mark D Gath

Address: 1373 60th Ave Luverne, MN 56156

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

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

Signature : /s/ Damon T. Eisma

MAILING ADDRESS: None provided

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: vrodgur@hotmail.com

(04-16, 04-23)

Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

RENTALS

For Rent: Two-bedroom house for rent in Luverne. Call 507-215-2619. (tc)

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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CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you for all the sympathy cards and phone calls I received for Mike passing. Thank you to the Good Samaritan Home for the care he received, the Hartquist Funeral Home, and Hospice for the final day.

Jodie Bonnema,
Amanda Mensing,
Alex Bonnema

(4.11-4.16)

EMPLOYMENT

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. (4.16-5.2)

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)

EMPLOYMENT

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.

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Luverne

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

Steps we are Taking

- 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.
- The Luverne City Offices will be closed through Monday, May 4th, 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. Please take advantage of our delivery service (\$50 minimum, city limits of Luverne only). Or, you can call in your order and drive in for curb-side 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

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.

Be the Light!

- We are participating in #BethelLightMN with the School and County. On Wednesday evenings (until further notice) at 8:20 (20:20 military time) the lights at Cardinal Field, Redbird Field, Joe Roberts Fields, Riverside Park and the LHS Tennis Courts will light up Luverne to support our 2020 Seniors and let them know we are in this together! We must practice social distancing during this; we can not have crowds gathered otherwise this can't happen. Driving by should be fine.

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.

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.

Sincerely,

Mayor Patrick T. Baustian



#BethelLightMN

See the Good... BE the Good



THANKS TO THESE BUSINESSES FOR TAKING PRIDE IN THEIR COMMUNITY AND SPONSORING THIS PROMOTIONAL PAGE!

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 Blue Mound Area Theatre
 Cattnach Insurance
 CHS Farmer-Owned with Global Connections
 Connell Car Care
 Continental Western Group
 Cragoe Realty
 Eisma & Eisma
 Estenson Company, Inc.
 First Farmers & Merchants Member FDIC
 Hartquist Funeral Home Luverne Chapel
 Heidebrink & Associates
 Jensen Management Services, Inc.

Ketterling Services, Inc.
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 Luverne Country Club
 Luverne Lanes
 Luverne Public Schools
 Mark's Plumbing, Heating and AC/LLC.
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