



Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, July 15, 2021

Cover Crop Field Day July 22 features carbon credit discussion

By Lori Sorenson

Rock County's Cover Crop Field Day on July 22 will focus on forage production and pasture management, and it will offer tips for selling carbon credits.

"I see a few people dabbling in it," said Doug Bos, who helps to organize the workshop.

He said the USDA made a

big statement this spring when it announced a \$5 credit per acre toward crop insurance for those who have cover crops.

"That's a big change," Bos said. "It will reduce your crop insurance by \$5 per acre, which for some people covers a large percentage of their crop insurance costs."

He said this measure, along

with many other incentives, points to proven success of cover crops in protecting soil.

"It goes back to what we're trying to promote," Bos said. "Cover crops, besides potential financial benefits, are making our soil more resilient to weather swings — whether too much moisture or not enough."

The Cover Crop Day will be 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 22, in the Blac-X Farms pasture 7 3/4 miles west of Hardwick on County Road 7 (201st Street). Coming from the west, it's 1 3/4 miles east of Highway 23.

Bos said the workshop will kick off with information about carbon credits.

"This is something a lot of people are wondering about," Bos said. "The benefits of cover crops and soil health practices can equate to payments in the carbon credits market."

Essentially companies that are struggling to meet their car-

Cover crops/see page 2

Hot Dog Night set for July 15 in Luverne

By Lori Sorenson

Thousands of people are expected to descend on the streets of Luverne Thursday, July 15, for the town's annual Hot Dog Night celebration.

For 59 years families have been coming to Luverne on the second Thursday in July for free hot dogs and beverages offered by local businesses as a gesture of customer appreciation.

As the tradition gained popularity, so did the attractions that cropped up along with hot dogs.

For example, the Luverne Tae Kwon Do program has offered free demonstrations for more than 20 years and inflatables have added to the fun for children.

In more recent years, the Spotlight Dance students have performed recitals on Main Street, which has also attracted ice cream, snow cones and other vendors near the action.

Another big draw has been Wiener Dog Races, which started 17 years ago and added the Wiener Dog Beauty Pageant 13 years ago.

For the past 10 years, the Wienerman Triathlon has drawn athletes of all ages from all over the tri-state area to race in four-person teams who compete in relay events that all feature hot-dog-eating stations.

All these attractions — in addition to dozens more — have a way of drawing from a wide variety of people to one location in one night for a mixed crowd of thousands of residents and visitors.

This year, the 59th annual Hot Dog Night will be ever more popular after a year of pandemic social distancing as thousands are expected to participate.

The event this year is sponsored by Premium Minnesota Pork and Luverne area businesses and organizations.

See the back-page advertisement for details and visit www.luvernechamber.com



Mavis Fodness photo/0715 School Build NE Park Street

Street improvements begin at school

Duininck Inc. began reconstruction of North East Park Street on the east side of the Luverne Middle-High School last week. Work includes a new storm water system under the city street that runs in front of the school. The city of Luverne and Luverne School District are working together on the \$500,000 street and parking lot improvements that will be completed by September.



Meanwhile, on the southwest side of the school campus, workers are extending the school sidewalk from the driveway near the bus garage to connect with the Luverne Loop bike path.

City and school officials had noticed bike and pedestrian traffic along the shoulder of County Road 5 (Dodge Street) and determined the sidewalk would be a good idea.

Above, Duinick Inc. workers place the last of the storm sewer piping into the ground Monday afternoon. Work will soon turn to reconstructing the street base and a new parking area on the east side of the school.

At left, the street along the east side of the school will be widened to accommodate slanted parking. An alumni garden and outdoor classroom area are also planned in the area of the east side school entrance.



Lori Sorenson photo

H-BC agrees to school resource officer

By Mavis Fodness

Hills-Beaver Creek School Board agreed to a pairing that provides a school resource officer to the district at least one day a week.

The board made the decision Monday night after a presentation about the new position by Rock County Sheriff Evan Verbrugge.

H-BC will pair with the Rock County Sheriff's Office, Luverne Public Schools and the city of Luverne for the new position.

Total estimated costs for the new peace officer, equipment and vehicle is \$100,000.

H-BC's cost is estimated at \$5,900 per year.

"I am supportive of this," said board member Renee Knobloch. "I love this idea."

The board voted 6-0 to participate in the school resource officer program. Member Tim Bosch was not at the meeting.

Verbrugge said job duties for the officer are still being determined.

With the H-BC board agreeing to participate, a representative will help determine how the new officer would be used in the district.

During the summer, Verbrugge said the officer will be a deputy on the force and complete regular patrol duties in the county.

"I think this is a great positive for everyone involved at an affordable cost," he said.

However, the hiring and training of a new officer would delay the work of the school resource officer until early next year.

County commissioners approved posting the SRO internally first at the July 6 meeting.

"We can always go to the outside," said Commissioner Greg Burger.

Houselog retires from land records

By Lori Sorenson

Tom Houselog will leave his post this summer as Rock County Land Records director after a 46-year career that spanned 21 years in Rock County and 25 years in Pipestone County.

In his June 24 resignation letter to Rock County Administrator Kyle Oldre, he said he'll miss his work and the people he worked with and for.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my work here for Rock County and have appreciated the respect you and the County Board have shown me," Houselog wrote.

"... I will deeply miss the relationships that I have made within the



Tom Houselog's last day in the Rock County Land Records Office in the be the end of July.

county and am immensely proud to have been part of this office and its accomplishments." He started in Rock County in 2000, replacing Bob Meester.

'Mantle of change'

Since then, Houselog led his staff through a series of departmental and technology changes that have benefited county workers and taxpayers.

For example, he guided the process in recent years to digitize recording and assessing work.

"He's carried the mantle of

Tom Houselog retires/see p.12

Downtown apartments receive funds for upgrade

By Lori Sorenson

The two-story brick apartment building just north of the eye clinic at 118 N. Freeman Ave will soon get a facelift, thanks to support from the Luverne Economic Development Authority.

Cory and Bethany Tilstra and Dave and Teresa Hup, doing business as T&H Investments, LLC, are purchasing the building, which includes both commercial and residential business space.

They applied to the LEDA

for a façade improvement grant and loan for façade improvements estimated to cost \$63,000.

The work includes replacing all doors and windows, improving the façade with batten board and shakes, and adding a metal awning with under lighting and can lights to provide added security for residents.

The LEDA board discussed the fact that many interior

Apartment funds/see page 2



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Battle Plain Township

Battle Plain Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 19, at the home of Eric Sas.

Free food for seniors July 15

A.C.E. of SWMN will offer its Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors 60 and older from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, July 15, in the parking lot at 319 E. Lincoln, Luverne, as a drive-through distribution. Call Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064 to pre-register and for more information.

Free food offered July 15

New Life Celebration Church will offer free food at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, July 15, at the Generations Building on East Lincoln Street in Luverne. Vehicles should enter the west parking lot from Lincoln Street and drive to the double glass doors on the west side of the building where volunteers will load groceries into cars. Walkers should receive their pre-packaged groceries on the east side of the building. Call 507-283-4366.

Field Day for carbon credits, cover crops and pasture management July 22

The Rock County Land Management Office is partnering with local organizations to host a field day from 9:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 22, in the Blac-X Farms pasture 7 3/4 miles west of Hardwick on County Road 7 (201st Street). Coming from the west, it's 1 3/4 miles east of Highway 23.

The event will address the basics of carbon credits, cover crops and pasture management with local farmers sharing their experiences and demonstrating how to use temporary fencing in pastures. It will also provide information on financial and technical assistance for the practices.

The Rock Nobles Cattlemen's Association will serve a free noon meal for those who RSVP. Call 507-283-8862 or email doug.bos@co.rock.mn.us.

School office open for 2021-22 student registration

Families interested in registering their students for the 2021-22 school year are encouraged to call Luverne School District to set up an appointment. The Luverne Middle School-High School office is open from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the phone number is 507-283-4491. The elementary office will open Aug. 2 and the phone number is 507-283-4497.

Library Happenings

The Rock County Library is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. For additional questions, contact library personnel at 507-449-5040 or rocklibrarystaff@gmail.com.

Summer Reading Program, "Reading Colors Your World," registration is now along with the adult summer reading program. Pick up a reading log at the library.

Monthly trivia nights with locally written questions are the first Thursdays of the month at Take 16 on East Main Street in Luverne for teams of one or more individuals. No pre-registration is necessary. Library personnel conduct the event.

Story Time at the Park will feature songs and stories with children's library Bronwyn Wenzel each Tuesday through June and July at a different park in Luverne. The events begin at 10:30 a.m. Attendees are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket. The schedule will be:

- July 20, Veterans Park, 1211 N. Elm St.
- July 27, Hawkinson Park, East Adams Avenue. Zoom Man @ the Park takes place at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, July 22, at Hawkinson Park.

Toby Kid presents "Color Your World" with interactive comedy, magic, puppetry and silliness at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 19, at library.

Explore Prairie Ally

Free guided tours at Prairie Ally Outdoor Center (308 N. Blue Mound Avenue in Luverne) are Thursdays at 6, 6:30, and 7 p.m. through August or by appointment. Volunteers are needed Tuesdays from 10a.m. to noon and Thursdays at 5:30 June through September. A workshop on edible perennials will be Aug. 19. Contact: prairieallymn@gmail.com, 605-951-0227. Also, visit projectfoodforest.org/events.

Take and Make bird treat kits

Stop by the Luverne Area Chamber at 213 East Luverne Street to pick up one or more Take and Make bird treat kits. Kits are free, but a \$5 to \$10 donation is welcome to benefit Project Food Forest in Rock County. (Or donate online at <https://donorbox.org/support-pff>)

City approves funding for downtown apartments/from page 1

improvements have already been completed, resulting in 10 quality, affordable rental units. Also, the building is structurally sound and the roof is in good shape.

At Monday's meeting, the LEDA unanimously approved the maximum grant and loan through the city's façade improvement program.

Tilstra and Hup will receive a grant in the amount of \$21,000 and a loan in the amount of \$21,000 at a rate of 2 percent for seven years. They are also utilizing private financing.

LEDA director Holly Sammons said T&H Investments has submitted the proper paperwork and meets all of the requirements for the loan.

She said the Freeman Avenue building is a good fit for the façade improvement funds.

"A bank may not finance a \$60,000 loan do this project," Sammons said. "But they will do a \$20,000 loan, and if we can take a second position on the next \$20,000 and a grant for the last \$20,000, that suddenly changes the dialogue on accomplishing the work."

Mayor Pat Baustian remarked that the program is meeting its objectives.

"That is a huge assistance to encourage developers to make these investments," he said. "Just think of properties that may not have been



The two-story brick apartment building on North Freeman Ave will soon get a \$63,000 facelift, with help from the Luverne Economic Development Authority. The work includes replacing all doors and windows, improving the façade with batten board and shakes, and adding a metal awning with under lighting and can lights to provide added security for residents.

improved, if not for this program."

Opitz property

In other business Monday, the LEDA approved a \$5,000 loan to Opitz Properties LLC for a \$5,400

sealcoating project at 401 W. Hatting St.

Funding is through the Rural Business Assistance Loan for a property improvement project at 401 W. Hatting Street. The \$5,000 loan was

approved at 0-percent interest for five years. The first payment is due in September.

Opitz Properties has submitted the proper paperwork and meets the requirements for the loan.

Cover Crop Field Day to include carbon credit info/from page 1

bon footprint requirements can pay farmers to implement soil health practices in order to offset carbon

"Some are paying \$10 to \$20 per acre," Bos said. "We have a viable commercial market for farmers doing the right things in their fields."

He explained that cover crops, reduced till, and no-till farming and perennial vegetation keep the ground covered and healthy.

"When we till, the soil is opened up and carbon is released into the atmosphere," Bos said.

"Keeping it covered is just one of the ways to

combat climate change. It's pretty cool that there's actually an established price and market for making changes in a good way."

Bos said the July 22 field day mostly targets livestock producers who chop silage or can utilize cover crops in providing more forage for their livestock.

And there will be information about a special program in select Rock County watersheds for incentives to help with pasture management for water quality and for better cattle health and production.

"The way the program is set up, you have cattle not

in the water," Bos said.

"But remote watering is provided, and that allows for cleaner udders, less disease and heavier calves at weaning."

The lineup of topics include:

•Basics of Carbon Credits, by Jamie Ridgely, Truterra. "What you need to know before signing."

•Cover Crops and Pasture Management, by Jared Luhman, who will show how to utilize cover crops and pasture management for optimal forage production.

•Experiences of local farmers Ben Dwire and Blac X Farms who have benefited

from utilizing cover crops and pasture management.

•Fencing demonstration by Jared Luhman and Ben Dwire, showing how to use temporary fencing and other pasture management ideas.

•NRCS & SWCD programs for financial and technical assistance by Pat Toomey and Nicole Schwebach.

Registration Thursday is at 9:30 a.m. and the Rock Nobles Cattlemen's Association will serve a free noon meal for those who RSVP by July 19. Call 507-283-8862 or email doug.bos@co.rock.mn.us.

Community Ed announces activities

Luverne Community Education will offer the following activities and classes in coming weeks. Call 507-283-4724 to sign up. See comed.isd2184.net to view the brochure and list of offerings.

Friday morning Adventure Day Camps End of Summer Fun will be Aug. 13 at the Rock County Fairgrounds. Fee is \$15 per day. Limited to 15 students in grades 1-4 as attended during the 2020-21 school year.

Have fun cooking at Kids in the Kitchen this summer for grades K-8. New added classes include Snack Attack July 15, and Bakery Fun Aug. 19. Fee is \$16/child.

Crazy About Science on July 19, 20 and 21 will be filled with exciting experiments. Open to students who attended grades 1-4 during the past school year. New classes added. Fee is \$30.

Kids in grades 1-3 (completed) can attend Paint and Snack Classes on July 22. Fee is \$33.

Students ages 8-13 may attend

Boot Camp the week of Aug. 2-6. Learn how to muster, march and drill, about military history and the American flag, complete service projects, hear guest speakers who were in the military and more. Cost is \$60.

Art Camp is three days of creativity for students who added grades K-5 during the past school year. Dates are Aug. 10, 11 and 12. Cost is \$100.

Grades K through adult will Learn to Play Chess on Aug. 10, 17, 24 and 26. Use grade attended through the 2020-21 school year. Last class is a tournament. Great adult/child activity. Fee is \$15.

Taking Defensive Driving Classes allow adults aged 55 or older to save on insurance premiums. After the beginning eight-hour class, a four-hour fresher class must be taken every three years to receive the reduced premium benefit. Beginning class is Nov. 11 and 18. Four-hour refresher is Sept. 16



Eagle in park

Luverne resident Linda Guerue shared this image of an eagle that landed near the Luverne City Park this past week.

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Blue Mound Digital offers new local marketing opportunities

Luverne Economic Development Authority among first to buy ads

By Lori Sorenson

The Rock County Star Herald is offering a new type of advertising, Blue Mound Digital Marketing. Screens are located in businesses throughout the region (Luverne, Pipestone, Adrian, Brandon) and display 15-second high-definition animated clips that can be changed monthly or seasonally.

The Luverne Economic Development Authority discussed the local marketing business during its Monday morning meeting and approved \$2,700 worth of advertising in the coming year.

LEDA director Holly Sammons explained the concept, using Salon 75 as an example.

"They have a screen up in their salon and it just continually rolls a digital message so everyone sitting there, a captive audience, basically sees that message as many times as it repeats during their one- or two-hour appointment," Sammons said.

The EDA will be running ads monthly at a discounted rate for the first year as the business launches.

City ads will focus on seasonal opportunities — such as the new electric bike rentals, residential lot sales and a variety of "quality of life" amenities offered in Luverne.

In addition to the Star Herald office, Luverne screens are located in Howling Dog, Salon 75 and WildFlower Coffee Boutique.

Participating in Brandon are Tailgators Grill & Bar, El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant, 212 The Boiling Point, Happy Nails and

Anytime Fitness.

Pipestone businesses with Blue Mound Digital screens are Stonehouse & Quarry Lounge, Los Tulipanes Mexican Restaurant.

Also, the Edgerton Deputy Registrar has a screen, as does The Sports Pages Bar & Grill in Adrian.

"These are places within driving distance of Luverne," Sammons said. "So, hopefully this gives us a little exposure to a new market."

As the list grows, so will the length of the digital loop.

"We were one of the first ones to sign up, so our 15-second ad will run in the queue consecutively on every screen in all those locations all the time," Sammons said.

"If there are only 20 people advertising, then they see our ad every 20 times. If there are 200 people advertising, then they see our ad every 200 times, so there is an advantage to being early to get some of that preliminary exposure."

LEDA received a 10-percent discount for paying in advance a year up front. She showed the LEDA board the city's 15-second ad that currently features the electric bike rental program.

As a side note she provided e-bike rental statistics. There were 111 rentals in the month of June and 41 so far in July.

"It's been a very fun program to watch take off," Sammons said. "And I think the bikes are very well received."

Luverne building official Chad McClure has assisted riders with problems such as mechanical or with the operating application.



Mavis Fodness photo/0715 School Build PAC

And then there were seats

Electricians and carpet layers descended on the new performing arts center at the Luverne Middle-High School Monday to add lighting around the 779 newly installed seats and install carpet in the 9,400-square-foot facility. Three weeks ago construction workers placed the final pre-cast panel to fully enclose the facility.

The performing arts center is part of a \$30 million project at Luverne Public Schools that added six classrooms to the original 1956 structure. The middle and high school kitchen and lunchroom were moved from the basement to ground level and a new commons now joins with the new performing arts center. The entire structure now joins with the elementary school. The project is expected to be finished by August.

County sets public hearing for \$3.4 million bond

Aug. 3 meeting includes refinancing 2015 debt, saving \$90,000

By Mavis Fodness

Favorable interest rates are prompting the Rock County Commissioners to consider financing upcoming capital improvement projects through a general obligation bond.

If approved, the county would borrow \$3.485 million at a potential interest rate of less than 2 percent.

A public hearing will take place Aug. 3 during the commissioners' regularly scheduled meeting.

Details included in the five-year CIP plan will be presented along with bond finance specifics.

Commissioners received a preliminary look at their July 7 meeting.

"I think we have a very solid plan for the bonding portion and the financing over the next five years," said County Administrator Kyle Oldre.

"We are not raising property taxes — we are continuing property taxes."

Department heads identified \$21.8 million in capital improvements, many of which can be completed through different revenue sources.

However, \$2.5 million worth was identified as best afforded through a new 20-year bond.

"It (\$21.8 million) is a huge number but if you think about it, \$14 million is road and bridges, which

comes from a different pot of money," Oldre said.

Among the projects the bond could finance is the replacement of the HVAC (heating, air conditioning and ventilation) systems in the county-owned facilities.

The HVAC replacements are expected to cost \$2.3 million and include the courthouse, veterans memorial, law enforcement center, library, highway department and human services building.

Five county departments have identified various equipment needs including Rock County Rural Water's request for a \$1.9 million water tower in Springwater Township.

The new bond includes refunding \$910,000 from two previous bonds obtained in 2015. Both bonds are due to be paid in full in 2036.

When the 2015 bond amount is combined with the new general obligation bond, a \$90,000 in savings is expected.

The new bond will have the same payment completion date as the previous bonds.

"We are reissuing for the same length of time to get that (the new bond) to be paid off in 2036," Oldre said.

Rock County currently has \$6.3 million in debt obligations.



Lori Sorenson photo/0715 blue mound tower exterior

Suspenseful occupation

Jadon Johnson (right), and Jacob Hamm with Midwest Sealants, Sioux Falls, suspend from the roof of the building on scaffolding to complete exterior maintenance on the Blue Mound Towers apartment building Monday morning. The crew is caulking around all the apartment windows and in control joints of the bricks. The "long overdue" work on the building's exterior is part of an overall extensive building renovation that included the recent replacement of the Blue Mound Towers iconic skylight windows that illuminate the interior floors in the open center shaft from the ground floor to the ceiling. Working around the corner on a lift is Jesse Wright of Midwest Sealants.

open house
Bridal Shower
KATIE KLOSTERBUER
Bride-to-be of
Travis Pedersen
Saturday, July 17
10 a.m.
Grace Lutheran Church
Luverne

Bridal Shower for
Brandi Platz bride-to-be of
Jacob Van Santen
Wednesday, July 21
7 p.m. at
Take 16 Brewery
Luverne, MN
Couple is registered at Target & Amazon
Kindly RSVP to Donni at donni.vansanten@gmail.com or 605-651-3013

Open House
TO CELEBRATE THE
50th Anniversary
OF
Peggy & Dean Loettsch
Saturday, July 24th
1:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
HILLS, MN

Celebrate your independence from storage problems!
If you've been suffering from too little storage, it's time to get what you've always needed, a Northland building!
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Gordon Kienast
When you see Gordon, wish him Happy Birthday!

Card Shower for
Becky & Chris Hein
25th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
These two are celebrating 25 years of marriage and their family would like a card shower to celebrate them.
Greetings may be sent to:
1154 51st St., Luverne MN 56156
July 20

For Sale by Owner
204 Ridge View Rd, Beaver Creek, MN
Call Brenda for inquiries: 605-595-2184 \$499,500
Check out this spacious 5 bedroom, 3 bath, ranch-style home with a priceless walk-out view. Fresh paint and flooring throughout the home make it move-in ready. Main entrance and garage include zero-radius entry. Main floor features large bathrooms and doorways for improved accessibility. This home features a 2-sided gas fireplace, master-bathroom with whirlpool tub, and efficient geothermal heating and air-conditioning. The 5th bedroom is currently used as a man-cave featuring in-floor golf putting. The beautiful lot includes updated no-maintenance landscaping, and cement curbing for low-maintenance lawn care. Location perfect for small-town living with quick access to the interstate.

Cancer hits a little closer to home

The Big 'C' stands for courageous as niece faces reoccurrence

For decades this weekly space has featured personal reflections from our editorial staff.



RUMINATIONS

By Mavis Fodness, Reporter

The authors have shared various topics and experiences, and some have talked about cancer — either their own personal battles or those of family members.

I've read their words, sometimes through tears of joy for the author's triumph, and sometimes with deepest empathy at the loss of life.

My logical self tells me daily that we will die sometime.

In the meantime, we should live our lives each day to the fullest because we don't know when our time on Earth will run out.

My other self just can't get past that someone's seemingly healthy life suddenly turns and faces death sooner than expected.

What would I do if faced with the same experience?

Would I be happy and carefree right up to the last minute?

Or would I wallow in self-pity, cry hysterical tears because my time was coming near.

My niece received news late last month that the brain tumor removed 10 years ago is back.

And it's back with a vengeance after not being there six months ago.

She suffered a seizure — an event she hates more than the word cancer — sending her to the hospital and an immediate MRI.

She's weighing her options for treatment — looking

forward in life, while my own mind floats unfocused, thinking about the "what ifs" and the "what could happen."

Ten years ago that first cancer diagnosis at age 20 didn't stop Heather from moving forward. She went through radiation, chemotherapy and ultimately surgery with her mom and dad at her side.

She beat the cancer the first time.

Can she do it again?

This time the decision-making includes Heather's husband and two small children.

As they wait for doctors to suggest a treatment, my niece is planning improvements around the acreage they recently purchased.

Eventually Heather's horses will move to their new home. Among the animals is Stormy, the horse my sister had at the time of her death 10 years ago.

I recall praying for a favorable outcome for my sister — Heather's mother, but my faith in God was tested when those prayers ended with a funeral.

I commend those who face medical emergencies while reassuring those not facing an end to life that somehow things will be OK.

As I turn the subject of living with cancer over and over in my head, I am hoping the same calm my niece has found for moving forward is also found in me.

How do you define 'sustainable'?

Look no farther than the fields and feedlots of Rock County

A quiet revolution is underway on Rock County's agricultural landscape that is changing how we grow crops, feed livestock, manage weeds and fertilize the soil.

Progress is occurring at a pace non-ag people wouldn't notice, but the Star Herald has enjoyed a front row seat to remarkable farming ingenuities over the past several years.

And, thanks to articulate, driven ag leaders in Rock County, we've been honored to share the message of sustainable farming practices with our readers.

Oxford defines "sustainable" as "able to be maintained at a certain rate or level" or "able to be upheld or defended."

Merriam Webster goes further by defining the adjective as "... of, relating to, or being a method of harvesting or using a resource so that the resource is not depleted or permanently damaged."

We at the Star Herald are

happy to use the word to describe our local ag professionals, and because so much is happening beneath the surface of our fields and pastures, the message has become a constant beating drum.

One headline after another. This week, as our July 15 edition went to press Tuesday, Rock County livestock producers were hosting the Minnesota State Beef Tour.

As 15 buses and roughly 1,200 people toured our local feedlots, they learned about sustainable ways those cattle are fed and how smart practices in fields and pastures produce more with a smaller carbon footprint.

On the topic of carbon, our headlines this week turn to Rock County's Cover Crop Field Day.

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

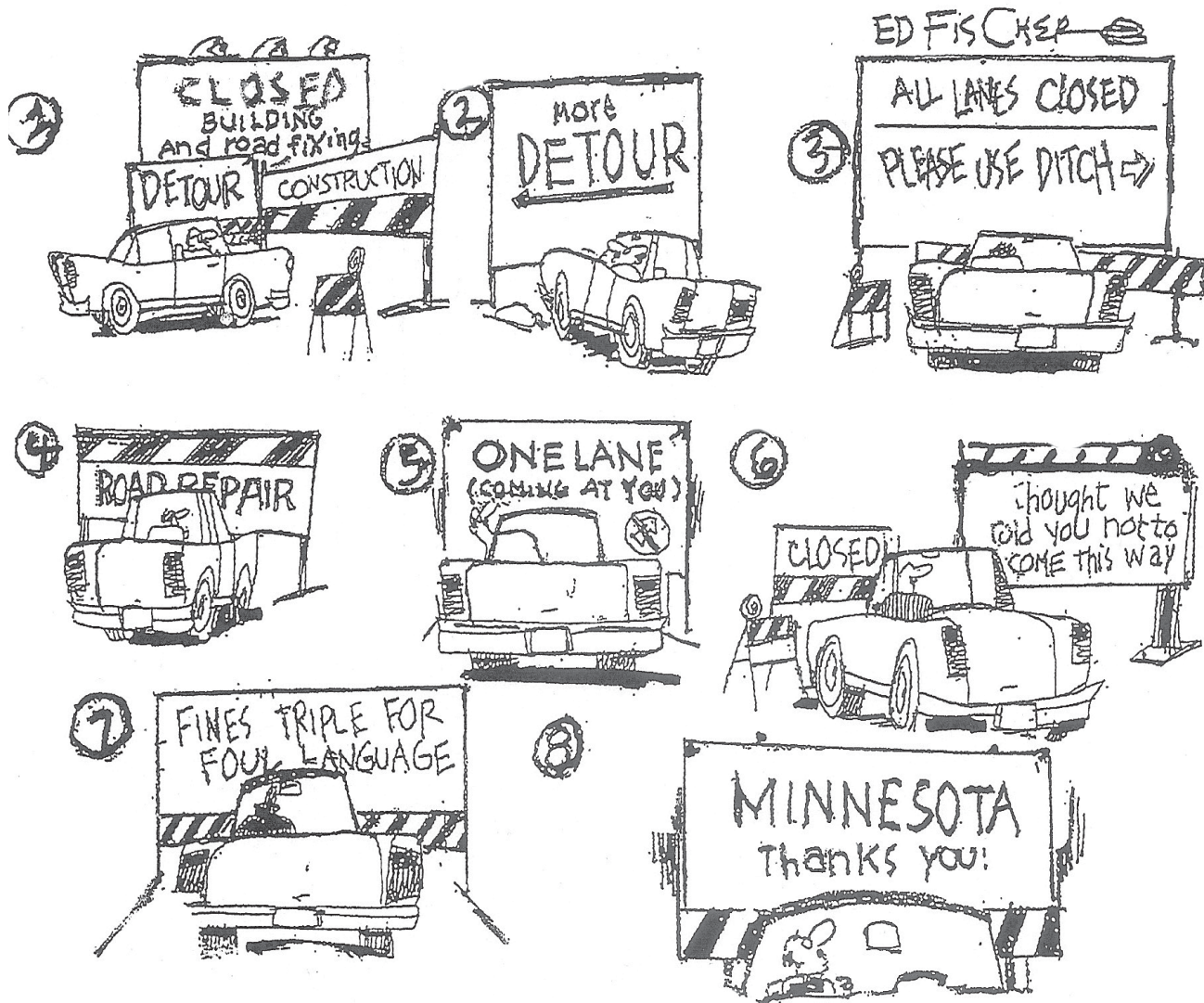
For those who haven't been paying attention, we're seeing less of the rich black dirt we're known for in this part of the state.

Turns out, tilling up the soil releases carbon and valuable nutrients that are better left undisturbed.

And, it turns out, not tilling up the soil translates directly to extra cash by way of government incentives, carbon credits, and in the long term, healthier cattle and soil and better yields.

Read the cover crop story on Page 1.

It's just one more headline in our steady drum beat for sustainability ... for feeding the world and for continuing a way of life we've grown to love in Rock County.



Take pleasure in enjoying the little things that make life worth living

Mary keeps telling me that I need to stop getting so upset about things I can't control and take some pleasure in the small things in life.

So, with that in mind and as I was making my morning toast, I was lucky enough to be at the end of a loaf a bread, and there was the crust. The little things in life don't get much smaller, so I stop to enjoy the crust.

When I was growing up, the crust was the most sought-after slice of bread. Not so much with the store-bought bread, but the crust



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, general manager

of Grandma Schultz's homemade bread was the holy grail of bread.

She would get upset when she would discover both ends of a freshly baked loaf of bread had been sliced off, leaving the rest of

the loaf.

So that made me think of other little food treasures that I enjoy, and maybe this will spur some food memories for you as well.

Here are a few of my favorites:

- the skin off a baked potato with lots of butter.
- the chocolate tip of a waffle cone.
- the crunchy top of the Thanksgiving stuffing — not to mention the crispy skin on the turkey just out of the oven.
- the graham cracker crust remnants of a cheese cake.
- the charred piece of fat at the end of a rib-eye steak.
- the middle roll of a freshly baked pan of caramel rolls.
- the first tomato of the season — as well as the first strawberry

and the first asparagus.

I also take pleasure in the smell of opening a new container of coffee.

I have a gas grill and an electric smoker, but nothing comes close to the smell of lighter fluid on Kingsford charcoal when you throw a match on it. That, my friends, is the smell of the summer barbecue season.

You know, Mary is right; I need to enjoy the little things in life a bit more. So, pardon me while I eat my toasted crust of bread smothered with chunky peanut butter.

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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

July 2

- Complainant on E. South Street, Magnolia, reported a scam call.
- Complainant on 211th Street, Hardwick, reported a warrant.

- Complainant on 91st Street, Beaver Creek, reported a fire.

- Complainant east-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 13, Luverne, reported a walker on the interstate.

July 3

- Complainant on 201st Street and 160th Avenue, Hardwick, reported a grass fire.

- Assistance from another department with a warrant for an arrest was conducted.

- Complainant on W. Mead Court reported harassment.

- Complainant on E. Warren Street reported suspicious activity.

- Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported suspicious activity.

- Complainant on W. Interstate Drive reported suspicious activity.

- Complainant on N. Spring Street reported an abandoned bicycle.

- Complainant on Uithoven Avenue reported a suspicious vehicle.

July 4

- Complainant on Kniss Avenue reported a suspicious vehicle.

- Complainant on County Highway 4, Beaver Creek, reported trespassing and stalking at location.

- Complainant on N. Estey requested LEC standby for custody exchange.

- Complainant on S. East Park Street and W. Warren Street reported a vehicle disturbing the peace.

- Complainant at The Lake reported three individuals disturbing the peace.

- Fire Department was present for fireworks display on Edgell Street.

- Complainant on E. Dodge Street and Blue Mound Avenue reported a noise complaint.

- Complainant on Edgell Street and S. Walnut Avenue reported a possible intoxicated driver.

- Complainant on W. Dodge Street reported hazardous fireworks on the block.

- Complainant on S. East Park Street reported a fight at location.

July 5

- Complainant on E. Luverne Street reported property damage at location.

- Complainant on Edgell Street reported a missing phone.

- A weather bulletin was issued in Rock County.

July 6

- Subject with Rock County warrant was arrested in Stearns County, St. Cloud.

- Complainant on S. Church Avenue, Hills, reported harassing communications.

- Complainant on 211th Street, Hardwick, reported a warrant.

- Complainant reported an address change.

- Complainant on E. Luverne Street requested utility shut-off assistance.

- Complainant on Highway 35, Magnolia, reported funnel cloud at location.

- Complainant on W. Luverne Street, reported a missing child at location.

- Complainant on S. Hatting and Freeman reported a reckless driver.

- Complainant on E. Luverne Street reported an assault.

- Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a possible drunk driver.

July 7

- Complainant on W. Luverne Street, Magnolia, reported theft.

- Complainant on W. Luverne Street reported an accident.

- Complainant on Highway 75 and Highway 270, Hills, reported speeding.

July 8

- Complainant on Blue Ridge Circle reported a suspicious vehicle.

- Complainant on Mag Road reported damage to property.

- Complainant on Oak Drive requested assistance.

- Complainant on U.S. Highway 75 requested assistance with a case.

- Complainant on 20th Avenue and 31st Street, Hills, reported a reckless driver.

In addition, officers responded to 2 motor vehicle accidents, 1 deer accident, 9 escorts, 10 ambulance runs, 1 paper service, 6 animal complaints, 5 burn permits, 1 gas drive-off, 1 alarm, 2 purchase and carry permits, 2 stalled vehicles, 8 traffic stops, 13 abandoned 911 calls, 2 tests, 6 reports of cattle out, and 2 follow-ups.



Higher calling

Jason Mathiesen is on the crew painting the Palisade Lutheran Church this week in Western Rock County. He said tip of the cross atop the steeple is 78 feet from the ground.

The Palisade Church building on County Road 5 near Highway 23 is being painted and getting new shingles on the roof.

Cooler weather recently has made the work more comfortable for Mathiesen and his workers.

Star Herald photos by Lori Sorenson/0715 church steeple painting



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REDUCE
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BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann,
 president Rock County
 Historical Society

The following appeared in The Rock County Herald on March 31, 1949.

Monday Was Pay Day For National Guardsmen They're Not Phoney So Don't Pass Up \$2 Bills

Some over 1,000 two-dollar bills will be in circulation here during the next few days and weeks. And there's nothing phoney about them either.

The bills represent the quarterly payroll to members of the Luverne National Guard unit, who received their "paychecks" in two-dollar bills Monday night.

Big Annual Payroll

Two-dollar bills are rather unusual in this part of the country and their appearance at this time will serve to stress the role that the national guard plays in the local business picture, says Capt. Lester U. Tollefson, commander.

During the year March 1, 1948 to March 1, 1949 \$27,075.11 was paid to members of the unit. Full-time employees at the armory received \$15,780; \$8,564.86 was paid to the 67 men and officers for regular drills, and \$2,730.25 was paid to the local men who attended national guard camp at Camp Ripley last summer.

Camp Dates Announced

National guard camp at Camp and field maneuvers will begin June 12 and continue through June 26 at Camp Ripley. The 135th Regiment of which Headquarters Company of Luverne is a part, will be the only Minnesota regiment in camp at that time. The other units will come from South Dakota this year for this period of training, Capt. Tollefson said.

Donations to the Rock County Historical Society can be sent to the Rock County Historical Society, 312 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156. Mann welcomes correspondence sent to mannmade@iu.net.

URGENT!

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Hills-Beaver Creek travels to Washington

Fifty students, parents and faculty from Hills-Beaver Creek High School pose for a picture outside the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. The group was the first to take part in the school's World Classroom field trip June 25-28. Participants include (front row, sitting, from left) Kadence Rozeboom, Harli Rozeboom, Jamesyn Klosterbuer, Mya Erickson, Abigail Olson, Isabella DeBoer, Steph Bass, (second) Tedra Voss, Gavin Voss, Lexxus Wessels, Sawyer Borch, Cameron Allen, Izzy Wysong, Ella Sammons, Abbie Harris, Sylvia Fick, Brynn Rauk, Lanae Elbers, Heather Erickson, Amy Susie, Laura Leenderts, (third) Crystal Heintz, Josh Lohr, Alex Dysthe, Justin Roelfs, Samantha McGaffee, Riley Tatje, Cooper Gehrke, Logan Susie, Blake Leenderts, Aiden Kerkhove-Brandt, Carter Vande Voort, Beau Bakken, Natasha Kellenberger, Jayden Kueter, Andrew Kellenberger, (back) Heather Harris, Melanie Tatge, Tami Rauk, Arlyn Gehrke, Colton Bass, Kouri Wysong, Jason Rozeboom, Jay Bakken, Trista Borch, Amanda Rozeboom, Dan Fick, Kari Kueter, Allyson Olson and Holly Sammons.

Submitted photos

June event marks the first-time World Classrooms field trip taken by students, adults

By Mavis Fodness

History books came alive for 50 parents, students and faculty from Hills-Beaver Creek High School who recently traveled with the H-BC World Classrooms field trip.

The group spent June 25-28 visiting Washington, D.C., and other historic sites such as Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania.

School principal

Andrew Kellenberger kept the community updated on the group's activities by posting to the school's website.

"What a great trip of fun, education, patriotism and growing as a community," he reflected on Day 4.

Twenty-seven students and 23 adults participated in the first World Classrooms organized field trip for the school.

World Classrooms,

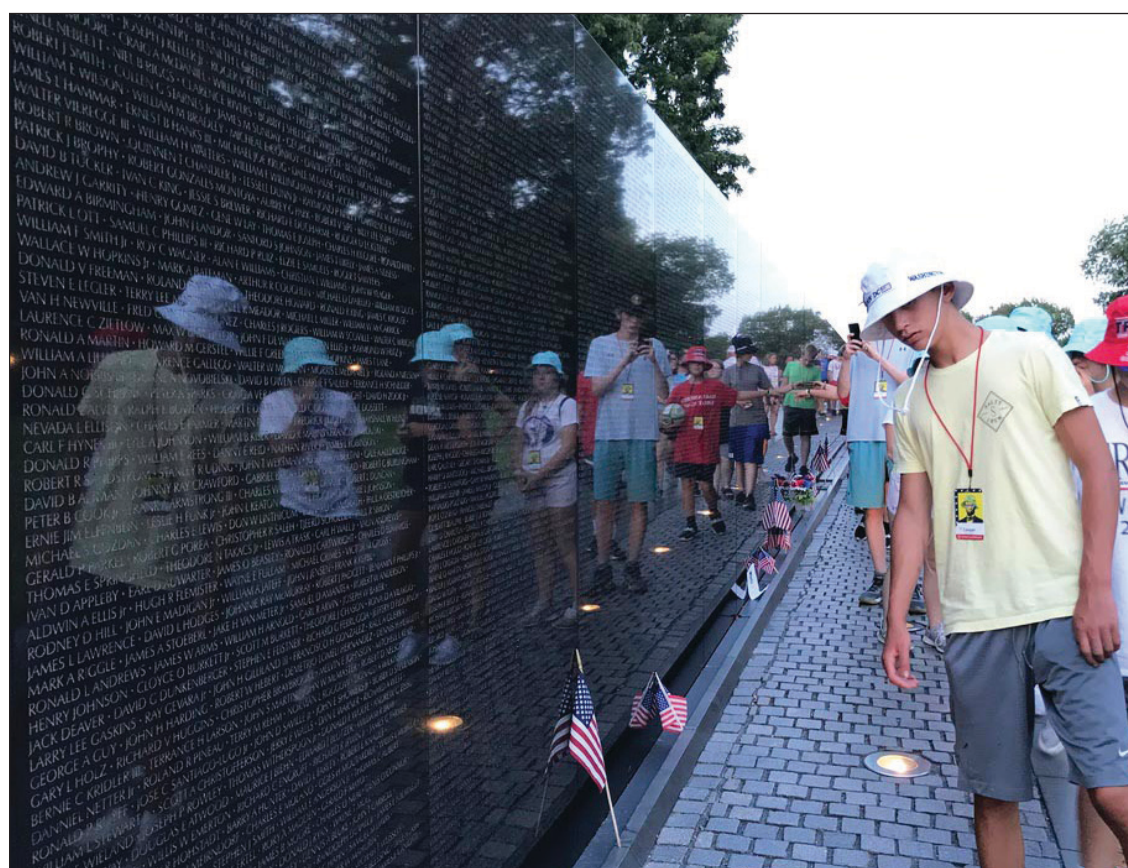
based in Aberdeen, South Dakota, organizes the travel, site locations, meals and tour guides for a learning adventure outside the walls of the classroom.

H-BC will also offer the Washington, D.C., experience next year.

On Day 2, Kellenberger posted, "A lot of learning, fun and steps (20,000). The history books came alive today."



Left: Students visit the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial. Below, center: The Gettysburg Battlefield in Pennsylvania was one of the tour stops. Below, far right: Students wait their turn to view George Washington's tomb.



Hills-Beaver Creek students are reflected in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. H-BC ninth-grader Cooper Gehrke reads some of the more than 58,000 names of U.S. soldiers who died in the war.



REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2011)

The Rock County Star Herald is once again challenging fairgoers to a friendly competition for the 2011 version of the Rock County Fair.

Star Herald General Manager Rick Peterson announced this week the creation of a Star Herald paper medallion that will be hidden on the fairgrounds to be turned in for a prize. "I'm hiding it myself and I'm not telling anyone where it is," Peterson said Tuesday as he started putting together rhyming clues.

"I'm the only one who will know where it's hidden."

25 years ago (1996)

An abandoned rural school building burns Thursday afternoon while firefighters from Hills prevent its spread to nearby trees. The fire call came shortly after 5 p.m. but by the time firefighters arrived, the former school District #39 or Sunnyside School building was a total loss. The cause of the fire wasn't stated, but onlookers speculated it had been deliberately set. There was no electricity in the building, and weather conditions seemed an unlikely cause. The school was consolidated with Hills in 1941. The building was located in Martin Township, three miles north of Hills, just east of the Burlington Northern tracks on property owned by Lyndon Severson. The first school building on the site was constructed

in 1881. The building that burned Thursday had been built in 1918. It featured a basement and a furnace and cost \$5,835. The last teacher at the school was Emma Engebretson.

50 years ago (1971)

Last month, 12-year-old Brad Remme, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gale Remme, Luverne, came into the Star-Herald with his largest discovery added to his collection of old bottles and jars.

Brad proudly displayed an old soft drink bottle labeled "Bottling Works of Luverne." He and a companion had uncovered the bottle near his home at the southwest edge of Luverne. ...

Mrs. Smith, who still resides in Luverne, recalls the company made several flavors, but distributed them only locally. ...

A check with a few of the city's longtime residents revealed the following information: John Engebretson recalls that the most popular flavor was the "red one" (strawberry). Mrs. Smith remembers that they also made orange, root beer and a lemon drink. Charles Soutar says he remembers drinking "Luverne Pop" as early as 1906.

In regards to Brad's bottle, Mrs. Smith was very definite that there weren't any manufactured while she and her husband had the operation. This would date the bottle back to the Goettsch era or pre-1930.

75 years ago (1946)

Unless you want to be arrested for violation of the law —

don't handle young birds and animals found in woods and fields!

This warning is issued by Frank Blair, game supervisor for the Minnesota Division of Game and Fish, as a result of numerous complaints that have reached his office relative to persons "adopting" strayed fawns.

Apparently abandoned young wildlife is rarely deserted and, if left alone, will be adequately cared for by its parents, Blair said. Efforts of persons inexperienced in the rearing of wildlife species to care for game picked up along paths, trails and highways usually end in wasteful failure and are likely to lead to trouble with federal or state law enforcement agents.

If you see a fawn along the road — leave it alone! The doe will be around somewhere.

100 years ago (1921)

The seventy-foot steel crane at Hanlon & Okes loading plant on Blue Mound avenue crashed across the Rock Island tracks in a broken and bent mass Friday noon, when the extreme weight of the derrick uprooted one of the anchor supports of the crane.

The accident happened ten minutes to twelve, and fortunately none of the numerous workmen usually engaged around the crane were in the path of the falling tower. The men at work directing the course of material being unloaded happened to be in the corner of a car out of harm's way.



Lila Bauer (left) receives a check for \$1,000 from Perry Krossschell June 15 as part of the Luverne Pizza Ranch receiving the franchise's Community Impact Award.

Luverne Pizza Ranch receives Community Impact Award

Bauer donates \$1,000 to Rock the Edge Youth

Pizza Ranch Inc. awarded its annual Community Impact Award to Randy and Lila Bauer of the Luverne Pizza Ranch at the company's Awards Banquet in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, June 15.

The Community Impact Award recognizes a franchisee or Ranch that has made a positive impact in their community and lives out the Pizza Ranch vision, "To glorify God by positively impacting the world," according to Pizza Ranch Chief Vision Officer Perry Krossschell.

"This year the award is going to go to quintessential 'Community' owners," Krossschell said. "These owners have shown

a personal and passionate desire to constantly impact their community, one person at a time, with a legendary experience."

Pizza Ranch's President and Founder, Adrie Groeneweg, added, "Lila has earned this award before and is a great example to the whole Pizza Ranch chain on what it means to put others first. If every town had a 'Lila' we would all be better off."

Randy and Lila Bauer were awarded \$1,000 for receiving the Community Impact Award to donate to a local charity of their choosing.

The donation will go to "Rock the Edge," a group of youth leaders and teens from Rock County that bring Christian youth together for service projects in the community.

Blooming plants thrive after welcome rain but now they need fertilizer

KNOW IT AND GROW IT

By George Bonnema, Luverne Horticulturalist



Summer-blooming spireas have pretty much finished their early bloom cycle. A light shear now will remove those dead flower heads, and within a couple of weeks they will put on a new crop of foliage that will look as bright and fresh as they did in the spring. ... Wish a hair cut would do that for me!

Rain over the weekend was another huge blessing, especially the fact that it was more widespread. I almost feel guilty addressing the fact that we got a wonderful rain and people just a few blocks away got almost nothing ... not so this time! With that rain comes a whole new crop of weeds and that's OK. It is easier for me to eliminate the weeds than to have to try to keep up watering.

Speaking of watering, if you have been faithful keeping your container gardens watered, I want to stress the importance of using plant food in your water to maintain the energy of those plants.

Water-soluble fertilizer is nutrients that are available

immediately for the plants. With the maximum amount of daylight and the time those plants have been growing, they are at their peak performance and need energy to maintain the color you dreamed all winter about seeing.

All fertilizers have a formula analysis on the container. I am not as much concerned about the value of the number as I am about the sequence of that value. There will be three numbers: the first is nitrogen which promotes vegetative growth. It gives the leaves their healthy green color. Lack of nitrogen can be indicated by yellowish leaf color, and with frequent watering, the nitrogen can leech out of the soil quickly.

The second number in the analysis is phosphorus. This nutrient is what promotes blooming and consequent seed or fruit production. For blooming plants, this middle number

should be the highest of the three.

The third nutrient in the sequence is potash, and that is a root promoter.

You can see why all three nutrients are vital for plant health. Many fertilizers will have equal value for all three ingredients and that's OK. With a formulation of 10-30-20, Bloom Booster is one of my recommendations for the obvious reason of maximum phosphorus for maximum amount of flower potential.

Most of the potting material called "potting soil" today has no soil in it as far as we understand soil. These products are comprised of shredded wood, compost and peat moss. They work because they have to work due to the quantity of growing medium needed to meet the market's demand.

Nothing bad about that as long as you understand how fast the potting soil dries out and its inability to retain nutrients. Fre-

quent watering is a necessity in hot weather when there is a lot of plant to support. Often a thorough watering results in water running through the soil mass and out the bottom of the pot. That water coming out of the pot is also carrying some of the nutrients the plants need, and the process is called leeching.

White and yellow butterflies dancing in the air around your garden are pretty and fun to watch as long as you are not trying to grow cabbage, broccoli, and similar crops in the brassica family. Those little butterflies lay the eggs that hatch into green worms with voracious appetites, and it's not fun finding them in the food you are about to eat!

To eliminate those worms, I spray with an organic spray called DiPel. The active ingredient is *Bacillus thuringiensis* or BT for short. I am spraying now, before the leaves are riddled with holes and the worms develop any size.

I'm telling you that they are there right now so it's your choice of if and when you want to go to battle.

Bonnema is a gardening enthusiast and former greenhouse owner. He can be reached at flowergb@iw.net.

CELEBRATIONS

Card showers

Chris and Becky Hein will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on Tuesday, July 20. Greetings may be sent to them at 1154 51st Street; Luverne, MN 56 156.

Open houses

A bridal shower for **Katie Klosterbuer**, bride-to-be of **Travis Pedersen**, will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 17, at Grace Lutheran Church in Luverne.

A bridal shower for **Brandi Platz**, bride-to-be of **Jacob Van Santen**, will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 21, at Take 16 Brewery in Luverne. RSVP is requested to Donni at donni.vansanten@gmail.com or 605-651-3013.

Dean and Peggy Goetsch will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, July 24, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Bryan Boelman

Bryan Edward Boelman, 62, formerly of Luverne, died Sunday, Dec. 29, 2019, at the Royal C. Johnson Veterans Memorial Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Family and friends are invited to a memorial service at 3 p.m. Friday, July 16, 2021, (arrive by 2:45 p.m. to line up) at the South Dakota Veterans Cemetery in Sioux Falls.

Food and fellowship will follow at the Renner American Legion in Renner, South Dakota. (0715 DN)

Sheryl Faber

Sheryl "Cookie" Faber, died Oct. 14, 2019, in San Antonio, Texas.

Burial of cremains will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, July 17, at the Valley Springs, South Dakota, cemetery. Fellowship and lunch will follow in the Valley Springs Legion Hall. (0715 DN)

GENERATIONS MENU

Monday, July 19:

Pork loin, candied yams, broccoli, bread, bar.

Tuesday, July 20:

Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, carrots, bread, gelatin with whipped top-

ping.

Wednesday, July 21:

Taco salad with salsa and sour cream, corn chips, fresh fruit, dessert.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Security Savings

Bank.

Thursday, July 22:

Spaghetti, lettuce salad with dressing, fruit, dessert.

Friday, July 23:

Turkey and mashed potatoes with gravy, buttered beets,

dinner roll, frosted cake.

LSS Dining offers well-balanced and affordable meals.

Call Lynette Hoiland at 283-9846 to arrange for a meal.

Gust elected 85th Rotary Club president

By Gregg Gropel
For the Star Herald

"Rotary Club Formed Here." That was a headline printed 84 years ago in the June 11, 1937, Rock County Herald.

Dr. Charles L. Sherman, who came to Luverne in 1904 as the 'horse and buggy' doctor, was the club's very first Luverne Rotary Club president.

Ever since Doc Sherman took the club's gavel at the Manitou Hotel in June 1937, the club has always changed leadership in June.

This year, 2021, is no different from June, 1938, when Dr. Sherman completed his term as president and handed the gavel off to his successor, Ray C. Engan.

On the evening of June 29, 2021, the Rotary Club gathered at Take 16's Event Center with 29 members and guests to witness the changing of the guard. This time, Tammy Loosbrock, who served as president during the past year, turned the gavel over to Tim Gust.

Gust, longtime Luverne community member and businessman, became the club's 85th Rotary Club president. He officially began his duties on July 1 and will start off the year leading a group of 37 dedicated members.

According to its website, "Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbors, friends, leaders and problem-solvers whose world where people



Tammy Loosbrock (right), outgoing president of Luverne Rotary Club, passes the "gavel" to incoming president Tim Gust at the group's June 29 meeting at Take 16. The actual gavel wasn't available, so they used a fork to symbolize the change of leadership.

unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."

This past year, the Luverne Rotary Club completed the following projects:

- put finishing touches on Luverne's South Highway 75 Rotary Park, which also contains an area for dogs to stretch their legs.

- provided bicycle helmets for children in Adrian, Hills-Beaver Creek, Luverne, and the two schools in Edgerton.

- cleaned road ditches through Adopt-a-Highway.

- provided and served a community meal; and

- financially supported several community programs, including The Food Shelf, 'Roll on Luverne,' Back Pack Program, Summer Recreation, and the global effort to eliminate polio.

The Luverne chapter meets at noon every Tuesday in the Luverne Pizza Ranch. Each meeting features a 20-minute presentation from community programs or causes to enlighten members.

Celebration of Life for Sheryl "Cookie" Faber

Family and friends will be gathering to remember *Sheryl "Cookie" Faber* who passed away on 10/14/2019 in San Antonio, TX.

Burial of her ashes will be at the **Valley Springs, SD, cemetery at 10:30 on Saturday, 07/17/2021.** Following the burial, there will be fellowship and lunch in the Valley Springs Legion Hall.



Hot Dog Nite

Thursday, July 15
5:30 p.m.

all the extra fixin's with drinks & chips

In Luverne at 310 Gabrielson Rd.
bankwithssb.com

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We are expanding youth Circles in Southwest Minnesota counties. Find out more at <https://swwmhs.com/social-services/childrens-and-family-services/circle/>

Luverne's Billi Connell named to Minnesota High School Fastpitch Coaches' Association All-State Team

By **Brennen Rupp**

Luverne's Billi Connell has been playing organized softball since she was in second grade.

She said she started playing because she wanted to spend time with her friends, but that leisurely activity became a sport she can't get enough of.

"I play all year long," Connell said. "... I work very hard. I practice all winter and summer long. I go to the cage four times a week."

All that work Connell has put into her craft is starting to get recognized. Connell was recently named to the Minnesota High School Fastpitch Coaches' Association 2AA All-State Second Team.

"It makes me proud," Connell said. "It makes my parents proud. It's just nice

to get recognized and to know that my hard work is paying off."

Connell wrapped up her junior season with the Cardinals with a batting average over .500. Luverne softball coach Brooks Maurer noted that Connell is one of the best hitters he's ever coached.

"She's one of the best hitters, baseball or softball that I've ever been around," Maurer said.

He said Connell's simple, "see ball, hit ball" approach makes her dangerous in the batter's box.

"When I'm up to bat, the only thing that's running through my head is 'hit the ball hard somewhere,'" Connell said. "Hitting is such a non-thinking thing. You just have to hit the ball somewhere."

But she's also motivated to score.

"I think I have a lot of intensity when I'm at the plate," Connell said. "I want to get on base for my team."

That intensity trickles over to the defensive side of things for Connell, who understands the importance of each out and that one mistake could be the difference in winning or losing the game.

"I like the competition and that you have to be locked in all the time," Connell said. "You may only get one ball a game, but that ball could change the course of the game."

In the field, she's capable of playing multiple positions, a versatility she takes pride in.



Brennen Rupp photo/0715 Softball
Luverne's Billi Connell stands in the batter's box during a section playoff game against Tracy-Milroy-Balaton in Pipestone. Connell was recently named second-team all-state by the MFCA.

All-State/page 9

Redbirds scorching hot as regular season nears finale

By **Brennen Rupp**

The Luverne Redbirds improved to 18-4 overall this season by going 3-0 this past week.

The Redbirds opened the week with a 3-2 victory over Pipestone in Luverne on Wednesday, July 7.

Luverne then wrapped up the week with a pair of road victories on Sunday, July 11.

The Redbirds opened the Sunday doubleheader with a 11-1 victory over Heron Lake. In the nightcap, the Redbirds blanked Fox Lake 10-0.

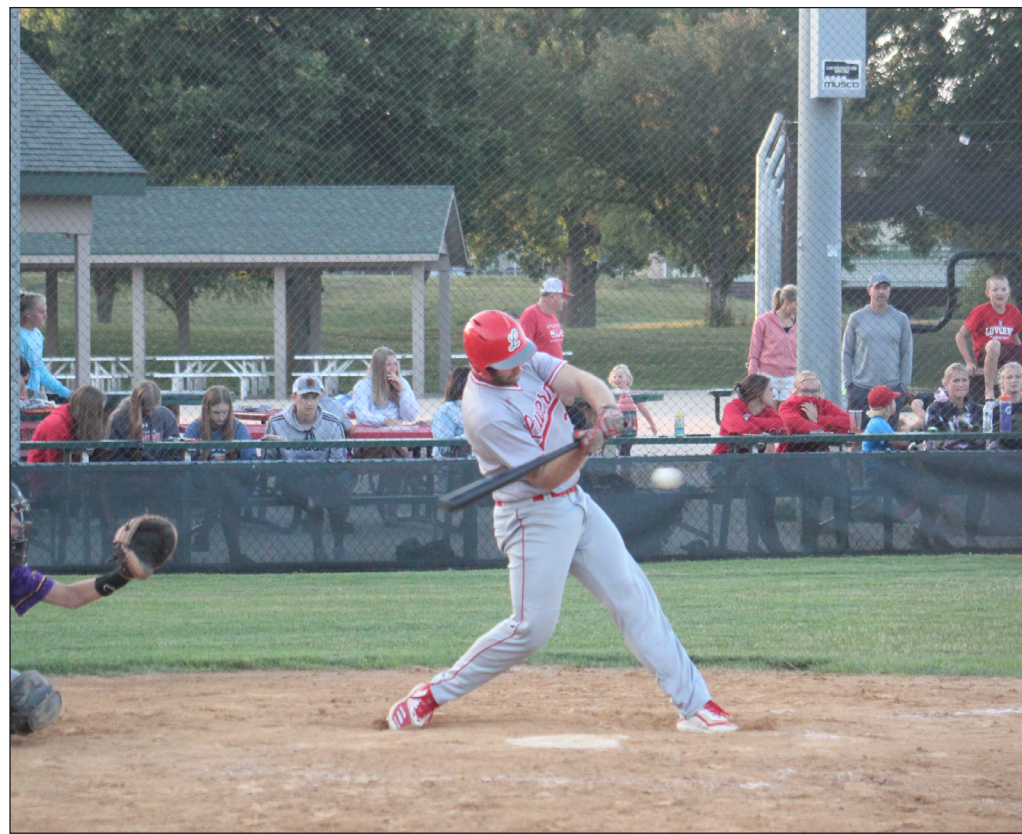
Luverne 3, Pipestone 2

The Redbirds edged Pipestone on Wednesday, July 7, behind a strong pitching performance from Jake Haugen.

Luverne's starting pitcher hurled all nine innings and recorded 12 strikeouts, while scattering five hits.

With Haugen keeping the Pipestone bats at bay, the Redbirds needed only three runs to pick up their 16th win of the season.

With the Redbirds trailing 1-0, Luverne scored one run in the bottom of the third and two in the bottom of the fourth to claim a 3-1 lead.



Jason Berghorst photo/0715 Redbirds
Newt Johnson takes a swing at a pitch during Luverne's home game against Pipestone on Wednesday, July 7. The Redbirds defeated Pipestone 3-2.

Pipestone scored one run in the top of the ninth inning, but were unable to score the tying run.

Cade Wenninger led Luverne with two hits.

Pipestone 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1
Luverne 0 0 0 1 2 0 0 0 x

Hitting: Lundgren 1-3; Paquette 1-4; Johnson 1-4; S. Wenninger 1-3; Serie 1-4; Haugen 1-4; C. Wenninger 2-4; Meyer 1-2
Doubles: Meyer
RBI: Johnson; S. Wenninger; Haugen

Luverne 11, Heron Lake 1

The Redbirds jumped on Heron Lake early and never let their foot off the gas on Sunday.

Luverne scored five runs in the first three in-

Redbirds/page 9

Luverne Legion team wraps up regular season

By **Brennen Rupp**

The Luverne Legion baseball team earned the top seed in the Sub State Legion Tournament that starts on Thursday, July 15, in Wabasso.

Luverne earned the top seed by going 2-0 this past week, defeating Minneota 10-0 in Minneota on Friday, July 9. The Legion team then wrapped up the week by defeating Pipestone 6-2 in Luverne on Sunday, July 11.

Luverne 10, Minneota 0

Luverne scored the game's first run in the opening inning Friday.

Behind a strong pitching performance from Ethan Beyer, that lone run proved to be the only offense Luverne would need on Friday, July 9.

Luverne tacked on four more runs in the second inning to extend their lead to 5-0.

In the fourth inning, Luverne scored four more runs to make it a 9-0 ballgame.

Luverne added one more run in the fifth inning to make the final score 10-0.

Beyer pitched all five innings and recorded seven strikeouts.

Luverne 6, Pipestone 2

Luverne topped Pipestone at Redbird Field on Sunday, July 11, 6-2.

After neither team scored in the first inning, Luverne scored a pair of runs in the bottom of the second inning to claim a 2-0 lead.

Luverne added two more runs in the bottom of the third inning to push their lead to 4-0.

In the top of the fifth inning, Pipestone scored a pair of runs to cut Luverne's lead to 4-2.

Luverne scored a pair of runs in the sixth inning to make the final score 6-2.

Cade Wenninger pitched five innings and recorded six strikeouts.

Luverne will play the opening game of the Sub State Legion Tournament on Thursday, July 15, in Wabasso against Wabasso at 8 p.m.

Pipestone 0 0 0 0 2 0
Luverne 0 2 2 0 0 2

Hitting: Crabtree 1-3; Sehr 2-2; Overgaard 1-3; Anderson 1-2
RBI: Cowell; Crabtree; Anderson
Doubles: Sehr

Colton Arends takes checkered flag at Rapid Speedway

By **Jason Berghorst**

Colton Arends led Rock County race car drivers with a win at Rapid Speedway Friday night.

Local dirt track racers competed in Rock Rapids, Iowa, Hartford, South Dakota, and Worthington over the weekend.

Rapid Speedway

Luverne's Arends picked up his fourth checkered flag of the season at Rapid Speedway and sixth win overall Friday, July 9, at Rapid Speedway in Rock Rapids, Iowa.

Competing in the A Feature race of the Stock Cars class against twenty other drivers, Arends started in the tenth slot and drove his way to the top spot by the end of the race.

Scott Overgaard, also of Luverne, finished the same race in fifth place.

Eric Gaul, Luverne, finished in third place of the

Hobby Stocks A Feature race.

I-90 Speedway

Luverne driver Cadyn Wessels was the lone Rock County competitor at I-90 Speedway near Hartford, South Dakota, Saturday night.

Wessels raced in the Hobby Stocks class. He finished 12th overall in the A Feature race after placing sixth in his heat race.

Worthington Speedway

Arends followed his first-place finish Friday with a third place performance in the Stock Cars A Feature Sunday at Worthington Speedway.

Magnolia's Dylan Fitzpatrick finished fourth in the Hobby Stocks feature and Silas Top, Hardwick, placed third in the Bombers A Feature race the same night.

Below are the results for Rock County drivers from the July 9-11 races at local tracks.

Rapid Speedway – July 9

Sportsman's A Feature
B. Boeve Beaver Creek 6

USRA Hobby Stocks A Feature
E. Gaul Luverne 3
C. Wessels Luverne 17
D. Fitzpatrick Magnolia 18
Katie Kracht Luverne 19

USRA B Modifieds A Feature
Trevor Kracht Luverne 8

USRA Stock Cars A Feature
C. Arends Luverne 1
S. Overgaard Luverne 5
S. Kalass Luverne 19

I-90 Speedway – July 10

USRA Hobby Stocks A Feature
C. Wessels Luverne 12

Worthington Speedway – July 11

USRA Stock Cars A Feature
C. Arends Luverne 3

USRA Hobby Stocks A Feature
D. Fitzpatrick Magnolia 4

MCRA Bombers A Feature
S. Top Hardwick 3
B. Harnack Hills 7

Wagner sisters compete at Pacesetter Top 100 Showcase

By **Brennen Rupp**

Luverne's Elizabeth Wagner and Christina Wagner both competed in the Pacesetter Top 100 Showcase on Thursday, July 8, at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph.

Elizabeth Wagner was named to the all-tournament team as one of 11 female athletes that earned all-tournament team honors. She was also a member of the UCONN team that won the tournament championship.

The tournament was an invitational event that had six girls' teams and four boys' teams.

Each team had 10 players on the roster.

Elizabeth Wagner is coming off a season in which she averaged 12 points and seven rebounds per game during her sophomore season.

Christina Wagner averaged eight points as a sophomore during the season.



Submitted photo/0715 basketball
Luverne's Elizabeth Wagner goes up for a close-range shot during the Pacesetter Top 100 Showcase on Thursday, July 8. The tournament took place in St. Joseph. Wagner was named to the all-tournament team.

Luverne Redbirds/continued from page 8

nings to jump out to an early 5-0 lead.

The Redbirds tacked on one more run in the top of the fourth to make it a 6-0 ballgame.

Heron Lake scored their lone run of the game in the bottom half of the fourth inning to make it a 6-1 Luverne lead.

In the top of the sixth inning, the Redbirds blew the game wide open with a five-run inning.

Ben Serie pitched all six innings for the Redbirds and recorded 10 strikeouts and surrendered just two hits.

Luverne 2 0 3 1 0 5
Heron Lake 0 0 0 1 0 0

Hitting: Lundgren 1-5; Paquette 1-3; Johnson 1-3; S. Wenninger 1-3; Serie 1-3; Crabtree 1-3; Beyer 2-4; Nath 2-3
Doubles: Paquette; Johnson; Crabtree; Nath
Home runs: Lundgren
RBI: Lundgren; S. Wenninger 2; Serie; Crabtree 3; Nath 2

Luverne 10, Fox Lake 0

In Game 2 of Sunday's doubleheader, Luverne blanked Fox Lake 10-0.

The Redbirds scored two runs in the first inning and four more runs in the top of the second to take a 6-0 lead.

Luverne scored three



Phil Paquette swings at a pitch during Luverne's matchup against Pipestone.

Jason Berghorst photo/0715 Redbirds

more runs in the bottom of the fourth inning to make it a 9-0 ballgame.

The Redbirds wrapped up the scoring and the game by scoring one run in the bottom of the fifth to make the final score 10-0.

Phil Paquette went 3-3

at the plate with a pair of home runs.

Derek Lundgren pitched all five innings for the win.

The Redbirds will wrap up the regular season on Wednesday when they head to Milroy to take on the Milroy Irish.

Fox Lake 0 0 0 0 0
Luverne 2 4 0 3 1

Hitting: Lundgren 1-1; Nath 1-3; Paquette 3-3; Johnson 3-3
Doubles: Johnson
Home Runs: Paquette 2
RBI: Nath; Paquette 5; Johnson 3

With wolf population booming, questions begin to arise about how to live with them

It is not very often that legislators call me.

I call them regularly, but total solar eclipses are more common than a legislator calling me.

About 20 years ago Sen. Jim Vickerman, a gentleman I really respected, called me about wolves.

A subject that hardly ever comes up in the ag land zones of Minnesota.

Wolves have been listed, then delisted, then listed again about a half dozen times over the past 25 years. The court battles will continue. I am certain of it.

Wolves are back in the spotlight in our state as a result of them being removed from the endangered species list as of January.

So how do wolves impact us in areas of the state that don't have any?

There is no direct impact, but what happens to wolves should still matter to everyone who cares about the state's natural resources.

Taking a hands-off approach leaves the future of wolves up to politicians in St. Paul, and for the exception of a few, many representatives know little about natural resource management.

They listen to their constituents and go with the majority opinion.

As a result, depending on where the representative

THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall, outdoor columnist



lives, you get a bill to outlaw wolf hunting and another bill to man-

date wolf hunting, both of which failed in the last legislative session.

I think wolves are a very cool animal, and they belong on the landscape where proper habitat is available. Minnesota is estimated to have about 2,500 wolves currently.

Only the state of Alaska has more wolves than Minnesota does.

When they went on the endangered species list the first time, it was determined that when wolves' populations had rebounded to 1,600 in the state, they were considered recovered.

As you can see, we are currently 60 percent above the recovered figure.

A few years back during a brief period when wolves were delisted, Minnesota had a wolf hunting and trapping

season and a substantial number were harvested. I think the population at the time was about 3,200.

The anti-hunting crowd will say that no animal should ever be hunted, and that voice is pretty loud and constant.

I, as a hunter, on the other hand, think that populations of all critters need to be managed at a sustainable level determined by biologists and scientists — not by politicians or special interest groups that could be anti-hunting or pro-hunting.

The Minnesota DNR, which currently manages the wolf population, recently announced that decisions won't be made about wolf hunting until their Minnesota wolf plan is updated around March of 2022.

It makes me wonder why they did not start on that effort a little earlier, as the delisting was expected more than a year ago.

So, they are slow out of the starting gate.

This doesn't surprise me when you add in the term government agency,

When I think about wolf hunting, I think about the

livestock producer that loses his or her livelihood one head of cattle or sheep at a time.

These losses are real, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture offers funds to offset those losses.

My second thought is what has happened to the deer herd in Minnesota since wolf numbers have increased substantially.

I hear stories of northern Minnesota deer hunters seeing more wolves during deer season than they saw deer.

Moose populations are also plummeting from only a few decades ago when there were very few wolves in the state.

In the end, deer, moose and livestock all need to be put into the proper formula.

The end result will be a sustainable population of wolves in the state balanced with all of the other competing issues.

How many that is I don't have a clue.

But hunting will likely have a place in that formula.

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 or on Twitter @habitat champion.

Luverne Country Club hosts tournament

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Country Club hosted its annual Member-Guest golf tournament on Friday, July 9 and Saturday, July 10.

The two-day tournament ended with a tie for first place between the teams of Jeremy and Jason Sudenga and Steve Smedsrud and Troy Veld.

The team of Jeremy and Jason Sudenga won the play-off between the two teams to

take home the first place prize.

The team of Jeff Sehr and Derek Ohme placed third.

Fourth place went to Eric Sandbulte and Brad Bergman.

The team of Micky Sehr and Mark Iveland placed fifth.

Cody Hemme and Adam Gruis finished in sixth place.

The seventh-place team was Matt Reverts and Adam Von Beren.

All-State Softball/from page 8

"I'm athletically capable of playing multiple positions," Connell said. "I'm just locked in when I'm out there. I think I can play wherever. It's fun to play multiple positions. It's fun to get to play shortstop, third base or even outfield. I'll play wherever the team needs me."

Connell's love for the game of softball is due to it being the ultimate team sport.

"You can't do it yourself," Connell said. "You have to pick up your teammates when they make an error and vice versa. Nobody can have a huge impact on the game. You can get one single, but nobody else gets a hit, you

don't score. I just love that it's the ultimate team sport."

Connell plays softball in the summer and in the fall for club leagues.

This spring will be her final season as a member of the Luverne Cardinals.

"We are going to be a young team," Connell said.

"The goal is to set up the younger players to help our program down the road. They are a talented bunch. They beat Pipestone as junior varsity players. I hope for them to beat them at the varsity level and make a run at the state tournament and become section champions this spring."



Submitted photo

Jordan Papik of Papik Motors (left, with his son Chandler Papik) presents a check to Luverne Community Education summer rec director Jon Schomacker as part of the national Chevrolet Youth Baseball program. The local dealership also donated equipment bags, first aid kits, batting tees and ball buckets.

Papik Motors supports local baseball

Papik Motors is partnering with the national Chevrolet Youth Baseball program to support ball programs through Luverne Community Education.

The local dealership recently presented a check to Luverne Community Education and donated equipment bags, first aid kits, batting tees and ball buckets.

"Playing baseball and softball helps kids develop skills like leadership, cooperation and sportsmanship while bringing families and communities together to show their support," said Micky Sehr, fixed

operations manager at Papik Motors.

"Chevrolet believes in the power of play as a way for young people to build the skills needed to be successful in the future and supports the spirit of teamwork that baseball and softball instills in its players."

Sponsored leagues across the country can earn additional funds through the Chevrolet Youth Baseball program when community members take test drives at their partnering dealerships.

For more information see chevrolet.com/youthsports.com.



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Star Herald CHURCH

Page 10 July 15, 2021

St. Catherine Catholic Church

203 E. Brown St., Luverne

St. Catherine Ph. 283-8502; www.stscl.org
Monsignor Gerald Kosse, Pastor

Sundays 8:30 a.m. Mass. Public Mass will be celebrated at FULL capacity in the church. Masses: 9 a.m. Wednesdays, 10 a.m. Friday at the nursing homes – check the bulletin. All Sunday masses will be live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/stcluverne/videos/>. Visit www.stscl.org for more information.

Luverne Christian Reformed Church

605 N. Estey St., Luverne

Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982
www.luverneccrc.com — office@luverneccrc.com

Roger Sparks, Pastor

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

First Baptist Church

1033 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne

Ph. 283-4091; email: fbcluv@iw.net — www.fbcluverne.org
Walt Moser, Pastor

Sundays, 10:30 a.m. In-person worship service. Service is also on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church

500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-4431; www.graceluverne.org
graceluverne@iw.net

Ann Zastrow, Pastor

Dave Christenson, Interim Pastor

Thursday, July 15: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Saturday, July 17: 5:30 p.m. Worship service with Holy Communion. Sunday, July 18: 9 a.m. Worship service with Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Fellowship coffee and treats. Monday, July 19: Grace notes deadline. Youth Valley Fair trip. Tuesday, July 20: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, July 21: 7 a.m. Men's Bible study. 7:30 a.m. Mom's Bible study at Wildflowers. 8:15 a.m. Caring visitor's meeting. Thursday, July 22: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are available. Online: Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church

720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-4571 or 605-215-9834
pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com

Andrew Palmquist, Pastor

Sundays, 10:15 a.m. Worship service; worship online as well (at els.org). Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne) for other classes and events.

American Reformed Church

304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne

Ph. 283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org
Mike Altena, Pastor

Friday, July 16: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible study. Sunday, July 18: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. Tuesday, July 20: 7 p.m. Consistory meeting. Services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

Rock River Community Church

(formerly First Assembly of God)

1075 110th Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4

Ph. 612-800-1255; email info@rockrivercommunity.church

Bob Junak, Pastor; Annette Junak, Assistant Pastor

Sundays, 9 a.m. Sunday school; 10 a.m. Worship service. Children's church for ages 3-6th grade and nursery for ages 0-3 provided during our services. Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Worship service. All services are in-person and all are welcome.

United Methodist Church

109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne

Ph. 283-4529; email: luverneumc@iw.net

Friday, July 16: 10:30 a.m. Leave for Inspiration Hills Retreat. Saturday, July 17: 8 p.m. AA meeting. Sunday, July 18: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Worship service and live streamed on Facebook and radio. 11 a.m. Streamed worship from Inspiration Hills Retreat Center. 4:30 p.m. Genesis to Revelation Bible study. Monday, July 19: 7 p.m. Lay Leadership meeting. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Tuesday, July 20: 6 p.m. Trustees meeting. 6:30 p.m. Church council meeting. Wednesday, July 21: 6:30 p.m. Rocky Railway FUEL Fun Nigh. 8 p.m. AA meeting.

First Presbyterian Church

302 Central Lane, Luverne

Ph. 283-4787; email: Firstpc@iw.net — www.fpcluverne.com

Jason Cunningham, Pastor

Sunday, July 18: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. In-person Worship service and live on Facebook. 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. Wednesday, July 21: No deacons. 6 p.m. Church picnic.

St. John Lutheran Church

803 N. Cedar St., Luverne

Ph. 283-2316; email: stjohn@iw.net
www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Booe, Pastor

Saturday, July 17: 5:30 p.m. Worship. Sunday, July 18: 9 a.m. Worship service. Services will be available on the Vast Channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, cityofluverne.org.

Living Rock Church

500 E. Main St., Luverne

Ph. 449-0057; www.livingrockswmn.org

Billy Skaggs, Pastor

New Life Celebration Church

101 W. Maple, Luverne

Ph. 449-6522; email: newlifecelcbration@gmail.com

Food mission every third Thursday.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

305 E. 2nd St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick

Ph. (507) 669-2855; zionoffice@alliancecom.net

Jesse Baker, Pastor

Ben Clare United Methodist Church

26762 Ben Clare Ave., Valley Springs, S.D.

igtwlb@WOW.net

Bill Bates, Pastor

First Lutheran Church

300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.

Ph. (605) 757-6662

Mark Eliason, Pastor

Sunday, July 18: 10 a.m. Joint worship at First Lutheran. Masks are no longer required if fully vaccinated. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFeU4>

Palisade Lutheran Church

211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.

Ph. (507) 597-6257 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net

Mark Eliason, Pastor

Sunday, July 18: 10 a.m. 10 a.m. Joint worship at First Lutheran. Masks are no longer required if fully vaccinated. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook. Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFeU4>

First Presbyterian Church

201 S. 3rd St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek

Ph. 507-935-5025

email: lori.firstpres@gmail.com

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. Second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Session meeting.

Magnolia United Methodist Church

501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia

Ph. 605-215-3429

email: magnoliannumc@gmail.com

Nancy Manning, Pastor

Sunday, 9 a.m., in-person with livestream available on the church's Facebook site.

Steen Reformed Church

112 W. Church Ave., Steen

Ph. 855-2336

Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor

Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship service in-person with livestream available on Facebook and YouTube. Radio worship on KQAD Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

112 N. Main St., Hills

Ph. 962-3270

Nita Parker, Pastor

Sunday, July 18: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Home. 9:30 a.m. Youth time. 10 a.m. Worship service at Bethlehem with Holy Communion. VBS program during worship. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website blchills.org. Tuesday, July 20: 2 p.m. Tuff Home Bible study. 3:15 p.m. Tuff Village Bible study. Wednesday, July 21: 9 a.m. Quilting.

Hills United Reformed Church

410 S. Central Ave., Hills

Office Ph. 962-3254

hillsurc@alliancecom.net

Alan Camarigg, Pastor

Summer worship is 'in person'

With so many activities happening in the summer, a gradual move back to "normal," and people going out again to do the things that they have been unable to do for almost two years, worship may once again take a back seat.

Summer is upon us, and with the full swing into a summer season, I'd like to share a few words about summer worship.

When I was in junior high school, I couldn't wait until summer! It seemed that every single weekend brought new adventures and other things to do. Unfortunately, they were things that directly interfered with a very important joy that I had grown up with – going to church on Sunday morning.

It was summer, and for whatever the reasons, church started to feel less important than being with my friends or going to the lake. I know it hurt my parents, but of course I was the one who knew everything! Sadly, there is no age limit to this change of attitude. It took a new pastor who came to our church to again show me how important church was – even for a ninth-grader. My next three years in high school were nothing short of magical because everything revolved around worship!

In his meaning to the Third Commandment, Martin Luther wrote, "We are to fear and love God so that we do not neglect God's word or the preaching of it. But regard it as holy, and gladly hear and learn it. This is most certainly true!"

We forget sometimes that one of the most important things that we can do not only

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Ann
Zastrow, Grace
Lutheran Church,
Luverne

*I know there
are many other
things to do —
especially this
summer, but I
also know that
God wants to see
you in church!*

for ourselves, but also for our children, is to take them to God's house often. God reminded us when He gave us the Ten Commandments the importance of hearing and not neglecting His word. You have no idea of the many benefits we receive when we worship together. These can be life changing – but only if we are present.

In his book, "Life Together," (A Discussion of Christian Fellowship) martyred German Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer talked about that special feeling that can only happen when Christians come together.

"The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer. The believer feels no shame, as though he were still living too much in the flesh, when he yearns for the presence of other Christians," he wrote. ("Life Together" pg. 19)

I know there are many other things to do – especially this summer, but I also know that God wants to see you in church!

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

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Notice of public hearing for Capital Improvement Plan

ROCK COUNTY, MINNESOTA

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON APPROVAL OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND THE ISSUANCE OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN BONDS PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 373.40

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Rock County, Minnesota (the County), will meet at 9:00 AM on August 03, at the Rock County Courthouse, 204 E. Brown Street, Luverne, Minnesota, to conduct a public hearing to obtain public comment on the County's intention to approve the County's Capital Improvement Plan (the CIP) and issue capital improvement plan bonds (the Bonds) in an amount not to exceed \$21,836,249 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 373.40, for the purpose of financing the construction of various capital improvements identified in the CIP.

If a petition requesting a vote on the issuance of the Bonds is given by voters equal to five percent of the votes cast in the County at the last general election and filed with the County Auditor/Treasurer within thirty (30) days after the public hearing, the County may issue the Bonds only after obtaining the approval of a majority of the voters voting on the question of issuing the Bonds.

Copies of the proposed CIP and resolution are on file and may be inspected at the Rock County Courthouse during normal business hours. All interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing or to provide written comments to the undersigned, which written comments will be considered at the hearing.

Questions regarding this matter may be referred to Kyle Oldre, Administrator at (507) 283-5065. Auxiliary aids are available upon request at least 96 hours in advance of the hearing. Please contact the County at (507) 283-5065 to make arrangements.

BY ORDER OF THE COUNTY BOARD ROCK COUNTY, MINNESOTA
/s/ Kyle Oldre
County Administrator
(07-15, 07-22)

Robinson descent of property

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ROCK

DISTRICT COURT
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Court File No.: 67-PR-21-126

In Re: Estate of

William F. Robinson
a.k.a. W. F. Robinson and
Billee G. Robinson,
Decedents

**NOTICE OF AND ORDER FOR
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
DECREE OF DESCENT AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

A Petition for Decree of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition repre-

sents that the Decedents died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota, and requests the probate of the Decedent's last will, if any, and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

It is hereby Ordered, and Notice is given, that on August 2, 2021, at 8:30 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at Luverne, Minnesota, via Zoom, on a Petition for Decree of Descent in the Estates of William F. Robinson a.k.a. W. F. Robinson and Billee G. Robinson as consolidated pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 525.311 (7).

Any objections to the petition must be raised at the hearing or filed with the Court prior to the hearing. If the petition is proper and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

Notice shall be given to all interested persons and persons who have filed a demand for notice. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order for Hearing as provided by law and by mailing a copy of this Notice and Order for Hearing at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: June 29, 2021

DAVENPORT EVANS HURWITZ & SMITH, LLP
Mark R. Krogstad
Minnesota Atty. No. 0391223
206 West 14th Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57401
Telephone: 605-336-2880
Facsimile: 605-335-3639
e-mail: mkrogstad@dehs.com

/s/ Terry S. Vajrt
District Court Judge
/s/ Natalie Reisch
Court Administrator
/s/ Jennifer Thode

(07-08, 07-15)

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Non-certified application form available at
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Luverne Public Schools, 709 North Kniss Avenue, Luverne, MN 56156.
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Tom Houselog retires from Rock County Recorder's Office/continued from page 1

change for us," Oldre said. "They used to do all paper, books and cards, and now he's got them all digitized. ... His whole field has really changed."

Houselog said the automation improves efficiencies and accuracies and results in better outcomes for staff and taxpayers.

"For assessing, we can basically compute values in a fraction of the time it used to take," he said.

"And that allows us to spend more time knocking on doors in the public to make sure the information

we used in the calculation is accurate."

Recording and assessing

Houselog assisted with consolidating the county recorder's office and assessor's office, and he steered the combined workforce through employee shortages when assessors became hard to find.

The Land Records Office records real estate transactions and handles birth certificates, marriage records and other vital records.

But assessing work — placing value on a home, barn and other structures

for property tax purposes — requires the most manpower, especially since the county assesses thousands of parcels.

In 2017 the state mandated that anyone who appraises or physically inspects real estate for property tax purposes must have an Accredited Minnesota Assessor license by July 1, 2022.

The four-year accreditation involves completing about 400 hours of continuing education plus successful completion of each of the tests, submitting a qualified residential narrative form

report and passing a comprehensive appraisal exam.

This prompted many part-timers to give up their assessing work, and townships and small cities were unable to attract and pay accredited assessors.

Small governments turned to the county for assessing services, which counties by law must provide. With the additional townships and cities, the county increased its assessing load from roughly 3,400 parcels to more than double that number.

somebody's mad, correlating valuation with taxes. And yet he's handled it, I think, in an incredibly professional way."

He said part of Houselog's success in the field can be attributed to his humble demeanor and patient explanation of processes.

"He tries to educate people on how he came to the number he came to and he's had great success with that," Oldre said.

"I think that's reflected by the few people who come to the board of reviews and board of equalization meetings."

Houselog returned the compliment. "It makes the job easier when you have good support from your administrator and commissioners," he said. "They have been fantastic to work with."

Meanwhile he's found satisfaction in the improvements over the years.

"I wanted to leave the office better than when I got there — not that things were in total disarray, but I think we all want that in our careers," he said.

"I wanted to leave it better for the staff and better for the public."

meeting, when they also discussed plans to replace him.

Oldre said in order to do Houselog's job, a person needs to be a "Senior Accredited Minnesota Assessor."

The three people who work with Houselog in the Land Records Office are Jeff Sehr, Scott Adams and Rachel Jacobs.

Sehr has his certification as a senior accredited Minnesota assessor, and the other two are certified Minnesota assessors, but Oldre said they could all three qualify for the director's position with proper training.

Houselog pledged to do what he can to help with the transition as he leaves.

He and his wife of 45 years, Cindy, live in Pipestone. They have three children and seven grandchildren (six of them boys, and the youngest a girl).

Cindy retired June 1 from her 27-year career with the Pipestone Family Clinic where she worked as Patient Services Manager.

At 68, Houselog's last day in the Rock County Courthouse will be at the end of July.

"It's hard to leave a job you love," he said. "I loved meeting the taxpayers and the people coming in the Land Record Office."

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Rock County STAR HERALD

Thursday, July 15 starting at 5 p.m.

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'Incredibly professional'

Despite these accomplishments Houselog was most concerned about his office's relationship with the people it served.

"My goal from Day 1 has been to restore integrity and openness to this office, and hope that I have done so," he said in his resignation letter.

Oldre said Houselog has been a credit to his profession, carrying out the often unpopular task of assessing property values for the purpose of taxation.

"It's a difficult job," Oldre said. "Every year

Replacing experience

The County Commissioners accepted Houselog's resignation at their July 6

meeting, when they also discussed plans to replace him.

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6:00 pm at Big Top Tents & Events
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- Take 16 Brewing Featuring: Kalea Jordan from 5-8pm
- Big Top Tents & Events Featuring: Casey Muessigmann from 8-11pm

4 -7:00 pm FARMERS MARKET AT REDBIRD FIELD

4 -7:30 pm FREE INFLATABLES

- Main Street - between Palace & Manitou
- Big Top Tent & Events - 321 W. Hatting

5:30 pm "SUMMER SPRINKLE ON MAIN"

- By Luverne Fire Department

6:00 pm TAE KWON DO DEMONSTRATIONS

- On Main between Freeman & Cedar

6:30 pm SPOTLIGHT DANCE PERFORMANCE

- On Main between Cedar & McKenzie

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