



Luverne Softball Association hosts 'Bash-A-Rama' fast-pitch tourney ... See page 8A

Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, July 22, 2021

Hills to crack down on nuisance junk in town

By Mavis Fodness

Notifications will be mailed to about 300 residents and property owners in the city of Hills directing them to clean up their properties.

The letters inform them that they could face fines and possible cleanup at their own expense.

Deadline is Oct. 1.

Councilors reviewed a letter drafted by city attorney Paul Vis outlining the cleanup process.

"I like the way it is written — it's very clear," said Hills City Council member Stacen Burgers.

The council voted unanimously to move forward with possible legal action brought against offenders. Councilor Vickie Busswitz was not present at the July 13 city council meeting.

The city has repeatedly sent written notifications to residents and property owners about various items left on lawns throughout the city.

The majority of items are in violation of the city's nuisance ordinance adopted by councilors in 2013.

Instead of another mailing from the city, councilors are instructing their attorney to do the talking.

"Many residents have responded positively to communications regarding the ordinance, and the city of Hills thanks you for your efforts," Vis wrote. "Unfortunately, there have been some offenders who have not complied to the applicable city ordinance."

Discussions between councilors revealed violators are primarily renters of homes in the city and they are being asked to "remove all unlicensed, uninsured, inoperable vehicles, yard debris, garbage, waste, etc." from their property.

Landlords/property owners will bear the expense if the city cleans the property.

"If no action is taken after the citation is given, the city will arrange to have your property cleaned at the owner's expense; the cost of the cleaning up of your property will be assessed to your property taxes," Vis wrote.



Connor and Daxton Mann enjoy free hotdogs while wiener dog Dixie shows off her tutu and hat.

Hot Diggity Dog!

Crowds flood streets for 59th Hot Dog Night

Merchants thank customers with 12,000 free franks and more

Luverne celebrated its 59th annual Hot Dog Night on July 15 with merchants sharing more than 12,000 free hot dogs plus creative toppings and side dishes.

After a pandemic 2020 summer of limited parties, it seemed the 2021 Hot Dog Night was bigger and better than ever.

Chamber Director Jane Lanphere thanked the businesses who participated and reflected on the origins of

Luverne Hot Dog Night/continued on page 12A

Star Herald
Photos and text
By Lori Sorenson



Crowds gather on Luverne's Main Street Thursday, July 15, for Luverne's 59th Annual Hot Dog Night.

Beaver Creek has elevated manganese in city water

Mineral has been there for years, but new tests show manganese level five times what's thought to be safe for infants

By Lori Sorenson

The city of Beaver Creek learned this summer that manganese levels in its city drinking water are five times the level determined safe for infants by the Minnesota Department of Health.

Water softeners and treatment systems reduce manganese to safe levels

Recent MDH tests show manganese in Beaver Creek's water at 500 micrograms per liter.

For households with infants who drink untreated tap water, up to 100 micrograms of manganese per liter of water is considered safe.

If everyone in the household is more than one year old, a safe level of manganese in the water is 300 micrograms per liter.

At their July 14 meeting, Beaver Creek council members considered the information.

According to city maintenance director Travis Helgeson, there isn't a change in the manganese level in city water; it's just that the Health Department now tests for the mineral in its regular inspections.

It's unclear how long the mineral has been elevated, but Helgeson said the city's water is basically the same today as it's been for years.

Health Department officials haven't directed the city to change course on its water treatment, but they recommend residents be notified of the findings.

At their July 14 meeting, council members directed city clerk Jane Blank to include a letter in the next utility bill with information about the manganese

Beaver Creek water/see 2A

Where's the beef?

4-H'ers practice for next week's fair

By Mavis Fodness

Adults and older 4-H'ers gathered Sunday night at the Rock County Fairgrounds in Luverne to show an eager group of youth how to work with beef animals prior to next week's county fair.

Magnolia Juniors 4-H member Justin Mente suggested the practice evening with fellow club members and invited other beef project participants to the 90-minute session in the horse arena.

He asked his older brother and former 4-H'er, Trevor, to help while he performed duties as the livestock judge.

The Mente brothers showed 4-H'ers how to groom, tie and teach their animals how to lead



Mavis Fodness photo/0722 Beef Clinic

Livestock superintendents Dave Mente (right) and Dallas Knobloch help Camdyn Broesder with his beef calf Sunday night.

Beef show practice/see 3A

Historic Hills landmark to be demolished next month

By Mavis Fodness

Owners of the former Hills Co-Op Creamery Association building received permission to tear down the brick and sandstone structure next month.

Kris Gagnon purchased the 68-by-68-foot building five years ago to house salvaged lumber for his Banking Barns business.

He told Hills City Council members July 13 of his plans and requested permits to tear down the two-story building on West Third Street.

"The building is not safe anymore. There's been too much ice and water damage over the years," Gagnon said, adding that he'll salvage some materials from the demolished structure.

Contractor Spencer Schenk with Stone Hill Excavation of

"The building is not safe anymore. There's been too much ice and water damage over the years."

— Kris Gagnon, building owner

Sioux Falls, who attended the meeting with Gagnon, will handle the removal and cleanup of the half-acre site.

He asked about capping sewer and water service to the property with an understanding that one

Hills creamery demo/see 5A



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Bonnema Page 7A Public notices 9A

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How to reach us

507-283-2333 PO Box 837
editor@star-herald.com Luverne, MN 56156

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Springwater Township Board will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday Aug. 3, in the township hall.

Parkinson Support Group will meet from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 5, at Poplar Creek apartments in Luverne. Masks must be worn.

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.

Community meal July 28

The United Methodist Church will offer its Wednesday Night Free Community Meal at 5:30 p.m. July 28 at 109 N. Freeman. Pick-up option is available. Call 507-283-4529.

School open for 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 Luverne Elementary School office will open Aug. 2 and the phone number is 507-283-4497.

Community Ed announcements

Luverne Community Education is closed for the final two weeks of July and will reopen Aug. 2. Registrations for the following classes can be taken at that time. Call 507-283-4724 to sign up.

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.

Kids in the Kitchen for grades K-8 includes **Bakery Fun** Aug. 19. Fee is \$16/child.

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.

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. Call the library, 507-449-5040, or email rocklibstaff@gmail.com.

•Story Time at the Park with children's librarian Bronwyn Wenzel is at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 27, Hawkinson Park, East Adams Avenue. Bring a chair or blanket.

•Zoo Man at 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.

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.

Jarvie, Rock County Library chosen for rural library fellowship program

By Mavis Fodness

Library director Calla Jarvie and the Rock County Library are among 22 rural library fellows selected nationwide to improve third-grade reading outcomes in rural communities.

"The Rural Library Initiative will provide an invaluable opportunity to cultivate libraries as change-makers and libraries as key partners in their communities," said Regina Washington, director of Rural Impact Networks at Partners for Education.

Jarvie will participate in peer consultation, leadership development and coaching, and she will receive funding to implement the strategies they develop.

She'll attend training though twice monthly webinars and one-on-one consultations.

"Libraries in rural areas are uniquely positioned to serve as community anchors for young learners," said Lesley Graham with Save the Children, who is sponsoring the fellowship.

"We're confident the Rural Library Fellows will have the tools, skills and resources they need to build lifelong learners and set children up for success."

The fellowship will operate for two years, through June 2023.

The first year focuses on capacity building and



Mavis Fodness photo/0722 People Jarvie Fellowship

Library director Calla Jarvie holds books appropriate for readers at the third-grade level. Jarvie and the Rock County Library are among 22 rural libraries in 19 states selected to improve third-grade reading outcomes in rural communities. The Rural Library Initiative is a two-year program through Save the Children and Partners for Education.

training. The second year focuses on implementing plans created by librarians in each community.

There are 22 librarians in 19 states who will participate in the fellowship program.

Jarvie said she is excited about working with local third-grade teachers in

developing an action plan to help students improve their reading.

"I don't know in what capacity yet," she said. "But that is part of the plan."

Research indicates children who have not mastered the mechanics of reading by the end of third

grade face significant barriers to higher education access and success.

Research also shows students who lack reading mastery are four more times likely to drop out of high school compared with their peers who read proficiently when they finished third grade.

Beaver Creek manganese in water/continued from page 1A

level in the city's drinking water.

"As a council we need to consider everyone's health," said council member Pat Bender. "In all fairness, we need to notify everybody."

Manganese occurs naturally in groundwater across Minnesota.

Based on a recent MDH study, groundwater in southeastern Minnesota tends to have low levels of manganese (below 50 micrograms per liter).

Southwestern Minnesota tends to have higher levels — some over 1,000 micrograms per liter. Beaver Creek's is at 500 — which the health department considers to be unsafe for infants and questionable for adults.

Although public water systems are not required to test for manganese, MDH estimates about 90 percent of community public drinking water systems have levels of manganese below 100 micrograms per liter.

About 3 percent of Minnesota's community public water systems have levels above 300, so Beaver Creek's water at 500 has more manganese than most Minnesota cities.



Lori Sorenson photo/0722 beaver creek tower

Beaver Creek's 50,000-gallon water tower, pictured July 14, was painted this summer. The council opted to keep the same light blue color, because it was less likely to fade.

"As a council we need to consider everyone's health. In all fairness, we need to notify everybody."

— Pat Bender, council member

Water softeners, filters reduce manganese

An important consideration is that

water softeners and many household water treatment units reduce manganese to safe levels, and the

city letter to Beaver Creek residents will include that tip.

Helgeson told that council that he requested the MDH test homes in Beaver Creek with softened water, and the result was that manganese levels in the treated water were drastically reduced.

Drinking water with high levels of manganese can be harmful for human health, but taking a bath or a shower in it is not.

Manganese in water can stain laundry, cause scaling on plumbing and make drinking water look, smell or taste bad.

Helgeson told council members that when Beaver Creek used Rock County Rural Water for two weeks, the new splash pad had noticeably less staining on the deck.

The city has since started softening the water used at the splash pad.

Buying rural water is an option, as is treating the drinking water, and the city may consider cost options for each.

For now, though, the only immediate action will be to inform city residents of the manganese levels in the drinking water and encourage water softeners and home water treatment options.

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Minnesota enters drought warning phase

DNR and partners implement next steps in state's drought response

With 52 percent of Minnesota now experiencing severe drought and 4 percent in extreme drought, the state has entered the drought warning phase.

With this designation, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and others are taking additional steps.

Current drought information, including details on areas subject to surface water use suspensions, is available on DNR's website.

The warning phase for drought occurs when a significant portion of the state passes thresholds for severe drought conditions at major watersheds.

We have reached this threshold. The warning phase for public water suppliers using the Mississippi River is also triggered when stream flows in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area have dropped below designated levels.

We expect this threshold to be tripped in the coming days. The thresholds for drought watch and warning conditions are specified in the Minnesota Statewide Drought Plan.

Actions that are triggered in a drought warning include:

- Convening the State Drought Task Force, a panel of state, federal, regional and local experts with water-related responsibilities. The Task Force was last convened in 2012.

- Notifying water appropriators with DNR permits that they should follow water conservation measures, such as reducing landscape irrigation, using more efficient irrigation equipment, and checking for and repairing water leaks.

- Notifying public water suppliers to implement their water-use reduction actions. Residents and landowners should watch for communications from municipal or public water supplier for details on local water use reduction actions and restrictions.

- Temporarily suspending or modifying some water appropriations in response to low stream flow conditions as necessary.

As of July 15, the DNR has suspended water appropriations in 10 watersheds. Suspension of more surface water appropriations is expected, unless there is a dramatic change in the current precipitation pattern.

Under current conditions, it will take at least three to five inches of precipitation spread over a period of about two weeks to significantly alleviate the drought.

Soils are more efficiently replenished by multiple rainfall events than by any single heavy rainfall event. Surface water and groundwater respond somewhat differently over time.

Drought is a naturally occurring feature of Minnesota's climate. Some level of moderate and severe drought typically occurs in the state almost every year for at least a few weeks.

Most severe drought in Minnesota is short-lived, but drought in Minnesota does occasionally enter the extreme intensity classification.

"DNR is taking the drought seriously. We have a robust plan in place, strong partnerships across the state, and continue to take actions to respond to the current situation," said DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen.

"We understand that people are seeing the impacts of the drought in

Minnesota drought/see page 12A



Mavis Fodness photo/0722 Beef Clinic

Rock County 4-H beef project members practice leading their animals in a showmanship clinic Sunday night at the Rock County Fairgrounds. Nine 4-H'ers and one Clover Bud attended the event to prepare for next week's county fair.

Beef showmanship practice at fairgrounds/continued from page 1A



and pose for the judge. They also explained show ring etiquette in preparation for the Friday, July 30, beef show.

The show begins at 8 a.m. in the indoor arena.

"The more practice you have and the more practice the calf has, the better the calf and you will be," Trevor advised.

Nine 4-H'ers and one Clover Bud (future 4-H'er) participated in the outdoor practice session.

Former 4-H'er and beef project participant Michael Kinsinger demonstrated the correct way to show cattle.

According to county Extension educator Kelsey Maeschen, 27 4-H'ers have signed up for the beef show with 40 cattle expected on the grounds.



"The more practice you have and the more practice the calf has, the better the calf and you will be."

— Trevor Mente, volunteer and former Rock County 4-H member

Above left, Trevor Mente explains the proper length to trim the hair on the heifer's tail.

In the photo at left, Donavon Leenderts (right) walks his calf out of line while Dakotah Sina (center) brings her calf back into position under the instruction of Trevor Mente.

Below left, Cloverbud Kallista VanGrootheest holds the lead rope as 4-H'er Lanae Elbers leads Bubbles Sunday night during a 4-H beef project practice.



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Thank you!

During the remodeling of the new ATLAS building, one item identified on the wants/needs list was automatic door openers for the Redeemed Remnants store. We were honored to receive a grant from the Luverne Area Foundation that paid for the entire project. These openers are used for improved handicapped accessibility, as well as consumers with full hands. ATLAS would like to say a big thank you to the LACF for their continued work to benefit Rock County residents.

ATLAS Board, Staff and Volunteers



Love the life you're in; the ride's too short to imagine a different path

Our sports reporter is leaving the Star Herald to move with his wife to



ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

Portland, Oregon.

It's a beautiful part of the country where they met each other and where their close friends live. And, he said, "We'd like to do some things while we're still young and before we have children."

He assured me he's not leaving because his editor got after him about missing box scores and photos with feet cropped off.

Since his announcement Wednesday, I've pondered my own adventures "while I was still young and before I had children."

My first was born when I was 27, so I had adequate time to "do some things while I was still young and before I had children."

They were the usual post-college, 20-something experiences, but looking back, my real adventures started when children arrived.

My already busy and fulfilling life suddenly became a closed chapter titled, "Before Children."

The new chapter, "With Children," made me wonder what I was so busy doing before I was put in charge of two little humans.

The baby and toddler stages became tooth fairy and preschool stages, which then turned into soccer, little league, piano lessons, taekwon do and other life stages of growing children.

And one day the high school sports, music and prom stage turned into the graduation and college stage, and here we are, wondering

why time seems to be going so fast.

These, my friends, are adventures — at least that's how they feel to me, both thrilling and terrifying at the same time. ... Mostly because there's no way to put the brakes on the roller coaster.

There's no getting off; you hang on tight and enjoy the ride until it's over. We're all heading to the same place; some of us will just get there sooner.

And if we're paying attention, we'll learn from the highs and lows. We'll stop anticipating what's around the next bend and we'll enjoy today.

It's fun to look back at the tracks we've made and wonder how life would be different if we'd turned left rather than right.

What if I'd accepted the job offer that required travel? Or, what if I'd followed a career path to a larger metro news outlet?

Would I be happy? Probably. But it's hard to imagine the might-have-beens.

I hardly remember life before children, and I'll never know where the path without them may have led.

But I'm acutely aware that this is the only earthly life I get, and do-overs aren't an option.

So I can either dwell on regrets (yes, there are a few), or be grateful for my blessings (which are too many to count).

I wish you well, Brennen and Madison, regardless of the adventures that lie ahead. Enjoy the ride wherever it takes you.

Next week's county fair brings more to see, do — don't miss it

A year after the Rock County Fair was canceled in the pandemic, this year's event will be one to remember and enjoy.

Included in this week's Star Herald is a special Fair Preview section which spotlights a few highlights of the July 28-31 event.

However, there are more events than we had space in our newspaper to write about.

For a day-by-day listing of events, make sure you check out page 11 in the preview section. Better yet, just choose a day and spend it at the fair.

It will be safe to attend, according to fair organizers.

Because the coronavirus is still among us, a regular schedule is set up to daily clean and sanitize all of the buildings. Handwashing stations are available at each building entrance. If you're so inclined, disposable facial masks are also available free to the public.

Did we mention that the fair is now a FOUR-day event?

For years, local 4-H'ers participated in two livestock shows Wednesday nights. It's nice to see some events planned to encour-

age the public to drop in at the fairgrounds to see the rabbits and poultry in action.

In the words of ag society president Adam Kinsinger, come to the fair to "pet a goat, walk through livestock barns, watch pigs race for Oreos, listen to music on the patio, get something from the eat stand, have a dish of ice cream, ride some carnival rides ..."

That list of experiences goes on.

If you can't find something of interest at the fair, you're not looking hard enough.

Our Fair Preview features interviews with the Farm Family of the Year and Rock County Century Farm families. They will be recognized by the ag society members Friday night in a special ceremony.

There is nothing quite like a

small county fair, and we think ours is getting better every year.

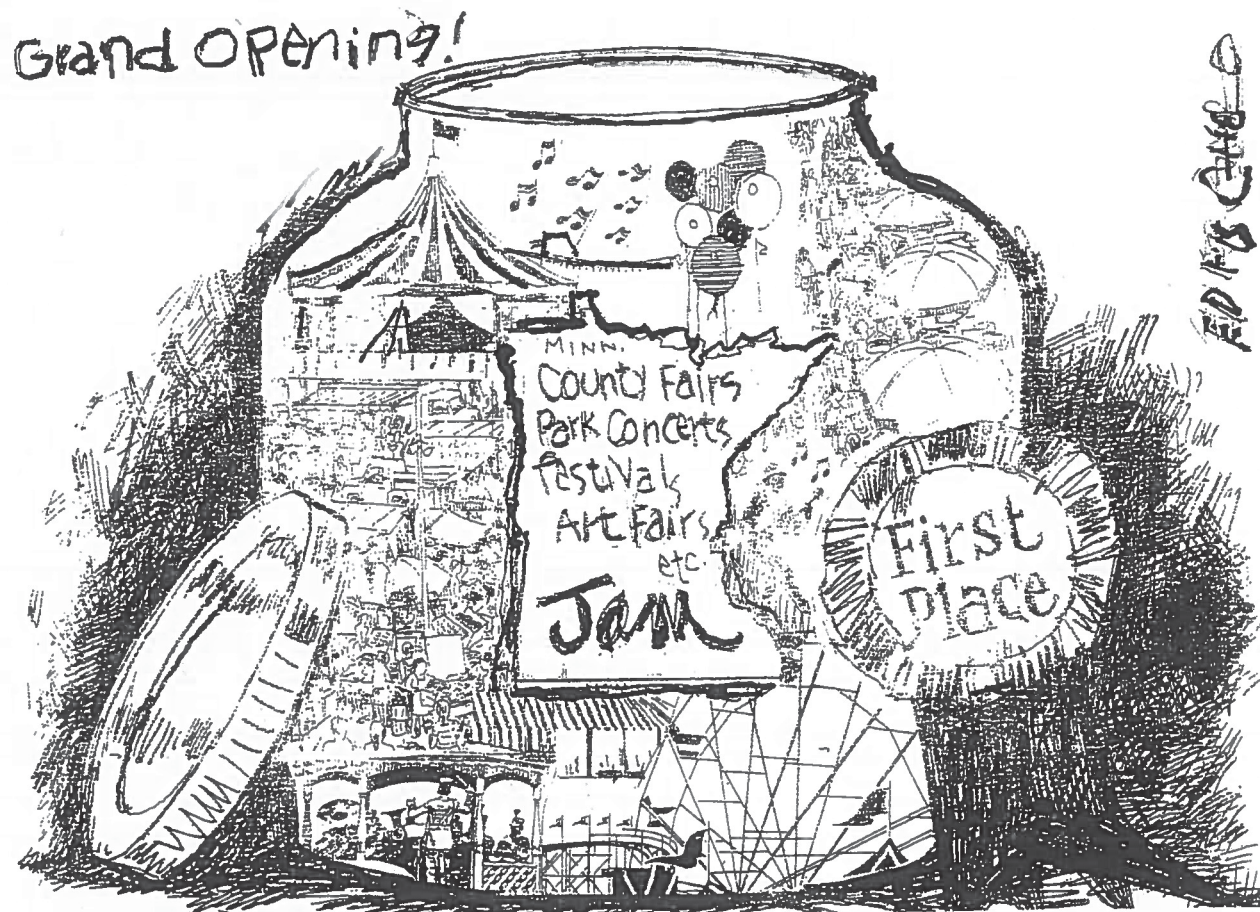
As some summer fairs decline, the Rock County Fair continues growing, adapting and improving.

For that enthusiasm and hard work, we thank all our fair board members. You can thank them too — they wear embroidered charcoal colored polo shirts with "Rock County Ag Society" during the event.

With grandstand shows, free entertainment, food vendors, animal shows, floral hall exhibits, there's more than enough to see and do.

At the Star Herald, we look forward to showcasing the events and winners from next week's fair in coming editions of the print edition and online.

In the meantime, plan your visit to next week's Rock County Fair.



'Notice of sale' necessary when selling a vehicle privately; form available online

Question: I junked two vehicles about 30 days ago and have only received one "Junk Certificate" in the mail. I contacted the DVS with the vehicle identification number in question and they have no record of the vehicle being junked and told me to contact the repair shop. I contacted the repair shop that I mailed the signed title to, and they said they have taken care of it. I do not want to get into any sort of legal trouble with this and am wondering what other actions if any I should take to ensure the vehicle was actually scrapped or if once I signed and mailed the title to them I have no more legal responsibility for the vehicle.



ASK A TROOPER

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol

Answer: If you sold your vehicle to a licensed motor vehicle dealer, you don't have to do anything.

There are many different types of Minnesota licensed dealers: for example, new, used, scrap metal, wholesaler, broker, lessor, auction, salvage pool and used parts.

If a vehicle is sold to a private

individual or any non-licensed entity, you would be required to fill out a "notice of sale" within 10 days of the sale date. The bottom of the title contains the "notice of sale." It can either be filled out and mailed to Minnesota Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS), or be completed online. [https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/Pages/dvs-](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/Pages/dvs-content-detail.aspx?pageID=642)

[content-detail.aspx?pageID=642](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/dvs/Pages/dvs-content-detail.aspx?pageID=642)

It is common that a dealer may hold two different licenses: for example, a used and scrap metal dealer license. In this case the dealer may buy vehicles that people are junking out. If the dealer junks the vehicle out, they have reporting requirements, which includes notifying the state of Minnesota the vehicle is "junked." If the dealer decides the vehicle is worth fixing instead of junking, they would then report to the state of Minnesota that the vehicle is "held for resale" and later resold.

To answer your question about your other specific vehicle, it is currently "held for resale."

This means a licensed, used dealership owns it and plans on reselling the vehicle. Being that a dealership held it for resale, you should not have to do anything.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota toward zero deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic-related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson — Minnesota State Patrol at Statue 169.791 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)

E-mail: editor@star-herald.com Web site: star-herald.com
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Advertising: Chantel Connell Lori Sorenson, editor
Office manager: Deb Lusty Mavis Fodness, reporter
Office assistant: Jennifer Nelson Brennen Rupp, sports reporter
Production: Heather Johnson Esther Frakes, copy editor
Production: Brooke Huisman

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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 9
 •Motorist assistance at the Luverne City Park.

•Subject held on Rock County warrant in Montevideo.

•Complainant on N. Cedar Street and E. Main Street towed vehicle for a parking violation.

•Complainant on 170th Avenue, Edgerton, reported a hay bale fire on a hay rack.

•Complainant on N. Blue Mound Avenue reported a gas smell at location.

•Complainant on 121st Street, Garretson, South Dakota, reported vandalism at location.

July 10
 •Complainant on 251st Street and Railroad Avenue S., Jasper, reported a driving complaint.

•Complainant on W. Main Street reported a man attempting to get into the library.

•Complainant east of 211 21st Street, Jasper, reported seeing black smoke northeast of location.

•Complainant on 251st Street, Jasper, reported hog barn on fire.

•Deputy reported open door on N. Summit Avenue, Hills.

•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a disorderly person.

•Deputy assisted motorist west-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 13, Luverne.

•Complainant on McKenzie Street to Blue Mound, Luverne, reported a power outage.

July 11
 •Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported intoxicated person at location.

•Roadside assistance was provided on 131st Street and Highway 75, Luverne.

•Complainant on E. Main Street reported a driving complaint.

•Complainant east of 71st Street, Beaver Creek, reported a washed-out culvert at location.

•Complainant on W. Luverne Street, Magnolia, reported theft of medication.

July 12
 •Complainant on E. Fairway Drive reported a credit card opened in her name.

July 13
 •Complainant on Interstate 90, mile marker 13, Luverne, reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant reported debit card scam.

•Suspicious activity was reported at S. Steen Street, Steen.

•Complainant on Edgehill Street reported a dangerous driving event.

July 14
 •Assistance from another county was provided on Interstate 90, mile marker 40, Magnolia.

•Deputy cleared the roadway at location on County Road 4, Beaver Creek.

•Complainant on 181st Street, Kenneth, reported an assault.

•Complainant on Gabrielson Road reported children playing in the street.

•Complainant on 80th Avenue, Hardwick, reported suspicious activity at location.

•Complainant on Interstate 90, mile marker 9, reported debris on the road.

•Complainant reported locked keys in vehicle.

July 15
 •Complainant on S. 2nd Street, Beaver Creek, reported vehicles broken into at location.

•Complainant on N. Estey Street reported person has returned to location.

•Complainant on Maple and Freeman streets reported a driving complaint.

•Complainant on Freeman Street reported a parking issue.

•Complainant on S. Fourth Street, Beaver Creek, reported theft from vehicle.

•Complainant south of Interstate 90, mile marker 1, Valley Springs, South Dakota, reported a fire.

•Complainant on Highway 23, mile marker 24, Jasper, reported a driving complaint.

•Complainant on Cedar Street reported a child separated from parents at location.

•Complainant on Cedar Street reported a lost child.

•Complainant on W. Warren Street reported someone trying to get into her apartment.

In addition, officers responded to 4 motor vehicle accidents, 3 vehicles in ditch, 1 deer accident, 6 escorts, 11 ambulance runs, 3 paper services, 9 animal complaints, 1 fingerprint request, 6 burn permits, 1 gas drive-off, 1 alarm, 5 purchase and carry permits, 4 stalled vehicles, 23 traffic stops, 18 abandoned 911 calls, 2 tests, 5 welfare checks and 3 reports of cattle out.



Mavis Fodness photo/0722 Hills Creamery Demolition

The former Hills Co-Op Creamery Association building will be razed next month after the Hills City Council approved of owner Kris Gagnon's plan to tear the building down due to it being unsafe.

Hills creamery demolition/continued from page 1A

sewer and one water line will still be left open in case the services are needed for a potential new building.

Gagnon said he already removed the large cistern tanks that were used when the creamery building housed a car wash.

The property will be cleared of all Banking Barns stored lumber prior to the demolition, scheduled to take place in August.

Council members asked about asbestos in the 1927 building and Gagnon said all pipes and ventilation exchanges were removed years ago. Just the timber shell and brick veneer remains at the site.

As demolition begins, Gagnon will harvest the timber and save as many of the bricks as possible for reuse.

He also plans to reuse and possibly feature the large limestone business signs on the building's east side in the new structure.

Banking Barns repurposes barnwood, slab lumber and live edge lumber for custom-built home furnishings.

Gagnon operates the business out of two buildings in Hills, and the creamery building was used for storage, as is another structure in Steen.

Any building of a new storage facility in Hills will wait. "It's too expensive to build right now," he said.

Hill City Council members voted unanimously in favor of the demolition permit. Councilor Vickie Busswitz was not in attendance.



The former Hills Co-Op Creamery building was built in 1927.

PALACE

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July 23, 24, 25 7:00 pm

Tickets: \$5 for kids age 3-12th grade, \$7 for adults

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Living Rock Church VBS 2021

POOL Party

When: August 1-5th from 6 pm-8:15pm

Where: Living Rock Church

Grades: KG-5th Grade (Fall 2021)

Thursday, August 5th
6 pm-7 pm: Parent/Kids ice cream social at LRC
7 pm-8:30 pm LRC family pool party at Luverne Pool

Call 507-449-0057 to register

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Serving at 5:30

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

4-H gets jump on fair judging with preview event

Rock County 4-H returned to in-person judging July 15 with pre-fair judging in selected general projects of clothing and textiles, food review, fashion review, video, performing arts, illustrated presentation and demonstrations. Club judging of community pride and banner projects also took place at American Reformed Church in Luverne. Other projects will have pre-fair judging on July 26 and on July 28, the opening day of the Rock County Fair. "Our numbers are a little bit lower than in the past but are much better than 2020," said 4-H program director Kelsey Maeschen. "2020 was hard since more of our projects had to be done virtually last year."

Above, right: 4-H'er Krista Burkman talks with judge Margie Anderson about her clothes-you-buy project.

Below: Lanae Elbers explains to judge Elizabeth Johnson the make-up bag she sewed earlier this year.



Above: Egypt Forrest prepares for the fashion show judging. **Above, center:** Elisabeth Kelm sets the table for her food review project. **At right:** Norah Maloney pipes whipped cream on her project.

CELEBRATIONS

Open houses

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.

MENU

Monday, July 26: Chicken and noodle casserole, mixed vegetables, peaches, cookie.

Tuesday, July 27: Tater tot casserole, green beans, bread, cinnamon apples.

Wednesday, July 28: Chicken mandarin salad, fruit, tomatoes and cucumbers, brownie.

Thursday, July 29—National Lasagna Day: Lasagna, tossed salad, fruit, dessert.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Main Street Financial.

Friday, July 30: Chicken-fried steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, dessert, dinner roll.

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

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

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

1949: Cost of public health nurse 40 cents per person

The following appeared in The Rock County Star-Herald on April 7, 1949.

County Public Health Nurse Would Cost Residents Estimated 40 Cents Per Person

Maximum Annual Outlay For Program Would Be \$5,000, According to Report

Cost of maintaining a public health nurse in Rock county will average 40 cents per person per year, it was announced here Friday night.

A meeting, arranged for by the Luverne Mothers Club, to discuss the question of a public health nurse, was held at the high school building here. In attendance were three members of the county board, representatives of various civic organizations, several school teachers, and a group of nurses and public health workers from Nobles county.

Speaker of the evening was Dr. B. O. Mork, Jr., Worthington, director of the state department of health. County Supt. of Schools Barrett presented the figures on the cost in the absence of County Auditor Koehn, whose records were used as a basis for the computation.

Cost of having the nursing program, based on costs in other counties in the state, was estimated to amount to between \$4,800 and \$5,000; the state



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president
Rock County Historical Society

will pay \$1,500; the remaining \$3,500 being the county's share of the cost. Figuring on the basis of \$10,000,000 in assessed valuation of Rock county property, the nursing program would increase the total tax bill for each taxpayer by .35 of a mill. For the average quarter section of land with an average set of buildings, taxes would increase \$1.75 over the present amount now paid, Mr. Barrett indicated.

(The county board of commissioners hires the nurse if a public health program is adopted. Costs incidental in the nursing program are paid from tax funds.)

Benefits which the people of the county would derive through a public nursing program would more than offset the cost, Dr. Mork pointed out.

"The cost of a couple of movies or a couple of haircuts shouldn't be too great for the people to pay for this health service," he stated.

Among the benefits derived through a county nursing home program, Dr. Mork pointed out are:

(1) Tuberculosis testing (man-

toux) on a county wide basis. Dr. S. A. Slater, of the Worthington Sanatorium, hesitates to make Mantoux tests on a mass basis when there is not a public health nurse in the county, because a nurse is needed for follow-up work, Dr. Mork stated.

(2) Work in cancer control, with funds made available by the American Cancer Society. The Cancer Society, it was pointed out, will work though a nurse in educating the public regarding cancer in its early stages. Death from cancer can be prevented, in at least one-third of the cases, if cancer is detected early enough.

(3) Earlier detection of such diseases as tuberculosis. Each case of tuberculosis that requires sanatorium treatment costs the county at least \$2,000 per year for case. For every death caused by TB, in its early stages, Dr. Mork pointed out, the saving to the county resulting from such a discovery, would almost pay the nurse's salary for a year.

Duties of a nurse, Dr. Mork said, fall into three categories. She would provide nursing care and

health guidance to school children and families. In Nobles county, he said, the nurse calls on all mothers of newborn babies to give them assistance and advice. Secondly, she participates in educational work, assisting in training home nursing classes, etc. Thirdly, she cooperates with the medical profession and citizen groups in putting the county health program into effect. This may include TB testing, mass immunization, health examinations of school children, etc.

In breaking down the cost figures, Dr. Mork said that the nurse's salary would run from \$2,800 to \$3,000 per year, based on what other counties are now paying. A part time clerk would entail an expenditure of an additional \$1,000; \$700 would go toward travel expense, while another \$300 would be required for office supplies and incidentals.

Mrs. Jerry Simpson, a member of the Mothers Club Public health nurse committee, said she had investigated costs of counties of approximately the same size population and area as Rock county, to maintain a nursing program. Cost in Stevens county last year was \$3,575; Sherburne, \$4,067.57; Houston, \$3,832.61; Dodge, \$4,281.51; Pipestone, \$4,013.72.

Rock is one of 21 counties in the state which does not have a nursing program, yet there is not

Bits, continued on page 7A

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2011)

•A tumble prairie flower was the focus of much attention this week at Touch the Sky Prairie north of Luverne.

Local volunteers, members of the Youth Conservation Corps and Iowa Lakes Community College students searched ditches and tall grass to monitor the progress of the rare western prairie fringed orchid.

The western orchid is listed as a threatened plant species. Its numbers have decreased in past decades due to fewer acres of natural prairie habitat, drought, fewer hawk moths to pollinate and changing soil conditions.

25 years ago (1996)

•For the first time in 16 years, Gene Cragoe isn't arranging his schedule around school board meetings. As of July 1, Cragoe is no longer a member of the Independent District 2184 board.

After so long, disengaging from the job isn't easy. There are projects started that he would have liked to have seen through to completion, but he decided not to file for re-election. Health concerns and the desire for less stress outweighed the other. He said he will continue, however, to be interested in

district business and has volunteered to serve on committees as a citizen.

50 years ago (1971)

•Hail and high winds left a path of destruction across the heart of Rock County Sunday leaving from 20 to total per cent crop damage in parts of Denver, Mound and Vienna Townships.

The storm created havoc in a line west of Hardwick and continued to the southeast as far as Kenneth. Early reports state a path eight miles long and a mile wide, but further reports filtering in on Tuesday show destruction in a path almost 14 miles long.

Hail as much as a half inch in diameter along with varying levels of driving rain and fierce wind fell on the area between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. Sunday.

By noon Tuesday, county hail insurance agencies had received about 134 damage claims from the stricken area.

75 years ago (1946)

•Donald Renfro, an army captain during World War II, is the owner of Renfro's Variety, which he purchased several

months ago from J. M. Adams. Renfro, who traveled for a wholesale coal concern before entering the service, is another "out-of-towner" who chose Luverne as a place to go into business for himself.

100 years ago (1921)

•A change in the officers of the First National Bank of this city was made the first of the week, when O. P. Huntington retired as vice president and Carl O. Mueller, of Cedar Rapids, Ia., was elected to succeed him. Mr. Huntington, however, retains his stock and remains a director of the institution.

Mr. Huntington's resignation will create no surprise among many of his friends, for they have known for some time that he has been anxious to retire in order to give his private business affairs the time their responsibility demands. He has also felt that he is entitled to take life a little easier, for, to use his own expression, he has "been in the harness for 32 years." ...

Mr. Mueller comes to Luverne with very high recommendations. He has had ten years executive experience in the banking business, except for a year spent in service during the war, and has been well known to the officers of the First

Japanese beetles are back ... and they're hungry

Japanese beetles ... they're back and they're hungry. I saw the first of these pests on my rose blossoms last



week. Last summer I fought them on my roses, my zinnias, my beans and my raspberries.

Japanese beetles (*Popillia japonica*) are small insects that carry a big threat. They do not discriminate when it comes to what types of plants they feed on, though they do have favorites (like roses.) In fact, they are classified as a pest to hundreds of different species. They are one of the major insect pests in the Eastern and Midwestern United States, causing monumental damage to crops each year.

Prior to the beetle's accidental introduction to the United States in the early 1900s, the Japanese beetle was found only on the islands of Japan, isolated by water and kept in check by its natural predators. In 1912, a law was passed that made it illegal to import plants rooted in soil. Unfortunately, the failure to implement the law immediately allowed the Japanese beetle to arrive in this country.

Japanese beetles are one-half inch in length with metallic blue-green heads, copper-colored backs, tan wings, and small white hairs lining each side of the abdomen. Japanese beetles usually feed in small groups. They lay eggs in the soil

KNOW IT AND GROW IT

By George Bonnema, Luverne Horticulturalist

during June, which develop into tiny white grubs with brown heads and six legs that are up to three-fourths inch in length. These grubs will remain underground for about 10 months, overwintering and growing in the soil.

They emerge from the soil as adult beetles and begin feeding the following June. They usually attack plants in groups, which is why damage is so severe. Although the lifecycle of the adult Japanese beetle is barely 40 days, it can cover a lot of ground. Even if you succeed in controlling your Japanese beetle population, your neighbor's Japanese beetles might come on over. Japanese beetles feed on a wide variety of flowers and crops. (The adult beetles attack more than 300 different kinds of plants.) But in terms of garden plants, they are especially common on roses, as well as beans, grapes and raspberries.

Japanese beetles can devour most of the foliage on favored plants, as well as the flowers. Look for leaves that are "skeletonized" (i.e., only have veins remaining). This is a tell-tale sign of Japanese beetles.

Japanese beetle grubs damage grass when overwin-

tering in the soil, as they feast on the roots of lawn grasses and garden plants. This can cause brown patches of dead or dying grass to form in the lawn, which will pull up easily thanks to the weakened roots. Unfortunately, the most effective way of getting rid of Japanese beetles is to hand-pick them off of plants. It's time-consuming, but it works, especially if you are diligent.

I mix a solution of one tablespoon of liquid dish-washing detergent per cup water, which will cause them to drown. They drop from the leaf or flower they are on immediately if you touch them, so I hold the container with this solution under the flower or leaf they're on and touch them to get them to drop into the container. There's a certain amount of satisfaction in that remedy.

There are insecticide sprays that are labeled for Japanese beetles, but most of these sprays are toxic to bees, and the beetles are present when the bees are active, so I hesitate to recommend them.

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



Submitted photo

Lions Club awards scholarships

The Luverne Lions Club recently presented \$100 scholarships to the Luverne High School Lions Club Students of the Quarter and the annual \$750 scholarship. Scholarship recipients are (front, from left) Ainslie Robinson, Lauren VerSteege, Elise Jarchow and Rozilyn Oye and Lions Club members (in back) Awards Chairman Codie Zeutenhorst and Club President Steve Cattnach. All received checks for \$100, and Jarchow received \$750 as the overall winner, based on leadership, community involvement and teamwork skills. The students help with Lions Club projects, such as the upcoming fair, according to club member Bill Martin. "We've had a few that work Lions projects, like our upcoming Rock County Fair the end of July. They become part of our work group," he said, "and the synergy makes whatever task easily accomplishable with their skills mingled with our Lions Club across the years."

COLLEGE NEWS

Smith named to dean's list at Drake

Jade Smith, Luverne, was named to the Spring 2021 semester dean's list at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa. To be eligible, students must earn a 3.5 GPA or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Kruse makes St. Mary's dean's list

Kasyn Kruse, Luverne, has been named to the Spring 2021 semester dean's list at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota at Winona. To make the list, students must earn at least a 3.6 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

Kasyn is the son of Karla Kruse.

Students graduate from Mount Marty

Meghan Nelson, Sherman, South Dakota, and Mitchell Lonneman, Adrian, graduated in May 2021 from Mount Marty University in Yankton, South Dakota.

Nelson earned a Bachelor of Science in nursing, and Lonneman completed a Bachelor of Arts degree honors program in pre-professional studies.

SDSU announces spring dean's list

Several area students were named to the Spring 2021 semester dean's list at South Dakota State University in Brookings. Students must earn at least a 3.5 on a 4.0 scale with a minimum of 12 graded credits. Students with a 4.0 have an asterisk after their name.

The following code is used: SAFES: College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences; SAHSS: College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; SEHS: College of Education and Human Sciences; SENGR: Jerome J. Lohr College of Engineering; SNS: College of Natural Sciences; SNURS: College of Nursing; SPAHP: College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions.

The following were named to the dean's list:
 Adrian: Rylie Hokeness*, SEHS; Evan Schettler, SAFES. Beaver Creek: Mira Uithoven*, SAHSS; Avery Van Roekel, SAHSS.
 Hills: Luke LaRock*, SAHSS; Dawson Leenderts, SAFES; Catherine Westphal, SNURS; Jax Wysong*, SNS.
 Luverne: Tacey Baustian*, SNS; Jarod Berndt, SENGR;

Jeremiah Dooyema, SENGR; Michael Groen*, SENGR; Alexis Henrichs, SAFES; Melissa Teal, SNURS; Benjamin Wagner, SENGR; Danielle Watts-Boll*, SAHSS.

Lismore: Brittney Loonan, SEHS; Paige Tweet*, SAFES. Rushmore: Paige Madison, SAFES. Steen: Whitney Elbers*, SNURS.

Augustana releases dean's list

Hope Van Meeteren of Luverne has been named to the Spring 2021 dean's list at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. To be eligible, students must earn a 3.5 GPA or higher with at least 12 graded credits.

Siebenahler on dean's list at St. Ben's

Courtney Siebenahler, daughter of John and Awanda Siebenahler of Luverne, has been named to the dean's list for the Spring 2021 semester at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph. Siebenahler is a senior integrative science major. Students must earn a GPA of at least 3.80 with at least 12 graded credits to qualify for the dean's list.

Bits/continued from page 6A

a county in the state which has a greater agricultural valuation than Rock county, Mrs. Simpson pointed out.

Dr. C. L. Sherman said that the medical profession as a whole was in favor of the nursing program, and Dr. O. W. Anderson said that everyone he had talked to felt the same way.

County Commissioner G. V. Carstens, Luverne, when asked how the county board

felt about it, said that if anyone were interested in how that county board felt about it, they were welcome to attend the county board meeting, and the county board would express their views at that time. He said that since the county board tabled the matter last year, two new members had replaced two of those who had been on the board at that time, and the board's views

may have changed since then.

County Commissioner W. G. Perkins said no one in his district had spoken to him in favor of a nurse, and he had had some speak against it. "If I thought the people of my district favored a nurse," he said, "I'd vote for it. But, it's my duty to represent the

people of my district and vote as they want me to vote."

County Commissioner Harry Leslie did not voice his opinion. Commissioner A. H. Halls and L. J. Moeller were not in attendance.

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to manmade@iw.net.



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Lori Sorenson photo/0722 softball emma

Spectators gather in bleachers and under shade trees at ball diamonds west of the school campus Sunday afternoon for the softball tournament that attracted 26 teams and hundreds of players and fans to Luverne over the weekend.

Luverne Softball Association hosts first 'Bash-A-Rama' tournament

By Brennen Rupp

A total of 26 teams converged on the city of Luverne for the softball association's first-ever "Bash-A-Rama" fastpitch softball tournament.

The two-day event started Saturday, July 17, with pool play and ended with tournament play on Sunday, July 18.

"We just wanted to promote the sport of softball," tournament director Darin Kindt said about the fundraiser.

"It was to help promote the sport, to get more of our girls locally involved in softball."

After the two-day event under perfect summer conditions, Kindt said the Luverne Softball Association considered the weekend a success.

"Everything was fantastic," Kindt said.

"It was as good as we could've expected. It was a fun weekend. A lot of good softball was played."

Blaze 10U takes first

The 10U division had



Lori Sorenson photo/0722 softball emma

Gracie Nath winds up for a pitch during Sunday afternoon's game against Pierre in the playoff round of Luverne Softball Association's first-ever home tournament.

five teams competing, with the Luverne Blaze going 4-0-1 and taking home first place.

The four other teams that competed against the Blaze were from Brookings, Brandon, Pipestone and Sioux Falls.

The 10U Blaze opened pool play with a 7-7 tie

against the Brandon Valley Venom.

The Blaze then defeated Brookings 11-4. In their third game of pool play, the Blaze defeated the Sioux Falls Panthers 8-2.

To wrap up pool play, the Blaze defeated Pipestone 7-5.

In the tournament, the Blaze defeated Pipestone 8-5 to reach the championship game against the Sioux Falls Panthers. Luverne defeated the Panthers 10-0 to take home first place.

Softball/see page 9

Redbirds cap season at No. 1 in Gopher League

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Redbirds capped off the regular season by going 1-1 to finish with an overall record of 19-5.

The Redbirds defeated Hadley 14-3 on Tuesday, July 13, and then lost an extra innings affair on the road to the Milroy Irish 2-1 on Thursday, July 14.

With an overall record of 19-5 and an 18-2 conference record, the Redbirds finish atop the Gopher League standings.

One of the goals for this year's Redbirds team was to finish as regular season champions.

The ultimate goal for the townball team is to qualify for the Minnesota Baseball Association Class C State Tournament, a feat that the Redbirds have accomplished in back-to-back seasons.

"Winning the Gopher League title is a great accomplishment," Redbirds' manager Brooks Maurersaid.

"Our goal as a team is to make it to state every year. This is a good first step toward reaching that goal. We have played some very good baseball this year and hopefully the best is still to come."

By finishing atop the Gopher League standings, the Redbirds earned a first-round bye in the region tournament.

Luverne 14, Hadley 3

Behind a strong pitching performance from Isaiah Bartels, the Redbirds dominated the visiting Buttermakers 14-3.

Bartels pitched a complete game, scattering four hits and recorded 11 strikeouts.

He also tormented the Buttermakers at the plate, collecting four hits.

Ben Serie also recorded four hits for the Redbirds.

Greg Nath recorded three hits, including two doubles.

As a team, the Redbirds recorded 17 hits.

The Redbirds scored nine runs in the first three innings to jump out to an early 9-0 lead.

Hadley scored two runs in the third to trim Luverne's lead to 9-2.

The Buttermakers added one more run in the fifth to make it a 9-3 ballgame.

In the ninth inning, the Redbirds scored five runs to make the final score 14-3.

Luverne 14 4 0 0 0 0 5 14
Hadley 0 0 2 0 1 0 0 0 3

Hitting: S. Wenninger 2-5; Serie 4-4; Johnson 1-2; Paquette 1-5; Zeutenhorst 1-4; Lundgren 1-5; Haugen 1-5; Bartels 4-5; Nath 3-5
Doubles: Nath 2

Irish 2, Luverne 1

It was a pitchers' duel at Irish Field on Wednesday, July 14, between the Redbirds and the Irish. The Irish ultimately came out on top after 10 innings 2-1.

Jake Haugen channeled his inner Jack Morris and pitched 10 innings and recorded 10 strikeouts, while giving up six hits and two earned runs.

The Redbirds struggled to come up with a timely hit all night, as they left a small village on the basepaths.

The Redbirds stranded 14 baserunners in a one-run game.

The Redbirds struck first, with one run in the top of the second inning to claim an early 1-0 lead.

The run came off a solo home run from Skyler Wenninger.

Milroy scored the tying run in the bottom of the sixth.

The Irish walked it off in the bottom of the 10th to claim a 2-1 victory over the Redbirds.

Skyler Wenninger and Nath both recorded three hits for the Redbirds.

Luverne 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 1
Milroy 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 2

Hitting: Lundgren 1-4; Johnson 2-5; S. Wenninger 3-4; Zeutenhorst 1-5; Serie 1-5; C. Wenninger 1-5; Nath 3-3
Home runs: S. Wenninger

Luverne Legion players win first games in Wabasso tournament

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Legion baseball team started the Sub State Legion Tournament on Thursday, July 15, in Wabasso against Wabasso and picked up a 9-2 victory.

In the second round, Luverne defeated Springfield 6-2 on Friday, July 16 in Wabasso.

"We had great hitting and pitching in our first two games," Luverne coach Cody Zeutenhorst said.

On Saturday, July 17, Luverne fell to Blue Earth 9-5. With the loss, Luverne will move to the elimination bracket and play on Saturday, July 24 in Wabasso.

Luverne 9, Wabasso 2

Luverne scored one run in the top of the first to jump out to an early lead and never looked back.

Luverne scored two more runs in the top of the third to build a 3-0 lead.

In the top of the fifth, Luverne scored four runs to push their lead to 7-0.

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

Wabasso pushed across two runs in the bottom of the seventh to make the final score 9-2.

Luverne 1 0 2 0 4 0 2 9
Wabasso 0 0 0 0 0 2 2

Luverne 6, Springfield 2

Luverne used a pair of three-run innings to best Springfield 6-2 on Friday, July 16.

With the two teams deadlocked at 0-0, Luverne scored three runs in the bottom of the third to claim a 3-0 lead.

Springfield scored two runs in the top of the sixth to trim Luverne's lead to 3-2.

Luverne answered back with another three-run inning in the bottom half of the sixth to make the final score 6-2.

Kyle Anderson led the team with two RBIs.

Springfield 0 0 0 0 2 0 2
Luverne 0 0 3 0 0 3 x 6

Blue Earth 9, Luverne 5

Luverne grabbed the momentum right out of the gate by scoring three runs in the top of the first inning to jump out to an early 3-0 lead.

That momentum quickly swung into Blue Earth's favor, as they scored eight runs in the first two innings to claim a 8-3 lead over Luverne.

"We started quick but then gave up four runs in the bottom of the first and second," Zeutenhorst said. "That seemed to take the energy away from us and got them rolling. All their hitters seemed to have more confidence after those two innings."

Luverne scored two runs in the top of the sixth to trim Blue Earth's lead to 8-5.

Blue Earth got one of those runs back in the bottom of the sixth to make the final score 9-5.

Bailey Cowell led Luverne with two hits.

"I'm proud of our guys," Zeutenhorst said. "We will need to come back next week and play the winner of Wells and Springfield. We will need to beat Blue Earth twice now to go to state. We have the talent to accomplish that and I'm excited to see how we finish this."

Luverne 3 0 0 0 2 0 5
Blue Earth 4 4 0 0 0 1 x 9

Hitting: Cowell 2-4; Beyer 1-3; Sehr 1-3



Lori Sorenson photo/0722 legion

Tucker Dammann slides safely over home plate to score for the Luverne Junior Legion team Sunday afternoon at Redbird Field to inch closer to the championship game.

Luverne wins again in Jr. Legion play

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Junior Legion went 2-0 on Sunday, July 18, to get one game closer to reaching the championship game.

Luverne outscored its two opponents on Sunday by the score of 20-0.

Luverne defeated Blue Earth in Game 1 by 10-0, behind a strong pitching performance from Conner Connell. Connell pitched a no-hitter and helped Luverne blank Blue Earth.

"Conner pitched really well again," Luverne coach Jared Pick said "He got ahead of a lot of hitters and kept them off balance all game. When Conner is on top of his game he is tough to hit."

In Game 2 on Sunday, Luverne blanked

Lamberton 10-0 in five innings.

With the victory, Luverne will host St. James on Tuesday, July 20, at Redbird Field.

"St. James is a good team," Pick said. "We have to play good defense behind our pitchers. If we do that, we will have a good chance to be in the ball game in the end."

If Luverne wins it will play on Sunday, July 25, at Redbird Field and be one win away from reaching the state tournament.

With a loss they'll have to win three straight in order to reach the state tournament.

The stats from the two games were not available.

Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

Page 10A July 22, 2021

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Hot Dog Night in Luverne/ continued from page 1A

the celebration.

Hot Dog Night began in 1962 when Luverne businesses planned a night of free hot dogs to thank their customers.

“The event has grown over the years to add quirky entertainment and fun for all ages, and we also thank the businesses and organizations who added to the night’s festivities.

“Although businesses

have come and gone over the years, the tradition of giving away free hot dogs never wavered.”

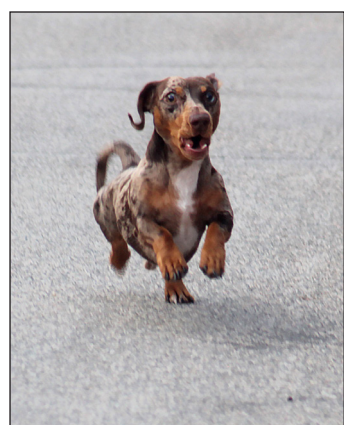
Lanphere said the event has become another endearing reason Luverne residents and former residents are proud of their community.

“The delicious and creative toppings you served, along with special treats, put smiles of joy on the faces of thousands of people who call Luverne their home (and the others that no doubt wish they could),” she said.

She again recognized Premium Minnesota Pork for donating 5,000 hot dogs to reduce the price that merchants paid for their allotted number of hot dogs.

And she encouraged businesses to join the 60th annual event on July 14, 2022.

“Thank you and your employees for making this great community event a ‘hot diggity dog’ success,” Lanphere said.



Autumn Norman and her dog compete in the Wiener Dog Beauty Contest.



At left, the Luverne Fire Department ladder truck sprinkles crowds on the hot summer asphalt. Above is the Beautiful Kingdom band. At right, Jeremy Hough turns hot dogs at Luverne Counseling.



Rock County STAR HERALD

— Help Wanted — SPORTS REPORTER

The Rock County Star Herald in Luverne, Minnesota, is looking for the right person to help navigate the fast-paced world of **community sports reporting**.

Our weekly award-winning newspaper covers two local districts and their high school sports teams, along with community outdoors and recreational activities.

We’re working to enhance our daily presence with social media posts, sports column/blog and occasional streamed coverage with athletes, coaches and fans.

Our vision is to be on the local scene of whatever sports-related news is happening — whenever and wherever it occurs — and share that experience with sports fans to read and watch on social media and to enjoy in print and online pages.

If you share the same vision of a local sports news presence, and if you’re passionate about sports with the ability to write about it and share it with others, you may be the person we’re looking for.

We’re accepting applications now for this **full-time position**. Sports reporting and photography experience is preferred, along with some knowledge of InDesign, PhotoShop and social media platforms.

Email cover letter, resume and work samples to Rick Peterson, general manager, at rick@star-herald.com.

Minnesota drought/continued from page 3A

their daily lives and have concerns about water levels and availability.

While occasional water level fluctuations are natural, normal and beneficial to ecosystems, they can negatively affect tourism and recreation, agriculture, businesses and other activities that are dependent on water.

Times of drought remind us all about the im-

portance of water conserva-

tion.” Minnesotans are encouraged to learn how much water they are using compared with the average American home and identify ways to reduce water use.

Lakes, streams, and rivers are dependent on the amount of precipitation an area receives, how much of

that moisture is contributed by runoff, how much water is recharged or discharged through groundwater, and how much water evaporates.

More information about drought is available on the DNR website.

The website includes a link where anyone can sign up to receive drought-related notifications and information.



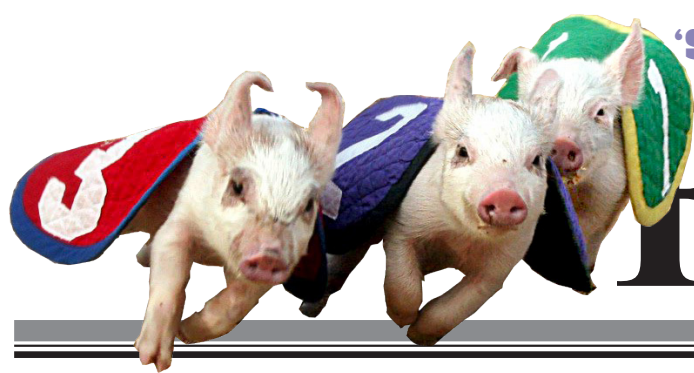
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SANFORD
HEALTH



Rock County Star Herald

FAIR PREVIEW

July 22, 2021 Page 1B

2021 Rock County Farm Family of the Year



Mavis Fodness photo/0722 Fair Tab 2021 Knobloch Farm Family

The Dallas and Amy Knobloch family is the 2021 Rock County Farm Family of the Year, recognized by Extension for dedication to ag. Pictured are Tory, Amy, Claire, Dallas and the family dog, Lucy. The Knoblochs live north of Hills where they maintain a cow-calf herd and finish 3,500 to 4,000 head of cattle annually.



Benson farm gets Century Farm status

Two-year-old Gus Benson, pictured with his dad, Eric Benson, may be the fifth generation farmer on the family's 138-year-old Rock County Century Farm.

... See page 3B



4-H intern learns, works at fair

Anna Rose is this year's summer intern with the Rock County Extension 4-H Program. She brings experience as a Jackson County 4-H member to the job.

... See page 6B

Knoblochs come together around cattle

By Mavis Fodness

Whether it's working with neighbors or showing at local fairs, the Dallas and Amy Knobloch family is passionate about agriculture.

Their dedication was noticed by Extension Committee members, who select a farm family each year to be ag ambassadors at the local county fair.

This year the committee chose the Knoblochs — Dallas and Amy, and their children, Tory and Claire — to represent Rock County as Farm Family of the Year.

"Their passion for the agriculture industry is evident and something to be admired," said Extension Committee member Anna Haas.

"They volunteer for numerous agricultural organizations and do it with eminent humbleness."

This spirit of humility comes from experiences learned on and off the farm.

Before Dallas returned to the family farm north of Hills in 2002, he earned an agronomy degree from the University of Minnesota — Twin Cities after graduating from Hills-Beaver Creek High School.

The big city lifestyle wasn't for him. "Life is always busy — something is always going on — in a big city," he said. "I think here is a happy medium. I feel Rock County is a great place to live and raise a family."

The quieter life, however, can be isolating, he noted, and potentially lead to negative attitudes developing toward farming as a career.

"I see people struggling to stay positive in agriculture," Knobloch, 45, said. "Gaining customer service experience prior

to farming has really helped in building relationships and a different perspective to live life on the farm."

Dallas first worked in the agronomy department at the Rock Rapids elevator, rising to manager before joining his father, Larry Knobloch, in the third-generation family farm operation.

Twenty years later Dallas and Amy have built a beef finishing and cow-calf operation that annually supplies between 3,500 to 4,000 head of cattle to consumers.

"I'm thankful for the passion to agriculture and the work ethic taught by my parents," Dallas said.

The same work ethic continues to be passed on in the Knobloch family, with each playing integral roles in the farm's

Knoblochs Farm Family/see page 11



Seasoned racer returns to Enduros

The 2021 Rock County Fair Enduro will mark the 11th time that longtime local racer Jasmine Kalass has competed in the popular hometown event.

... See page 8B



Beef Ambassador participates in Q&A

Samantha Moser, Hills, is the 2021 Rock-Nobles Cattleman's Association Beef Ambassador. The Star Herald reached out to her and asked a series of questions about her role with beef.

See page 7B



Tractor pull features red-vs-green rivalry

The Great Plains Tractor Pullers will bring 60 pullers to the Saturday night event at the Rock County Fairgrounds grandstand. Club president Mike Nieuwboer said he expects to see some friendly rivalry between John Deere and International brands.

... See page 9B

Ag Society brings enthusiasm, caution to Rock County's return to local fair in 2021

By Mavis Fodness

Preventive measures are being put into place to curb the coronavirus spread among the thousands who typically attend the annual Rock County Fair.

The local ag society, which organizes the event, received funding from the Rock County Commissioners recently along with a grant through the Luverne Area Community Foundation.

Touch-free faucets and hand dryers are being installed in the restroom facilities.

Cases of hand sanitizer, towels and cleaning supplies are also being stockpiled for use during the four-day event.

Handwashing stations will be located in each building on the fairgrounds, and easier-to-sanitize plastic picnic tables are replacing the current seating options made from wood.

"We are really trying hard to have a safe fair," said Ag Society President Adam Kinsinger.

Last month commissioners approved a \$41,074 request from the Ag Society. Commissioner Gary Overgaard, who serves on the society board, abstained from the vote.

The requested supplies and equipment have been ordered. Work has begun installing the new preventive measures.

"Our goal is to have it fully implemented — pending any shipping delays," added Lee Sells, Ag Society vice president.



Mavis Fodness photo/0722 Fair Tab 2021 Ag Society Board

The Rock County Ag Society organizes the annual county fair at the end of July. Officers for the 2021 event include Keri Hansen, secretary; Robert Remme, treasurer; Lee Sells, vice president; and Adam Kinsinger, president. They're pictured at the fairgrounds south entrance.

Commissioners paid the request from the most recent federal coronavirus response program. Rock County received the first of two \$908,000 allocations in June. The county has until 2024 to spend

the funds.

The fair board has also allotted \$2,500 to pay a cleaning crew during the fair.

Portable handwashing stations were purchased with the \$2,300 LACF grant.

Ag society adds day to 2021 Rock County Fair

... Pet a goat, walk through livestock barns, watch pigs race for oreos, listen to music on the patio, get something from the eat stand, have a dish of ice cream. Ride some carnival rides ...

By Adam Kinsinger, Rock County Ag Society president

The 2021 Rock County Fair is about to kick off, and let me tell you we are excited.

Last year's cancelation was a tough call to make, but all that did was fuel our passion to make this year's fair one of the best fairs yet.

Some of you may have noticed some work going on at the grounds.

The board has worked on improving some of the structures, including the old ticket booth by the north entrance. We are turning the boarded-up building into an open, covered area to sit in. The building wasn't usable and has sat boarded up for years. We wanted to use that space while saving a piece of history.

Keeping up with the buildings and maintaining the grounds is something the fair board works very hard on every year.

Along with the big projects, the touch-up painting and tree trimming seem to never end.

But the feeling of taking a step back and looking over the grounds while the fair is in full swing — and seeing the people filling the grounds — makes it all worth it. We want to make sure we have a good foundation so the fair can go on for many years.

Minnesota as a whole takes pride in its county fairs.

However, organizing a county fair is no small task. The hours spent researching, contacting, finding funds and lining up vendors and attractions for the fair is a yearlong task.

There are some county fairs that are struggling. Some are getting smaller because of the increase in costs and lack of funding.

Rock County is a county that takes pride in its fair. The response from community members and businesses in our county is second to none.

After last year I think everyone feels we need this bit of normalcy.



Keeping up with the buildings and maintaining the grounds is something the fair board works very hard on every year. ... But the feeling of taking a step back and looking over the grounds while the fair is in full swing — and seeing the people filling the grounds — makes it all worth it.

— Adam Kinsinger, Fair Board president

Rock County Ag Society President Adam Kinsinger, pictured in 2020 at the fairgrounds, said he and the board are excited to bring an additional day and several new options for family entertainment and activities to the 2021 Rock County Fair.

Another reason our fair is successful is because of the volunteers of the fair board.

These men and women are rock stars! They all bring something to the table and have the same goal in mind. For me personally, I am thankful for the friendships I have made while being on the board.

This year's fair is going to be great!

There will be something for everyone. The grandstand events are always a hit, with bringing back the tractor pull on Thursday evening.

The bean bag tournament, a free

community supper and free band take place Friday evening. Saturday has the fan favorite enduro race to finish off the week.

4-H will be there in full swing! I can't wait to see all the projects and animals.

The pride of our community members shows in the open class exhibits.

Plus, you never know who you might see walking around the grounds — a lion looking for his courage with a walking scarecrow, a pirate named Jack Sparrow.

Go pet a goat and see a pig with her

babies. Or watch pigs race for treats!

Come and sit on the patio and listen to some music while enjoying some food from the eat stand or maybe a dish of ice cream. Ride some carnival rides.

There is so much to do this year we've added another day to the fair!

In past years the official start of the fair was Thursday.

This year we are starting Wednesday to give everyone a chance to come and enjoy.

I am excited for this year's fair because fair time is my favorite time of the year. It's going to be great to see everybody come together again.

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Donald R. Klosterbuer
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Springwater Township couple start new generation on family Century Farm

Coming home

Benson farm has been in the family 138 years, now has 'Century Farm' status

By Lori Sorenson

Two-year-old Gus Benson doesn't yet understand the history of the farm where he lives and plays, but if the legacy continues, he'll be the fifth generation of Bensons to farm the homestead in western Rock County.

His dad, Eric Benson, and his grandpa, Tim Benson, will be recognized during the Rock County Fair next week for operating an official Minnesota Century Farm.

The quarter section — 160 acres — in Springwater Township has been farmed by members of the Benson family for 138 continuous years, dating back to 1883.

"I just want to show appreciation for the generations before me," said Eric, who turned in the Century Farm paperwork in 2021.

"I'm especially grateful for my dad and my grandpa for the opportunities I have."

When asked how it feels to be continuing the Benson legacy as a fourth-generation farmer on the homestead, Eric said, "It feels like quite a bit of responsibility to keep it going."



Eric Benson, the fourth generation farmer on the Benson Century Farm, keeps a tight hold of Gus's hand after chasing the toddler across the yard. He said he hopes to pass the farming tradition to the next generation.

"I just want to show appreciation for the generations before me.

I'm especially grateful for my dad and my grandpa for the opportunities I have. ...

It feels like quite a bit of responsibility to keep it going."

— Eric Benson,
2021 Benson
Century Farm

Homestead officially certified on April 5, 1883

Nels Benson is listed as the original family owner.

He traveled from Norway

in 1873 at 27 years old and filed a claim to Section 30 of Springwater Township. The homestead certification was dated April 5 1883.

In the spring of 1877, Nels and his new bride, Esthru (Johnson), began making the homestead their home. As told in the Rose History of Rock and

Pipestone counties, the work involved "transforming it from a barren, trackless prairie into a land of fruitful acreage."

The couple built a house in those early years (around 1900) and started a family.

They had eight children, including Bert and Ethel, who took over the farm operation in 1936.

Neither married, and both lived on the home place.

Bert Benson is listed as the owner from **1936 to 1970**, and his sister, **Ethel Benson**, from **1970 to 1974**.

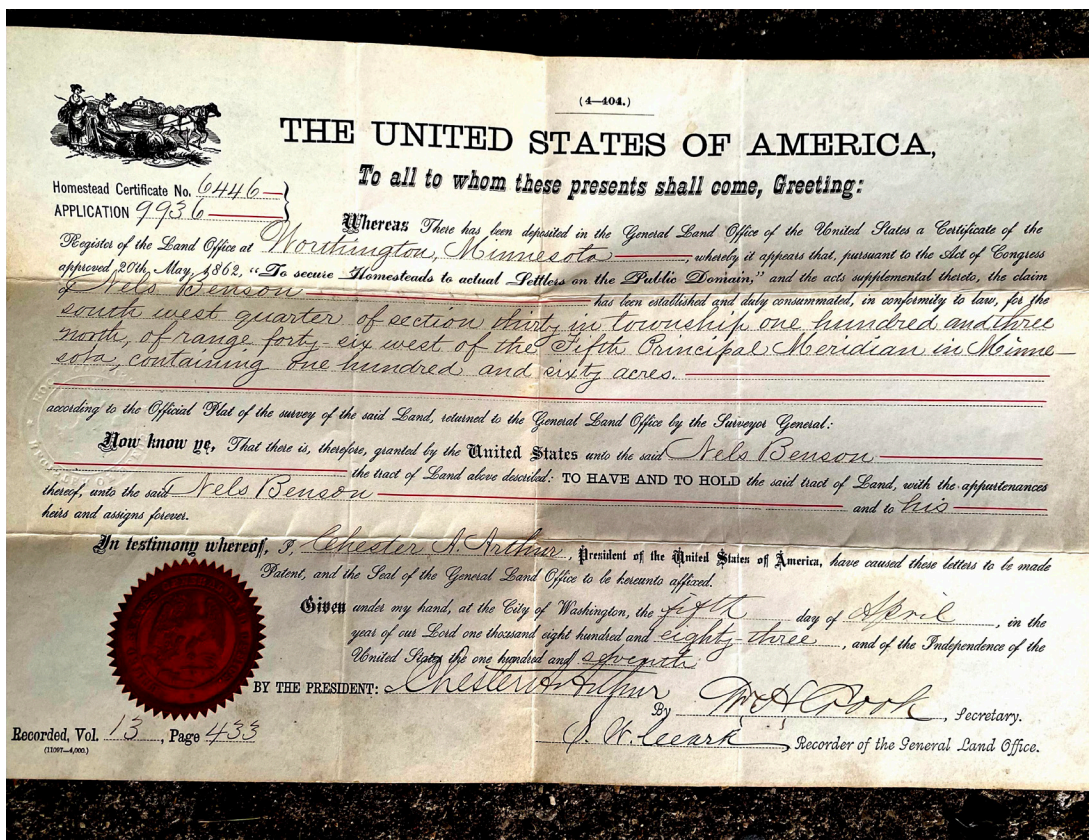
During that time, the farm produced hogs, cows, chickens, corn, alfalfa and small grains, and it was also under the brother-sister partnership that the house was remodeled in 1955. The project included a new basement and a "substantial addition."

Ethel sold the farm in 1974 to Nels and Gladys Benson, who had lived just a mile down the road.

Nels was the son of Ethel's brother, Arthur, and the Benson farm was listed in **Gladys' name from 1974 to 2020**.

Nels and Gladys remained on their own farm, and their son **Tim** moved to the Benson homestead in 1976 after earning

Century Farm/see page 4B



Adria Benson holds 4-week-old Nels, who was born June 21 with his twin sister, Josie. At left is the homestead certification dated April 5, 1883. Nels Benson traveled from Norway in 1873 at 27 years old and filed a claim to Section 30 of Springwater Township. The Benson farm has been continuously farmed by family members for 138 years.

Benson Century Farm photos and story by Lori Sorenson

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Benson farm in Springwater Township recognized as Century Farm/continued from page 3B

his ag degree at Canby Technical College.

Tim and JoEllen continued raising livestock and crops — corn, soybeans, alfalfa and small grains, and they had three children, Kelly (now in Mankato), Katie (in Harrisburg) and **Eric**, who graduated from Hills-Beaver Creek High School.

Eric earned his ag degree at South Dakota State University, Brookings, and joined the farming operation, which included custom cattle feeding.

In 2010 the Bensons pivoted to grain farming only and replaced the original homestead barn with a 60-by-120 machine shed.

Planning for the future

Eric and his wife, Adria, were married in 2017 and moved to the home place in 2018 when Tim and JoEllen moved from the farm to an acreage on Highway 23 several miles away.

They now have 4-week-old twins, Nels and Josie, who joined their brother, Gus, 2, on June 21.

Eric said it's hard not to think of their future and possibly passing on the Benson farming tradition.

"That's the ultimate goal, but farming is volatile, especially lately," he said. "But we're established, and I would like to think we can keep farming."

Tim said moving from the homestead doesn't mean he's retiring — he farms with



Two-year-old Gus Benson doesn't yet understand the history of the farm where he lives and plays, but if the legacy continues, he'll be the fifth generation of Bensons to farm the homestead in western Rock County. He recently became big brother to a set of twins, Josie and Nels, born on June 21. (Lori Sorenson photos)

Eric and is half owner of the Benson century farm.

But he said the move has offered some perspective.

"For 42 years we lived on the farm place," he said. "When you live where you work, you're never done. Now, after moving, I'm glad we did it. And I'm glad for Eric."

He acknowledged that operating a century farm hasn't always been on his mind, but he said it matters.

"I hope I have a grandchild who can farm it someday," he said. "And that was my dad's thought — that his grandson could, too. ... If he bought a

piece of ground, he'd wonder about it."

Tim said he's been working with the family farm long enough to understand that some sacrifices and investments are made in faith — that they'll one day benefit the next generation.

"You're probably not going to



Tim Benson holds 4-week-old Josie, who was born on June 21 with her twin brother, Nels. Eric Benson filled out the paperwork this year for the Benson family farm to become recognized as a Rock County Century Farm. The family members date back to 1883, not long after Nels Benson immigrated from Norway at age 27.

Proof of 100 years of Family Ownership:

Name	Years of Ownership	Relationship to Original Owner
Original Family Owner: Nels Benson	1883-1936	Great Great Grandpa
Next Owner: Bert Benson	1936 – 1970	Great Great Uncle
Next Owner: Ethel Benson	1970 – 1974	Great Great Aunt
Next Owner: Gladys Benson	1974 – 2020	Grandma
Next Owner: Eric Benson & Tim Benson	2020 – Present	Father/Son Tim is my Dad

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The original Benson home was built around 1900 (two photos at left) and remodeled in 1955 (above) to include an addition and a new basement. Below is the current Benson home in western Rock County where Eric and Adria Benson are now raising their three small children.

see the long-term return for yourself, but your reward is your pride and satisfaction in passing it along," he said.

Recognized at the fair

The Bensons will be recognized at 6 p.m. Friday, July 30, under the tent on the fairgrounds during the 2021 Rock County Fair in Luverne.

Eric said he's looking forward to having his ancestors honored for their work on the Benson farm, and he's proud to be continuing the tradition.

"I'm lucky to be in this situation," he said. "To be living here on the original homestead after 138 years and farming it. It doesn't get any better than that."

The Minnesota State Fair and Minnesota Farm Bureau are recognizing 124 Minnesota farms as 2021 Century Farms. Each of the honored farms has been in continuous family ownership for at least 100 years and

"You're probably not going to see the long-term return for yourself, but your reward is your pride and satisfaction in passing it along."

— *Tim Benson, 2021 Benson Century Farm*

consists of at least 50 acres. Information on all Century Farms will be available at the Minnesota Farm Bureau exhibit during the 2021 Minnesota State Fair. A database of all Minnesota Century Farms is also available at fbmn.org.



Eric Benson has a word with 2-year-old Gus, who staged a "sit down" in opposition to going indoors for supper. Above are Tim and JoEllen Benson (left), Eric and Adria Benson, 4-week-old twins Nels and Josie, 2-year-old Gus and the family dog, Tammy. They'll be recognized next week at the Rock County Fair for their Benson Century Farm. (Lori Sorenson photos)

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Summer intern shares lessons learned through 4-H

Rock County 4-H intern Anna Rose assists with program and duties at fair

By Mavis Fodness

Anna Rose learned three life lessons as a 4-H'er in Jackson County — goal setting, determination and perseverance.

Now as this summer's 4-H program summer intern in Rock County, Rose wants local youth to embrace opportunities the organization presented her when she was a member.

"I want to empower 4-H'ers to capitalize on opportunities that are going to set them up for success after their 4-H career has ended," she said.

Rose said she found success in photography projects and set a goal to win grand champion at the county fair.

"It took years to achieve this goal, but I did finally win the category in 2017," she said.

Her journey began before she was an official 4-H member.

As a Jackson County Central kindergartner, she was introduced to 4-H by high school students who visited her classroom as part of the 4-H program recruitment.

"I honestly don't remember what they said, but I do remember receiving a small 4-H pin and I'm sure



Mavis Fodness photo/0722 Fair Tab 2021 4-H Intern

Anna Rose is this year's 4-H summer intern with the Rock County Extension 4-H Program. Rose, who was a Jackson County 4-H member, will assist with this year's Rock County Fair.

information to share with my parents," she said.

"I went home and told my mom I wanted to be in 4-H, and the rest is history."

She spent 14 years in 4-H, the longest possible term in the program.

The daughter of Mark and Kerri Rose was a member of the Enterprise Earners beginning as a first-grader. Her parents still farm north of Alpha.

Through the years in 4-H, Rose served in several different officer positions and was on the county's 4-H Federation Board.

Throughout her 4-H career she participated in general projects including foods and nutrition, quilting, crafts and fine arts, home environment, self-determined and citizenship.

Photography, however, captured her interest the most.

"In Jackson County and Minnesota in general, photography is a huge and very competitive category," Rose said.

She spent each 4-H year taking pictures of animals and nature. The best part of the project was choosing four photos (Jackson County's quota) that best represented the year's work.

"I would order my photos from my least favorite to favorite and identify the skills I learned in the past year as I prepared to talk with the judge," Rose said.

Her hard work and perseverance were also rewarded with a purple ribbon at the Minnesota State Fair.

"I am forever grateful for my time in 4-H. More and more each day, I realize that I am who I am because of 4-H — I don't think I have the words to accurately describe what the 4-H program has meant and done for me."

It was the highest ribbon placing possible for general projects, awarded by her 4-H peers using a conference judging format.

"My experience judging at the State Fair was incredible," she said.

Rose is a senior at Augustana University in Sioux Falls. She is working on a double major in communication studies/business and marketing with a minor in entrepreneurship.

As a 4-H intern, Rose assists the local program director with summer programming including the upcoming Rock County Fair.

"I am forever grateful for my time in 4-H," she said.

"More and more each day, I realize that I am who I am because of 4-H — I don't think I have the words to accurately describe what the 4-H program has meant and done for me."



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Q&A with the beef expert



Mavis Fodness photo/0722 Fair Tab Q & A Beef Ambassador
Samantha Moser gives a grin to the crowd during the Jubilee Days Parade in Hardwick on June 26. Moser threw beef sticks to spectators.

Meet Samantha Moser, Rock-Nobles Cattlemen Beef Ambassador

Samantha Moser, Hills, is the 2021 Rock-Nobles Cattlemen's Association Beef Ambassador. The Star Herald reached out to her and asked the cattlemen representative a series of questions about herself and the role she plays for the local organization.

Please introduce yourself.

My name is Samantha Moser and I am the daughter of Stuart and Karin Moser. I am the oldest of four children in our family. My younger siblings are Cody, Jack and Hailey.

We live on a family farm between Hills and Beaver Creek and I will attend Hills-Beaver Creek High School in the fall as a senior. I am involved in volleyball, basketball, trap shooting, math league, knowledge bowl, student council, FFA and 4-H.

I work at Sunshine Foods in Brandon and also help cater. In my free time, I like to spend time with family and friends, bake and sew.

Describe your and/or your family's involvement in the beef industry.

My family and I are heavily involved in animal agriculture. My dad and grandpa have a feeder-to-finish feedlot.

I love to help work cattle! Typically,

I wanted to be the local beef ambassador because I am very passionate about animal agriculture and I felt as though this was an excellent opportunity to share my love and excitement with the public beyond my involvement in FFA and 4-H. I like meeting local producers and hearing their stories and learning from their experiences.

I help process and vaccinate the new cattle when they arrive.

My brothers and I also have a couple steers that we raise to show at the county fair. This work includes feeding, walking, washing and other duties to prepare them for the fair.

Along with feeding cattle, my family also raises pigs. I love to help out in the nursery! I am usually a part of the vaccination team. I also help with chores on the weekends and loading the feeder pigs into the finisher.

Why did you want to become a beef ambassador?

I wanted to be the local beef ambassador because I am very passionate about animal agriculture and I felt as though this was an excellent opportunity to share my love and excitement with

the public beyond my involvement in FFA and 4-H. I like meeting local producers and hearing their stories and learning from their experiences.

What are some of the duties you have completed as ambassador?

As the ambassador I have participated in three local parades in Luverne, Hills and Hardwick.

I also helped at the Rock Nobles Cattlemen's Beef Tour. This month I will be at the Rock County Fair assisting with the Cattlemen's Beef Feed and the Beef Show.

What other activities are you involved in?

As I mentioned, I am involved in both FFA and 4-H. I am the president of the

Blue Ribbon 4-H Club and vice president of the Hills-Beaver Creek FFA Chapter. Both organizations promote animal agriculture through hands-on experiences and educational opportunities.

Through 4-H I show market beef at the county fair and in FFA I am a member of the general livestock team.

What is the one thing the public should know about the beef industry?

I think that it is very important for those who are not involved on a day-to-day basis to understand the dedication, care and hard work that goes into beef production.

I also believe that consumers should understand the pride producers take to ensure that all of their animals have proper nutrition and daily care to make sure that each and every animal is kept healthy and thriving, to ultimately provide a safe, nutritious, delicious and affordable protein source to feed the world.

What are your future plans?

My plans are to continue to be an active member of the local 4-H club and FFA chapter. As of now my future plans upon graduation are to attend SDSU to pursue a career in nursing and continue helping on the family farm.

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Seasoned racer returns to track for 2021 Enduro event

Jasmine Kalass and her brother, uncles team up to make racing a family affair

By Brennen Rupp

Earnhardt, Petty and Waltrip are all names that are synonymous with racing. In Rock County, Arends and Kalass are racing royalty.

Jasmine Kalass will be one of the many racers that will compete in the Rock County Fair Enduro on Saturday, July 31.

"It's always fun racing in my hometown," Kalass said. "It typically gets most of my family to come watch me race."

The 2021 Rock County Fair Enduro will mark the 11th time that Kalass has competed in the hometown event.

It's an event that she grew up watching from the grandstands. It's now come full circle for Kalass, as she will aim to take home the checkered flag for the first time in 2021.

"My goal is to finish the race without any issues," Kalass said. "If all goes well,



Jasmine Kalass poses for a picture with her pit crew following a race. They are (from left) Spenser Kalass, Terry Kalass, Jasmine Kalass, Don Kalass, Terry Hamann. (Submitted photo)

hopefully I can win the race."

For Jasmine and her family, racing is a team effort that she said has brought them closer together.

Her father, Terry Kalass, used to race. Her brother, Spenser Kalass, is

currently racing, and her uncle, Don Kalass, also used to compete.

"My dad used to race the enduros and my brother races as well," Kalass said. "My brother races stock cars. We used to go to Rock Rapids and watch Anthony Mann

when I was a kid."

Every racer loves the thrill of the competition and the adrenaline rush they get while in the car. For Kalass it's also the time spent with her family.

"It's just so much fun," Kalass said. "I also love spending time with my dad,

uncle and brother. It's also always enjoyable to spend time with the fans that come to see me compete."

Kalass has enjoyed successful seasons on the Enduro circuit the past two summers, coming in second place in the point standings in 2020 and 2019.

"I've had many Top Five finishes and Top 10 finishes," Kalass said.

"I've also gotten second place in points for the LSR Enduro series the past two years."

The Enduro event starts at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 31, in the grandstand.

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Great Plains Tractor Pullers bring red-vs-green rivalry to grandstand

By Lori Sorenson

Tractor pulling is known as “the world’s heaviest motorsport,” with the goal being to determine the strongest machine based on how far it can pull a heavy load down a track.

Mike Nieuwboer, Kenneth, is president of the Great Plains Tractor Pullers and is bringing the sport to the Rock County Fair next week.

As the featured Thursday night grandstand event of the fair, pulling will start at 6:30 p.m. with an expected 60 or more entrants on deck to compete.

Spectators will enjoy the roar of engines, smoke billowing from exhaust pipes and front tires lifting off the dirt track, but Nieuwboer said drivers enjoy testing their skills under the hood.

“I build it and work on it, and I get to run it,” he said, “These are really souped-up machines.”

Nieuwboer has been competing in tractor pulls for over 14 years and said there’s nothing quite like pushing a modified vintage tractor engine to capacity, but he also enjoys the good-natured competition among drivers.

Especially when it comes to red versus green.

“It’s going to be a lot of red stuff,” he said about next week’s pull. “I don’t pull the green ones.”

But he said he’s hoping to see some John Deere tractors at the track, and he’s betting his red tractor against some of his friends’ green ones.

Nieuwboer will be pulling with a 40-year-old International 1206, but he and Brian Bergman, also from Kenneth, have been working on an International 1066. It’s the same model that Bergman’s grandpa, the late Irvin Bergman, farmed with.

Nieuwboer said he’s also hoping to see legendary local pullers like Junior DeJager, brother to John Deere tractor



Spectators in the Rock County Fair grandstands Thursday night will enjoy the roar of engines, smoke billowing from exhaust pipes and front tires lifting off the dirt track, but Mike Nieuwboer, Kenneth, said drivers enjoy testing their skills under the hood.

“I build it and work on it, and I get to run it,” he said, “These are really souped-up machines.”

Nieuwboer has been competing in tractor pulls for over 14 years and said there’s nothing quite like pushing a modified vintage tractor engine to capacity, but he also enjoys the good-natured competition among drivers.

collector and restorer Bill DeJager, Steen.

And he’s challenging Eugene “Pucky” Sandager, Hills, to bring his restored John Deere 6030 to the tractor pull at the fair.

“We’re calling it a ‘west side vs east side’ competition,” Nieuwboer said. “And it will be red vs green.”



He said most of the pullers committed to Thursday’s event have worked on their engines for a long time and are experienced competitors on the track.

However, he encourages first-timers to give it a try, even if it’s just to see how their machinery stacks up.

“Anyone can do it,” he said. “Anybody’s welcome to show up and pull.”

The way a tractor pull works, tractors are hooked up to a sled like a flatbed truck trailer with wheels at the back and a sled at the front.

A moveable mass of up to 65,000 pounds starts at the back of the sled over the wheels. As the sled is pulled, the weight moves forward and closer to the vehicle making the entire piece more difficult to pull.

Drivers use their own tactics to gain the most ground. Some drag the weight slowly and steadily, while others rev up and blast their front wheels off the ground in an attempt to overpower the weighted sled.

The average feet a tractor has dragged a “sledge” is 300 feet, depending on engine modifications.

The Great Plains Tractor Pullers include pullers from the tri-state area, and members pulling at the fair will need to be certified in order to accumulate points for the season.

Tickets for the grandstand event at the fair cost \$10 for adults and \$3 for kids 8 and younger.

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Keepers of the Sacred Tradition of Pipemakers to demonstrate, educate

By Lori Sorenson

Among the entertainment and demonstrations at next week's Rock County Fair will be the Keepers of the Sacred Tradition of Pipemakers from Pipestone.

The group was formed in 1996 by local Native Americans and tribal leaders to protect their culture and educate the public about the nearby pipestone quarries.

According to Keepers treasurer and secretary Rona Johnston, the group's presence in Luverne will be no different.

"We're trying to create a better understanding among people of different cultures," she said. "There are 586 different tribes and villages in the United States, and each of them have their own language and culture."

She also said that unique Native American culture has steadily faded through the generations, and she said appearances like the one at the Rock County Fair offer an opportunity to share traditional Lakota stories, celebration, dance and music.

The Keepers of the Sacred Tradition of Pipemakers will be at the fair from 4 to 8 p.m. daily Wednesday, Thursday, Friday



The Keepers of the Sacred Tradition of Pipemakers will be at the Rock County Fair from 4 to 8 p.m. daily Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Pictured are (from left) Bud Johnston, Rona Johnston and Cama Johnston.

Rona Johnston said daily demonstrations will include storytelling, dream catcher making, pipestone carving and the opportunity for attendees to create art with pipestone.

The dance (Cama at left) and storytelling demonstration will be from 7 to 8 p.m. Friday night only.

and Saturday.

Johnston said daily demonstration will include storytelling, dream catcher making, pipestone carving and the opportunity for attendees to create art with pipestone.

The dance and storytelling demonstration will be from 7 to 8 p.m. Friday night only.

According to the Keepers website, the organization works with local Native American organizations to provide goods and resources to local Indian reservations, as well as with schools and prisons to help people understand tribal culture.

The goals of the group are:

- to archive the histories, stories, styles and uses of pipes by Native Americans.

- to bring together spiritual leaders, teachers, storytellers and artists to share their knowledge to the public.

- to conduct native art workshops, storytelling classes and education lectures.

- to promote unity and to bring together the four colors of man.

- to sponsor cultural awareness exchanges in the U.S. and abroad to promote and teach Native culture to other people.

More information can be found at pipekeepers.org.

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These little piggies will go racing

Swiftly Swine Racing Pigs will make their debut at the Rock County Fair

By Jason Berghorst

"Their whole racing careers are less than a full season."

That's how Zach Johnson, owner of Swiftly Swine Productions, describes the stars of his company's touring shows.

Swiftly Swine Racing Pigs will make their debut at this year's Rock County Fair July 28-31 in Luverne.

"This is our first time in Luverne, and we're really looking forward to it," Johnson said. "It's a great show that people will enjoy."

Johnson said his shows began 24 years ago in Missouri, and there are now three different shows that travel the country eleven months a year performing at fairs and festivals.

The young pigs, with names such as Kevin Bacon, Justin Beboar and Elvis Pigsley, race around a 150-foot oval track.

"The little porkers pound the turf at a blazing 15 mph — all for an Oreo cookie," according to the company website.

Johnson said each pig's racing career lasts about three months (while they're young and agile).

"Then they eat themselves out of a job," he said. "We have some potbelly pigs that stay small enough to race for a few years, but the market pigs are donated to local FFA and 4-H groups when they are done racing."

Each show lasts about 15-20 minutes, "depending how bad they want the cookie and how fast they run," Johnson said.

Show times at the Rock County Fair are 7 p.m. Wednesday and 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the south end of the midway.

According to Johnson, Swiftly, the swimming pig, is the star of the half-time show.

"He plunges into the tank in an effort to break the current world record," according to the website.

"Swiftly has made some TikTok vid-



Zach Johnson, owner of Swiftly Swine Productions, will bring his racing (and swimming) pigs to this year's Rock County Fair July 28-31 in Luverne. "This is our first time in Luverne, and we're really looking forward to it," Johnson said. "It's a great show that people will enjoy."

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"The little porkers pound the turf at a blazing 15 mph — all for an Oreo cookie."



eos with 10 million views," Johnson said.

Johnson's wife is originally from Minnesota, and the show travels to fairs across the state, as well as locations as far as San Diego, Chicago and New York state.

According to Bob Remme, treasurer of the Rock County Ag Society, the pig races are just one of a number of new entertainment options added to this year's fair.

"We're always trying to bring in something unique, something different," he said.

Remme, who has booked many of the new entertainment options, said the goal is to provide free options for young and old to enjoy.

A "Wheels of Agriculture" traveling game show and Wizard of Oz and Paul

Bunyan shows are just some examples.

"We try to offer family-oriented entertainment that people will enjoy while they're at the fair," Remme said. "We think the racing pigs show should definitely be a lot of fun for people to watch."

Johnson agrees.

"It's just a squealing good time," he said of his show.

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