



# Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, September 16, 2021

## Luverne School District implements mask mandate

### Incident Command Team requires students, staff to wear masks indoors through Oct. 1

By Mavis Fodness

Increased coronavirus activity prompted Luverne school leaders to implement a district-wide mask mandate Monday evening, effective Tuesday.

Superintendent Craig Oftedahl communicated with district families electronically Monday.

"There has been a lot of illness activity in our health office, and we have several students and staff who are currently quarantined due to close contact with a positive COVID case," he wrote.

"The medical community has

### Parents, students protest at district office Tuesday morning

By Mavis Fodness

Roughly 50 parents and students gathered outside the Luverne School District office Tuesday morning to peacefully protest the new mask mandate.

Parents were notified around 6 p.m. Monday that all pre-K through 12th-grade students and district staff would need to wear facial coverings

indoors beginning the following morning.

Rock County Deputy Mike Westerbuier informed those who were gathering to do so peacefully, not to enter the building, and not to impede anyone from entering the building.

Those gathered said they would do so peacefully,

**Mask mandate protest/continued on page 2A**

on each of these cases to identify close contacts in order to determine steps to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19," Oftedahl indicated.

"If your child is identified as a close contact to a COVID-19 case at school, the school district will contact you."

As of Friday, Sept. 10, there were two positive cases in the district. By Monday afternoon, five additional cases were reported. "The medical community has also seen an increase in COVID activity in the

**Mask mandate/see page 3A**

also seen an increase in COVID activity in the past week."

The district has seven active

COVID-19 cases as of Sept. 13. School began Sept. 7. Three cases are in the elementary and four at

the high school.

"We have worked with the Minnesota Department of Health

## School to open for building tours

### Public open house Sunday to show off school construction, remodel project

By Mavis Fodness

The Luverne School Board will host a public open house Sunday to showcase the district's completed construction.

Self-guided tours will be from 2 to 5 p.m. "I am extremely proud of the project," Superintendent Craig Oftedahl said.

"The Board of Education had wonderful vision and did things right. They produced a really classy facility that allows our staff to be extremely functional for the demands of today's educational standards."

Some statistics from the project:

- The 65-year-old middle-high school is now larger, growing by 41,170 square feet to a new size of 417,670 square feet.

- The new areas include six additional classrooms in the middle school wing, a new student commons and a new performing arts center (PAC).

- Remodeling encompassed 200,000 square feet, 2,100 gallons of paint, 1,500 electrical receptacles, 66 miles of wire, 30 miles of data cable and fiber and 65 new electrical panels.

- Crews hauled 1,400 loads of rubbish, dirt or fill hauled in or out.

"The new commons and kitchen are spectacular," Oftedahl added.

"The performing arts center is state of the art and absolutely beautiful. The administration did a nice job creating collaborative space and the use of furniture in helping with 21st Century learning, and the secure entrances and more cameras across the campus will aid in our safety and security protocols."

**From the basement on up**

The project began in 2016, when board members reviewed the long-term facility plan that's filed annually with the state education department outlining upcoming improvement projects.

**School building tour/see p. 5A**



Lori Sorenson photo/0916 state water tour blue mounds

State and local leaders with Minnesota's Clean Water Council took a field trip Monday through the Blue Mounds State Park as part of the council's southwest Minnesota tour of projects funded by the state's Clean Water Legacy Act. Of particular interest was the former Lower Lake of the park that drained in 2014 when flood waters destroyed the dam. The stream restoration has improved habitat and water quality.

## Rock County, southwest Minnesota tout water projects

By Lori Sorenson

A busload of state and local leaders with Minnesota's Clean Water Council took a field trip Monday through the Blue Mounds State Park.

It was part of the council's southwest Minnesota tour of projects funded by the state's Clean Water Legacy Act.

Of particular interest was the former Lower Lake of the park that drained in 2014 when flood waters destroyed the dam.

In the years since then, the Minnesota DNR and state hydrologists implemented a plan to restore the drainage area to pre-dam conditions — prior to the 1930s.

The goal was to create a naturally meandering, stable stream channel to improve habitat for native species and improve protection for drinking water in the 16-acre watershed to the Rock River.

Brooke Hacker, water quality specialist with the DNR, played a major role in the six-

year restoration project and said habitat numbers have already improved since the work was completed.

"This whole park has a very outstanding biological significance," she told the group gathered at the park.

Of concern were the endangered Topeka shiner and plains topminnow, but other species such as pond mussels,

**Water council tours/continued on 2A**

## Johnson honored for Outstanding Achievement

By Mavis Fodness

Residents at Blue Mound Tower know their executive director, Tammy Johnson, is someone they can count on for help.

Now Johnson's local positive impact is known statewide.

Johnson received the 2021 Outstanding Achievement Award at the annual conference of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials in Duluth last week.

She was nominated for the award by Evan Verbrugge, who

**Johnson award/see page 3A**



## Fire department may add six-seater side-by-side to fleet

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne's Tom Nelson survived a cardiac arrest in the Blue Mounds State Park last month, thanks to CPR from a passerby and ambulance access to the portion of the trail where he collapsed.

Had he been on a narrower trail deeper into the park, the outcome may have been different.

Nelson's incident came up in recent Luverne City Council budget discussion when Fire Chief David Van Batavia explained why the department needs a \$40,000 quad-seat

side-by-side off-road vehicle.

"Obviously we had many concerns after that call," Van Batavia said about Nelson's emergency. "The ambulance guessed at a field approach and it happened to work out."

With 30 miles of trails within the state park and the recent Luverne Loop and the Chris Ashby Trail in the community, Van Batavia said off-road emergencies are becoming more likely.

"There are pinch points in the Ashby trail where an

**Fire department UTV/see 5A**



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Library book sale starts Sept. 16

The Rock County Community Library will offer a fall book sale from Thursday, Sept. 16, through Saturday, Sept. 18, in the library basement. Hours on Thursday are 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and the Saturday bag sale is from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. A special time of 4 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday is open for Friends of the Library to shop. Anyone wanting to join Friends of the Library may do so at the door Wednesday evening and take advantage of early shopping. Books may be do-nated to the library any day the library is open. Not accepted are encyclopedias, textbooks, Reader's Digest books and VHS or cassette tapes.

### Free food offered Sept. 16

New Life Celebration Church will offer free food at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 16, at the Generations Building on East Lincoln Street in Luverne. Vehicles drive to the double glass doors on the west side of the building where volunteers will load groceries into cars. Walkers get packaged groceries at the east door. Call 507-283-4366.

### Free food for seniors Sept. 16

Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors 60 and older, sponsored by A.C.E. of SW MN, will be from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 16, as a drive thru distribution in the parking lot at 319 E. Lincoln, Luverne. Call Linda Wenzel at 283-5064 for more information. Pre-registration is required.

### Art Walk at Crow's Nest Sept. 18

The Crow's Nest Farm will host its second annual Art Walk from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, at 1074 161st St. Luverne, Minnesota. The event features outdoor booths displaying original work of many regional artists. The farm also features alpacas and chickens.

### 'Out of the Darkness' walk and Kevin Hines speaker Sept. 18

Out of the Darkness suicide prevention walk will be Saturday, Sept. 18, on the Luverne High School track with registration and open comments at 7 a.m. and walk starting at 8.

Suicide survivor Kevin Kines will speak at 11:30 a.m. in the new Luverne High School performing arts center. It's free and open to the public.

Register for the walk at [afsp.org/luverne](http://afsp.org/luverne). Money raised through the event will be used for community education and training about suicide prevention research.

### Blue Mound Church Fall Festival Sept. 19

The Blue Mound Lutheran Church annual fall festival will be at 11 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 19, at the rural church northeast of Luverne. It's the 149th anniversary of the founding of the church. Guest pastor is the Rev. Craig Grams from Sioux Falls. A catered dinner will follow the worship service. All are invited. Call Dick and Dolly Remme, 507-283-8966, with questions.

### New school open house and tours Sept. 19

The community of Luverne, the Luverne School District and surrounding area are invited to the Luverne School District open house of the newly remodeled areas and new construction from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19. With construction nearing final completion, the Board of Education will show-case the additions, remodeling and new learning spaces. Guided and self-guided tours will be available. Light refreshments will be served.

### Historical Society Sept. 20 event features story of Dick Wildung and Minnesota Gophers

The Rock County Historical Society annual banquet and program will be Monday, Sept. 20, in Luverne. Social hour is at 5:30 and the meal is at 6 p.m. at Sterling's.

The 7:15 program at the Palace Theatre features author and journalist Danny Spewak who shares the story of the 1941 Gopher National Championship football team. His book, "From the Gridiron to the Battlefield," chronicles Minnesota's march to a college football title and into World War II.

Two-time All-American and Gopher great Dick Wildung, a Luverne High School grad, is part of the program. Reserve banquet tickets by Sept. 17 at the History Center, 507-283-2122, or email [rcmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:rcmuseum@gmail.com). The program at the Palace is free.



Mavis Fodness photo/0916 Luverne Masks Up Sidebar

About 50 parents and students gather outside Luverne School District office doors Tuesday morning to peacefully protest school administration's Monday night's mask mandate decision for implementation on Tuesday morning.

### Mask mandate protest/continued from page 1A

but said they wanted a conversation with school board members and administrators about the decision-making process.

"We felt it (the decision) was done under the table," said parent Ashley Connell. "All we are trying to do is stand up for our rights and the rights of our children."

The group wants to have direct input with the board.

Superintendent Craig Oftedahl used email to inform parents and guardians of the mask mandate decision late Monday. (See related story.)

Parents and students began gathering about 7:15 a.m. Tuesday morning at

the entrance of the district offices.

Parents Tom Thone and Brad Sieve talked privately with Oftedahl for about 25 minutes.

Both questioned the decision-making process, data used to make the decision, and the frustration of not having more parental

input before decisions are made.

Thone and Sieve agreed to convey information back to the group about a special school board meeting to hear parental concerns.

The date and time of the meeting was not available by the time the Star Herald went to press.

### Water Council tour of Rock County, southwest Minnesota/from 1A

Blanchard cricket frogs and Blandings turtles are also thriving.

"That's a major accomplishment," Hacker said. "We have the fish data to show those rare species are here."

She said she's waiting to see the water quality data, because Mound Creek is known to be impaired for bacteria, such as E-coli.

Funding for the Blue Mounds State Park project, a total of \$1.99 million, came from the Minnesota DNR Disaster Bond (FEMA), Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Roughly 4,200 feet of channel was excavated in the historic lake sediment. Seven oxbows were created for Topeka shiners and other species, rapids were built to connect steeper grades, and an 80-foot bridge was built to span rapids and allow access to trails.

In addition to providing improved habitat for diverse species, the new floodplain allows for water storage above "bankfull" flows and sediment and nutrient treatment from upstream sources.

Essentially, the park's new water feature filters and cleans ground and surface water as it makes its way through a sensitive area en route to the Rock River and underground aquifers.

During Monday's tour, Doug Bos updated tour participants on the role of Blue Mounds stream restoration in the broader effort to improve and protect Rock County's surface water and drinking water.

Bos, assistant director of the Rock County Land Management Office, pointed out that the state park is in the county's One Watershed One Plan for improving water quality.



The water restoration project at the Blue Mounds State Park resulted in improved habitat numbers and cleaner water. "This whole park has a very outstanding biological significance," Brooke Hacker of the DNR told the group gathered at the park. (Lori Sorenson photo)

And it's also part of an EPA 319 grant, the seasonal riparian area management project of Rock and Pipestone counties, which promotes pasture management and livestock health to improve stream health.

USFW received a \$1.4 million grant for Pipestone and Rock counties.

"We did 110 oxbows — old meander channels, 67 in Rock County, in pastures and areas like over here," Bos said.

"They all had water and they all had minnows in them. So, it was successful, the design that the DNR and USFW has done well."

Hacker said that in addition to providing habitat and clean water, the Blue Mounds water restoration area is also appealing to humans.

"From what I understand, people in this area really enjoy this park," she said.

She read remarks from

local park visitors to close out the tour.

"During the last year with COVID, my husband and I have been grateful to hike the trails," one visitor wrote. "The new trails through the stream have been particularly restful and relaxing. The feeling of meandering through nature has been essential to our mental health."

Another shared, "I enjoy being able to walk on newly accessible paths. By the stream banks in the winter, I saw a magnitude of animal prints in the newly fallen snow. In the summer months, the native prairie plants are in bloom and are wonderful examples to identify native species with."

Frank Juhl, chair of the Clean Water Council, said he appreciated the remarks. "For all the work we do to make sure that these happen, having people say this, the power of it is great."

Part of the reason for

Monday's tour was to review projects funded by the Clean Water Council, which advises the Legislature and governor on the appropriation of Clean Water Fund dollars and the implementation of the 2006 Clean Water Legacy Act.

Thirty-three percent of the sales tax revenue from the Legacy amendment is allocated to the Clean Water Fund.

Those funds may only be spent to protect, enhance and restore water quality in lakes, rivers and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation. At least five percent of the Clean Water Fund must be spent to protect drinking water sources.

Protecting Minnesota's waters is a joint effort between seven partner agencies, who collaborate and partner on Minnesota's water resource management activities under the Clean Water Fund.

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## COVID cases on the rise locally

By Lori Sorenson

Local public health leader Jason Kloss weighed in Tuesday on the Luverne School District's mask mandate.

He said Luverne is not unique — that every school district will eventually be faced with the same choice

"It's no surprise," he said. "That's what COVID does when people get together."

He pointed to the 14-day case rates per 10,000 people (based on population) leading up to the start of school on Sept. 7, which showed 30 on Aug. 27, 18 on Sept. 5 and 22 on Sept. 13.

Case rates should be less than 10 for safe indoor learning. "The case rates aren't dropping below 10, and that's what's concerning," Kloss said. "Schools are in a tough position, because where does school take place? Indoors."

Kloss serves on the school's incident command team, which guides decisions about district response to COVID-19.

"The goal is to try to keep kids in school," he said. "Masks will minimize exposure. When you're talking younger kids who can't get the vaccine, masks are important."

He urged all eligible students and staff to be vaccinated. "You're talking about minimizing impact to your student body."

He emphasized that masks will help to keep schools open for in-person learning, and they will minimize the number of students and teachers who miss school for illness or quarantining.

"Logically speaking, this is the only way for schools to go," he said about mask mandates.

## Mask mandate/cont. from page 1A

past week," Oftedahl wrote.

Medical leaders are recommending that masks be worn in order to curb the spread of the virus.

The mask mandate will last through Oct. 1.

Oftedahl said that the medical community expects the current COVID surge to peak around the end of September or the beginning of October.

In that timeframe school administrators, along with members of the district's incident command team, will evaluate case numbers and make adjustments as needed.

"Keeping children in school is critical to their emotional health and well-being and their educational success," Oftedahl stressed.

"The Luverne School District is committed to in-person learning for all students throughout the 2021-22 school year. This is only possible with the cooperation of families and students."

He encouraged parents and guardians to remember the following:

- Keep children who are ill and not feeling well at home.

- Take advantage of testing options when students and parents are exhibiting symptoms.

- Continue to report cases among families and students with our school nurse, Phil Paquette.

- Wear a mask and encourage others to mask up.

- Take advantage of vaccinations for those who are eligible.

- Maintain social distancing when possible.



Mavis Fodness photo/0916 Outstanding Tammy Johnson

With a painting of the seven-story Blue Mound Tower in the background, Executive Director Tammy Johnson holds the 2021 Outstanding Achievement Award she received last week at the annual conference of the Minnesota Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials in Duluth.

## Johnson award/continued from page 1A

is a board member with the Luverne Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

He assisted in hiring Johnson in January 2015.

"And since Day 1 she has been a breath of fresh air to this housing authority," Verbrugge wrote.

"Tammy had big shoes to fill, with Marcia Linszen retiring after several years as executive director, but I knew Tammy would excel at this position."

Johnson's "residents-first" philosophy led her to secure grants totaling \$1.3 million to improve the 50-year-old Blue Mound Tower.

She often spent time on weekends pulling the grant information together. The process took hours.

"She dove straight in head-first and has not come up for a breath yet," Verbrugge said.

"Tammy is firm but fair with the contractors, which means things will be done properly."

Dara Lee is the Minnesota NAHRO vice president.

"One of the reasons Tammy was selected for this honor was due to the kindness and care she shows residents," Lee said. "Her residents love and respect her as she does her best to provide them with a comfortable home."

The work in the 70-unit apartment building is scheduled to be done this fall.

An open house and 50-year anniversary celebration is planned.

"I'm humbled," Johnson said.

"The award usually goes to the metro facilities."

She was quick to add that she "was just doing her job."

"This job is one of servant leadership," she said. "It seems odd to get

*'One of the reasons Tammy was selected for this honor was due to the kindness and care she shows residents. Her residents love and respect her as she does her best to provide them with a comfortable home.'*

—Dara Lee, Minnesota NAHRO vice president

an award to show up, do your job and treat people with respect — that's what people should do every day."

Tower residents and co-workers at the Towers honored Johnson Monday with gifts of flowers, a celebratory cake and a banner in congratulations.

"Tammy is always looking to improve the lifestyles of the residents, whether it is by just saying 'hello' or by decorating the common areas to make people feel welcome and at home," Verbrugge said.

"We as a board are so lucky to have Tammy in charge, as it makes our lives so much easier — we do not need to worry about every little thing that may come up as Tammy probably has it taken care of already."

The Outstanding Achievement Award is given annually through the Minnesota Chapter of NAHRO.

The award was first established in 1985 to recognize individual members who, in their house or community development career, have had outstanding achievements during the past year and show promise of continued success.

## County joins St. Paul Port Authority to offer green energy loans locally

*Apartment buildings on former Sharkee's property will be first to receive PACE approval*

By Mavis Fodness

Rock County Commissioners signed a joint powers agreement with the St. Paul Port Authority Sept. 7.

Now they can offer Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) loans through the non-profit governmental agency for up to \$1 million.

At the same meeting, commissioners approved the PACE loan to GreenSmith Luverne Holdings LLC, which will borrow \$1 million to build two market-rate apartment buildings on the former Sharkee's site in Luverne.

Building costs are estimated at \$6.6 million.

"The county's responsibility is the assessment," said County Administrator Kyle Oldre. "We would collect the dollars back and repay the Saint Paul Port Authority."

Previously the county has partnered with the Rural Minnesota Energy Board for clean energy projects. However, Oldre said loans for a similar program through the Southwest Regional Development Commission are capped at \$100,000, while PACE's maximum is \$1 million.

Meeting through Zoom, Michael Linder with the Port Authority and Peter Lindstrom with the University of Minnesota Extension (CERT) program outlined the agreement and how the program works.

"The risk is that the special assessment paid by the property owner could go delinquent," said Linder.

"The county would go through its normal tax forfeiture process like any other special assessment."

The tax assessment loan is about one-sixth of the project's total value. The value of the apartments would cover the tax delinquency.

County Attorney Jeff Haubrich said the risk to the county is minimal. "There is an asset there," he said.

Loan repayment is over a 15-year period with annual assessment payments between \$50,000 to

\$60,000 a year, according to information at the commissioners' meeting.

The Port Authority has 65 similar agreements with government entities throughout the state.

Wendy Anderson, a financial consultant on the project from Springfield, Minnesota, told commissioners via Zoom she has worked with the city of Luverne for the past two years.

The coronavirus pandemic in 2020 slowed the project. The city has worked with Anderson on a tax increment financing agreement for the project as well as agreed to complete site work at the South Highway 75 and Hatting Street location.

Construction of the two apartment buildings with the total of 54 units will begin this fall, according to Aaron Smith with GreenSmith Builders out of Minneapolis. Smith is project manager for the Luverne project.

"We are excited about the project," Smith told the commissioners via Zoom. "We think this will be one of the 'greenest' apartment buildings built in the state of Minnesota."

A "green" structure uses less water, optimizes energy efficiency, generates less waste, conserves natural resources and provides healthier spaces for occupants as compared to a conventional building.

"We seek to have a more comfortable, healthier, extremely energy-efficient building that provides lower total cost of rent for our guests by significantly reducing energy bills," Smith said after the meeting.

Each building will have an elevator, access to the Luverne Loop, and will be next door to a proposed new Caribou Coffee. The first tenants are expected to move in next year.

GreenSmith buildings are also constructing a net zero home on East Christensen Drive and are working with the city of Luverne for other green building opportunities, Smith indicated.

Smith and out-of-state investors Marc Wigder and Alvin "Hope" Johnson make up GreenSmith Luverne Holdings and will own and operate the apartment complexes.

### REMINDER ROCK COUNTY LANDOWNERS

Shoulder mowing should be done by **Sept. 15, 2021** for all townships except; Beaver Creek, Denver, Magnolia & Martin. Landowners in Springwater should be done by **October 1, 2021**. Failure to do so in Springwater Township will result in your taxes being assessed at \$100 per half mile, per time.

Rock County Board

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## Our readers might not miss our old sports guy, but I do (don't tell him)

Don't tell anyone, but I miss our old sports guy.



### ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

By old, I mean he was the only one left here who'd been here longer than I had. I've been at the paper for 28 years if that tells you how old he is.

I used to tell people we were like an old married couple.

Our desks were next to each other with a short divider wall between us. He could hear me munching on snacks, and I could smell cigarettes when he returned from smoke breaks. And, of course, we complained about each other's vices.

He called me Tipper Gore. I called him Rush Limbaugh. That's all I'm going to say about our political leanings and how those conversations went. They usually ended with him walking away for a smoke break.

And I complained about the tobacco smell when he returned.

Other than our clattering keyboards, we had very little in common ... Until he and Astrid got married. I called her "Sweet Astrid" for taking him in.

Their children and mine were about the same age, which gave us more in common.

But he was still Rush, and I was still Tipper. It was a good thing that short wall was between us.

We got along in the way siblings might tolerate each other. We had to; we were family — our work family.

There was a mutual understanding that he'd never have to write a County Board story and I'd never have to cover a football game.

Nobody would have wanted to read that.

So, when the sports

stories came through with "By John Rittenhouse" at the top, it generally meant the information was solid, scores were accurate, athletes' names were spelled correctly and event highlights were relatively accounted for.

I took it for granted. I took him for granted. (Not that I'd ever admit it out loud)

Then, one day, COVID-19 happened.

High school sports came to a grinding halt, along with everything else. And Rittenhouse looked around and said, "I guess my work here is through."

And he left.

I didn't really miss him at first, because he was right. There were no local sports to cover.

I didn't even miss the tobacco smell or the annoying political remarks, because neither one of us was there. I had transitioned to working at home, like most of Main Street.

But as the vaccine became available and workers returned to work and students returned to school, sporting events resumed.

Our part-time new sports guy liked his job but followed his wife to Portland, Oregon. (I hope it wasn't the munching at my desk that drove him away.)

I now officially miss our old sports guy. Who's happily retired, and last I heard, doesn't miss us at all.

Meanwhile, dear readers, we hope you're enjoying our coaches, parents, school staff and others who are filling in with stories and photos until we find a full-time sports person at the Star Herald.

We think they're doing a phenomenal job. Our readers might not even miss our old sports guy, but I do. (Just don't tell him.)

## Star Herald offers "thumbs" for 9/11 observance, rickety bleachers, and more

**Thumbs up** — to the Historical Society for its work on the parking lot/plaza area on East Main Street by the History Center. That block just keeps looking better and better.

**Thumbs down** — to the visitors' side bleachers at the Luverne High School football field. They're a slippery hazard — especially the steps — when they're wet, and the rickety setup isn't very welcoming to out-of-town guests.

**Thumbs up** — to our local tributes to remembering 9/11. The Luverne Fire Department unfurled a large American flag from the end of the extended ladder truck, the city of Luverne displayed flags downtown and over the Rock River Bridge, and Remember Rally put up a poignant display in a downtown window front.

A great deal has changed in the 20 years since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on American soil, but some things stay the same. For example freedom isn't free.

### STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

**Thumbs down** — to under the surface grumbling about masks and the COVID-19 vaccine in schools. Fortunately our local school districts haven't encountered overt animosity, but it's disheartening to see the ugly faces of "my opinion means more than yours" in other parts of the region and nation.

**Thumbs up** — to the return of the Rock County Pheasants Forever Banquet on Oct. 5. This group of dedicated volunteers has the interests of local wildlife habitat and resource conservation at heart. The banquet and the local PF chapter cause are definitely worth community support.

**Thumbs down** — to the forces of society that make a person feel that the world would

be better without them. The causes of suicide are many, and it seems resources to help the suicidal are few.

**Thumbs up** — to the Luv1LuvAll Brain Health group and its school and community partners for bringing suicide survivor Kevin Hines to Luverne and organizing the "Out of Darkness" walk Saturday, Sept. 18.

Hines, a rare survivor of a jump from the Golden Gate Bridge, shares his experience and offers ways to see the light at the end of a tunnel.

Registration and open comments are at 7 a.m. and the **walk starts at 8 a.m.** on the Luverne High School track. **Hines will speak at 11:30 a.m.** in the new school performing arts center.

## Kracht: 'Things that you won't hear on the news that are 100 percent true!'

### To the Editor:

While 28,000 COVID cases were reported in Florida by the CDC on Aug. 9, they quietly reduced that number to 17,000 on Aug. 11, with no explanation of why. If you were off by 11,000 in your checkbook, someone would need to explain it.

Nearly 8,000 people have died from the effects of the Covid shot. I don't care if you are for the vaccine, or against it, but shouldn't this be reported by the media?

There is no test for the "Delta Variant" of COVID-19. If you research the Delta Variant, this is what the experts say: "There is not a specific test for the Delta Variant. However, since the vast majority of COVID cases are the Delta Variant, it is likely a positive test result indicates you could be infected with the Delta Variant."

This is about as vague and a non-answer as you can get. There are a few labs in the country that can detect it, but they have just done a few samples. Basically, we are just guessing.

### VOICE OF OUR READERS

While the vaccine has been FDA approved, the COVID test that was used throughout 2020 was rejected by them. Bet you didn't hear about this, did you? The test was rejected by the FDA, because of nearly 50 percent false positive results.

So, is there a test for COVID that is FDA approved? Or are we still just winging it? The NIAD, under the direction of Dr. Fauci, gave the Wuhan lab \$826,000 for bat coronavirus research from 2014 to 2019. Then he lied to the United States Congress about it. Twice.

Another CDC reporting debacle, they reported the number of children with COVID in Texas as 783 per day. Whoops! Three days later, they admitted a mistake. It was a total of 783 children that contracted COVID. Do you think they did this by accident? Yet, nothing on the news saying they screwed up. It was another

hit piece on the Texas governor.

CNN ran a hit piece on Ron DeSantis, the Governor of Florida. The story was, four teachers from Florida died from COVID in one day. This was aimed at letting the parents of our children decide on mask wearing at school. It was reported that three of the teachers were not vaccinated. The fourth was unknown.

After looking into the facts, the fourth was not a teacher at all. But wait! When did this happen? Oh, it was on Aug. 12! The teachers and kids were not in school yet in Florida. One day later, CNN retracted the story, but there was no explanation or apology.

Don't get me wrong. I know COVID-19 is real. I know several people who have gotten it, who have been seriously ill, and have died because of it. But the truth has not been reported on it.

**Mert Kracht, Luverne**

### Frakes: Lead on!

#### To the Editor:

I see there is a big protest over the new vaccine mandate.

I bet these same people refuse to wear their seat belts and also smoke in bars, because they will be damned if they let someone else tell them what to do! Lead on!

**Bill Frakes, Luverne**

### Reed: Community's volunteerism another reason to smile when visiting

#### To the Editor:

When we visit Luverne from time to time, we have come to expect a new little gem or pleasant surprise on almost every trip. Wildflowers along the bike path to the Blue Mounds. A Redbirds game on a lovely summer evening. One ripened Prairie Ally cherry tomato begging to be picked.

Our most recent travel to Luverne was rewarded by the Green Earth Players' production

of "The Game's Afoot" at the Palace Theatre. What a terrific production, sparking laughter and lightheartedness with every well-delivered line!

Luverne is blessed with a community spirit, where avid volunteerism creates experiences available to everyone. This kind of dedication to the public good isn't accidental. Luverne is lucky. And so are we.

**Maureen Reed, Stillwater**

### Ellstons: 'You should be proud ...'

#### To the Editor:

Hello, Mr. (Luverne Mayor) Baustian.

We are a couple in our 80s who visited your city on Aug. 25.

We enjoyed walking down main street listening to music from the loud speakers. NICE!

We were surprised as we waited for traffic to cross the street as a car stopped and motioned us across. NICE!

We stopped at the Chamber of Commerce where a very friendly and knowledgeable lady gave us tourist info. NICE!

Toured the History Center and nutcracker collection, where a very nice gentleman gave us a fantastic tour. NICE!

Ate ice cream at McDonalds. NICE!

Toured Blue Mound State Park and the Touch the Sky Prairie. NICE! Saw the buffalo herd and the house built in a rock. NICE!

Thank you for a great day. You should be proud of your town and citizens.

**Dean and Carol Ellston, Sioux Falls, S.D.**

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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

#### Sept. 3

•Complainant on N. Spring Street reported a vehicle running for hours.

•Nobles County requested deputy assistance in locating a subject.

•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 18, Magnolia, reported a bicyclist at location.

•Complainant on County Road 17 and 131<sup>st</sup> Street, Hills, reported an abandoned vehicle at location.

•Complainant on County Road 4, westbound from Interstate 90, Beaver Creek, reported erratic driving.

•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 4, Beaver Creek, reported a driving complaint.

•Complainant on County Highway 4 and 170<sup>th</sup>, Luverne, reported debris on the road at location.

•Complainant on 200<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Magnolia, reported an unresponsive female.

•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue requested subject trespassing.

•Complainant reported road rage and a driving complaint.

#### Sept. 4

•Complainant on 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Jasper, reported dangerous driving.

•Complainant in Pipestone County reported an active pursuit.

•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 3, Beaver Creek, reported a driving complaint.

•Complainant on Highway 75, north of Interstate 90 exit, Luverne, reported a driving complaint.

•Complainant on N. Oakley Street reported marijuana odor.

#### Sept. 5

•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported suspicious activity.

#### Sept. 7

•Deputy assisted MSP looking for injured party on Interstate 90 from South Dakota line to Nobles County.

•Complainant on W. Bishop Street reported juice on his side-

walk and house.

•Complainant on N. Freeman Avenue reported a repossessed vehicle.

•Property was found at location on E. Main Street.

•Complainant on W. Mead Court requested deputy to post notice.

•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported three kids playing by pond.

•Complainant on Commerce Road reported an open door.

•Complainant on N. Estey Street and W. Dodge Street reported a semi parked overnight.

•Complainant on S. West Park Street and W. Main Street reported reckless driving.

•Motorist assist at location on Minnesota Avenue and County Road 4, Luverne.

•Complainant on Ross Street, Hardwick, requested an escort to talk to a landlord.

#### Sept. 8

•Complainant on W. Koehn Avenue reported a parking issue.

•Complainant on County Highway 4, Beaver Creek, reported a ditch fire near the railroad tracks.

•Complainant on W. Second Street, Hills, reported property damage at location.

•Complainant on 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Beaver Creek, requested a property check.

#### Sept. 9

•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported a lost walkie talkie.

•Complainant on W. Dodge Street and N. Kniss Avenue reported a found purse.

•Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported possible missing items at location.

•Complainant on N. Freeman Avenue reported a possible stolen vehicle.

In addition, officers responded to 2 escorts, 13 ambulance runs, 5 paper services, 7 animal complaints, 3 fingerprint requests, 5 burn permits, 2 alarms, 7 purchase and carry permits, 2 stalled vehicles, 24 traffic stops, 15 abandoned 911 calls and 2 follow-ups.



The new commons area features flexible seating options for students. On the mezzanine, the new media center is located and features 5,000 books down from the 30,000 volumes in the previous location.

## School building tour/continued from page 1A

Oftedahl toured board members through the basement kitchen and cafeteria.

Katie Baustian, Reva Sehr and Eric Hartman are current members still on the seven-member board.

“We all had our eyes opened as far as the needed update,” recalled Baustian, who served as board chairman in 2016.

A new first-floor commons and kitchen led the list of five long-term goals. The other goals included improved safety and security, collaborative learning space, remodel and right-sized rooms to meet 21st century standards and celebrate music and fine arts.

In 2016, the district was within two years of paying off the elementary school, built in 1999. Board members saw an opportunity to continue investing in the district through another possible bond referendum.

“Safety was such a priority,” Sehr said. “Items such as door locks, security camera and an updated intercom system were very much needed. We also needed to get our school’s technical infrastructure updated as well so we could use technology more in the

classroom.”

Current Board Chairman Eric Hartman said conversations centered around the growing list of the number of capital improvements that far outweighed what money the district levies annually for its facilities plan.

“With the (elementary building) bond payoff coming soon, I know my initial thoughts were to roll a number of these capital improvement projects and upgrades into one major project — funded through a new bond — which would start immediately after the prior one was paid off,” Hartman said.

The board was able to levy \$8 million for infrastructure and HVAC improvements.

Voters approved a \$16 million bond to remodel and add square footage to the middle-high school.

In a second question, voters also approved the proposed \$7 million bond for a performing arts center.

#### Project took 30 months

After the \$31 million project was rebid, construction began in the former Little Theatre in March 2019.

“The students have been great throughout the process,” Oftedahl said. “Not only did they assist with the input of the building, they endured the noise and debris from construction.”

Staff often moved and packed their classrooms several times as the remodeling project progressed through the building.

When the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 forced students and staff to learn at home, construction staff continued to move forward with the remodeling.

A few items remain to be finished including patching the original terrazzo flooring.

Of the \$31 million budget, \$29,771,784 has been spent.

“My hope is that people walk away from the open house with a high level of satisfaction in knowing we worked hard to spend taxpayer dollars on the right things,” Oftedahl said.

“I want people to be proud of the school, as I feel it is one of the crown jewels of the community.”

## Fire department considers UTV for off-road rescue options/continued from page 1A

ambulance can’t go,” he said.

First responders currently transport victims on backboards on foot to an ambulance parked as near as it can get.

But the extra time on foot could be the difference between life and death in an emergency.

Van Batavia and Rock County Ambulance Director Harlan Vandekieft toured the trails and discussed how they would handle emergencies with the use of a side-by-side.

“Obviously we would practice certain scenarios,” Van Batavia said.

“For example, on the new trail by the Davis campground — whether it’s a broken leg to a cardiac event or anywhere in

between.”

He said first responders in the Rang would meet at the ambulance parked on trail road and grab necessary equipment.

Then two ambulance personnel and two firefighters would take 1 UTV to the victim while someone else remains with the ambulance.

Van Batavia said in winter, the machine could also be helpful where snow interferes with regular vehicle transportation.

“In the wintertime, people still use the trail, and there’s a foot of snow on each side. The trail becomes basically a tunnel,” Van Batavia said.

“It becomes one way in and one way out, which



The Luverne Fire Department is considering a six-seater Polaris Ranger or a UTV like it to add to its fleet of vehicles to improve off-road rescue options on local trails.

you don’t want with an ambulance. This could be used anywhere on the trail in the winter — and likely used more often than people would realize.”

Van Batavia said he’s looking into a 14-foot trailer, but said the Ranger would likely be driven to most calls, since it reaches speeds of 55 to 60 mph.

He said there would be room for medical bags and equipment in the 42-inch bed and inside the cab.

The unit can carry 80 to 90 gallons of water to respond to hard-to-reach fires, but the intent would be for off-road rescues.

The cost of the Ranger would include an EMS “skid” that fits in the cargo box. It is equipped with a backboard to carry a patient and can be mounted to the side.

The unit is fully enclosed with power windows, heat and air conditioning. It has a front and back seat that can accommodate six riders, including the driver.

Van Batavia said markings and lights to identify it as an emergency

vehicle will be handled in house (rather than pay the extra price of a government-modified Ranger).

Mayor Pat Baustian and the council generally supported the purchase of the Ranger.

“I think the council had good questions and concerns. A fire is one thing, but with our recent medical emergency ... Definitely an ambulance won’t be able to drive in some areas.”

Council member Kevin Aaker said, “An extra five minutes on a medical call makes a lot more difference than five minutes on a grass fire.”

Van Batavia said he will likely order the Ranger this fall for delivery next spring.

## Will your VOTE count in 2022?

Minnesota is drawing new maps for Congressional and Legislative districts based on the 2020 Census. But redistricting sometimes stacks the deck in favor of powerful interests and against the average voter.

Learn how Minnesota will redraw its electoral map this fall and what you can do to ensure that every vote counts in the coming decade’s elections. Join a conversation with redistricting expert Peter Wattson, former top lawyer for the Minnesota Senate, and Lori Sturdevant, retired Star-Tribune editorial writer.

**Tuesday, September 28, 7:00 PM on Zoom**  
To register go to: [cleanelectionsmn.org](https://cleanelectionsmn.org)

Sponsored by Clean Elections Minnesota and the League of Women Voters



**LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MINNESOTA**

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**September 3**  
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THANK YOU  
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- All 67 Tractors & Their Riders
- CHS Brandon - Papa Larry's
- Sunshine Foods - Magnolia Café
- Luverne Area Chamber - Round Table

**SEE YOU NEXT YEAR, SEPTEMBER 2, 2022!**  
Ken Vos, Rodger Ossenfort, Verlyn Van Batavia

## Prairie Wind Pet Cremation helps when man's best friend dies

By Mavis Fodness

For the Casey and Lee Westphal family of rural Hills, their dog named Red was a faithful companion.

She was an eager greeter and was dubbed "the best farm hand" by daughter McKenna in a social media post Aug. 21 about the 12-year-old Red Heeler's death.

A rescue dog, Red was 2 years old when she came to the Westphal farm and proved to be an eager helper to the family.

"She helped with so many things on the farm," said Casey. "She would let us know when anyone drove in the yard. She protected the garden from rabbits and squirrels. She helped to bring the horses in from the back pasture. She was a great friend to have around."

The family said goodbye to Red last month, but instead of burying her on their family farm, they chose cremation. Her ashes are back at the farm she so faithfully served.

"Her ashes will be spread on her favorite hunting spot on our farm," Casey said. "Supporting local small businesses is important to us."

The Westphals chose Prairie Wind Pet Cremation, a business started by Bethany and Cory Tilstra of rural Luverne in August 2020.

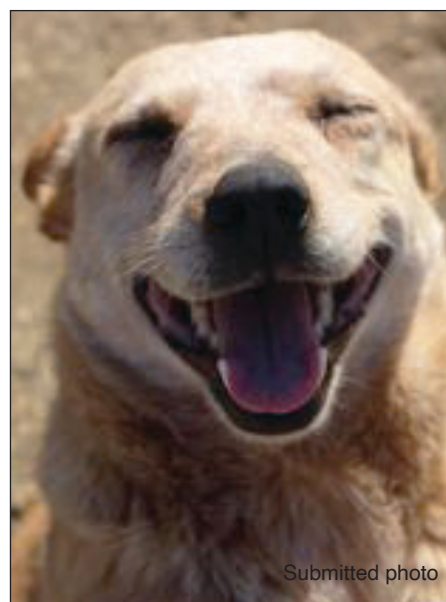
The Tilstras understand the heartbreak that comes at the death of a furry companion.

Each recalls as a child losing a family pet, and each felt no emotional closure.

Now, as adults, they know there is a better way to honor a departed pet, and they want to be a part of the grieving process.

"We are doing our part in helping someone during a hard time," Bethany said.

The cremation service's focus is on honoring and never forgetting a beloved pet.



Mavis Fodness photos/0916 Prairie Wind Pet Cremation

Bethany and Cory Tilstra (holding daughter Emma) started Prairie Wind Pet Cremation in August 2020 as a burial alternative for area pet owners. The family poses with their pets outside at the memorial garden, an option for grieving pet owners to spread their pet's ashes. **Above, top:** Red was the faithful farm dog of the Lee and Casey Westphal family of rural Hills. They recently used Prairie Wind Pet Cremation in which they chose to receive a framed print (right) of Red's paw and a velvet bag with her ashes. The ashes will be spread on Red's favorite hunting spot on the farm.

"After the cremation process, I get everything packaged and presentable, and even though the owners are sad about the loss of their pets, you can sense peace of mind knowing their pet is peacefully at rest in a very respectable way," Bethany said. "Every pet is treated as if it is one of our own."

Since the business started, the couple has assisted 50 families in the aftercare of their late pets, which have included dogs,



Each customer receives a note that states, "No longer by your side but forever in your heart." The paper heart contains wildflower seeds.

cats and a chicken. They've had inquiries about a pet parakeet and hamster.

Services range from picking the departed pet up from the veterinarian or another location, providing a private cremation, and either spreading the ashes in the memorial garden on the Tilstra farm or returning them to the family.

If disposal on the Tilstra farm is chosen, the Tilstras provide the pet's family with a framed print of the memorial garden where the ashes are spread.

Cost is based on the pet's size and which cremation package is selected. Prices range from \$50 to \$160, depending if an urn is desired. The Tilstras complete the

cremation package in a matter of days.

Cory said the incinerator is one recommended from Bethany's uncle, who is a veterinarian. He influenced the couple to start the personalized cremation service for pet owners.

The incinerator operates by diesel fuel, and the burning process takes a couple of hours at 1,400 degrees to complete. Only one pet is cremated at a time.

The metal, brick-lined, tube-like incinerator is located outside on their rural Luverne farm. The brick lining allows ashes to be easily scooped into a plastic bag after the burning process is complete.

Each customer receives a white cardboard box, and if they desire, they can get a framed print of the pet's paw completed by Bethany and a short condolence message from the Tilstra family.

A pressed paper heart containing flower seeds is included and is meant to be planted in the pet's honor.

The Tilstras also deliver the completed order. "Our goal is to offer the ultimate care for your pet while making our services very affordable," Bethany said.

Prairie Wind Pet Cremation is located at the Tilstra home, 583 110th Ave., Luverne. Their service is open 24 hours. Call 507-227-5216.

### CELEBRATIONS

#### Open house

An open house bridal shower for **Candace Swenson**, bride-to-be of **Marty Rigney**, will be from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 18, at Luverne Methodist Church.

### MENU

**Monday, Sept. 20:** Salisbury steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, dinner roll, Rice Krispie bar.

**Tuesday, Sept. 21:** Chef's choice, vegetable, fruit, bread, dessert.

**Wednesday, Sept. 22:** Tuna pasta salad, tomato wedges, orange, dessert.

**Thursday, Sept. 23:** Barbecue pork on a bun, coleslaw, fresh fruit, gelatin with whipped topping.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Security Savings Bank.

**Friday, Sept. 24:** Baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend vegetables, peaches.

*LSS Dining offers well-balanced and affordable meals.*

*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](http://www.lssmn.org/nutrition).*

### COMMUNITY EDUCATION

*Luverne Community Education will offer the following classes and activities. Call 507-283-4724 or visit the website: [http://www.isd2184.net/Community\\_Ed/index.html](http://www.isd2184.net/Community_Ed/index.html)*

Grades 1-4 **Volleyball** will teach basics of volleyball on Sept. 20, 23, and 27. Fee is \$15.

Pick up your chunk of clay the week of Sept. 27 for **Distance Learning with Clay**. Take it home with instructions to create your bowl, plate, animal, cup, etc. Then schedule your appointment at Deuschle Studio from Oct. 4-16 to color and fire your project. Fee is \$20 which includes all materials.

Parents with children ages 0-5 will enjoy the animals and activities at **Fall Time Fun** at Harmony Gardens Tuesday, Sept. 28. Registration is required by Sept. 21. Fee is \$9/child.



Cost of Prairie Wind Pet Cremation services range from \$50 to \$160, depending on the package a pet owner chooses. A framed paw print, a wooden box for ashes, a decorative urn and a velvet bag are among the options provided. Each package comes wrapped in a white box with a sympathy card that includes a pressed paper heart.

## REMEMBER WHEN

### 10 years ago (2011)

•Rock County Commissioners adopted an agreement with Geronimo Wind Energy to restore county and township roads after a wind tower project in northwest Rock County is completed in 2012.

Preliminary road work in Rose Dell, Springwater and Denver townships begins this fall.

Geronimo attorney Christina Brusven and Rock County attorney Don Klosterbuer proposed a series of agreements regarding road maintenance and restoration so that "all expectations are known before heavy equipment starts out on the roadways."

Geronimo assumes responsibility to restore the roads to their original condition.

### 25 years ago (1996)

•An end is in sight to years of parking problems for Blue Mounds State Park visitors entering the park from the east side by the quarry.

Plans are in progress for a small, off-road parking lot to be completed this fall. ...

As rock climbing and hiking in that area of the park have become increasingly popular, more vehicles have been park-

ing along the shoulders of an already dangerous curve along County Road 8. ...

No Parking signs were placed at the park entrance two years ago to keep it open to emergency vehicles in case of a fall or other injury in the park.

### 50 years ago (1971)

•Dawn Renee Carpenter is just six years old, but her charm, poise and prettiness caught the eyes of the judges Friday evening, when she was crowned, "Little Miss Luverne." The Pageant, sponsored by Luverne's Mrs. Jaycees, was held at the Little Theatre of the high school. Dawn is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Carpenter of Luverne.

### 75 years ago (1946)

•With the OPA's recent order rolling back restaurant prices to the June 30 level there is a possibility that some, if not all, of Luverne's restaurants might close.

Speaking for the Duchess Café the statement was made by Orrie Skattum that "when we receive official notice to roll back prices we will just lock up the kitchen and serve nothing but coffee."

The roll back to June 30<sup>th</sup>, restaurant men say, is not fair

because menu prices on that date are based on 1943 levels. The roll back doesn't take into account the terrific advances in meat costs and help costs.

"The profit margin is so thin now on a meal that meeting the roll back order would run us in the red and nobody expects anybody to operate at a loss", said Skattum.

C. W. McDonald, of the Coffee Shop echoes the statement by saying, "We'll either be forced to close or we'll have to quit serving certain menu items."

### 100 years ago (1921)

•Merchandise of an estimated value of \$3,000.00, was obtained early Wednesday morning, when A. J. Rauk's general store at Beaver Creek was robbed. Entrance was gained by breaking in a small glass in the front of the store and reaching in and unfastening the lock of the front door.

The merchandise stolen consisted of practically all the silk piece goods, hosiery, silk, neckties, all of the jewelry, all of the light weight sweaters, (mostly baby sweaters), and all of the size 16½ shirts in the store.

Ralph Gibson, clerk in the store, discovered the robbery when he came to the store Wednesday morning, and found the front door open and the silk department disheveled.

## Hardwick, Springwater Township receive 2021 Prairie Rose Community Fund dollars

More than \$40,000 was disbursed in 2021 through the Prairie Rose Community Fund with city of Hardwick, Springwater Township and Hardwick American Legion receiving the majority of this year's funds.

The community board of directors met recently to make the annual disbursement. This year, \$34,500 was given in community grants and \$9,500 to high school seniors and current college students.

The city of Hardwick received grants for energy-efficient lighting at the community hall, a message center at the city campgrounds, and waste water treatment improvements.

The fire department was granted money to purchase 16 pairs of gloves and three new garage doors. The city's community club received funds for the annual Jubilee Days and Santa Claus Day. Springwater Township

was approved to construct a concrete parking pad at the township hall.

The Hardwick American Legion reapplied for unspent funds in 2020 for landscaping around the community hall.

Scholarships were awarded to Emilee Haraldson, Brooklyn Moss, Zach Ahrendt, Chandra Javier, Mallory Thorson, Jenna Schelhaas, Emilie Bartels, Carson Ehde, Dalton Javier, Jacob Raak, Adriana Gonzalez and Aric Meinerts.

Scholarships and community grants are distributed annually and are based on submitted applications.

Applications can be found online at [prairierosecommunityfund.com](http://prairierosecommunityfund.com) for the 2022 award period.

Eligible recipients must reside within the Prairie Rose Wind Farm's footprint of Springwater, Rose Dell and Denver townships.



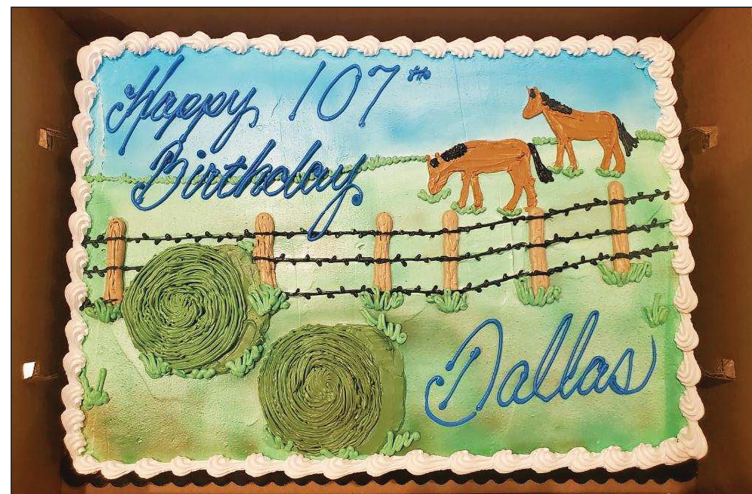
Mavis Fodness photo/0916 Luverne Homecoming Royalty 2021

## LHS names 2021 Homecoming Royalty

Luverne High School's Homecoming Royalty pose for a group picture Monday ahead of the Sept. 20 coronation event. This year's candidates include (from left) Hunter Ahrendt, Elise Ferrell, Ashton Sandbulte, Trista Baustian, Brooklynn VerSteege, Casey Sehr, Luke Thorson, Billi Connell, Olivia Wieneke and Trygve Gangestad.



## Happy 107<sup>th</sup> birthday, Dallas!



Dallas Bowron (above, center) with his daughter, Judy Bowron, Plymouth, and his son, John Bowron, Luverne, celebrated his 107<sup>th</sup> birthday Tuesday, Sept. 7, at Poplar Creek apartments in Luverne, where residents and family members gathered for coffee and cake (pictured left) in his honor.

Submitted photos

## Rock County 4-H'er serves as state ambassador

Krista Burkman of Brandon, S.D., is one of 27 4-H youth who were selected to serve as a Minnesota 4-H State Ambassador. Ambassadors are youth leaders and spokespeople for the statewide organization.

Selection as an ambassador is one of the highest honors that a 4-H member can achieve.

"As a state ambassador for the coming (4-H) year, some of my goals are to improve my leadership skills, meet new people, learn a lot about myself, make an



impact in the lives of others, and be a good role model for state ambassadors that are yet to come," said Burkman.

She is a member of Rock County's Springdell 4-H club and is a junior at Brandon Valley High School. She is the daughter of John Burkman and Kris Burkman.

The ambassador team plans and facilitates various 4-H activities including supporting the Minnesota State Fair, statewide leadership events and sharing their story with the general public.

## 1892: Year is record-setting with new settlers, rich agricultural land

The following appeared in *The Rock County Herald* on Aug. 12, 1892.

### Everything Booming

#### *This is The Condition of Things Generally in Luverne And The County at Large*

The present year will go into history, if present indications may be trusted, as the most prosperous ever known in the county.

The fame of this county as the richest agricultural country in the west, has steadily been reaching abroad, and the influx of new settlers of late has been rapidly increasing. The price of land has been steadily advancing and is destined to advance still more rapidly in the near future. Nearly all the large tracts of lands once owned by James Thompson, the Close Brothers, and the St. Paul & Sioux City Railway company, are now in the hands of actual settlers, and most of the "raw prairie" is under cultivation.

During the present year improvements on an extensive scale have been made in all parts of the county. New residences, new barns, and new granaries may be seen on every hand. New farms have been opened and a long step has been taken toward that time to which we have long been looking when a prosperous home will be



## BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

In the neighborhood of fifty new residences and three magnificent business blocks are now in course of erection in the village. One of these blocks, that of Nelson Bros. & Co., will be by all odds the finest store building in southwestern Minnesota, and either of the other two would do credit to any inland town in the state.

A splendid system of waterworks has recently been completed and within two or three months a first class electric light plant will be in operation in the village.

Luverne easily leads all its neighboring rivals, and is conceded to be the largest, most prosperous, and most enterprising town, as well as the best business point in Southwestern Minnesota.

Business and residence property, like land in the surrounding country, is steadily advancing in price, and offers excellent opportunities for profitable investment.

On the whole Luverne and Rock county, as well as the smaller towns in the county, are getting to the front with rapid strides.

Donations to the Rock County Historical Society can be sent to the Rock County Historical Society, 312 E. Main Street, Luverne, MN 56156.

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to [manned@iw.net](mailto:manned@iw.net).

found on every quarter section in the county.

No one familiar with this section for a number of years, can drive at the present time through any part of the county without feelings of surprise and wonder at the marvelous improvements which have been made of late, and every stranger who visits this section and sees for the first time our magnificent country and our beautiful farms, concludes that nothing in the world can be finer and that the Herald for years has said of Rock county is less than the facts would warrant.

Luverne is likewise making wonderful progress in the way of improvement, but it is simply keeping abreast with the march of progress in the surrounding


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### Who can apply?

Not-for-profit organizations (either singly or as a consortium), government agencies, academic and research institutions located within Rock County are among the organizations eligible to request support from the Luverne Area Community Foundation.

The Luverne Area Community Foundation invites applications that will enhance the quality of life in the following areas:

- Arts & Humanities •Community & Civic Affairs
- Social & Economic Growth •Nutrition •Environment
- Recreation •Education
- Support Programs - children to senior citizen
- Community Health & Wellness including physical & mental health

### How to apply?

APPLY ONLINE AT:  
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or contact Emily Crabtree at  
**507- 220-2424** or [emily@luvacf.org](mailto:emily@luvacf.org)

**Luverne Area Community Foundation**  
P.O. Box 623 | 102 E. Main | Luverne, MN | 507-220-2424  
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# Open House

**Sunday • September 19 • 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

Please use the new south entrance, pictured above.

The community of Luverne, the entire school district and surrounding area is invited to attend the open house of the newly remodeled and new construction project at ISD 2184.

With construction nearing final completion, the Board of Education would like to extend an invitation to showcase the wonderful additions and remodel project.

The 21st century learning concepts and new space have created multiple opportunities for students to grow and learn in a renovated and modern space.

**Guided and self-guided tours will be available.**

*Light refreshments will be served.*





Mavis Fodness photos/0916 HBC Coronation 2021

Kenadie Fick and Andrew Harris (center) are this year's Hills-Beaver Creek High School Homecoming queen and king. Coronation ceremonies took place Monday night in the school gymnasium. Pictured from left are Emma Deelstra, Taylor Huisman, Grace Anderson, Samantha Moser, Danette Leenderts, Mackenzie Voss, Tara Paulsen, Queen Kenadie Fick, King Andrew Harris, Cole Baker, Austin Allen, Oliver Deelstra, Casey Kueter, Blake Leenderts, Cody Moser and Riley Tatge.

## Hills-Beaver Creek celebrates Homecoming Week

By Mavis Fodness

Parents, students and community members gathered in the Hills-Beaver Creek High School gymnasium for the 2021 Homecoming coronation.

The student body chose seniors Kenadie Fick and Andrew Harris to reign over this week's festivities.

Other queen candidates included Danette Leenderts, Tara Paulsen and Mackenzie Voss.

King candidates also included Cole Baker, Austin Allen and Oliver Deelstra.

Seniors Samantha Moser and Casey Kueter served as mistress and master of ceremonies respectively.

Class attendants included freshmen Emma Deelstra and Blake Leenderts, sophomores Grace Anderson and Riley Tatge, and juniors Taylor Huisman and Cody Moser.

Newly crowned Queen Kenadie Fick and King Andrew Harris complete a walk around the H-BC gym.



Left: Posing for a senior portrait of the Homecoming Royalty outside of the Hills-Beaver Creek High School in Hills are queen candidates (from left) Danette Leenderts, Samantha Moser (mistress of ceremonies), Mackenzie Voss, Tara Paulsen and Kenadie Fick.



Right: Last year's Homecoming queen, Annie Bos, places the crown on Kenadie Fick's head as Mackenzie Voss watches.



Andrew Harris (center with crown) smiles in surprise as last year's Homecoming king, Chase Bosch, removes his cape while classmates Austin Allen (left) and Casey Kueter clap their approval. In front are class representatives Cody Moser, Riley Tatge and Blake Leenderts.



### RCO honors direct support professionals

This week, Sept. 12-18, is National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week, and the staff and families of Rock County Opportunities are honoring the DSP personnel who work with RCO clients. They are (front, from left) Pam Tieszen, Erika Camarillo, Connie Carda, Jenna Coffman, (back) Christina Hacker, Krista Kurtz, Savannah Siebenahler, Tessa Shuler and Molly Hansen. According to the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR), DSPs are the "dedicated, innovative direct support workforce that is the heart and soul of support for people with disabilities." (Submitted photo)

### Hospice event raises \$75,386

By Lori Sorenson

Sanford Luverne's Hospice Dinner and Auction was a hybrid event this year with part of the auction items being sold online and the banquet in person Aug. 26 at Grand Prairie Events.

"I am thrilled to report a net profit of \$75,386, our highest fundraiser net proceeds to date," Organizer Helen Saum said. "We are beyond grateful to all those who donated, bid online and attended the event."

She said people were excited to support the fundraiser, whether in person or not, based on positive comments received on the new Online silent auction, which raised nearly \$10,000

Competitive bidding at the live auction included a new package to tour the newly renovated train depot



Hospice Volunteer of the Year is Sharon Hamm (left), and Friends of Hospice are Phil and Denise Gorter.

in Luverne with tickets to ride on the Ellis and Eastern Train.

Another auction highlight was George Bonnema's "Carrot Cake for a Cause" going for a high bid of \$1,250 and then being 'donated back' and re-bid for \$850, generating a total of \$2,050. "What an

amazing night of generosity and support for the Hospice program," Saum said.

**Honorees**

The annual event also honored the Hospice Volunteer of the Year, Sharon Hamm, Friends of

**Hospice**/see back page

## Luverne cross country rakes in titles at Bruce Gluf Classic

By Sara Schmuck,  
For the Star Herald

The Luverne Cardinals cross country teams turned in dominating performances at the Bruce Gluf Classic meet Saturday.

The Cards earned first place in varsity girls', varsity boys', junior varsity girls' and junior varsity boys' competitions.

"To say the kids were amazing would be an understatement," coach Pete Janiszkeski said.

"Together they cranked out 21 Top 10 performances, three individual champions and most importantly four team titles."

The temperatures climbed as the day went on, and the Luverne course is known to be a challenge, so those factors were felt by all the teams.

### Girls

The Cardinals lead the pack in the girls' varsity 5k.

Tenley Nelson got first with a time of 19:48.50.

Jenna DeBates got second with a time of 19:50.30.

Grace Ingebretson came in fourth with a time of 21:53.20.

Kayla Bloemendaal earned fifth place with a time of 22:19.30.

Rounding out the Cardinal varsity girls was Tiana Lais in seventh place with a time of 22:30.70.

### Boys

The Luverne boys finished strong with four of the Top 10 runners in the 5k.

Owen Janiszkeski placed fourth with a time of 17:55.80 followed by Camden Janiszkeski in fifth place with a time of



Images by CD photo for the Star Herald  
Luverne Cardinals runners Tenley Nelson and Jenna DeBates finish first and second respectively in the varsity girls' 5K race Saturday during the Bruce Gluf Classic meet in Luverne. The LHS girls' team finished first.

18:04.10.

Griffin Jarchow placed sixth with a time of 18:10.60.

Sage Viessman rounded out the Top 10 with a time of 19:02.00.

Leif Engebretson placed 19<sup>th</sup> with a time of 20:08.20 and Camden Hoven got 23<sup>rd</sup> place with a time of 20:47.10.

Here's a look at other results from the Cardinals' first home cross country meet.

**Junior varsity girls 4k:**  
Ella Schmuck, 1<sup>st</sup> (18:02.20); Khloe

Visker, 2<sup>nd</sup> (18:19.30); Kianna Winter, 3<sup>rd</sup> (18:23.60); Makena Nelson, 4<sup>th</sup> (19:08.00); Brynn Boyenga, 8<sup>th</sup> (20:20.80); Andrea Luitjens, 23<sup>rd</sup> (22:42.50).

**Junior varsity boys 4k:**

Carsen Totteland, 1<sup>st</sup> (16:17.90); Kaleb Hemme, 3<sup>rd</sup> (16:20.20); Ethan Rahm, 5<sup>th</sup> (16:44.70); Zach Brown, 7<sup>th</sup> (17:05.20); Logan Ommen, 8<sup>th</sup> (17:25.40); Eli McLendon 9<sup>th</sup> (17:41.10).

**Junior high girls 3,200 meter:**  
Mariah Knorr, 4<sup>th</sup> (15:20.10); Maddy Schepel, 19<sup>th</sup> (20:45.40)

**Junior high boys:**  
Riley Ripka, 38<sup>th</sup> (9:59.30)

## H-BC Patriots overwhelm Madelia Blackhawks Saturday

By Dan Ellingson  
For the Star Herald

The visiting Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots football team took full advantage of numerous Madelia Blackhawk turnovers early in the game Saturday on their way to a 51-0 victory and improved their record to 2-0.

Senior Patriot Donovan Leenderts pounced on a Madelia fumble on the Blackhawk 24-yard line on Madelia's second offensive play of the game.

Four plays later, Cole Baker crashed into the end zone for an early 6-0 lead.

The first quarter continued to go the Patriots' way, according to head coach Rex Metzger, "because of us creating some early turnovers which led to good field position. We were able to jump on them early and score."

A Patriot defensive three and out led to a 45-yard drive, when on the sixth play of that drive, quarterback Oliver Deelstra scampered into the end zone from four yards out on a keeper.

Casey Kueter caught the two-point conversion pass from Deelstra to widen the Patriots' lead to 14-0.

The HBC defense continued its outstanding play as Ty Bundesen picked off a Blackhawk pass on the next possession.

The throw and catch combination of Deelstra

"We were able to jump on them early and score."

— Head coach  
Rex Metzger

to Baker went 45 yards on the first play of the drive for another touchdown.

Although the extra-point kick failed, the lead increased to 20-0 in favor of the visiting Patriots.

Metzger said he was pleased with the Patriots' stifling defense and physical play, which prompted a fumble recovered by Kueter.

Two plays later came a Deelstra-to-Bundesen touchdown pass, then a 2-point conversion run by Bundesen.

Those points widened the Patriots' lead to 28-0 while still in the first quarter, but Coach Metzger's squad was not yet done with the first quarter.

After a nifty 19-yard punt return to the Blackhawks' 25-yard line by Justin Roelfs, Baker later ran in the ball from the 12-yard line for another touchdown. With a Sawyer Bosch to Drew Leenderts conversion pass, the Patriots enjoyed a 36-0 lead after one quarter of play.

H-BC was able to add another first half score with a 17-yard burst by Baker.

**H-BC football/see page 4B**

## Cardinals fall to longtime football rival Jackson on the road

By John Sichmeller  
For the Star Herald

The Luverne Cardinals football team fell to 0-2 on the season after a loss Friday night to longtime rival Jackson County Central.

The Cardinals started strong and took a 16-14 lead into halftime before JCC scored 22 unanswered points in the second half to ultimately put the Cardinals away by a score of 36-16.

Friday night's game resembled Luverne's loss in Week 1 to Redwood Valley. The Cardinals played a close first half but then didn't execute in the second half, according to Luverne coach Todd Oye.

"Unfortunately, we once again struggled in the second half," he said. "It was very apparent that JCC was physically stronger than us on both sides of the ball tonight."

After a strong defensive stand by Luverne to start the game, the Cardinals took over at their own 35-yard line and needed just two plays to start the scoring for the night.

Luverne senior Ashton Sandbulte gained nine yards with a nice run up the left side of the field with the first offensive play of the night to set up second and short for Luverne.

The next play turned out to be the play of the game for Luverne.

Senior quarterback Casey Sehr dropped back and threw what Oye called

"It was very apparent that JCC was physically stronger than us on both sides of the ball tonight."  
Coach Todd Oye

"a beautiful pass" to junior Gannon Ahrendt for a 56-yard touchdown.

Sehr and Ahrendt connected again on the two-point conversion to give the Cardinals an 8-0 lead just 3:09 into the game.

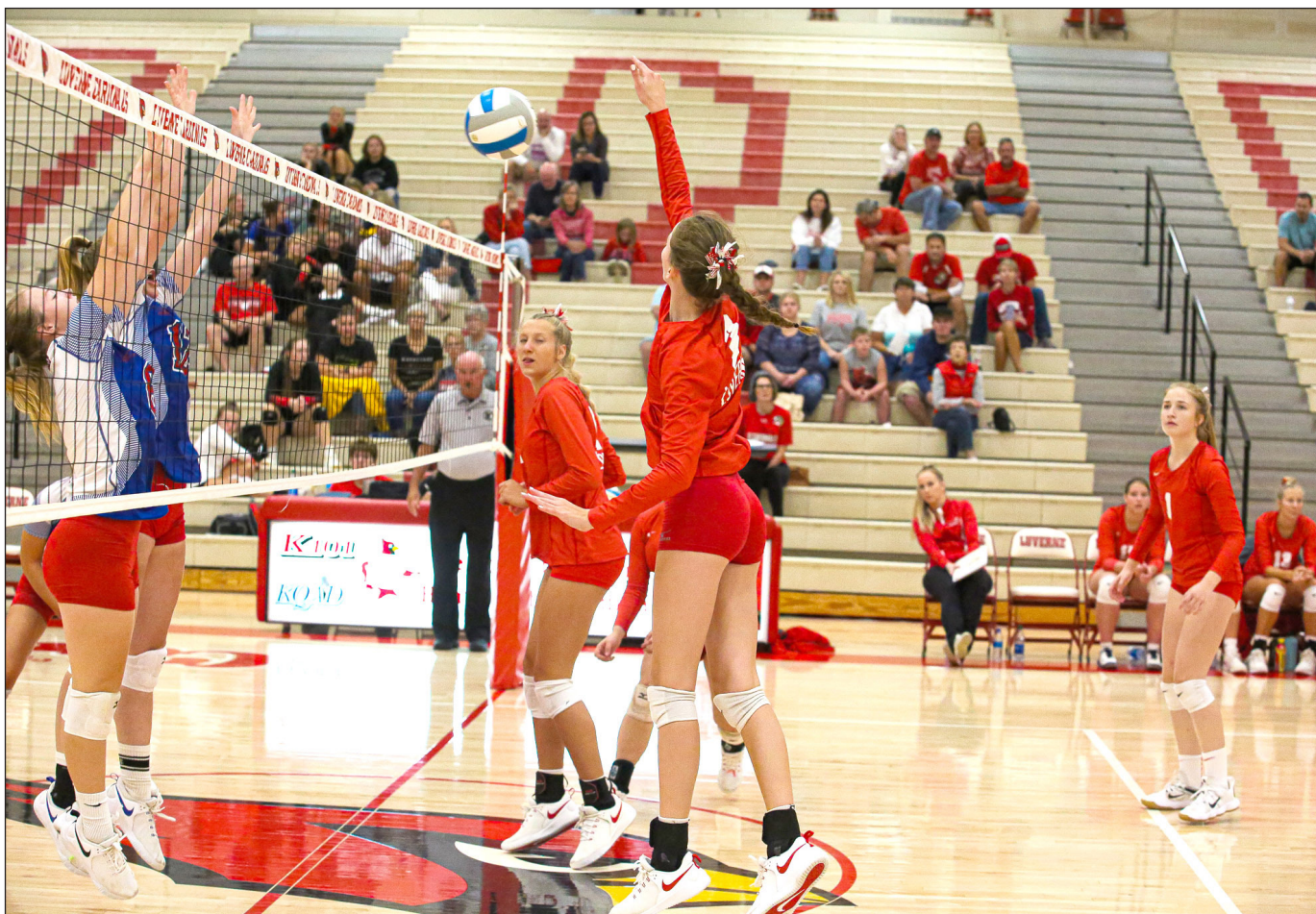
The Cardinal defense held strong again on JCC's second possession of the game, but the next Cardinal drive ended with an interception and JCC took over at the Luverne 46-yard line.

JCC marched down the field to score their first touchdown when junior running back Thomas Freking crossed the goal line with a five-yard run with 3:02 to go in the first quarter. JCC's two-point conversion attempt was no good, leaving the score at 8-6 in Luverne's favor.

Luverne's next scoring drive would come early in the second quarter. After JCC's snap flew over the head of their punter, the Cardinals took over at the JCC 24-yard line.

The Cardinals took

**LHS football/see page 3B**



Images by CD photo for the Star Herald  
Luverne's Anja Jarchow taps the ball to the net against Hills-Beaver Creek Saturday in a home tournament against the Patriots, George-Little Rock and Windom. The LHS team finished the tournament in second place.

## Cardinals beat Chargers, host home tourney

By Jacqueline Johnson,  
For the Star-Herald

The Luverne Cardinals bounced back from a Sept. 7 loss to the Tigers in Marshall with a 3-1 win over Westbrook Walnut Grove on the road Thursday, Sept. 9, and a second place finish in their home tournament Saturday, Sept. 11.

Windom beat Luverne in the Saturday tournament, but the Cards hope to avenge that loss when they meet the Eagles in Windom on Thursday, Sept. 16.

### Luverne 3, WWG 1

The Luverne Cardinals volleyball squad was in action Thursday, Sept. 9, in Westbrook against a fierce home team that came out swinging in Set 1.

Luverne knotted up the score early in the first set after a tip from outside hitter Kamryn VanBatavia. Despite late attempts by Elise Ferrell and Reghan Bork with a kill and an ace, the Chargers took the first set 25-16.

In Set 2, the Cards rebounded with Trista Baustian putting up consecutive sets for Kamryn Van Batavia for two kills to put Luverne ahead 9-4.

Christina Wagner opened the lead to 20-14 with a strong hit from the middle. A service ace by Baustian helped conclude the second set for a Cardinal 25-15 win.

In Set 3, Luverne's Bork and Anja Jarchow set up Ferrell for a set of kills that helped put the Cards up 8-3.

A collective block by sisters Elizabeth and Christina Wagner sent the Cardinals to an 11-6 lead.

Despite attempts to stave the bleeding by the Chargers, an 11-4 run with a Baustian set and Van Batavia kill allowed the Cards to acquire a 2-1 set lead.

Bork and Baustian teamed up to push an early lead in Set 4 at 7-0 with solid sets, a kill and a service ace.

With a set by Averill Sehr, Van Batavia pushed the lead to 14-7. Although W-WG attempted a late run, the Cards were able to narrowly champion the set at 26-24.

**LHS volleyball tourney/see 4B**

# Tigers pounce on Cardinal winning streak

By Reva Sehr  
For the Star Herald

The Luverne volleyball team played in Marshall Tuesday night, Sept. 7, and the Tigers were relentless in their attack, keeping the Cardinals' back row on alert all evening.

Marshall came out on top 3-1, ending what had been a five-game winning streak for the Cardinals.

Luverne's first point of the match came after a dig by Macy Stratton to Reghan Bork, who set for Elise Ferrell to hit it over.

Bork later surprised Marshall by putting the ball over the net into a hole to gain another point for the Cardinals.

The Tigers turned up the heat and delivered some fierce serves and kills to put Luverne behind 13 - 3.

After a Luverne timeout, Morgan Ahrendt delivered a kill to put another Cardinal point on the board.

Luverne's final point came from Stratton, who executed a back-row attack. However, the Cardinals lost the first game 25-6.

Game 2 saw competitive volleys to prove the Cardinals wouldn't be subdued by their opponents.

Luverne earned its first point on a dig by Stratton to Bork who surprised Marshall by lightly tapping it over the net.

It was déjà vu when the Tigers ran away from the Cardinals on the scoreboard, forcing Luverne to call a timeout, behind by 12.

The Cardinals came out of the timeout with Ferrell and Christina Wagner teaming up on a block to earn a point and then Wagner delivering a kill on the next play to reduce the gap to 10 points.

The Cardinals would go on to lose Game 2 with a score of 25 to 5.

The situation pivoted in Game 3 when Luverne took its first lead of the night with Anja Jarchow executing two ace serves

and Wagner and Ferrell teaming up on blocks to put Luverne up by 2.

The Tigers caught up, but Luverne was able to regain the lead when Trista Baustian lightly tapped the ball over the net.

Game 3 continued with Luverne falling behind by one or two points and then catching up with kills by Jarchow, Ferrell and Ahrendt, a precision serve by Bork and a Baustian/Wagner block.

Luverne finally took the lead in Game 3 for good when Ferrell delivered a kill and Carly Olson served up one that landed just inside the edge of the court. After a nail-biting volley, Ferrell ended it with a light tap over the net to win Game 3 by 25-22.

Game 4 started out with Luverne landing a point on the scoreboard first with a set assist from Bork to Jarchow for the kill.

That would be the only lead for Luverne in Game 4, despite key back row digs by Stratton and Olson.

Behind by three points, Baustian set up Ferrell for a powerful attack that Marshall could not control.

Later, Baustian set to Ahrendt for the kill, and Jarchow delivered an attack to close the gap by one point.

Later with Luverne behind by three, Bork set Ferrell for a hit into the Marshall hole.

Despite great volleys between the two teams, a Luverne back row on fire, and kills by Ahrendt, Jarchow and Ferrell, the Cardinals lost Game 4 with a score of 19-25, giving up their first match of the season.

**Stat Highlights:**  
Serves: Reghan Bork 12/13 with 1 Ace; Anja Jarchow 10/10 with 2 Aces  
Digs: Carly Olson 15; Macy Stratton 18  
Set Assists: Trista Baustian 9; Reghan Bork 12  
Blocks: Christina Wagner 6 assists  
Attacks: Elise Ferrell 7; Anja Jarchow 3; Morgan Ahrendt 3

# Tennis team falls to Blue Earth, Marshall

By Jon Beers  
For the Star Herald

The Luverne Cardinals came up on the short end of a 4-3 decision when they traveled to Blue Earth Area for a tennis match Tuesday, Sept. 7, in Blue Earth.

On Thursday, Sept. 9, Marshall came to town and left with a 5-2 victory over the Cardinals.

Luverne was scheduled for two home matches this week, with Worthington in Luverne on Tuesday, Sept. 14, and Pipestone in town on Thursday, Sept. 16.

The Cardinals will travel to St. James on Tuesday, Sept. 21

## BEA 4, Luverne 3

BEA picked up three wins in singles competition and took one doubles match to hand LHS their second loss of the season.

Luverne received a win in straight sets at No. 4 singles where Roselynn Hartshorn defeated Carol Schrader 6-2, 6-2.

Hope Thorson and Katharine Kelm nailed down a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Allie Lopez and Ella Survis at No. 2 doubles, and Tori Hemme and Priscilla Muehr beat Kariss Lopez and Lauren Survis 2-6, 6-4, 12-10 at third doubles.

Mia Wenzel at No. 1 singles, Olivia Wieneke at No. 2 singles, and Jacey Smith, No. 3 singles, all



images by CD photo/0916 tennis LHS

Olivia Wienke returns the ball during a 5-2 loss to Marshall on Sept. 9 in Luverne

lost their matches in straight sets. Kristin Rud and Sarah Stegenga were also defeated in straight sets 6-3, 6-2 at No. 1 doubles.

"The matches were closer than the scores might indicate last week" said Luverne coach Jon Beers.

"I was really happy with how all the girls played in the BEA match. They (BEA) have been a powerhouse the past few years, but we were able to get three match wins and make the match very interesting."

## Marshall 5, Luverne 2

In the Marshall match, the only wins for Luverne came at No. 1 singles and doubles.

Wenzel was able to win in straight sets 6-4, 7-5 over Eden Knutson in a very exciting match. The No. 1 doubles team of Wieneke and Rud defeated Lean Schaefer and Regan Loft 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (13-11) in the match of the day.

At No. 2 and No. 3 singles, Smith and Stegenga, both lost by identical scores,

6-0, 6-1. Hartshorn lost at No. 4 singles 3-6, 6-4, 10-8. Thorson and Kelm, playing together at No. 2 doubles, lost 7-6, 6-1, and Hemme and Muehr at No. 3 doubles lost 6-4, 6-0.

"In the Marshall match we played some girls in different spots," said coach Beers.

"We are trying to find our best combination of singles and doubles players so that we can field our best team when the Section tournament starts."

# LHS football, Cardinals fall to Jackson/continued from page 2B

advantage of a JCC penalty and finished the scoring drive with a three-yard pass from Sehr to Luverne sophomore Conner Connell.

The Cardinals then converted the two-point conversion on another pass from Sehr to Connell, and Luverne took a 16-6 lead with 11:06 to go in the second quarter.

Jackson County Central wasted no time and utilized a strong kick return and a 30-yard passing play to get deep into Cardinal territory.

JCC senior Levi Lindley finished the Huskies scoring drive with a 2-yard touchdown run, and Lindley also punched in the two-point conversion to make the score 16-14 with 8:25 to go in the half.

Neither team was able

to put points on the board the rest of the quarter, and the Cardinals headed into halftime with the lead.

Luverne's offense struggled much of the second half, and JCC's running game proved to be too much for the Cardinals to handle.

JCC utilized three rushing touchdowns in the third quarter to put the game out of reach for the Cardinals.

Lindley rushed for two of the Huskies' touchdowns, and senior Will Freking rushed for the last JCC touchdown. Neither team would put points on the board in the fourth quarter, and the score finished at 36-16 in favor of the Huskies.

The Cardinals will look to get their first win of the season when they travel to Windom this week.

"Windom also has lost their first two games, so both teams will be desper-

ate for a win," Oye said. "We need to play better in the second half to be successful."

This week's game at Windom has been moved to Thursday night due to a shortage of referees. The game will start at 7:30 p.m.

**Team statistics:**  
Luverne: 45 rushing yards, 168 passing yards, 213 total yards, 7 first downs, 3 penalties for 15 yards, 3 turnovers.

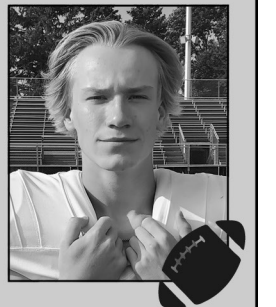
**Jackson County Central:**  
233 rushing yards, 91 passing yards, 324 total yards, 16 first downs, 7 penalties for 45 yards, 0 turnovers.

**Individual statistics:**  
Rushing: Ashton Sandbulte 6-33, Kaleb Hein 2-8  
Passing: Casey Sehr 12-23 for 168 yards  
Receiving: Gannon Ahrendt 5-113, Eli Radtke 1-31  
Defense: Connor Overgaard 7.5 tackles, Jamie McCarthy 5.5 tackles, Eli Radtke 3.5 tackles

# SENIOR ATHLETES of the Week

## Trygve Gangestad

**Sport:** Football  
**Parents:** Tim and Tami Gangestad  
**Favorite subject:** History  
**What I like most about Football:** Spending time working hard with teammates and winning games  
**Other extra-curricular activities:** Baseball, trap shooting, student council



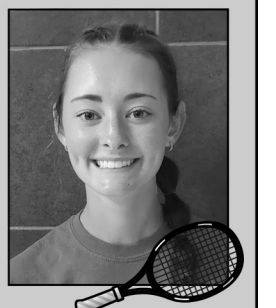
## Madee Schmuck

**Sport:** Volleyball  
**Parents:** JoDee Haubrich and Cory Schmuck  
**Favorite subject:** Math  
**What I like most about Volleyball:** Hanging out with the team  
**Other extra-curricular activities:** Peer helping, student council, basketball



## Jacey Smith

**Sport:** Tennis  
**Parents:** Brenda Sorenson and Jeremy Smith  
**Favorite subject:** Math  
**What I like most about Tennis:** Making unforgettable memories with all of my teammates at practice and matches.  
**Other extra-curricular activities:** Softball, choir, and FCCLA



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# EMPTY PESTICIDE CONTAINER COLLECTION & RECYCLING

## Monday, Sept. 20 • 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

### Ketterling Services at 401 S. Cedar, Luverne

#### ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS:

- Farmers
- Commercial Applicators
- Golf Courses
- Government Agencies

#### WILL NOT ACCEPT

- Bags (either plastic or paper)
- Aerosol containers
- Glass containers
- Mini-bulks or containers larger than 2<sup>1/2</sup> gallons

#### PESTICIDE CONTAINERS MUST:

- Be #2 HDPE Plastic (identifier shown on bottom of container)
- Be clean, dry and properly rinsed (inside and out)
- Have caps removed
- Have labels removed as best you can

**CONTAINERS MUST BE TRIPLE RINSED**

For more information about the empty pesticide container collection event, contact:  
Rock County Land Management Office, Phone 507-283-8862  
Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 1-800-657-3986



REUSE REDUCE RECYCLE

## Luverne volleyball tourney/continued from page 2B

Serves: Anja Jarchow, two aces; Set Assist: Trista Baustian 15, Reghan Bork 17; Digs: Macy Stratton 8; Kills: Elise Ferrell 16, Kamryn VanBatavia 8; Blocks: Elizabeth Wagner 4; Christina Wagner 3

### Luverne tourney: Luverne 2, George-Little Rock 0

In match one, the home team got off to a strong start with an ace and consecutive tips from setter Reghan Bork.

Elise Ferrell bookended ace serves to put the Cardinals ahead 12-3. A set by Trista Baustian to right side hitter Morgan Ahrendt extended Luverne's lead to 17-7. They finished the set 25-7 after sets from Baustian to Bork and Ferrell for back-to-back kills.

Luverne cleared the bench in Set 2, which allowed all the players on the squad an opportunity to face the G-LR Mustangs.

A pass from Macy Stratton and set by Bork allowed Baustian to tip the ball for a kill to put the Cards ahead 3-1. With a pass by Christina Wagner, Ferrell was able to complete a back row attack to maintain a lead at 8-5.

Elizabeth Wagner's block at 21-13 gave the home team an edge before a Stratton pass set Ferrell up for the back row attack roll shot to finish off the match for a 2-0 set win.



Images by CD photo for the Star Herald

Hills-Beaver Creek's Taylor Durst sets the ball for teammates Larissa Steinhoff and Kenadie Fick during a volleyball tournament in Luverne Saturday.

**Kills: Elise Ferrell 5, Trista Baustian 5; Aces: Elise Ferrell 3; Blocks: Elizabeth Wagner 1**

### Luverne 2, Hills-Beaver Creek 0

In a Rock County tilt, the Cardinals proved too strong for the visiting Patriots, taking an early lead that H-BC could not recover from.

Anja Jarchow pounded out three consecutive ace serves to put Luverne ahead 9-1.

With a pass from Stratton and a set from Bork, Ferrell hit a blistering outside kill to

continue the lead at 11-3.

Elizabeth Wagner finished the set with an overpass kill for a score of 25-13 in Set 1.

Set 2 started similarly with a 6-1 run from the Cardinals, leading to a 10-3 lead after a pass from Carly Olson, set by Bork and kill by Christina Wagner.

A block by Wagner and ace by Ferrell gave Luverne the edge to 2-0 win.

**Service Aces: Anja Jarchow 4, Reghan Bork 2; Kills: Elise Ferrell 9, Christina Wager 5, Trista Baustian 3**

### Luverne 0, Windom 2

In the tournament championship, Big South contender Windom proved too strong for the Cardinals.

Sets 1 and 2 were riddled with Cardinals' errors, which the host team could not seem to overcome.

The Cards lost the sets 22-25 and 21-25.

Despite an early lead in Set 1 at 17-10, Luverne struggled to put together a run of points.

**Digs: Macy Stratton 20, Elise Ferrell 8; Kills: Elise Ferrell 7**

## HBC football/ continued from page 2B

Bundesen tacked on the extra point kick for a 43-0 halftime lead.

Third quarter action saw Roelfs ramble in from 52 yards out. Bosch then pushed the score to 51-0 with his successful 2-point conversion run. Like the season opener, the second half was played with a running clock in the Patriots' favor.

The younger H-BC players saw a lot of playing time during the contest, as 21 Patriots charted at least one tackle on defense.

Metzger said he was pleased with the play of the starters as well as the younger player. "They improved from Week 1, and all played physical," he said.

The 2-0 Patriots will be at home on Sept. 18 to host the Heron Lake-Okabena-Fulda Coyotes.

Game time is 7 p.m. at Patriot field in Hills for the annual Hills-Beaver Creek Homecoming game.

### Team statistics

**H-BC: 212 Rushing Yards, 97 passing yards, 309 total yards, 12 first downs, four penalties for 45 yards, zero turnovers. Madella: 39 rushing**

*"They improved from Week 1, and all played physical."*

*—H-BC head coach Rex Metzger*

**yards, six yards passing, 45 total yards, eight penalties for 40 yards, three turnovers.**

**Individual Statistics**  
**Rushing: Roelfs 2-72, Baker 7-62, Bosch 7-31, Deelstra 5-24, Drew Leenderts 1-16, Luke Fuerstenberg 2-5, Bundesen 1-3, Brock Harnack 1-minus 4.**

**Passing: Deelstra 7-8 for 97 yards, Bosch 0-2.**

**Receiving: Baker 2-60, Bundesen 2-18, Gideon Taubert 2-17, Drew Leenderts 1-2, Kueter 1 - two-point conversion.**

**Defense:**  
**L. Fuerstenberg seven tackles, Alex Harris three tackles and three tackles for loss, Austin Allen three tackles and two tackles for loss, Kueter two tackles, two tackles for loss and one fumble recovery, Baker two tackles, one tackle for loss and one QB sack, Riley Tatge two tackles for loss, Donovan Leenderts one fumble recovery.**

## Cardinals fly by the Southwest Christian Eagles for a three-game sweep

By Reva Sehr, For the Star Herald.

The Luverne Cardinals progressively increased the point spread for each of the three games they won to take the match against the Southwest Christian Eagles Monday night in Edgerton.

Luverne earned the first point of the night with a bump by Trista Baustian to Reghan Bork who set for Anja Jarchow to put it over.

The first part of the game consisted of alternating points on the scoreboard with solid offensive plays earning the Cardinal points.

For example, Bork passed to Baustian with a set to Elise Ferrell who surprised the Eagles with a light tap over the net, taking a different approach

than her usual powerful kill.

Executing the light tap again was Christina Wagner aided by a set assist from Bork.

Later, Baustian executed an ace serve just inside the edge of the court, which the Eagles thought would be out of bounds.

With Luverne in the lead by 1, Ferrell passed to Baustian who set to Morgan Ahrendt and then the trio executed the exact strategic move on the next play.

Luverne put up some effective defensive blocks by duos Wagner and Kamryn Van Batavia and another by Ferrell and Anja Jarchow.

Shortly after that, the Eagles tied Luverne at 14. However, some hard straight-line serves by Macy

Stratton along with Eagles errors put the Cardinals up by 5.

The Eagles fought back to decrease the gap by 4, but a couple of blocks by Wagner and Van Batavia and some Eagles errors allowed Ahrendt to claim the final point with a kill to win Game 1 with a score of 25 - 21.

Luverne started Game 2 in the lead with blocks by Jarchow and Baustian followed by some Eagles errors.

Eagles gained some traction by getting on the board for 2 points until Ferrell delivered a kill, and Wagner and Baustian teamed up on a block to put Luverne up by 4.

Luverne would slowly increase that gap with the

offensive plays of Ferrell catching the Eagles off balance by delivering a light serve over the net into a hole, Bork set assist to Baustian for a light tap over the net, and then changing it up with a powerful kill by Wagner.

Southwest Christian gained control but Cardinals went on the offensive again with Van Batavia passing to Baustian who set up Ferrell for the kill, and the trio of Ahrendt, Baustian and Ferrell executing that strategy again.

With Luverne up by 7, the Eagles pecked away at the score. A bump pass by Stratton to Baustian who set assist for the Ahrendt kill stopped the Eagles' run only to have the Eagles

decrease the gap to 3 points.

The duo of Jarchow and Bork put Luverne just shy of 25 when Baustian delivered a kill on the next play to take Game 2, 25 - 20. Luverne dominated in Game 3 despite Eagles getting on the board first. Ahrendt and Baustian executed a block to put Luverne up by 1.

Then Wagner put one over, which the Eagles could not control. A couple of plays later, it would seem Luverne was losing control, but Stratton saved the play with a spectacular dive to the side of the court putting the ball back in play helping to put Luverne up by 4 at this point in the game.

An Ace serve by

Ferrell, a successful Ferrell bump pass to Bork who set assist for a Wagner kill, and 2 additional kills by Van Batavia increased the Cardinal lead by 6 points.

The Eagles regained some control to decrease the gap to 4, but after that the Cardinals soared. An Ace serve by Stratton and a bump pass from Stratton to Bork setting up Ferrell for the kill initiated a steady stream of points.

Again, Ferrell delivered a light serve just over the net causing the Eagles to scramble, and Baustian caught the Eagles off balance again with a light delivery over the net. The final point was a gift from the Eagles with a touch net call.

Luverne won Game 3, 25-14.

**Big Fall Rummage Sale**  
St. Catherine's Parish Hall (Corner of McKenzie & Brown)  
**Wednesday, Sept. 22 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.**  
**Thursday, Sept. 23 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

ALL YOU CAN FIT IN A "BROWN PAPER BAG" \$5.00 A BAG!

**ART WALK**

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10AM TO 4PM  
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LOCATED AT 1074 161ST ST. LUYERNE, MN

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Tuesday-Sunday  
12:00-7:00 p.m.  
953 74th Ave, Luverne, MN (Hwy 4 east of Beaver Creek)

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*Pumpkins are coming to town!*  
Sept. 18 & 19, 24-26 and Oct. 2 & 3 from 10 am-4 pm  
**Lots of sizes and colors!**  
Gourds and corn shocks will also be available!  
Located at the corner of Kniss and Warren.

**PALACE THEATRE UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Reminiscence** PG-13  
Friday, September 17 7:00 pm  
Saturday, September 18 7:00 pm  
Sunday, September 19 7:00 pm  
Tickets: \$5 for kids age 3 - 12<sup>th</sup> grade, \$7 for adults

**Deuces Wild! Dueling Pianos**  
Saturday, October 9 7:30 pm  
Tickets on sale now!  
Tickets: \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door

104 E. Main St. • Luverne, MN 56156 • 507.283.4339  
WWW.PALACETHEATRE.US

**ROCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL BANQUET & PROGRAM MONDAY-SEPTEMBER 20TH**

THE STORY OF THE 1941 GOPHER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL TEAM  
PROGRAM BY AUTHOR & JOURNALIST: DANNY SPEWAK

**STERLING'S**  
5:30 PM: SOCIAL HOUR  
6:00 PM: MEAL & MEETING  
PALACE THEATRE  
7:15 PM: PROGRAM-FREE

**BANQUET TICKETS: \$25/PERSON AVAILABLE AT THE HISTORY CENTER OR LUYERNE CHAMBER**

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EMAIL: RCMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM  
BANQUET TICKET DEADLINE-SEPT 17TH

PROGRAM INCLUDES STORY OF LHS GRAD AND 2 TIME ALL-AMERICAN & GOPHER GREAT - DICK WILDUNG  
BANQUET & PROGRAM ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**St. Catherine Catholic Church**  
203 E. Brown St., Luverne

St. Catherine Ph. 283-8502; [www.stscl.org](http://www.stscl.org)  
Monsignor Gerald Kosse, Pastor

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

**Luverne Christian Reformed Church**  
605 N. Estey St., Luverne

Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982  
[www.luverneccrc.com](http://www.luverneccrc.com) — [office@luverneccrc.com](mailto:office@luverneccrc.com)

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

**First Baptist Church**

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

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

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-4431; [www.graceluverne.org](http://www.graceluverne.org) — [graceluverne@iv.net](mailto:graceluverne@iv.net)

**Ann Zastrow, Pastor**  
**Dave Christenson, Interim Pastor**

Thursday, Sept. 16: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Saturday, Sept. 18: 5:30 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion and Baptism. Sunday, Sept. 19: 9 a.m. Worship service with Holy Communion and Blessing of the Quilts. 10 a.m. First day of Sunday school. Fellowship Coffee. 10:15 a.m. 10<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation. Monday, Sept. 20: Deadline for Grace Notes. Tuesday, Sept. 21: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Sept. 22: 7 a.m. Men's Bible study. **NO Confirmation classes.** Thursday, Sept. 23: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are available. Online: Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website [www.graceluverne.org](http://www.graceluverne.org), click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-4571 or 605-215-9834  
[pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com)  
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor

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

**American Reformed Church**  
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne

Ph. 283-8600; email: [office@arcluverne.org](mailto:office@arcluverne.org)

Friday, Sept. 17: 6:30 a.m. Community men's Bible study. Sunday, Sept. 19: 9:30 a.m. Bible Sunday, grades 1 and 7. 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 10:50 a.m. Sunday School. 12 p.m. Youth room reserved. 1:30 p.m. Mary Jane Brown and Poplar Creek services. Tuesday, Sept. 21: 12 p.m. Staff meeting. 7 p.m. Consistory meeting. Wednesday, Sept. 22: 5:30 p.m. Midweek Meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Club. Jr. High youth group. Sr. High youth group. Thursday, Sept. 23: 9 a.m. Kitchen reserved. Services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

**Rock River Community Church (formerly First Assembly of God)**  
1075 110<sup>th</sup> Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4

Ph. 612-800-1255; email: [info@rockrivercommunity.church](mailto:info@rockrivercommunity.church)  
Bob Junak, Pastor; Annette Junak, Assistant Pastor

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

**United Methodist Church**  
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne

Ph. 283-4529  
Dorrie Hall, Pastor

Saturday, Sept. 18: 1-4 p.m. Rogney wedding shower. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Sunday, Sept. 19: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 9:45 a.m. Coffee hour. 3 p.m. Bonfire. Live streamed on Facebook and radio. Monday, Sept. 20: Messenger deadline. Tuesday, Sept. 21: 10 a.m. Shut-in visits 6 p.m. Trustee meeting. 6:30 p.m. Church council meeting. Wednesday, Sept. 22: 7:40 a.m. See You at the Pole – the School. 5:30 p.m. Community Meal. 6:15 a.m. FUEL. 6:30 p.m. Confirmation. 8 p.m. AA Meeting.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
302 Central Lane, Luverne

Ph. 283-4787; email: [Firstpc@iw.net](mailto:Firstpc@iw.net) — [www.fpcluverne.com](http://www.fpcluverne.com)  
Jason Cunningham, Pastor

Sunday, Sept. 19: 9 a.m. Sunday school. 10:15 a.m. Worship service. Wednesday, Sept. 22: Deacons. In-person Worship service and live on Facebook. Our Facebook page can be found under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne. We are also on the local Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
803 N. Cedar St., Luverne

Ph. 283-2316; email: [stjohn@iw.net](mailto:stjohn@iw.net)  
[www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org](http://www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org)  
Rev. Dr. Phil Booe, Pastor

Saturday, Sept. 18: 5:30 p.m. Worship. Sunday, Sept. 19: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible study. Wednesday, Sept. 22: 6:30 p.m. Confirmation. 6:30 p.m. Kids for Christ. 7:30 p.m. Youth group. Services will be available on the Vast Channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, [cityofluverne.org](http://cityofluverne.org).

**Living Rock Church**  
500 E. Main St., Luverne

Ph. 449-0057; [www.livingrockswmn.org](http://www.livingrockswmn.org)  
Billy Skaggs, Pastor

New Life Celebration Church  
101 W. Maple, Luverne  
Ph. 449-6522; email: [newlifecelebration@gmail.com](mailto:newlifecelebration@gmail.com)  
Food mission every third Thursday.

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
305 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick

Ph. (507) 669-2855; [zionoffice@alliancecom.net](mailto:zionoffice@alliancecom.net)  
Jesse Baker, Pastor

**Ben Clare United Methodist Church**  
26762 Ben Clare Ave., Valley Springs, S.D.

[igtwlb@WOW.net](mailto:igtwlb@WOW.net)  
Bill Bates, Pastor

First Lutheran Church  
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.  
Ph. (605) 757-6662  
Mark Eliason, Pastor  
Sunday, Sept. 19: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10 a.m. Sunday school. Masks are strongly recommended, but not required, even if fully vaccinated. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFeU4>

**Palisade Lutheran Church**  
211 121<sup>st</sup> St., Garretson, S.D.

Ph. (507) 597-6257 — [firstpalisade@alliancecom.net](mailto:firstpalisade@alliancecom.net)  
Mark Eliason, Pastor

Sunday, Sept. 19: 10:30 a.m. Worship service. Masks are strongly recommended, but not required, even if fully vaccinated. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook. Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxFeU4>

**First Presbyterian Church**  
201 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek

Ph. 507-935-5025  
email: [lori.firstpres@gmail.com](mailto:lori.firstpres@gmail.com)

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

**Magnolia United Methodist Church**  
501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia

Ph. 605-215-3429  
email: [magnoliannumc@gmail.com](mailto:magnoliannumc@gmail.com)  
Nancy Manning, Pastor

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

**Steen Reformed Church**  
112 W. Church Ave., Steen

Ph. 855-2336  
Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor

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

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
112 N. Main St., Hills

Ph. 962-3270  
Nita Parker, Pastor

Sunday, Sept. 19: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Home. 9:30 a.m. Sunday school. 10 a.m. Worship service with Holy Communion. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website [blehills.org](http://blehills.org). Tuesday, Sept. 21: 2 p.m. Tuff Home Bible study. 3 p.m. Tuff Village Bible study. Wednesday, Sept. 22: 9 a.m. Quilting. 6 p.m. Confirmation class. 7:15 p.m. Wednesday night worship.

**Hills United Reformed Church**  
410 S. Central Ave., Hills

Office Ph. 962-3254  
[hillsurc@alliancecom.net](mailto:hillsurc@alliancecom.net)  
Alan Camarigg, Pastor

## Choose not to complain ... and give thanks

Thankful thoughts and godly thoughts will change your day.

"Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make know his deeds among the peoples." 1 Chronicles 16:8

"Complaining not only ruins everybody else's day, it ruins the complainer's day, too. The more we complain, the more unhappy we get." (Dennis Prager)

The focus of our thoughts will affect our day and those around us. When you slip into the quagmire of complaining, your day, your life and the life of those around you will quickly slide down the slippery slope of gloom, into the concentration camp of negativity.

God understands that complaining leads to destruction, so, in one form or another, he told us over 100 times in the Bible to give thanks. Not just give thanks as in have happy thoughts, but give thanks to the Lord.

We are to give thanks for His deeds. Honestly think about what God has done for you as well as your family. Our mind often rushes to earthly things. Thanks for the food we have. Thanks for the house we live in. Thanks for the beautiful day. Thanks for the flowers, the birds, and a plethora of other things we see. Yet, there are many people who have a shortage of food, or there has not been enough water for the flowers to grow.

When we give thanks for His deeds, start with the items that are unchangeably good. Thank God for His work of salvation. Salvation is a gift from God. It is not

## BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Walt Moser  
First Baptist Church,  
Luverne

*God understands that complaining leads to destruction...*

based on anything we have done; it is all the work (deeds) of a gracious God. Give thanks that God is watching over us. God knows when a sparrow dies, he takes care of the lilies in the field which are here today and tomorrow thrown into the fire. He will take care of us because we have greater value in Christ. We were created in the image of God. Nothing that God created has that claim, only humanity.

Thank him for sending his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to live a sinless life and willingly go to the cross as a ransom for us from the wrath of God resulting from sin.

Thank Jesus for the promise of sending the Holy Spirit to live in all believers as a guide, teaching us all truth and being an ever-present comforter.

Let's take advice from Solomon, the wisest man ever, who said, "A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." (Proverbs 17:22) and choose not to complain.

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

Call Rick or Chantel to place your ad!

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506 W. Koehn, P.O. Box 987, Luverne, MN  
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Church is Important - Please Attend!

**Buffalo Ridge Insurance**  
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**McClure Electric**  
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Member FDIC. And the community.

# Star Herald PUBLIC NOTICES

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## Dinger Sales & Service assumes name

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

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

ASSUMED NAME: **Dinger Sales & Service**  
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:  
**1404 Victory Circle, Luverne, MN 56156 USA**  
NAMEHOLDER(S):  
Name: **Donald B. Dinger**  
Address: **1404 Victory Circle, Luverne, MN 56156 USA**  
Name: **Lisa A. Dinger**  
Address: **1404 Victory Circle, Luverne, MN 56156 USA**

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

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in

both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Signature: **/s/ Donald B. Dinger**  
MAILING ADDRESS: **1404 Victory Circle, Luverne, MN 56156 USA**  
EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: **donbdinger@gmail.com**  
(09-16, 09-23)

## Bly probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF ROCK

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No. 67-PR-21-219

Estate of  
**Ronald P. Bly,**  
Decedent

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

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on Monday, October 4th, 2021 at 8:30 A.M., a hearing will be held in this Court at 204 East Brown, Luverne, Minnesota, for the

formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, October 1, 2018, ("Will") and for the appointment of Sheila Jean Bly, whose address is 6655 Buckley Circle #306, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration. Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

Date: September 8, 2021

/s/ Terry Vajrt  
Judge of District Court

Attorney for Petitioner  
Donald R. Klosterbuer  
Klosterbuer & Haubrich, LLP  
120 N. McKenzie, PO Box 538  
Luverne, MN 56156  
Attorney License No: 0056674  
Telephone: (507) 283-9111  
FAX: (507) 283-9113  
Email: [dklosterbuer@khlawmn.com](mailto:dklosterbuer@khlawmn.com)

(09-16, 09-23)

# Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

### GARAGE SALES

Ellsworth City-Wide Rum-  
mages: Sept. 16, 17, 18. Many  
homes and families; furniture,  
home decor, clothing, etc. Pick  
up listing at Ellsworth Food  
Center. (9.11-9.16)

### MISCELLANEOUS

HAVE A UNIQUE SER-  
VICE OR BUSINESS? Get  
the word out to over 1.4 mil-  
lion households. Call WIDE  
AREA CLASSIFIEDS to-  
day, 507-359-7326. (tc)

### RENTALS

For Rent: One bedroom apart-  
ment for rent in Luverne.  
No pets, no smoking. 507-  
283-9720. (tc)

For rent in Luverne: Two-bed-  
room apartment with central air,  
on-site laundry and one-stall  
garage. No pets and no smok-  
ing. Located in a quiet area.  
507-920-0406. (8.28-9.16)

NOW LEASING  
**CENTENNIAL  
APARTMENTS**  
1 BEDROOM  
FOR THOSE 50+ OR  
DISABLED  
INCOME BASED HOUSING -  
INCLUDES ALL UTILITIES  
**507-283-2652**  
Equal Housing Opportunity  
**LloydManagement.com**

### FOR RENT

**2 & 3 Bedroom Townhome**  
\* Available Immediately  
\* One-stall Garage  
\* Updated Amenities  
\* Quiet Neighborhood  
\* \$775 (2 bed)/\$720-\$850  
(3 bed) /month. Utilities OYO  
Call Schomacker's  
507-227-2183 for showings.

### CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you, thank you—wonder-  
ful people—Terri, Cris and  
Becky, family and friends, to  
remember my 80th birthday.

**God Bless You All!**  
**Pat Fleseland**  
(9.11-9.16)

The family of Karri Korth says  
thank you for your words of  
sympathy, the cards, food and  
memorials given in Kari's  
honor. Your expressions of  
love and caring for Karri  
and each of us is treasured.

**Bill Korth**  
**Gary and Jean Staeffler**  
**Kammi (Bob) Biber**  
**Sheryl (Greg) Staeffler**  
(9.16-9.18)

The family of Verna Schmuck  
would like to thank everyone  
for their support and con-  
dolences after her passing.

**Verna Schmuck Family**  
(9.16-9.18)

### SERVICES

**BEAN  
WALKERS**  
**ROCKS, STICKS, ETC...**  
**WE HAVE SEVERAL CREWS**  
We also walk pastures with thistles  
and pick up sticks, tear down old  
fences and cover silage piles.  
**Any type of farm work.**  
**26 YEARS EXPERIENCE**  
REFERENCES AVAILABLE.  
FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL  
**CELL 712-251-3277**  
**HOME 712-943-2084**

Call Chantel  
at 283-2333  
to advertise

### EMPLOYMENT

Kopp's Ag Service is looking  
for an individual to install hog  
equipment and weld. No ex-  
perience necessary. Call 605-  
214-3694. (8.21-9.16)

Manley Tire and Oil is hiring  
an on-call tow truck driver.  
Must have a valid driving re-  
cord free of any major offens-  
es. Health card required, clear  
background check. On-call as  
little as one weekend/month.  
Pay per tow \$30-\$50 per hour.  
Contact Joel at Manley tire for  
more information. 800-615-  
3704. (8.28-10.21)

Econolodge is seeking a  
part-time morning/night  
front desk person, 7 a.m.-3  
p.m. Stop at Econolodge in  
Luverne and talk to Usha.  
507-283-9488. (9.4-9.23)

### EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted: Looking for a  
bookkeeper/receptionist. Ap-  
ply in person or phone. 507-  
283-4226 Stroeh's Auto Center,  
321 E. Main Street, Luverne  
MN 56156. (9.11-9.30)

### Worldwide Travel Staffing, Limited NOW HIRING

Medical - \$30.00/hr. for  
C.N.A.'s in Long term care  
or Developmentally Dis-  
abled in Luverne.  
• All shifts  
• Full time or flexible  
per diem.

Previous C.N.A. experi-  
ence preferred, but not  
required. A kind and  
compassionate person is  
a must.

Call Ashley at Worldwide  
Staffing, 866-633-3700,  
extension 129

### EMPLOYMENT



NOW HIRING: FULL TIME PRODUCTION EMPLOYEE- CORSON, SD

- FULL BENEFITS
- EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTED 401K
- PAID HOLIDAY VACATION

TO APPLY VISIT: [CHSINC.COM](http://CHSINC.COM) CONTACT DOUG : 507-582-7551

### EMPLOYMENT

## NOW HIRING!

Country Cupboards of Luverne, Inc.  
is HIRING:

### INSTALLERS & IN SHOP WORKERS

Benefits include: Medical Insurance, 401k,  
Paid Vacations, PTO, and Flexible Hours.  
Duties would include all aspects of Custom  
Cabinet manufacturing. No experience needed.  
Call 507-283-8176, or stop out and apply!

*Country Cupboards*  
2 miles south of Luverne on Hwy. 75 • Phone 507-283-8176



## HELP WANTED

- Full-time CNA
- Part-time CNA (various shifts)
- Part-time Overnight RN/LPN
- Laundry Aide
- Full-time Cook and Dietary Aides

308 W. SHERMAN AVE. ELLSWORTH, MN  
CALL 507-967-2482



**MCAN**

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

### EMPLOYMENT

**FULL-TIME LABORATORY  
TECHNICIAN (MLT/MLS)**  
Benefited position at First Care  
Health Center in Park River, ND.  
Part-time positions also avail-  
able. To apply/for more information,  
visit: <https://tinyurl.com/FirstCareHealth>

### AUCTIONS

**PREMIER MINNESOTA PROPERTY**  
Sept 25, 2021 Luxury country home  
auction w/150± acres, buildings &  
equipment. [MNCountryHome.com](http://MNCountryHome.com)  
218/998-4454 UC | Team Aasnes  
Visit website for auction terms

Advertise here statewide  
in 210+ newspapers for  
only \$279 per week!  
Call 800-279-2979

### WANTED TO BUY

WANTED:  
ALL 1970S MOTORCYCLES  
Running or not. Titled or not. Cash  
are high! Call Dan at 612/720-2142

### MISCELLANEOUS

**LOOKING FOR ASSISTED LIVING**  
memory care, or independent living?  
A Place for Mom simplifies the pro-  
cess of finding senior living at no cost to  
your family. Call 888/715-1720 today!

### THE GENERAC PWRCELL

A solar plus battery storage system.  
Save money, reduce your reliance on  
the grid, prepare for power outages  
and power your home. Full installation  
services available. \$0 Down financ-  
ing option. Request a free, no obliga-  
tion quote today. Call 888/913-5895

### MISCELLANEOUS

**DISH NETWORK \$64.99**  
for 190 Channels! Blazing fast in-  
ternet, \$19.99/mo. (where avail-  
able.) Switch & get a FREE \$100 Visa  
gift card. FREE voice remote. FREE  
HD DVR. FREE streaming on ALL  
devices. Call today! 855/562-4309

### DONATE YOUR CAR

truck or boat to Heritage For The  
Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax de-  
ductible, free towing, all paper-  
work taken care of 844/220-9501

### THE COVID CRISIS

has cost us all something. Many have  
lost jobs and financial security. Have  
\$10K In Debt? Credit Cards. Medical  
Bills. Car Loans. Call National  
Debt Relief! We can help! Get a FREE  
debt relief quote: Call 844/205-5439

## NOW HIRING: AGRONOMY MANAGER

Seeking a proven manager to lead a growing and team oriented full-service agronomy department for a well established cooperative. Candidate will be responsible for all aspects of the department including staff, sales, marketing, new customer development, equipment and customer relationships.

Candidate should have agricultural related education and significant work experience with the desire to lead and manage.

For more information contact Bill at (952) 466-3721 or [billr@midcountycoop.com](mailto:billr@midcountycoop.com)

Mail or deliver resume to:

Mid-County Coop, 700 W. Lake, PO Box 177, Cologne, MN 55322



NOW LEASING

309-301 E. Crawford, Luverne  
All electric  
2 bedrooms, 1 bath  
Approx 1,400 sq.  
ft. w/ garages. ALL  
appliances included.  
Water softener, Culligan  
drinking water. We  
supply salt, yard work  
& snow removal  
done for you. LIVE  
CAREFREE!

\$795  
Call  
507-920-5595

RECYCLE!

# LUVERNE FALL CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE

THURSDAY, **SEPTEMBER 16**  
 FRIDAY, **SEPTEMBER 17** &  
 SATURDAY, **SEPTEMBER 18**

*Featuring 22 SALES*

## AREA 3

### 1012 N. Jackson Street – Ailts

Wednesday: 12-7 p.m.; Thursday: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 Carpet shampooer; small items like tables; lots of kitchen items, crystal and lace; miscellaneous and more miscellaneous; no clothing.

### 700 Traveling Hail Circle – Arends

Friday: 5-7 p.m.; Saturday: 8-11 a.m.  
 Teen-adult clothing, baby clothing; roller blades; bassinet; bat bag; yoga mat; Papasan chair.

### 1402 Victory Circle – Bullerman, Nelson

Thursday: 3:30-7 p.m.; Friday: 12-7 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
 Boys' and girls' clothing, ladies' S-XL, men's XL; shoes; sporting goods; toys; home décor; household/miscellaneous items; graduation décor.

### 615 N. Oakley Street – Carlson

Thursday-Friday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m.-12 p.m.  
 Kids' items; baby items; crib; toys; adult clothing M-3XL, boys' 5/6-10, girls' 5/6; miscellaneous; and household items.

### 304 E. Oakland Avenue – DeBates

Friday: 12-5 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
 Boys' clothing, adult clothing, coats; baseball cards and equipment; bike; kids lawn chairs; lots of miscellaneous.

### 709 Britz Drive – DeBoer

Wednesday: 4:30-7 p.m.; Thursday-Friday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.  
 Huge multi-family! Girls', boys' and adult name-brand clothing; décor; kitchen; shop tools; baby accessories; pet items; lots of miscellaneous!

### 1104 Jackson Street – Gangestad

Thursday: 2-8 p.m.  
 Home décor; youth sports equipment; toys; boys' and girls' clothing; side tables.

### 503 Britz Drive – Hebig

Thursday: 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
 Group rummage: Gas grill; wood bench; mirror; ladies' XS-1XL, men's M-XXL; lamp; pictures; home décor; Precious Moments; Christmas décor and lots of miscellaneous.

### 909 N. Blue Mound Avenue – Jacobsma

Thursday and Friday: 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.  
 Toys; tractors, implement, trucks, motorcycles; miscellaneous; snow blower and other miscellaneous.

### 1019 N. Lindale Street – Laackmann

Thursday – Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 Household items: including vintage and antiques; fishing rods, lures; hardware store closeout items and more!

### 204 W. Virginia Street – Muller

Thursday-Saturday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Craft items-stamping, etc.; Christmas décor; household items; clothing; bedding; miscellaneous items.

### 510 N. Spring Street – Rasmussen

Thursday 4-8 p.m.  
 Cancer patient fundraiser—#1 huge bake sale; #2 Relay for Life items/leftover auction stuff; #3 bring recycled cell phones and tablets.

### 1017 N. Jackson Street – Sohl, Hofmeyer, Becker

Thursday: 1-6 p.m.; Friday: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.  
 Kids' Halloween costumes; miscellaneous toys for all ages; various sizes boys' and girls' boots; boys' and girls' clothing – all sizes.

### 105 Elm Street – Van Batavia

Thursday: 4:30 – 6: 30 p.m.; Friday: 4:30 – 6: 30 p.m.  
 Lots of girls' – baby to size 10; boys' - up to 9 months, women's; Papered Chef, much miscellaneous.

### Corner of Luverne and Cedar streets – Misino

Thursday – Saturday: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.  
 Huge Sale! Yes, I'm the one who was supposed to have done the spring sale, but due to illness, was unable. So I'm doing it now, and boy, is it some sale! Just to mention a few things: Over 150 movies, many Disney; also TV series complete sets; half of movies and sets are brand new; wedding and bridesmaid dress; "Jensen" 5 in 1 stereo system; small hand tools, "Milwaukee" and "Ace"; several pictures, such as "Thomas Kinkaid"; office items and over the counter meds; six-man tent; View Masters and reels, even a View Master projector, all from the 50s and 60s. A nice scooter; toys for tots and kids; over \$500 in unused puzzle books for only \$125; two 32" TVs; DVD, VCR combo with remote. Dr. J professional CD, DVD portable media player with remote and tons of features, plus hundreds of other items for sale, all priced to move, or make a reasonable offer, and I'll accept!

## AREA 1

### 203 S. East Park Street – C. Connel, A. Connel, C. Tyng, S. Ommen, R. Peterson

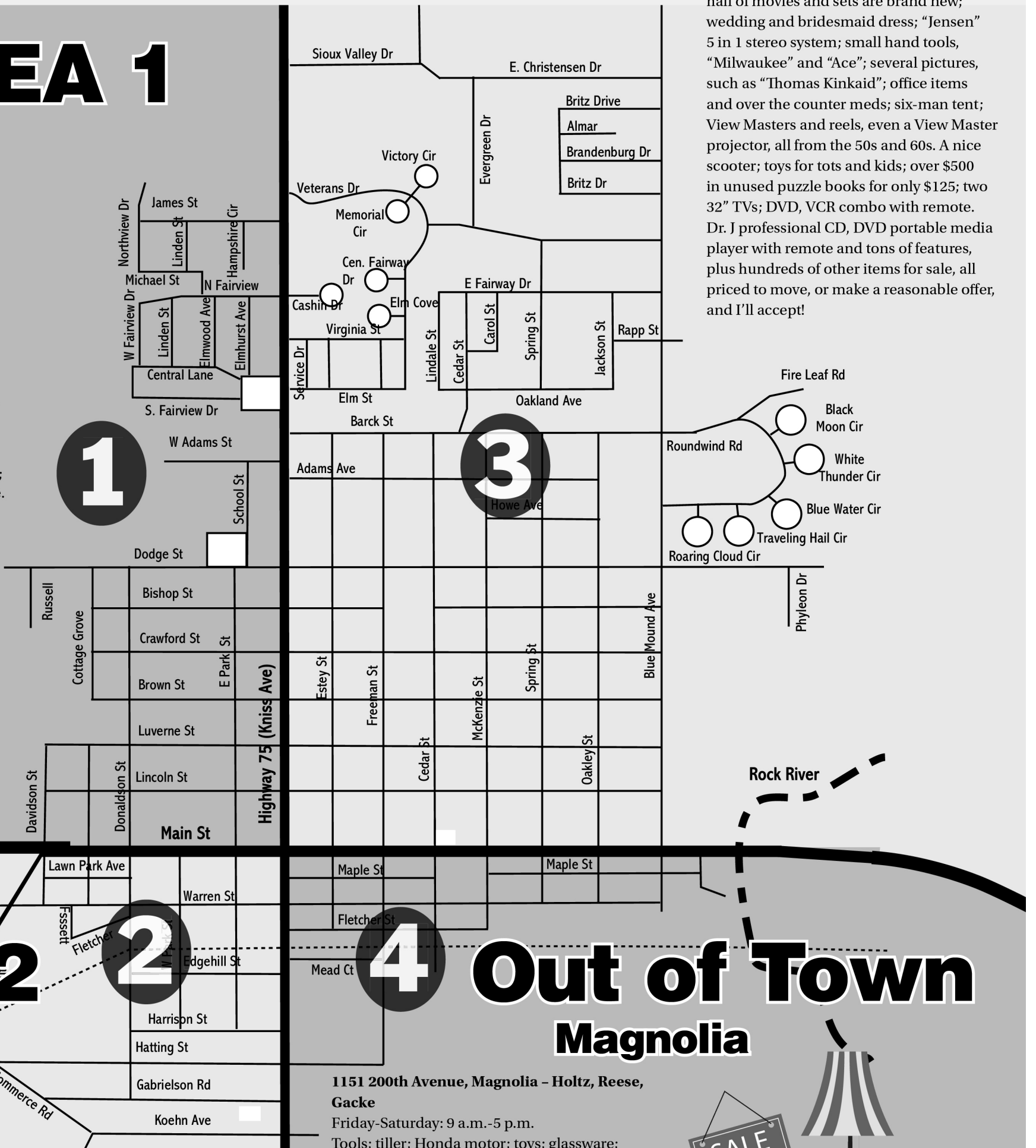
Wednesday: 3-7 p.m.; Thursday: 1-8 p.m.; Friday: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Boys' and girls' clothing – infant to size 7; teen L-XL through men's S; adult clothing S-2X; toys; wooden puzzles; hamster cage; Halloween costumes; Castle snowmobile coat XL; Beanie Babies (2000); Matchbox cars; kids snow boots; women's shoes 6-10; Avon/Budweiser mugs; movie posters, cookbooks, baby car seat base, gun rack, Take 16 growlers, antique wash ringer, small table top popcorn machine; tri-level serving set; Craftsman weed eater; hunting jacket and vests in various sizes; lots of miscellaneous and so much more. Don't miss this one – something for everyone.

### 309 W. Luverne Street – Hanson

Thursday-Friday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.  
 Multi-family rummage sale: Women's clothing M-4x; boys' bike; home décor; kitchen; tools; books; furniture; miscellaneous.

### 413 Central Lane – Svenes

Thursday-Saturday: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.  
 Group rummage sale: Baby items, children's and adult clothing, household and other miscellaneous items.



## AREA 2

### 511 W. Warren Street – Aanenson

Thursday-Friday: 3-7 p.m.; Saturday: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.  
 Coffee table; miscellaneous; fishing stuff; women's M-XL; men's L-XL; and much more – too much to list! (sale is inside house)

### 315 Oak Drive – Wenzel

Thursday-Saturday: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.  
 Huge multi-family sale! Girls' (newborn-3T); boys' (2T-10); women's (S-L); men's M/32); furniture; tons of baby items; dryer; Power Wheels; armoires; custom made items; Everything Must Go!

## AREA 4 Out of Town

### 1151 200th Avenue, Magnolia – Holtz, Reese, Gacke

Friday-Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
 Tools; tiller; Honda motor; toys; glassware; bikes; tool boxes; hedge trimmer; (2) 9x7 brown garage doors/tracks; UTV Jump Seat kid battery motorcycle; back seat for a side by side.

### 1897 101st Street, Magnolia; exit 18, ¼ mile south – Knutson

Thursday: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Friday: 8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
 Moving sale: tools, housewares and much, much more!





Auctioneer Keith Elbers takes bids at Sanford Luverne's Hospice Dinner and Auction on Aug. 26 at Grand Prairie Events. The fundraiser brought in a record net profit of \$75,386.

## Hospice fundraiser nets \$75,386/from page 1B

Hospice, Phil and Denise Gorter, and the Hospice Staff Award that went to the entire hospice team working to provide care to patients and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Friends of Hospice,** the Gorters, became involved with hospice in 2006 as a way of giving back for the care received by Phil's brother, Loren, who passed away at The Cottage. They started by hosting and decorating a Minnesota Vikings-themed table for the "Tour of Tables," which has become a family tradition to help raise funds for a designated need at The Cottage each year.

The Gorters have involved their family each year, including siblings and their children and young grandchildren who all attend and help support the cause. Phil serves on the Hospice Community Advisory Board and is a great ambassador for hospice services. Denise volunteers countless hours hosting multiple tables

for the "Tour of Tables" and is on the decorating committee for the Annual Hospice Dinner and Auction.

**Volunteer of the Year** Sharon Hamm has been a patient care volunteer since 2014. She regularly volunteers at The Cottage and is always willing to help evenings and weekends or whenever the house is busiest.

Sharon accepted a special assignment to visit a hospice patient in a group home who has a very debilitating disease. "Sharon has gone above and beyond and truly exemplifies the hospice philosophy in the care and compassion she shows each day in her volunteer work," Saum said.

**Hospice Staff Award** recognizes the efforts of the entire Hospice Team working together this year during the pandemic. "All staff had to quickly adapt to new ways to care for their patients differently when

going to patient homes, into various facilities, and to following changing protocols as well as working with patients and families at The Cottage," Saum said.

Members of Sanford Luverne Hospice team include Dr. Austin Spronk, Medical Director; Dr. Stephen Brandi Gaul, RN; Kim Fitzgerald, RN; Jill Roemen, Social Worker; Sara Lanoue; Matt Nath, RN; Jessy Liming, RN; Tammy Moeller, Hospice Manager; Helen Saum, Volunteer and Meeting Coordinator; Pastor Kristi Franken, Chaplain; Helen Buys and Karla Kix.

Cottage staff members include Marie Chapin, Amy Cowell, Jessica Limones, Lois Petersen, Megan Thompson, Rose Aristeo and unscheduled part-time staff Ashley Bostic, Lois DeValk, Staci Feikema, Tammy Love and Robin Carlson.

Artist Shawn DeGroot, Sioux Falls, made the fused glass pieces awarded to recipients.

## Hunters need to protect hearing from shotgun blasts

Most hunters pay little attention to protecting their hearing from the loud blast of a shotgun.

Rifle hunters, on the other hand, almost always wear substantial hearing protection. Some will even spend north of \$1,200 to adapt their rifle to a suppressor, which is quiet enough not to require hearing protection.

It the past I never wore hearing protection while hunting. I did not shoot enough times in a day that I thought it relevant enough that it might endanger my hearing.

That has changed.

The No. 1 reason hunters haven't worn hearing protection is that past methods of protection interfered with mounting the gun.

The head phone style hearing protection (called shooting muffs) would hit the stock of the gun when you mounted it to your shoulder. This was unacceptable to almost every shooter.

The second option was foam ear plugs. These came in many styles, but almost all of them fit badly and were not comfortable to wear for long periods.

The major issue I have with the two mentioned earlier is that wearing either of them reduces my reaction time when a bird flushes.

I most often see the instant that a bird takes wing. I identify the target and shoot it if it's legal and safe.

But what about the bird that flushed from 90 degrees to my right? He is at the outer edge of my peripheral vision. In situations like these I might not get a read on that bird in time to take a shot.

This is because with muffs or ear plugs, I cannot hear the wings. If a bird launches from behind me, even if he is really close, chances are he will make a successful getaway because I cannot see or hear him.

Foam ear plugs are better today than in the past, but they do not solve the issue of listening to wings. You can get plugs molded to the exact shape for your ears. These are a great step up from the 99-centers you buy from a big jug on the counter.

I decided that I shoot enough and hope to do it long enough that gun shots could very well affect my hearing in the



### THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall, outdoors columnist

long term. I am 60 already and don't want to spend the last 25 years of my life asking "What?"

I finally broke down and purchased my first set of electronic hearing protection from Sound Gear. These allow you to hear all normal conversations, including wing beats, but they block sound that exceeds unsafe levels for humans. These are pricey at about \$1,000, but they're cheap compared to hearing aids that can run \$5,000 or more for damaged hearing.

They can and do act like something called a game ear, which can amplify all of the sounds around you. You might hear a white tail deer buck stepping on crispy leaves before you can actually see him. They also block the loud sounds. But they primarily come in the muff style, which is a big drawback.

I have used the electronic set I have for the past two years but I still did not wear them as often as I should have because I had trouble adjusting the volume with the end of my big fat fingers.

It was either too loud or too soft but rarely ever just right. Very frustrating. Others did not seem to have the same issue, but I struggled with it.

I reached out to Sound Gear and updated to a unit called Phantom, which is supposed to have even better sound quality that's adjusted with an app on your phone.

I am not a phone guru, but I can follow directions and Blue Tooth connection is something I can handle. The cost is still much cheaper than being deaf when you are old.

Add some quality hearing protection to someone on your Christmas list. It will make playing cards with them way easier on the holidays. ... What did you say again?

*Scott Rall, Worthington, is a habitat conservationist, avid hunting and fishing enthusiast and is president of Nobles County Pheasants Forever. He can be reached at [scottall@gmail.com](mailto:scottall@gmail.com) or on Twitter @habitat champion.*

**2021 Minnesota Renaissance Festival**  
**50th Anniversary**

**Full Armored Joust • Live Unicorn**  
**Food fit for Royalty • Mermaids**  
**Fairies • Turkey Legs**  
**Endless Artisans for Shopping**

**Weekends (Sat. & Sun.) + Labor Day**  
**Aug. 21 – Oct. 3 • Festival Friday, Oct. 1st**  
**9am – 7pm • Rain or Shine**  
**RenaissanceFest.com • Free Parking**

**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](mailto:rick@star-herald.com).