



Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, September 17, 2020

Early voting starts Friday

Local election officials brace for record participation mail ballot requests

By Mavis Fodness

Early voting opens Friday, Sept. 18, for the Nov. 3 general election, and the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer Office will be busy filling absentee ballot requests.

More than 500 registered voters are waiting for the official ballots, slated to arrive in the mail the week of Sept. 28.

Auditor-treasurer Ashley Kurtz estimated a week for her office to assemble the ballots with instructions and place them in the mail.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us," she said. "It's good that people want to vote."

Her office received an average of a dozen calls a day since the state's Aug. 11 primary, inquiring about the general election early voting option.

Any registered voter in Rock County can ask for an absentee ballot, due to revisions in election rules.

There are 5,000 registered voters in Rock County, with 2,000 of those voters living in mail ballot precincts where there are no longer in-person voting locations.

Locally reasons given for early voting range from avoiding waiting in line at polling places to not wanting to be exposed to large groups due to the coronavirus.

Kurtz said none of the callers have questioned the validity of voting through mail ballot versus voting in person.

She said her office follows the state's stringent checks and balances to prevent fraudulent voting.

Her office also goes to extra lengths to make sure all votes are counted.

For the Aug. 11 primary election, 677 mail ballots were received in Kurtz's office along with 173 absentee ballots.

More voters are opting to mail in their ballots

"As a comparison, in 2018 we

Early voting/continued on page 2A



It's beginning to look a lot like harvest

After an unusually dry August, local fields have ripened rapidly and local farmers are responding to conditions with early harvest protocols. Livestock producers started silage chopping over two weeks ago and have now moved on to wet corn. Meanwhile, many soybean fields quickly yellowed and turned to brown under prolonged hot, dry conditions followed by last week's near freezing temperatures. According to USDA crop reports for southern Minnesota, soybean harvest is two weeks ahead of schedule and six days ahead of the five-year average. This photograph, taken Monday evening west of Luverne, shows wide variation in soybean varieties and among fields that were planted in different time frames. The foreground soybeans are still showing some green while the harvest activity shows plants at mature stages. According to the USDA, corn maturity in southern Minnesota is 24 days ahead of last year and two weeks ahead of the five-year average. (Star Herald photo and text by Lori Sorenson)

County considers no increase for 2021 levy

By Mavis Fodness

The Rock County Commissioners postponed action on a preliminary 2021 tax levy until Sept. 22 after discussions stalled during the Sept. 8 meeting.

County Administrator Kyle Oldre said the state is projecting a budget shortfall due to spending efforts to lessen the coronavirus pandemic impact in the state.

State officials may shift more costs to counties by not allocating all of the promised Local Government Aid.

Rock County is slated to receive \$562,744 for 2021, up \$425 from this year.

Oldre encouraged commissioners to participate in the upcoming virtual fall policy conferences through the Association of Minnesota Counties to advocate for not shifting more burden to local property owners.

"The more time we can buy, the better off we are going to be," he said.

County departments indicate they'll need \$150,000 in increased expenditures for employee benefits and salaries and another \$150,000 for bond payments.

Commissioners met in a budget planning session Sept. 2 when each

County levy/continued on page 3A

Luverne proposes 9.7 percent levy hike

By Lori Sorenson

For the second year in a row, Luverne's tax levy could increase by more than 9 percent, according to action at the Sept. 8 City Council meeting.

Council members set the proposed 2021 tax levy at \$2,298,720, which represents a 9.67 percent increase (\$202,596 more than the current levy).

The levy amount includes \$2,157,000 for the general fund and \$141,720 for principal and interest on existing debt.

At their Aug. 18 meeting, council members reviewed the operating budget, which included rough

outlines of the city's governmental expenses and revenues.

The governmental budget includes the general fund, airport, pool and capital projects.

Governmental expenditures for 2021 will be roughly \$7 million and revenues are estimated at \$7.3 million.

They include public safety - law enforcement contract \$936,000, fire \$289,000 and building official - at \$1.4 million, about 27 percent of costs; public works and airport at \$1.1 million, about 18 percent of costs; culture and recreation at \$1.4

City levy/continued on page 3A



Mavis Fodness photo/0910 Reminiscence Kits

A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota and Rock County Friends of the Library recently assembled reminiscence kits for caregivers to use with loved ones suffering from memory loss. Pictured from left are Linda Wenzel (holding a do-it-yourself kit), Kristen Scheidt (farming), Elena Heronimus (pets), and Linda Frahm (hunting.)

Volunteers, library team up for dementia support

By Mavis Fodness

Two Rock County organizations are collaborating to support families whose loved ones are living with dementia.

A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota and the local Friends of the Library are sponsoring reminiscence kits now available for checkout from the Rock County Library.

Linda Wenzel, the local A.C.E. (Achieve, Connect, Educate) coordinator, and library director Calla Jarvie assembled seven kits, each with its own theme - sewing, farming, do-it-yourself, baking, pets, hunting and gardening.

"The items are meant to be props for discussion," Jarvie said. "The gardening kit does include seeds,

but we don't intend for those to be planted. Each kit does include at least one book, so we would hope the book will be read and used."

A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota recently received a grant from the Minnesota Board on Aging to support its ongoing efforts to

Reminiscence kits/see page 2A

Luverne School Board approves union contracts

Salary increases include 2.6 percent during the contract's first year and 2.4 percent for the second year

By Mavis Fodness

The Luverne School Board unanimously approved two-year contracts with the district custodians and the district paraprofessionals at a special meeting Thursday night, Sept. 10.

Both contracts are effective from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022.

Salary increase percentages are consistent with recently approved teaching staff and other district salaries.

For custodial staff, salaries increase 2.6 percent for the first year and 2.4 percent for the second year.

Under the new custodial contract, the hours for the shift differential of an added 75 cents per hour was defined as 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Also added to the contract is a \$250 stipend applied in June of each year for employees who

District contributes \$5,750 for health insurance in first year and \$6,250 in second

achieve additional licenses for electrical and/or boiler operation. The stipend is effective each year the employee holds the license(s).

School board members also unanimously approved a contract with paraprofessionals, food service personnel and administrative assistants.

Salary increases include 2.6 percent during the contract's first year and 2.4 percent for the second year.

In the contract, the sick leave definition was changed to allow leave by the half hour instead of by the full hour.

The district health insurance contributions are \$5,750 for the first year and \$6,250 for the second year.





County	Total Cases	New cases in last 7 days	Percent Change
Rock	132	19	+16.3%
Pipestone	202	4	+2%
Nobles	1,906	14	+0.6%
Minnehaha (SD)	5,898	297	+4.8%
Lyon (IA)	194	27	+14.9%

14-day case rate in Rock County per 10,000 people:

Date Range	7/26-8/8	8/2-8/15	8/9-8/22	8/16-8/29
Rate	22.31	14.87	14.87	18.06

According to Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan guidelines:

- Schools in counties with fewer than 9 new cases per 10,000 residents in a two-week period could have *in-person classes for all students*.
- Schools in counties with more than 50 new cases per 10,000 residents in two weeks *would have to be fully online for all students*.
- Schools in counties with more than 9 and fewer than 50 new cases in two weeks *could have hybrid learning models for students*, age appropriate.

Based on this data, plans for area schools are:

LUVERNE - Elementary: In-person | **Middle/High School:** HYBRID
HBC - Elementary: In-person | **Secondary:** In-person/HYBRID

Current data as of September 15, 2020. Sources: MDH & The New York Times

Sponsored by: Rock County Emergency Management

RCO honors direct support professionals during DSP Week Sept. 13-19

Staff are crucial to supporting people with disabilities in the community

Rock County Opportunities in Luverne and the Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation (MOHR) are supporting Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week this week, Sept. 13 to 19.

The goal is to recognize the accomplishments and contributions made by direct support professionals to the lives of people with disabilities.

"Direct support professionals are at the core of our mission, helping people with disabilities to live the lives that they choose," said MOHR President Julie Johnson. "Their work is valued, needed and appreciated."

RCO employs six direct support professionals to serve 31 individuals in and around Rock County.

"DSPs are the caring people who creatively provide valuable services to individuals who otherwise might not have the same opportunities in life as others in our community," said RCO director Elizabeth Schear.

"I am truly grateful for the dedication and top-notch care our professionals provide at RCO."

With more than 100 disability service providers across the state, MOHR's mission is to promote and strengthen employment and life engagement opportunities as chosen by persons with disabilities.



Submitted photo
 Rock County Opportunities Luverne Direct Support Professionals include (front, from left) Erika Camarillo, Krista Kurtz, Pam Tieszen, Jenna Coffman, (back) Tessa Shuler, Christina Hacker and Markie Taubert. They are being honored this week during Direct Support Professional (DSP) Recognition Week.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Battle Plain Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21, at the home of Mark Vander Pol.

Caregivers Support Group will meet at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 319 E. Lincoln in Luverne for anyone interested. Call Linda Wenzel at 283-5064.

Town and Country Garden Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, to tour Apples and More on 74 Orchard near Beaver Creek. Call Sharon, 507-283-4376, or Linda at 507-597-6378 to RSVP.

Compassionate Friends Support Group will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 21, at the Luverne Area Community Foundation Office (west of the Palace Theatre) in Luverne. The group meets monthly for those who have experienced the death of a son or daughter, brother or sister, grandchild ... of any age and from any cause. Call 507-690-2757.

Art Walk at Crow's Nest Farm Sept. 19

Local and regional artists are planning a fun day for the public to visit Crow's Nest Farm and enjoy shopping for artists' works, enjoying the beautiful gardens, visiting the alpacas and chickens, and just enjoying a fun autumn day outdoors. The event is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Ceynowas' Crow's Nest Farm, 1074 161st Street, north and west of Luverne. Vendors' booths will be spaced for social distancing, and wearing masks will be an absolute requirement for artists and attendees.

Artists will include Carol Ceynowa, Jerry and Kathy Deuschle, Mary Petersen, Nan Kaufenberg, Genna Rolfs, Rylee Gee, and Gerry and Julie Punt.

'Friend of Dementia' class Sept. 22

Join a one-hour online informational session via Zoom from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 22, to learn five key messages everyone should know about dementia, what it's like to live with someone with dementia, and how to turn your knowledge into action to support those affected by dementia.

Pre-registration is required. Contact Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064 or at ace.rock@co.rock.mn.us.

Bloodmobile in Luverne Sept. 28

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Luverne from 1 to 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28, at Grand Prairie Events on South Estey Street.

Make an appointment to donate by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Bring identification and masks to appointments.

The Red Cross is testing blood, platelet and plasma donations for COVID-19 antibodies. The test may indicate if the donor's immune system has produced antibodies to the coronavirus, regardless of whether they developed symptoms. Those with antibodies may be able to donate plasma to help patients who need help fighting the virus.

Alzheimer's Walk for a Cure Sept. 19-28

The Southwest Dementia Awareness Network will host a virtual Alzheimer's Walk for a Cure Sept. 19-28.

Join the Southwest Dementia Awareness Network - Walk for a Cure Facebook event page. Get a T-shirt, make a donation and walk with family and friends any time between Sept. 19 and 28.

All funds raised stay in southwest Minnesota.

Election officials prepare for early voting, record turnout/from 1A

educate the public about dementia in the seven-county service area.

In Rock County the grant launched the Southwest Dementia Awareness Network (SWDAN), a support group for caregivers for people with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

The reminiscence kits were assembled with \$500 from the grant with the Friends of the Library contributing an additional \$200.

A kit can be checked out for two weeks.

Items inside the kits were selected to trigger pleasant memories for those with memory loss and encourage them to share those stories.

"The items were chosen for their texture, size — they need to fit in the tubs we

have for the kits — and if we thought they would be good for jogging memories," Jarvie said.

In the pets reminiscence kit, for example, a stuffed dog and cat were included.

"The farm kit has a John Deere model tractor and a Case IH model tractor — we know how divisive that can be," Jarvie joked about local brand allegiance.

Items are also meant to stimulate a person's five senses — touch, sight, smell, taste and/or sound.

Wenzel pointed to the bookcase analogy from the Dementia Friends Minnesota as to why the reminiscence kits are important and special care was taken to choose items common in the community.

She said dementia is



The farming reminiscence kit includes toy tractors, livestock, work gloves, corn and "The Farm Book."

like a bookshelf. Books with facts and complex thinking are on the top shelf. Then the shelf is rocked — much like the beginning effects of

dementia — the top books fall away quickly. Emotions and feelings remain longer because they are located on the lower shelves or inner parts of the brain.

In someone with memory loss, the reminiscence kits tap into the longer-lasting lower shelves, to create discussions and improve the quality of life to those sharing the experience.

More than one reminiscence kit can be borrowed from the library at one time. The groups plan to develop more kits in the future.

An upcoming Southwest Dementia Awareness Network virtual walk fundraiser will add lifelike companion pets for library checkout.

Reminiscence kits offer support for those with dementia/from 1A

accepted 50 absentee ballots, and in 2016 only 38," Kurtz said. "We saw 3 1/2 times more absentee ballots."

Once received by mail, the ballots are logged into the computer and are physically examined for completeness.

The most common oversight is not signing the envelope before mailing.

"If it (the envelope) is missing a signature, we will call them or contact them by any means possible," Kurtz said.

Those individuals personally signed the primary ballot in the auditor-treasurer's office.

One ballot, however, remained rejected due to the person's recent move from a

mail ballot precinct to an in-person voting precinct.

Kurtz said the person was able to vote at the precinct by showing proof of address.

The postal service will again assist in getting ballots to the Rock County Courthouse for counting.

Kurtz said postal officials made extra trips to the regional distribution center to pick up ballots.

Mailed ballots must be postmarked by the election date, but in the case of the primary, the ballot could arrive two days after the election date and still be counted. For the general election, there are seven extra days.

"It means I can't finalize results until then," Kurtz said. "(But) it doesn't mean you can turn the ballot in late."

Absentee and mail ballots are not counted until Election Day, when the ballot envelopes are opened and official ballots are run through the ballot counting machine.

A common error with mail-in ballots, Kurtz said, is when a voter fails to correct an error in one of the races as instructed.

While the rest of the votes are not rejected, the race where more than one candidate is selected is rejected, unless the voter followed instructions to show which candidate was

intended.

In some cases, voters can contact the Auditor-Treasurer Office for a new ballot.

Absentee ballots can be requested until Nov. 2.

Ballots for mail-in precincts will be mailed after Sept. 24.

For more information about requesting an absentee ballot or correcting a voting error, visit the Minnesota Secretary of State website, sos.state.mn.us, or contact the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer Office at 507-283-5060.

In-person absentee voting is also available Sept. 18. Call the Auditor-Treasurer Office for an appointment.

DRIVE-BY
90th Birthday Party
 FOR
Enore Boelman
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
 3:00 - 4:00 P.M.
 719 N Estey St
 Luverne, MN
 (use alley in back of house)

90th Birthday Card Shower
Florence Helle
 September 23
Greetings may be sent to
 110 S Walnut Ave, Luverne MN 56156

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Luverne city levy/from page 1A

million; and capital outlay at \$445,000.

Governmental revenues come in the form of property taxes at roughly \$2.3 million, or 32 percent; local government aid from the state at \$1.5 million, 21 percent of revenue; and the rest from enterprise funds, fees and other sources.

Pool expansion discussion

As part of the budget overview, City Administrator John Call reviewed upcoming projects.

For example, the planned \$4.7 million splash pad and fitness center expansion won't affect the 2021 levy.

"The council will meet again this fall to approve the project, and if approved, it would be bid in January, followed by a bond issue after that, built in spring 2021 and completed spring of 2022," Call said.

"The timing of it will be pretty good because of the way taxes are working with Premium Minnesota Pork. A major part of that will roll on in 2022."

Call also mentioned that staff is looking at possible sources of new revenues at the facility, such as more a la carte choices.

"I really think there will be some possibilities to offset increased costs with some increased revenue and not see a tremendous amount of operating costs," he said.

"At the same time, we do have the philosophy that this is a public pool, we want the people who can afford to pay - we want them to pay, but we also want the prices to be somewhat below what the market rate would be or a for-profit business."

Call also mentioned that the city is making its final payments on the fire hall and Minnesota West building projects, which will also free up more

funds for pool expansion.

New employee added in public works and \$25,000 for Historical Society

Another new expenditure is an added full-time employee in the public works department.

"Now we're mowing the industrial park, Uithoven Addition and the Loop," Call said. "We're always asking public works for extra projects. The extra manpower could definitely be used. So that's put into this budget."

The council also committed to \$25,000 per year to support the Historical Society's operations.

Levy increase not the same as property tax increase

The council acknowledged that the city's levy increased 9.41 percent from 2019 to 2020, but the actual increase in taxes was relatively modest, thanks to Luverne's overall tax rate.

"We're setting our levy a little bit higher, and as our tax capacity grows, we keep our rate somewhat stable," Call said. "We are growing, and our market values are increasing and that's good for our fiscal health."

A \$150,000 home for example, saw an actual property tax increase of 1.3 percent in 2020, despite the levy increase of 9.41 percent.

"We have a low tax rate - among the lowest in southwest Minnesota with comparable communities," Call said.

"And I want to thank the school district and county for the role they play in watching their budgets and keeping spending low. That keeps the total levy low for all of our taxpayers."

The preliminary levy must be set in September, but it won't be certified until December.



Mavis Fodness photos/0917 Painting HBC Mascot Parent Dawn Vande Voort and H-BC junior Casey Kueter position a template for the blue portion of the school's Patriot mascot Sunday. Steve Paulsen is also pictured.

Paint splashes H-BC spirit

Photos and text by Mavis Fodness

A small group of parents representing the junior class at Hills-Beaver Creek High School spent Sunday painting the towns red, white and blue.

Seventeen sidewalks and driveways in Hills and Beaver Creek each received a spray-painted H-BC mascot, which is the head of a Patriot.

"We have a nice drying day," said Kari Kueter.

This is the fourth year for the after-prom fundraiser.

For \$40, residents and business owners can have the mascot painted as a symbol of school spirit.

Many existing driveway Patriots were touched up with new paint.

Using a set of three templates, volunteers first applied the white square base, followed by blue and finally red.

"We will do these until the weather turns," Kueter said.

To arrange for a mascot to be repainted or for a new application, contact Kueter at 507-920-3846.



Jim Kueter reveals a completed Patriot mascot logo on Main Street in Hills Sunday afternoon with (from left) Dawn Vande Voort, Kari Kueter and Casey Kueter as an after-prom fundraiser.

County levy/ continued from page 1A

department submitted a proposed 2021 budget.

Based on discussions, a 2.14-percent levy increase is recommended for taxes payable 2021. The total levy in this case would be \$6,318,000.

At their Sept. 8 meeting, Commissioner Jody Reisch commended each department leader for presenting conservative budgets.

"We always have run a tight budget," Reisch said. "It would be hard to find any fat."

Commissioners Gary Overgaard and Stan Williamson discussed the possibility of not increasing the current property tax levy due to the state of the county's mainly rural farm economy.

Without a significant increase in residential, commercial and industrial construction, ag land bears the brunt of the tax levy increase.

So far in 2020, new construction in the county dropped 34 percent overall from 2019, according to assessor Tom Houselog.

Commercial and industrial new construction is down 83.1 percent from a year ago. Residential properties showed a modest 2.2-percent increase.

"We have to at least raise the possibility (of a zero levy increase)," Overgaard said.

Commissioner Greg Burger said if a modest levy increase is not put in place this year, a future increase may have to be larger in order to keep the budget balanced.

"A zero increase is not feasible," Burger said.

By statute, counties need to set a preliminary property tax levy by Sept. 30 with a final levy determined in December. The final levy amount cannot exceed the preliminary levy amount, but it can be lowered.

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

Sept. 4
•Complainant on W. Dodge Street reported a parking issue.

•Complainant on railroad track west of Manley on County Road 4 reported road hazard.

•Complainant on 71st Street, Valley Springs, reported theft.

•Complainant on 80th Avenue, Hardwick, reported a stolen battery.

•Complainant on N. Cedar Street reported suspicious activity.

Sept. 5
•Complainant on S. Fairview Drive reported a car theft in progress.

•Complainant on 20th Avenue and County Road 13, Hills, reported a road closure sign is knocked down.

•Complainant on Hatting Street and S. Freeman Avenue reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant on W. Luverne Street reported child has left home and not returned.

•Complainant on N. Spring Street reported possible oven fire.

Sept. 6
•Complainant on Carsrud Circle reported a break-in and theft.

•Complainant on 110th Avenue, Hardwick, reported gunshots in the area.

•An abandoned phone call was reported on 10th Avenue, Beaver Creek.

•Deputy assisted transients on S. Kniss Avenue.

•Complainant on E. 1st Street, Hardwick, reported suspicious activity.

Sept. 7
•Report of trooper stopped subject on Commerce Road.

•Report of an abandoned vehicle at W. Mead Court.

Sept. 8
•Key found at location on Fletcher Street.

Sept. 9
•Subject in Canton was arrested on Rock County warrant.

•Complainant reported an outage.

•Complainant on W. Dodge Street reported theft of political flag.

•Deputy conducted extra patrol in Hardwick.

Sept. 10
•Complainant on 41st Street and 50th Avenue, Hills, reported railroad blocking roadway.

•Complainant S. Cedar Street reported reckless driving.

Sept. 11
•Complainant reported theft.

•Driving complaint at

location eastbound on Interstate 90 on the off ramp to Highway 75.

•Complainant on 81st Street, Beaver Creek, reported a homeless party walking.

In addition, officers responded to 3 motor vehicle accident, 6 escorts, 18 ambulance runs, 10 paper services, 1 animal complaint, 16 fingerprint requests, 1 burn permit, 1 gas drive-off, 3 alarms, 5 purchase and carry permits, 11 traffic stops, 7 abandoned 911 calls, 3 tests, 2 welfare checks, 1 report of cattle out, 2 follow-ups.

MOWING NOTICE: ROCK COUNTY TOWNSHIPS

Landowners are responsible for mowing ditch shoulders. The last mowing should be done by September 25, 2020. This does not include: Denver, Magnolia, Martin, Springwater, or Beaver Creek.

Teresa Kramer, Sec.
Rock County Township Association

SURPLUS PICKUP FOR SALE BY SEALED BID

The City of Hardwick is selling by sealed bid a 2001 2500 Chevy Regular Cab Pickup with 138269 miles.

Features include: 8' bed with sprayed bed liner, Heavy Duty rear axle 2500 and it has a Northern Truck Equipment 7' 6" Plow.

The pickup can be seen in Hardwick by the City Maintenance Shed and test driven by appointment by calling Caleb at 507-920-7110.

Sealed bids can be dropped in the Hardwick City Hall box or by mailing them to PO Box 31, Hardwick, MN 56134. Bid deadline is 5:00 PM Tuesday, October 13, 2020.



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Springwater Township Mowing Notice
Landowners are now responsible for mowing shoulders at least three times per summer, depending on rain and growth. It is recommended that shoulders be mowed by Oct. 1st, 2020. Failure to do so will result in your taxes being assessed at \$100 per half mile, per time.
Springwater Township Board

MSHAWNA MARSHALL
"WE ALL DO BETTER WHEN WE ALL DO BETTER." - PAUL WELLSTONE
MINNESOTA DISTRICT 22 SHAWNA4MN.COM
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ART WALK AT CROW'S NEST FARM
10AM TO 4PM
SEPTEMBER 19, 2020
LOCATED AT 1074 161ST ST. LUVERNE, MN
VISIT OUTDOOR BOOTHS FEATURING ART BY REGIONAL ARTISTS INCLUDING:
CAROL CEYNOWA
JERRY & KATHY DEUSCHLE
MARY PETERSEN
NAN KAUFENBERG
GENNA ROLFS
RYLEE GEE
GERRY & JULIE PUNT
Enjoy a stroll by the farm's alpacas and chickens!
Social distancing guidelines & mask mandate will be followed

Return to classroom opens video time capsule

Last week I stepped back in time. I only went six months back in time, but it felt like so much farther.



As we started the new school year, I turned on my classroom flat-panel display. It's a large TV/computer screen that I use to teach every day.

When I turned on the screen for the first time this school year, I was surprised what I saw.

The same Internet tabs that I used on March 16, the last day we had kids in school, appeared.

I was immediately taken back to that day.

March 16 was a Monday. We had learned the day before that it would be our last day in school for a while.

On my screen was a video we showed to the students that day, and I pushed play.

The video was of our middle and high school principals explaining to the students the information we had at the time about COVID-19 and how it was going to impact our school.

We were going to close school for two weeks.

On March 30 we would start distance learning.

The principals told the students that they did not know how long distance learning would last.

They mentioned that the start of spring sports would be delayed.

The video also introduced the term "social distancing" to the kids and explained the kinds of activities students should avoid to slow the spread of the virus.

"This is a phrase you will become familiar with over the next few weeks, or even months," Mr. Johnson said. Talk about an

IN OTHER WORDS

By Jason Berghorst, reporter

understatement.

The basic information shared is mostly still true, but there was so much not known at that time.

There was optimism we would return to school in a few weeks.

The situation was going to be temporary.

If we took the appropriate, difficult steps then, we'd be back to normal relatively soon.

I couldn't help but feel a bit frustrated and disappointed hearing that six months later.

I'm glad we didn't know in March what school (and the world) was going to look like in September.

It's easy to look back on the last six months and question decisions made by our elected leaders.

It's also tempting to wonder how things could be different now if we had responded to the pandemic differently earlier on.

We'll never know. Just like we didn't know what was ahead of us in March.

And we don't know what's coming up in the months ahead.

I guess that's a lesson the pandemic is teaching us.

We can't always know the future, and we certainly can't agree on how to influence the future.

For now, I'll appreciate seeing half of my students in person each day.

I'll also do all that I can to help us stay in school at all.

And I'll hope that our students, our community members and our elected leaders will do the same.

But I won't make any predictions.

Have questions about mail ballots and voting security?

Answers aren't hard to find if we weed through politics and disinformation

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

Who knew the postal service and mail ballots would be politicized?

Who knew we would distrust mail service to deliver our ballot, yet trust it to deliver our tax refunds? Who knew that same mail ballot voting that military members have used for decades would be discouraged for average citizens seeking safety from pandemic exposure at the polling station?

Who knew? These are the times we live in and the information distortion that surrounds us.

Meanwhile, we as Americans, Minnesotans, Rock Countians and citizens of our respective cities and townships will participate in this election season, exercising that critical right we as a free nation enjoy to vote in a fair and open election.

Is our election system safe? Can we trust mail ballots? We hope so; a large percentage of our precincts vote by mail only because they have no polling places. (See the front page story about early voting starting Sept. 18.)

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon had no problem answering a recent question about

the likelihood or frequency of voting fraud.

"Knowingly or intentionally voting twice in an election is a felony," he said. "Those who do so will be discovered, prosecuted and convicted."

Our own Auditor Treasurer Ashley Kurtz further explained the process:

"When a voter registers to vote, the information from the voter registration is verified against different databases. We can't mail a ballot to a voter until those verifications are met, therefore ballots can only be mailed to qualified voters," she said.

"And by signing the envelope, the voter is accepting the oath in the same way they would by signing a roster at the polling place. Ballots are also sent by non-forwardable mail, so a person can't

have a registered voter address somewhere different from where they are living."

As a recent Star Tribune editorial pointed out, "Much in a democracy relies on the good faith of those involved. The peaceful transfer of power that has marked this nation since its inception rests primarily on the principle that candidates will accept and voluntarily abide by election results."

Go therefore in good faith and peace, Rock County voters, and rest assured your ballot will be counted this fall.

The 2020 general election promises to bring a record turnout of voters — both in person and by mail. So, it may take awhile for results to be tallied. It just means our election officials are being thorough. And your vote is being counted.



Looking for a few good young people to continue preserving the outdoors

It was almost 35 years ago that I attended my first Pheasants Forever volunteer meeting on a Thursday night in January. I was about 26 years old. I had twins at home that were about a year old. It was mainly a bunch of older white guys all talking about what they could do to increase the number of pheasants so hunting them would improve.

I spent my first 15 years with that outfit in the generic worker bee role. Selling tickets and helping set up events was my total impact for almost 2 1/2 decades. I met a guy there who took me pheasant hunting for the first time behind a good dog, and I was forever hooked.

It matters very little if it is Pheasants Forever, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ruff Grouse Society, Ducks Unlimited, Wild Turkey Federation or one of the hundreds of other conservation-related non-profits across the nation.

It is usually a small group of dedicated folks that give their time,



THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall, Outdoors columnist

effort, energy and in many cases their money to help keep these habitat and wildlife passions alive. The same is true for historical societies, cancer prevention, veterans groups and other organizations.

It seems there used to be an expectation that when you were old enough to be useful, you automatically gave back to some charitable cause. Whatever that was, it no longer seems to be alive in many communities, especially among younger adults.

The result is that a tearful

amount of good works cannot be carried out because there is no one to fill the shoes of those no longer able to carry on their mission of attending to God's creatures or their fellow human beings.

How did we get to this point?

I understand that life is busy. Kids have all kinds of time commitments that require parents to taxi them to and fro.

When my children were born, I had lots of parent duties also. My wife worked full time, as I did, and she worked nights every other weekend. Twins born nine weeks

early take up a lot of time and concentration, and I still managed to make it to a volunteer meeting on Thursday nights for most of the banquet season.

So where has that voice inside of us gone? Many folks that enjoy the outdoors think that the fee to buy a license is all that should be required to have great habitat and tons of game. Even those who have volunteered for decades sooner or later run out of energy. I am seeing it now and up close.

We have five or six older guys, many between 75-90, that just can't do it anymore. They accounted for over 180 years of combined volunteer service. How much more can be asked of them?

I have just as much drive to produce good habitat and conservation work today as I did when I started 35 years ago.

My body hurts a lot longer when projects are completed, but the satisfaction of a job well done

eases that back pain remarkably.

As we enter the hunting seasons of the fall 2020 and we think about all that has gone on in this country over the past year, minutes outside in wild places become even more precious.

What have you done recently to either help others to enjoy an outdoor way of life or help improve the very places that these enjoyments take place in? I would love for you to consider just what organization of any shape or kind you have an affection for and then make a call this week to see what you can do to help them out.

There are about 100 medical ones and tons of conservation ones for your consideration. If you are already involved, then a high five to you. If you and I don't step up and find our future replacements, who will magically tend to our natural resources and each other when we can no longer do it? Make a call and make a difference.

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

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

LUVERNE FALL CITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE

THURSDAY, **SEPTEMBER 17**
 FRIDAY, **SEPTEMBER 18** &
 SATURDAY, **SEPTEMBER 19**

Featuring **25 SALES**

AREA 3

313 E. Bishop St. - Wickherst
 Thursday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Kitchen table with benches, baby swing, baby car seat, Little Tikes table, TV stand, Tupperware, books, lamps, coats, shoes, hats, gloves, bags, clothing of all sizes, toys and much, much more.

909 N. Blue Mound - Jacobsma
 Thursday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday: 8 a.m. - 12 Noon.
 Farm toys, miscellaneous toys, other miscellaneous.

503 Britz Dr. - Hebig
 Wednesday: 5-7 p.m., Thursday: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Friday: 11 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. - 12 Noon.

Group rummage—couch, love seat, rowing machine, iRobot vacuum, clothing S-2X, coats, home décor, Christmas décor, games, puzzles, lots of miscellaneous.

508 Britz Dr. - Reker
 Thursday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday: 8 a.m. - 12 Noon.
 Clothing, vases, porcelain dolls of all sizes, glassware, curtains, housewares, knick knacks, toys and other miscellaneous.

709 Britz Dr. - DeBoer Family
 Thursday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday: 8 a.m. - 12 Noon.
 All-size clothing, shoes, toys, home and seasonal décor, crafting items, shop tools, furniture, miscellaneous.

1003 N. Carol St. - Ossenfort
 Thursday: 4-7 p.m., Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Remodeling Sale—Furniture, electric fireplace, patio set, lighting, lamps, pictures. All good stuff — Don't miss it!

205 Cashin Dr. - Hendel
 Thursday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. - 12 Noon.
 Group Rummage Sale—Lots of home décor, Christmas décor, toys and miscellaneous.

208 Elm St. - Scott
 Thursday: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday: 8 a.m. - 12 Noon.
 Clothing, lots of miscellaneous, Norwex.

302 E. Fairway Dr. - Phelps
 Thursday: 4-7 p.m., Friday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Boy/girl kids clothing, toys, etc., women's/men's clothing, home décor, kitchen/house items, boys bedroom set.

709 Fireleaf Rd. - Foster
 Thursday: 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday: 8 a.m. - 12 Noon.
 Estate Sale—Bedroom sets, stereo, entertainment center, furniture, household items, folding and lawn chairs, TV stand, tools and a few antiques.

602 N. Freeman Ave. - Brandel
 Thursday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Friday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Moving Sale—Jenny Lind crib and changing table with new mattress, furniture, bedding, housewares and décor, season décor, hand tools, Skil and table saws, lawn mowers, electronics, books, clothing and much miscellaneous.

729 N. Freeman - Anderson
 Thursday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Mini fridge (new in box), Shop-Vac, hedge trimmer, American Drew bedroom set, home décor, multi-family clothes and more!

1110 N. Jackson - Eberlein
 Thursday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (2 days only!)
 Downsizing Sale—Furniture, motorized fazy wheelchair, vintage chandelier, lawn mowers, household items, clothing, toys, games. Cash only please.

1007 N. Lindale - Bork Family Rummage
 Thursday: 12 Noon - 6 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday: 8 - 12 Noon
 Boys, girls, women's, men's clothing, shoes, etc., many household items, like new electric roaster, ice cream maker.

1022 N. Lindale - Wassenaar, Wessels, Stegenga
 Thursday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Saturday: 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Bicycle, lamps, pictures, mirrors, golf clubs, bowling ball, crib, coats, crockpot, end table, Christmas tree, Halloween and Christmas decorations.

OUT OF TOWN

Hardwick Memorial Hall
 Friday: 12 Noon - 8 p.m., Saturday: 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 Multi-family—Girls clothes 0-6x, boys 0-18 months, adult to plus size, decor for every holiday and season, home interior, party light, shelves, records and antiques.

900 N. Oakley - Theesfeld
 Thursday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Friday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Saturday: 8 a.m. - 12 Noon
 Small Estate Sale—Lots of miscellaneous.

502 Phyleon Dr. - Hoff
 Thursday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 After the move sale—lots of miscellaneous, kitchen items, décor, some antique furniture and glassware, men's and women's clothing, red handle freight cart, infrared heater, humidifier.

706 Traveling Hail Circle - Boeve
 Wednesday: 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., Thursday: 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Two-family sale—RC boat, puzzles, quality footwear, bedding, counter stool, guy stuff, horse collar, halters, snow board, Avon.

404 E. Veterans Dr. - Eglad
 Thursday: 12 Noon - 6 p.m., Friday: 12 Noon - 6 p.m., Saturday: 8-10 a.m.
 Moving Sale—Furniture, toys, Legos, puzzles, holiday items, collectibles, CD's, framed numbered prints, household and garage items, antiques, queen comforter set.

204 W. Virginia St. - Sandbulte, Miller
 Thursday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday: 8 a.m. - 12 Noon
 Moving Sale—Couch, table set, bedroom sets, end tables, exercise bike, hutch, desk, lamps, roller blades, antique buffet and dresser, bar stools, chair/ottoman, holiday items, miscellaneous household items, old records, wood chipper.

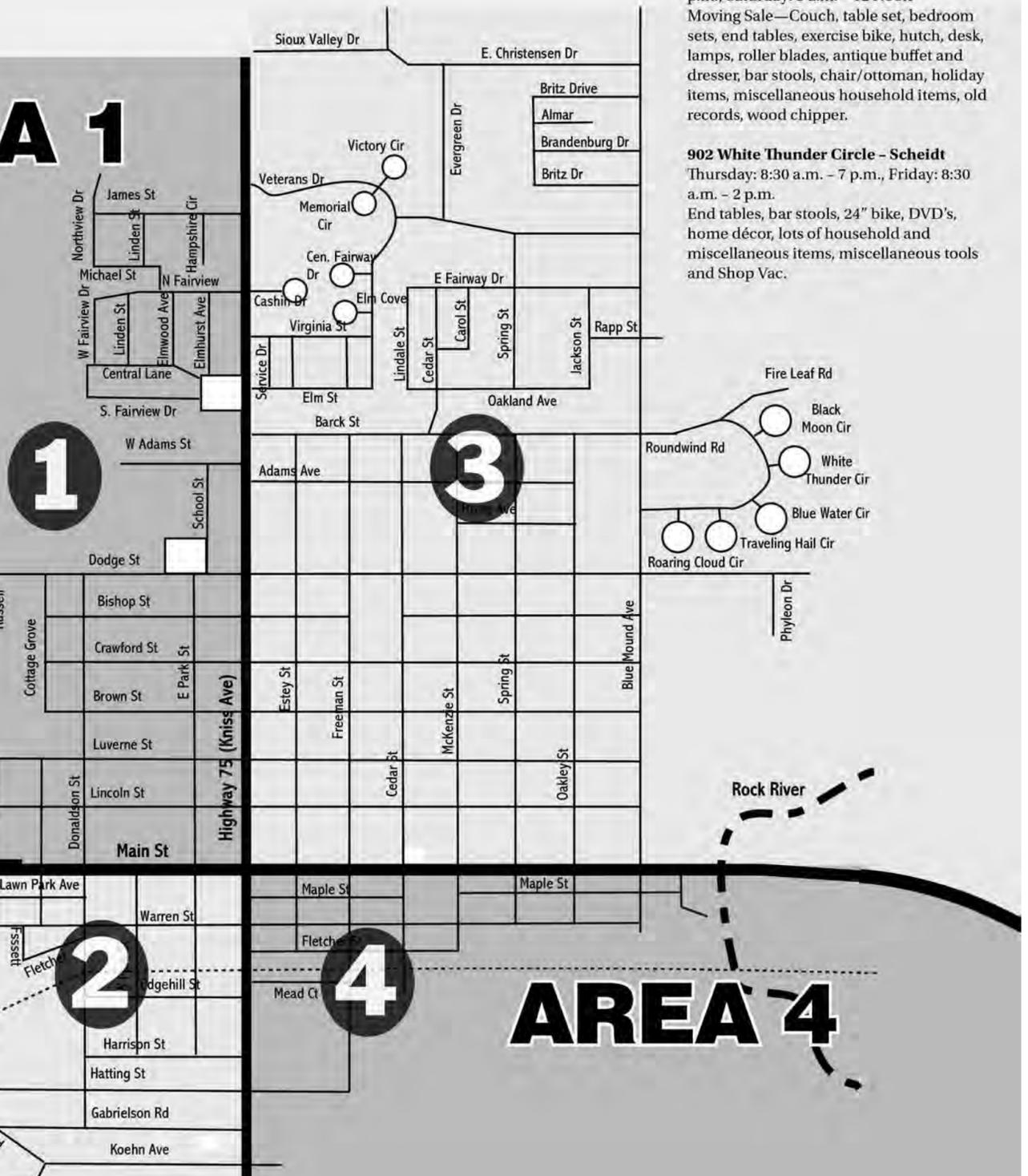
902 White Thunder Circle - Scheidt
 Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 7 p.m., Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 End tables, bar stools, 24" bike, DVD's, home décor, lots of household and miscellaneous items, miscellaneous tools and Shop Vac.

AREA 1

1209 Hampshire Circle - Bauman
 Wednesday: 4-8 p.m., Thursday: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m., Friday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Name-brand kids clothes, size 3 months to size 4, girls size 4-7, kids shoes, winter coats, bibs, wedding and home décor, kitchen table and gadgets, canning jars.

504 Michael Street - Sehr
 Thursday: 12 Noon - 6 p.m., Friday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Sehr Family Rummage. Teen boys/girls S-L, women's/men's M-XL clothing, shoes, winter boots, kitchenware, vacuum, 24" boys bicycle, toys, home décor, music stand, sporting goods, PC monitor, smoker and more!

1303 Northview Drive - Herman
 Thursday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Chomecraft table with 2 leaves and 4 chairs - good condition, tools and lots of miscellaneous items.



AREA 2

841 100th Ave. - Hoogendoorn
 Wednesday: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., Thursday: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., Friday: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 Only 4 miles out of town. Multiple families—lots and lots of kids clothing, girls size 2T-size 8/10. Boys baby and size medium. Home décor and toys.

AREA 4

CELEBRATIONS

Card showers

Harold and Toni Van Wyhe celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, Sept. 16. Greetings may be sent to them at 314 W. Main Street; Luverne, MN 56156.

Jerry and Linda Heitkamp will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 19. Greetings may be sent to them at 1509 Blue Ridge Drive; Luverne, MN 56156.

Florence Helle will celebrate her 90th birthday on Wednesday, Sept. 23. Greetings may be sent to her at 110 S. Walnut Ave.; Luverne, NN 56156.

Open houses

Enore Boelman will celebrate her 90th birthday with a drive-by party from 3-4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 719 N. Estey Street in Luverne. Please use the alley in back of the house.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Rock County 4-H member receives livestock scholarship

Rock County 4-H member Whitney Elbers received a \$1,000 scholarship on Sept. 7 during the virtual 4-H Auction Scholarship Awards Program.

The Minnesota State Fair and the 41st annual Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association Purple Ribbon 4-H Auction were canceled due to the pandemic.

However, the 4-H Auction Scholarships were still awarded, due to support of donors.

A total of 51 youth leaders with 4-H animal science projects received a total of \$87,000 scholarship donations during the program.

The scholarships are awarded to 4-H animal science project members who graduated from high school in either 2019 or 2020 and are pursuing either a four-year or two-year college degree.

Elbers' scholarship was supported by donors Juanita Reed Boniface and Dick Boniface and Mary Bennett Kriva and the Minnesota Cattlewomen.

Local youth receive state recognition

With state fair canceled, U of M Extension organizes virtual event for eligible participants

By Mavis Fodness

Exhibition at the Minnesota State Fair is one of the ultimate goals for area 4-H'ers.

But with this year's in-person state fair canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, 4-H officials turned to technology for a virtual state fair showcase.

In Rock County, a qualifying showcase was conducted in person for livestock entries from July 29 to Aug. 1 with virtual judging for static projects.

Projects that earned blue ribbons or better at the county level were eligible to advance for state virtual showcase events.

"Many 4-H educators and volunteers worked tirelessly to create these high-quality alternatives," said Minnesota 4-H Director Jennifer Skuza. "I'm grateful to them and to our youth who bravely stepped forward to try something new in the midst of so much change."

Nearly 900 youth from across Minnesota submitted up to two entries apiece for static project virtual judging Aug. 31 through Sept. 3.

Each 4-H'er submitted photos with the option of adding documents and/or videos.

Livestock virtual judging took place via webcasting Sept. 8 through Sunday.

About 1,500 4-H'ers submitted videos (up to 90 seconds in length) showing their animals for virtual livestock judging Sept. 8 through Sept. 13. Each 4-H'er could submit two entries.

Locally, 21 4-H'ers participated in the static and/or livestock virtual showcases.

"Having a state showcase was important because it still gave the kids an opportunity to show off their hard work and gave them something to look forward to," said Rock County 4-H Coordinator Kelsey Maeschen.

Static projects received purple, blue, red and white ribbons, and livestock were ranked first through eighth at the state event.

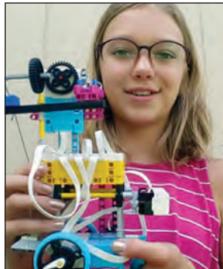
And the winners are:

Rock County results are as follows, listed by 4-H'er, project(s) and placing(s):

- Joshua Raak, dairy aged cow crossbred, senior champion; dairy registered Holstein winter yearling, third; dairy crossbred steer, fourth.
- Peyton Blom, dairy crossbred winter or fall calf, junior champion.
- Caleb Raak, dairy, red and white 3- to 4-year old, third; Guernsey 3- or 4-year old, champion production and champion Guernsey.



Ashlyn Johnson, fine arts, purple ribbon.



Mazzi Moore, robotics, purple ribbon.



Jacob Raak, dairy grade Holstein reserve champion.



Joshua Raak, dairy crossbred senior champion.



Caleb Raak, dairy champion Guernsey, champion production.



Peyton Blom, dairy crossbred winter or fall calf junior champion.

- Jacob Raak, dairy Ayrshire summer or spring yearling, champion; dairy grade Holstein, reserve champion; dairy steer, fourth.
- Egypt Forrest, food review, blue; performing arts, blue; food preservation, red; meat goat senior yearling breeding doe, fifth.
- Brianna Kinsinger, performing arts, two blues.
- Krista Burkman, clothes you buy, blue; fine arts, blue.
- Candace Porter, clothes you make, blue; elements of photography, blue.
- Ashlyn Johnson, fine arts, purple.
- Aisha Porter, fine arts, blue; elementary of photography, blue.

- NeVeah Stensland, fine arts, blue; photo manipulation, blue.
- Gracie Fagerness, fine arts, blue.
- Mazzi Moore, exploring the environment, blue; robotics, purple.
- Andres Stensland, fishing sports, blue; self determined, blue.
- Aaliyah Stensland, finishing sports, blue; indoor gardening, blue.
- Larissa Steinhoff, foods and nutrition, blue.
- Fox Forrest, shop, blue; meat goat senior yearling breeding doe, fourth; chicken breeding pen, eighth.
- Christian Kruse, sheep, black face market lambs, first and third; showmanship award of excellence.
- Claire Knobloch, beef, slick shorn steer, fifth.

- Tory Knobloch, beef, slick shorn steer, second.
 - Halle Hough, swine, market gilt, second, showmanship award of excellence.
- "I am proud of our Rock County 4-H'ers," Maeschen said. "They persevered and made it through an unknown summer. I am looking forward to a new 4-H year and all that it will bring to our awesome 4-H'ers and their families."
- A virtual state 4-H dog show will be Sept. 25-30. No state 4-H horse show is scheduled this year.
- Registration for the 2021 4-H program opens Oct. 1.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2010)

The rich aroma of freshly roasted coffee beans wafts through the halls and work areas of Rock County Opportunities Inc. in Luverne.

RCO, which provides employment for adults with disabilities, is now packaging its own brand of coffee. "Buffalo Joe Coffee Beans" will soon be available for purchase at the Coffey Haus in Luverne and at other retail outlets.

In February, RCO Director Beth Bartels put out a plea to the community to share ideas for the coffee's name and logo, and Greg Hoogveen submitted the winning "Buffalo Joe" brand name idea.

With a name and a smiling cartoon buffalo logo on the package, Bartels said it's exciting to launch the coffee projects as another source of income for RCO clients.

25 years ago (1995)

Rock County Commissioners put an end to plans by the Luverne Hockey Association to improve the Blue Mound Ice Arena with a grant and matching local funds.

At a time when commissioners are struggling to set a palatable levy for taxpayers, they voted 3-2 to deny the association's request for county aid in the improvement project.

The association had hoped to apply for a \$50,000 state grant to make energy and safety improvements at the Blue Mound Ice Arena. To apply for the grant, however, the association needed to find \$50,000 of local matching funds to be committed toward the project.

The plan, as presented to the board Tuesday, was to request \$20,000 from Luverne, \$20,000 from Rock County and the association would raise \$10,000 privately.

50 years ago (1970)

Luverne football players will be filmed in action on "candid camera" soon.

Purchase of a video camera, for use in making video tapes out of doors, was authorized Monday night by the Luverne school board. Showing of the tapes will be over closed circuit TV.

The item was not on the meeting agenda, but it was passed quickly, after the board had heard the proposal

from Don Spease and Ed Sedlacek, representing the Cardinal Club, calling for more adequate filming of football games.

75 years ago (1945)

The McDowell Sky Ranch, Rock county's first airport, is now in use, and formal opening of the field will be held within the near future. The "Sky Ranch" is located five miles north and five and one-half miles west of Luverne.

W. Earl McDowell, sole owner and operator of the flying field, announced that he had secured service of Miss Dorothy Avery of Denver, Colo. as flight instructor and that anyone interested in learning to fly should call or see him.

At the present time, construction work on the hanger is being completed, and he has an Aeronca Chief plane in which flying lessons are being given. A Sioux Falls army air base instructor is giving flying lessons on Sunday until the full-time instructor arrives.

100 years ago (1920)

Rock county is credited with a population of 10,965, according to reports of the 1920 census received Tuesday from Washington. This is a gain of 743 for the ten-year period, the 1910 census giving the population as 10,222.

The same report shows the population of the city of Luverne to be 2,782, a gain of only 242 in the ten-year period, the 1910 census figures being 2,540.

The report gave detailed figures only for the incorporated places in the county and showed increases in all villages except Hardwick, where a decrease of 75 is noted. Beaver Creek shows an increase of 22, Hills 28, Magnolia 30, and that part of Jasper in Rock county, 4. ...

The returns for the city of Luverne created no small amount of surprise, notwithstanding the general belief that the figures when received would prove disappointing. There was a vast amount of dissatisfaction expressed last January while the census was being taken, for there were numerous reports that in the South Ward, at least, the enumeration was very incomplete. But notwithstanding this, it was confidently believed that the figures would show that Luverne had passed the 3,000 mark by a fair margin.

1881: Business brisk in Beaver Creek

The following appeared in *The Rose History* in 1911.

Rock County Village continued from 9-10-20 edition of the *Star Herald*.

Beaver Creek

For a few months the youthful village was the terminus of the railroad and it at once came into prominence as one of the most lively communities in this part of the state. Being the end of the railroad, it became the distributing point for the frontier towns of eastern Dakota, and the business transacted by the pioneer firms was marvelous. Its trade territory extended so far north as Flandreau; west, halfway to Sioux Falls, and south for many miles. With the extension of the railroad westward in the summer of 1878 the village was shorn of some of its former activity, and the business houses that had been established temporarily were removed. Thereafter it settled down to normal conditions, and, although there were a few new business enterprises launched in the next few years, the town continued to be a prosperous one, drawing trade from a very rich and rapidly developing territory, almost illimitable to the north and south. The census of 1880 gave the village a population of thirty-seven.

A directory of the business enterprises of the village in the summer of 1881 shows only the following: Harrison White, general merchant and grain dealer; Cox & Knudtson, general merchandise (established in June, 1881); Berry & White, drug store; Dr. W. T. Berry, physician; J. O. Tyler, proprietor of a cheese factory, landlord of the Beaver Creek hotel and postmaster. From this directory it will be noted that there had been a falling off in the business houses of the town from the first year of its existence. But in 1882 began a more prosperous era, which extended over a period of several years and in which Beaver Creek advanced to



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president
Rock County Historical Society

a point never before attained.

Among the new enterprises started in 1882 were a harness shop by John Obele, a hardware store by J. O. Britton, a grocery store by B. F. Roderick & Co., and a drug store by J. M. Park. A directory of March, 1883, furnishes this list: A. G. Seney, general merchandise; K. N. Knudtson, dry goods and groceries; Harrison White, lumber, fuel, grain and livestock; J. O. Britton, hardware; J. M. Park, drug store; A. Obele, hotel; John B. Obele, harness shop; Kiffe & Obele, blacksmith and wagon shop; Mrs. J. O. Tyler, millinery store.

The year 1883 was a very prosperous one and many new buildings were put up, including three store buildings, a warehouse and several residences. The Herald at the close of the year of a visit:

A visit to Beaver Creek, after an absence of a year, will discover to the visitor numerous changes and improvements. Indeed, he will find that the town has nearly doubled in size, and that its importance as a business point has materially increased. . . . There is no mistaking the fact that Beaver Creek

Bits/continued on page 7A

OBITUARIES

Ethel Ossefoort

Ethel Marie Ossefoort, 95, Luverne, died peacefully on Thursday, Sept. 3, 2020, at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills.

A Mass of Christian Burial was Monday, Sept. 7, at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. Burial was at St. Martin Catholic Cemetery in Woodstock.

Ethel Van Dam was born Sept. 28, 1924, to Nicholas and Catherine (Herwith) Van Dam II in Trent, South Dakota. She moved with her family to Dell Rapids, South Dakota, at age 2. She attended St. Mary's Academy in Dell Rapids, where she was a boarding student from the first through fourth grades. Following school, she helped out at home and caring for her family.

On Jan. 14, 1948, she married Louis Ossefoort at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Dell Rapids. They lived on the Ossefoort family farm near Woodstock. Ethel was a homemaker and mother to their nine children. In 1987 they sold the farm to their son Bob and moved to Luverne.



Ethel worked part time in the bakery at Kenney's Super Valu in Luverne from 1995 to 1998. Louis died on Feb. 10, 1998. Ethel continued to live in Luverne. She began working at Luverne Public Schools in 1998 in the lunchroom and became known as Grandma "O" by the students. She retired in May of 2010.

Ethel was an active member of St. Martin Catholic Church in Woodstock. She was currently a member of St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne and a member of Ladies Aid. She also volunteered as a quilter and cared for the church linens for 12 years. She was a member of the Pink Ladies and the VFW Auxiliary, where she served as president for five years. She enjoyed gardening on the farm and caring for her flowers. She enjoyed her family and helping out wherever she could.

Ethel is survived by her children, Jean (Gary) Staefler of Luverne, Gerald (DeAnn)

Ossefoort of Fulda, Beverly (Tom) Martius of Luverne, Robert (Bonnie) Ossefoort of Woodstock, James Ossefoort of Grand Rapids, Joyce (Curt) Roos of Edgerton, Doug (Dawn) Ossefoort of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, David (Marjean) Ossefoort of Pipestone and Richard (Lynette) Ossefoort of Luverne; 27 grandchildren; 42 great-grandchildren; five great-great-granddaughters; sister-in-law Joann Van Dam; and other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Louis; two grandsons, Kelly Staefler and Steve Ossefoort; a great-granddaughter, Addyson Ossefoort; a daughter-in-law, Tammy Ossefoort; and four siblings, Nicholas Van Dam III, Gerald Van Dam, Helena Kriens and Joseph Van Dam.

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

(This obituary is being re-run to correct the date of death. The Star Herald regrets the error.)
(0917 F)

Joel Smidstra

Joel Richard Smidstra, 58, Worthington, died Friday, Sept. 4, 2020, at Ava's House Sanford Hospice in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

A funeral service was Friday, Sept. 11, at the American Reformed Church in Luverne, with burial at Riverview Cemetery in Rock Rapids, Iowa.

Joel Smidstra was born May 3, 1962, to Ben and Lylas (Jurrens) Smidstra in Rock Rapids, Iowa. He grew up and received his education in Luverne. As a young man, Joel helped his father on the farm, which is where his love of animals first began.

At the age of 19, Joel suffered a life-altering car acci-



dent, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. He chose to endure the challenges that ensued and thrive. His family will remember him as a strong person, both physically and mentally, as he continued to push forward despite many setbacks throughout his life. He was known for his sense of humor and hearty laugh.

Joel's passions included gardening, fishing, bird watching and fish keeping. He liked scary movies, classic westerns, including his favorite, Gunsmoke, and WWE wrestling. He was a fan of the Chicago Bears and enjoyed seeing

them defeat the Vikings. He cherished spending time with his family and his pets.

In 2017 Joel moved to Worthington, where he thrived and enjoyed having his own place and being independent.

Joel is survived by his parents, Ben and Lylas Smidstra of Luverne; a brother, Charles Smidstra of Luverne; five nieces and nephews; six great-nieces and six great-nephews; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Charles and Reika Smidstra; his maternal grandparents, Everett and Juel Jurrens.

Arrangements were provided by Jurrens Funeral Home of Rock Rapids, jurrensfuneralhome.com.

(0917 F)

Donald Loger

Donald Charles Loger, 86, Luverne, died Friday, Sept. 11, 2020, at the Regions Hospital in St. Paul.

A time of fellowship will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18, with a prayer service at 5:30 p.m., at Dingmann Funeral Home in Luverne. A private family memorial service will take place at a later date.

Donald Loger was born



May 17, 1934, to Charles and Anna (Kuper) Loger in Kanaranzi. He attended Luverne High School and graduated in 1953.

Donald loved to have a good time and enjoyed things like golf, fishing, playing pinocle and solitaire, and playing softball. Although he had polio, Donald was the pitcher on his fast pitch softball team and would

even bat in the lineup and have a teammate run the bases for him.

Donald is survived by his sister, Doris Kemerling, Luverne, and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two infant children; two sisters, Marion and Evelyn; and a brother, Eddie.

Arrangements are provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Luverne, dingmannandsons.com.

(0917 F)

Bits/continued from page 6A

is enjoying a very substantial "boom" and that its prospects are brighter than ever before in its history. As a matter of fact, there is no town of its size that receives more grain and stock, and no town of its size that does, in a general way, a larger business.

The activity continued during 1884 and almost took the nature of a boom. New buildings went up all over the town and several new business houses were established. Rock county in general was

enjoying prosperous times and good crops, and Beaver Creek kept pace with the general advance. At this time five warehouses were required to take care of the grain that poured in.

"Beaver Creek, in respect to general improvements and the erection of new buildings, is coming rapidly to the front. The growth of the town during the past year has been considerably greater than that of the previous year and it enters upon the present season with increased vitality

and enterprise. There is no reason apparent why Beaver Creek should not become a town of no inconsiderable importance."—Rock County Herald, September 19, 1884.

The story of the village of Beaver Creek will continue in the Sept. 24 edition of the Star Herald.

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

MENU

Monday, Sept. 21: Chicken and noodles, carrots, choice fruit, dinner roll, sherbet.

Tuesday, Sept. 22: Chicken salad, marinated vegetable salad, fresh fruit, bun, blondie bar.

Wednesday, Sept. 23: Cheesy hash browns, green peas, coffee cake, gelatin.

Thursday, Sept. 24: National Cherries Jubilee Day! Rigatoni with beef, lettuce salad, pineapple chunks, garlic breadstick, cherry dessert.

Friday, Sept. 25: Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, stewed tomatoes, bread, bar.

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

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

Gift certificates are available.

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Immediate possession. 5 bedroom, 4 bath. Very well maintained home with 3 stall garage. Large maintenance free deck, mature trees, corner lot. Got to see it to appreciate it.

From left, Renee Guy, realtor 605-359-7515
Sherri Thompson, realtor 507-227-6830
Gene Cragoe, broker/owner 507-920-3815
Emilie Boelman, administrative assistant

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Runners compete in Big South Triangular

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne cross country runners competed in their third meet of the season on Thursday, Sept. 10, in Marshall. The girls' varsity squad finished second and the boys finished third.

It was business as usual for Tenley Nelson. The junior took home her third straight first-place finish to open the season. Nelson finished with a time of 19:16.

Jenna Debates placed inside the Top Five, with a fourth-place finish. Debates crossed the finish line with a time of 19:58.

Grace Ingebretson finished just outside the Top Five with a sixth-place finish. Ingebretson finished with a time of 20:06, just four seconds behind the fifth-place finisher.

Brooklynn Ver Steeg placed eighth with a time of 20:38.

Regan Feit made it five Cardinals inside the Top 10, placing 10th with a time of 21:00.

Elizabeth Wagner finished directly behind Feit with a time of 21:03 to finish 11th.

Camden Janiszkeski made it three straight Top Five finishes to open the season. Janiszkeski placed fifth with a time of 17:29.

Griffen Jarchow placed 10th with a time of 18:27.

Varsity Boys

(5) Camden Janiszkeski 17:29
(10) Griffen Jarchow 18:27
(16) Pierce Cunningham 19:21
(17) Camden Hoven 19:55
(20) Ethan Rahm 20:47

Varsity Girls

(1) Tenley Nelson 19:16
(4) Jenna Debates 19:58
(6) Grace Ingebretson 20:06
(8) Brooklynn Ver Steeg 20:38
(10) Regan Feit 21:00
(11) Elizabeth Wagner 21:03
(13) Kayla Bloemendaal 21:32

SCHEDULE

LUVERNE GIRLS' TENNIS

Aug. 24	Worthington (H)	6-1 (W)
Aug. 27	at Pipestone	6-1 (W)
Aug. 31	Pipestone (H)	7-0 (W)
Sept. 3	at Worthington	6-1 (W)
Sept. 8	at St. James	2-5 (L)
Sept. 10	at Marshall	5-2 (W)
Sept. 14	Marshall (H)	4-3 (W)
Sept. 17	Redwood (H)	4:30pm
Sept. 21	at Redwood	4:30pm
Sept. 24	St. James (H)	4:30pm
Sept. 28	Big South Conf	TBD



Elise Jarchow returns a serve during Luverne's match against Marshall in Luverne on Monday, Sept. 14. Brennen Rupp photo/0917 tennis1

Luverne goes 2-1 in a busy week of girls' tennis matches

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals improved their record to 5-1 on the season by going 2-1 with their last three contests.

The Cardinals opened up the week by defeated the Marshall Tigers 5-2 in Marshall on Thursday, Sept. 10.

"I was very happy with the way the girls played," Luverne head coach, Jon Beers said. "We had two girls missing. Solveig and Brynn Thier were missing in doubles, so we had to do some switching of our double teams."

With Solveig and Thier out, Kristin Rud and Hope Thorson made their varsity debuts with 6-1 and 6-2 losses.

While the match may have looked lopsided, Beers said he was proud of the way the girls battled.

"The match score may have looked like an easy win for Marshall," he said. "But we were in most games and the match was much closer than the score indicated."

The reshuffling of the doubles matchups led to Lauren Ver Steeg and Liz Kelm playing together for the first time in years. Beers said they operated like a well-oiled machine, winning their match 6-4, 6-3.

"It was the first time they played together since they were freshmen," Beers said. "They played great together."

In singles action, Elise Jarchow continued her hot start to the season winning in straight sets, 6-3, 6-0.

"She has played great all season," Beers said. "That continued today."

On Saturday, Sept. 12, the Cardinals dropped their first dual of the season to St. James, 5-2.

Ainslie Robinson won her singles match in three sets. Robinson won a back and forth first set, 7-6. She dropped the second set 6-2, before bouncing back to win the third set 6-4 to win the match.

Mia Wenzel won her singles match in three sets as well. Wenzel won a close first set 7-5, lost the second set 6-2, but came back to win the third set 6-3.

"Both girls won the first set and lost the second set," Beers said. "It could have been easy for both girls to give up after losing the second set. Both battled back to take the third set and get us some points on the day."

The Cardinals were once again without Tofteland and Thier in doubles action. Despite missing those two, every single match in doubles went to three sets.

"We gave them a good test," Beers said. "I'm very confident that we will give them an even better match the next time we see them this year. We were without Solveig Tofteland and Brynn Thier. We hope to have them back in the near future. With them back in the lineup, I'm hopeful for a better outcome next time."

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Cardinals returned home to take on the Marshall Tigers and came out on top 4-3.

Jarchow picked up another win, defeating her opponent 6-0, 6-4.

Robinson won her match in straight sets as well. She won the first set 6-0 and took the second set 6-1.

"I thought Ainslie had her best match of the year," Beers said. "She was very aggressive and never let her opponent into the match."



Mia Wenzel returns a shot during her match on Monday, Sept. 14.

(LHS) def. Leah Schaefer - Leah Matzner (Marshall) 6-4, 6-3
No. 2: Olivia Wieneke - Jacey Smith (LHS) def. Kayla Polejewski - Danielle Ewing (Marshall) 6-4, 7-5
No. 3: Aubrey Bjella - Mackenna Eickhoff (Marshall) def. Hope Thorson - Kristin Rud (LHS) 6-1, 6-2

St. James 5 — LHS 2 Singles vs St James (9/12)

No. 1. Ellie Becker (St. James Co-op) def. Roz Oye (LHS) 6-0, 6-1
No. 2. Jaelyn Haler (St. James Co-op) def. Elise Jarchow (LHS) 6-0, 6-3
No. 3. Ainslie Robinson (LHS) def. Mya Hanson (St. James Co-op) 7-6, 2-6, 6-4
No. 4. Mia Wenzel (LHS) def. Eva Romsdahl (St. James Co-op) 7-5, 2-6, 6-3

Doubles

No. 1. Gabriela Trapero - Sailor Mohlenbrock (St. James Co-op) def. Liz Kelm - Lauren Ver Steeg (LHS) 2-6, 6-3, 6-0
No. 2. Samantha Tetzloff - Allison Bluedorn (St. James Co-op) def. Olivia Wieneke - Jacey Smith (LHS) 5-7, 7-5, 6-3
No. 3. Sofia Solorzano - Emma Anderson (St. James Co-op) def. Kristin Rud, LHS - Hope Thorson (LHS) 6-4, 4-6, 6-3

LHS 4 — Marshall 3 Singles vs Marshall (9/14)

No. 1. Gionna Parsa (Marshall) def. Roz Oye (LHS) 7-5, 6-3
No. 2. Elise Jarchow (LHS) def. Eden Knudson (Marshall) 6-0, 6-4
No. 3. Ainslie Robinson (LHS) def. Leah Matzner (Marshall) 6-0, 6-1
No. 4. Mariah Bergjord (Marshall) def. Mia Wenzel (LHS) 4-6, 6-3, 11-9

Doubles

No. 1. Leah Schaefer - Regan Loft, (Marshall) def. Lauren Ver Steeg - Liz Kelm (LHS) 6-4, 3-6, 14-12
No. 2. Olivia Wieneke - Jacey Smith, (LHS) def. Danielle Ewing - Kaia Christensen (Marshall) 6-0, 6-3
No. 3. Brynn Thier - Kristin Rud, (LHS) def. Kaylee Prins - Samantha Maher, (Marshall) 6-0, 6-3

LHS 5 — Marshall 2 Singles vs Marshall (9/10)

No. 1: Gionna Parsa (Marshall) def. Roz Oye (LHS) 7-6, 6-2
No. 2: Elise Jarchow (LHS) def. Eden Knudson 6-3, 6-0
No. 3: Ainslie Robinson (LHS) def. Mariah Bergjord (Marshall) 6-2, 6-3
No. 4: Mia Wenzel (LHS) def. Regan Loft (Marshall) 6-2, 6-4

Doubles

No. 1: Lauren Ver Steeg - Liz Kelm

Born to Run

Tenley Nelson of Luverne makes running look like a walk in the park

By Brennen Rupp

There are three certainties in life: death, taxes and Tenley Nelson making it to the state tournament in cross country.

Nelson has been competing at the varsity level in cross country since she was in seventh grade. She has made an appearance at the state meet each year.

Now as a junior, Nelson is off to an impressive start as she looks to make it five straight trips to the state meet. In all three of Luverne's meets thus far this season, Nelson has crossed the finish line first.

"This is most definitely what I expected of her," said Luverne cross country coach Pete Janiszkeski.

"She is a three-time state medalist finishing fifth in 2017, seventh in 2018, and third in 2019. She is a special talent and thrives on improving and being the best she can be."

In the team's first meet of the season, Nelson finished with a time of 22:06. In

the second meet she crossed the finish line with a time of 20:56.

During the team's last meet in Marshall, Nelson finished with a time of 19:16. She was able to cut nearly three minutes off her time from the first meet of the season.

Janiszkeski said that speaks to Nelson's work ethic and her motivation to be the best.

"It has maybe been a little slower time-wise than she was hoping for due to heat and finding her groove, but she is finding her racing legs and ran an outstanding early season time last week," he said.

"Tenley has a relentless drive to get better and become the best she can be."

In order to be a success in long distances, runners have to be mentally strong. Janiszkeski said that Nelson is a gifted athlete and also has all the intangibles that help make her a good long-distance competitor.

"She is obviously talented



Tenley Nelson competes in Luverne's first home meet of the season earlier this month. Brennen Rupp file photo/0917 tenley nelson

and gifted at running," he said.

"However, Tenley also possesses all of the intangibles as well. She is hard-working, driven, dedicated, determined, tenacious, and

most importantly, she cares about being her best and helping her teammates achieve at a high level. She perseveres and prepares from a mental standpoint as well. She is a student of the

sport."

Nelson has had individual success to start the young season, and so has the team.

In the team's first meet of the season in Pipestone, the first five runners to cross the finish line were Cardinals. All nine varsity runners finished inside the Top 10.

During the team's first home meet of the season, four runners finished inside the Top 10. In the team's last meet in Marshall, five Cardinal runners finished in the Top 10.

Janiszkeski said that one thing that makes Nelson special is her leadership.

"Tenley is a born leader," he said. "She is tremendously driven and cares as much or more about the team's success as she does her personal success. The team drives her to want to be the best she can be so that she can help them achieve their goals. She is always willing to help out her teammates and they are a very close-knit group of girls."

Running first caught

Nelson's eyes as a child when she used to watch her aunt, Chrissy Strassburg, compete as a runner.

"I used to watch my aunt run at events," Nelson said. "I kind of just fell in love with it from there."

Any avid runner will tell you that running is an addiction. The runner's high that people get after completing an event is euphoric.

One thing that Nelson loves about running is the positive environment.

"It's just such a positive atmosphere that surrounds running," Nelson said. "The environment is just amazing and everybody is just supportive and cheering each other on."

In a year that's been marked by chaos and unpredictability, Nelson's start to the season has been anything but those two things.

Nelson is set on a path toward her fifth straight trip to the state tournament. Will anything be able to slow her down? It doesn't appear likely.

The Star Herald reached out to churches for their worship information in the absence of in-person worship services, due to coronavirus social distancing. Those that responded are listed here. Those that would like to have information posted here should call the Star Herald or email editor@star-herald.com.

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

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

Public mass will be celebrated with a limit of 50 percent capacity of the church. Masses: 9 a.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m. Friday and 8:30 a.m. Sunday. No mass, communion service or rosary at care centers at this time. 5 p.m. Saturdays and 8:30 a.m. mass will be live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/stccluverne/videos/>. Visit www.stsccl.org for more information.

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

Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982
www.luverncrc.com — office@luvernecrc.com
Roger Sparks, Pastor

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

First Baptist Church

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

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

Grace Lutheran Church
500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-4431; www.graceluverne.org — graceluverne@iw.net
Ron Nichols, Pastor / Ann Zastrow, Associate Pastor

Thursday, Sept. 17: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. 5:30 p.m. Executive Ministry meeting. Saturday, Sept. 19: In-person worship service in Sanctuary at 5:30 p.m. with Holy Communion and Baptism. Sunday, Sept. 20: 9 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion. 9:15-9:45 a.m. Drive-thru Communion. Limited seating is available. 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible study via Zoom. Monday, Sept. 21: Grace Notes deadline. Tuesday, Sept. 22: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Sept. 23: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 7 p.m. 6th Grade Confirmation and Acolyte Orientation. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are still available. Online Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 p.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-4571 or 507-449-0291 or 605-215-9834
pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor

Sunday, 10:15 a.m. Worship service; worship online as well. Monday, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne). Also visit els.org for online worship opportunities with our sister churches.

American Reformed Church
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne

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

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. indoor service. Worship 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. Friday, Sept. 11: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. Wedding rehearsal for Heideman and Kanengieter wedding. Saturday, Sept. 12: Wedding Tannen Heideman. Sunday, Sept. 13: Sunday School beings. 11:30 a.m. Patio Party. Tuesday, Sept. 15: 12 p.m. Staff meeting. 7 p.m. Consistory Meeting.

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

United Methodist Church
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne

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

Sundays, 10:30 a.m. Worship Service — live streamed. Sunday 9 a.m. — Adult Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. — SD In-house worship service — Services held on radio and live on Facebook. YouTube will also have services posted. 4:30 p.m. — Genesis to Revelation Bible Study with safe distancing. Mondays 8 p.m. — AA Meeting and Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 1: 9:30 a.m. Folding Team. Thursdays 1-3 p.m. — Rock County Food Shelf curbside. Saturday 8 p.m. — AA Meeting.

First Presbyterian Church
302 Central Lane, Luverne

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

Jason Cunningham, Pastor

Worship services in-person and through Facebook Live Sunday 9:30 a.m. 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
www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org

Worship services Saturday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. Limit is 75 people. Services will be available on the Vast channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, cityofluverne.org.

Living Rock Church
500 E. Main St., Luverne

Ph. 449-0057; www.livingrockswmn.org
Billy Skaggs, Pastor

New Life Celebration Church
110 N. Oakley, Luverne

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

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
305 E. 2nd St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick

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

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

igtwb@WOW.net
Bill Bates, Pastor

First Lutheran Church
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.

Ph. (605) 757-6662
Laura Phillips, Pastor

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

Palisade Lutheran Church
211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.

Ph. (507) 597-6257 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Laura Phillips, Pastor

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

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

Ph. 507-935-5025
email: lori.firstpres@gmail.com

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

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

Ph. 605-215-3429
email: magnoliamnuc@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

Sundays, 10 a.m. Worship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills, Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. You can find more info on our website bclhills.org. Sunday, Sept. 13: Rally Sunday; Installation of teachers and helpers; BLCW Presentation. Special meeting following worship. 4-6 p.m. Drive-thru Communion. Wednesday, 9 a.m. Quilting. 7 p.m. Trustee meeting. 6-7:30 p.m. 10th Grade first meeting with youth, parents and mentors.

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

Office Ph. 962-3254
hillsurc@alliancecom.net
Alan Camarigg, Pastor

God's good plan — from the very beginning

"From that time on (after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah), Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' Matthew 16:21-23

Peter, ever close to Jesus, seems to be the disciple that opens his mouth before he thinks about what he is saying. Can you relate? The problem in this case is that Peter's thoughts and ways are not Jesus' thoughts and ways. Jesus is fixed on Jerusalem, knowing what lies ahead for him, and this is not news that Peter wants to hear!

Peter is a good representative of us. One moment Peter is confessing a rock-solid faith in Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, and being praised for his faith. The next, he is a stumbling block, wanting things his own way. One moment Peter is just and right and good; one moment he is a sinner. We are the same.

Martin Luther called this "simul justus et peccator," that is, simultaneously JUST and SINNER. In and of ourselves we are sinners, STUMBLING BLOCKS, not unlike Peter. We desire our own way. We want things the way we want them!

But by our faith in Jesus, who willingly suffered and died on a cross for every one of us who believe, in order to free us from sin, death and the devil, we are looked upon by God as JUST, as RIGHT. Our Almighty, Living God sees you who

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor
Laura Phillips,
Palisade Lutheran
Church,
rural Garretson

*Peter ...
opens his
mouth before
he thinks
Can you
relate?*

believe through the filter of his Son, Jesus Christ, who willingly suffered and died on the cross to "save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

Jesus is moving into the journey to Jerusalem, to the cross, with the shadow of death looming ever closer — and this is precisely God's plan for your salvation!

Peter did not want to see Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, whom Peter loved, suffer and die. He could not possibly understand all that Jesus would accomplish in doing so. Peter heard Jesus say that he "... must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering ... and be killed ..." But Peter seems to have missed the very best part: "... and on the third day be raised."

You are blessed by knowing the whole story that Peter lived through — you know that the suffering and death inflicted on Jesus was intended for evil — for nothing but harm, but that God intended it from the very beginning for good. God's plan was put into place to bring about life — abundant life — for you and for all who believe.

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

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Walker probate

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

Court File No.: 67-PR-20-207

Estate of **NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON
Eldon Stanley Walker a.k.a. PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND
Eldon S. Walker a.k.a. APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
Eldon Walker, Decedent REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO
CREDITORS**

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on 10/05/2020, at 8:30 A.M., a hearing will be held in this Court at 204 E. Brown St., Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, April 22, 2014, ("Will"), and for the appointment of Connie Boler, whose address is 1021 - 160th Ave., Luverne, MN 56156 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.

Dated: 9-3-20 BY THE COURT

/s/ Terry Vajgrt
Judge of District Court
/s/ Denise Brandel
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioner
Jennifer L. J. Gilk
Gilk Legacy Law PLLC
513 E. Bridge St.
PO Box 126
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
Attorney License No: 238363
Telephone: (507) 627-4525
FAX: (507) 627-4528
Email: office@gilklegacylaw.com

(09-17, 09-24)

Lafrenz probate

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

Court File No. 67-PR-20-212

In Re: Estate of **NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON
Dwight Duane Lafrenz PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND
aka Dwight D. Lafrenz APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
Decedent REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on October 5, at 8:30 a.m., a hearing will be held via zoom in this Court at 204 E. Brown Street, Luverne, MN 56156, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated 3/17/2020 and codicil(s) to the Will dated and separate writing(s) under Minn. Stat. 524.2-513 ("Will"), and for the appointment of Elsie Wallace, whose address is 703 E. Dodge, Luverne, Minnesota 56156 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representative will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

Notice is also given that (subject to Minn. Stat. 524-3-801) all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or the claims will be barred.

A charitable beneficiary may request notice of the probate proceedings to be given to the Attorney General pursuant to Minn. Stat. 501B.41, subd. 5.

Dated: 9/11/ 2020 BY THE COURT

/s/ Terry S. Vajgrt
District Court Judge
/s/ Denise Brandel
Court Administrator

Benjamin Vander Kooi, Jr.
Vander Kooi Law Offices, P.A.
127 E. Main, PO Box 746
Luverne, MN 56156
Attorney License No.: 112124
Telephone: 507-283-9546
Fax: 507-283-9629
Email: lawkooi@gmail.com

(09-17, 09-24)

Mortgage foreclosure sale set for April 30

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

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

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 02, 2007
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$31,500.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Neale G. Hamann, a single person
MORTGAGEE: Peoples Bank
DATE AND PLACE OF RECORDING:

Recorded: August 14, 2007 Rock County Recorder
Document Number: 167229

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE:
*And assigned to: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.

Dated: August 02, 2007
Recorded: August 14, 2007 Rock County Recorder
Document Number: 167230

*And assigned to: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation
Dated: March 06, 2017
Recorded: March 14, 2017 Rock County Recorder
Document Number: 190262

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
Transaction Agent Mortgage Identification Number: 1003445-0001089259-6
Lender or Broker: Peoples Bank
Residential Mortgage Servicer: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corp.
Mortgage Originator: Not Applicable

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock
Property Address: 819 201st St, Hardwick, MN 56134-4048
Tax Parcel ID Number: 10-0122-000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: That part of the SW 1/4, Section 25, Township 104 North, Range 46 West of the 5th P.M., Rock County, State of Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest Corner of said Section 25, thence North 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East (assumed bearing) along the South Line of the SW 1/4 of said Section 25 for a distance of

741.29 feet to the point of beginning, thence continuing North 90 degrees 00 minutes and 00 seconds East along said South Line for a distance of 746.44 feet; thence North 01 degrees 21 minutes 41 seconds East for a distance of 689.32 feet; thence North 83 degrees 17 minutes 46 seconds West for a distance of 169.66 feet; thence South 00 degrees 07 minutes 03 seconds West for a distance of 184.58 feet; thence South 89 degrees 31 minutes 22 seconds West for a distance of 612.69 feet; thence South 02 degrees 03 minutes 55 seconds East for a distance of 519.59 feet to the point of beginning
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE:
\$10,772.39

THAT all pre-foreclosure requirements have been complied with; that no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above-described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:
DATE AND TIME OF SALE: April 30, 2020 at 10:00 A.M.
PLACE OF SALE: Law Enforcement Center, Lobby, 1000 N. Blue Mound Ave., Luverne, Minnesota

to pay the debt secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any, on said premises and the costs and disbursements, including attorney fees allowed by law, subject to redemption within twelve (12) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns.

If the Mortgage is not reinstated under Minn. Stat. §580.30 or the property is not redeemed under Minn. Stat. §580.23, the Mortgagor must vacate the property on or before 11:59 p.m. on April 30, 2021, or the next business day if April 30, 2021 falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.

Mortgagor(s) released from financial obligation: NONE
THIS COMMUNICATION IS FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

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

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

DATED: March 12, 2020
ASSIGNEE OF MORTGAGEE: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation

Wilford, Geske & Cook P.A.
Attorneys for Assignee of Mortgagee

7616 Currell Blvd; Ste 200
Woodbury, MN 55125-2296
(651) 209-3300
File Number: 037264F02

(03-12, 03-19, 03-26, 04-02, 04-09, 04-16)

Notice of postponement

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale scheduled for April 30, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. has been postponed to June 04, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. in the Law Enforcement Center, Lobby, 1000 N. Blue Mound Ave., Luverne, Minnesota, in said County and State.

DATED: April 01, 2020
ASSIGNEE OF MORTGAGEE: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation

Wilford, Geske & Cook P.A.
Attorneys for Assignee Of Mortgagee

7616 Currell Blvd; Ste 200
Woodbury, MN 55125-2296
(651) 209-3300
File Number: 037264F02

(04-23)

Notice of postponement

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale scheduled for June 04, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. has been postponed to August 27, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. in the Law Enforcement Center, Lobby, 1000 N. Blue Mound Ave., Luverne, Minnesota, in said County and State.

DATED: May 29, 2020
ASSIGNEE OF MORTGAGEE: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation

Wilford, Geske & Cook P.A.
Attorneys for Assignee Of Mortgagee

7616 Currell Blvd; Ste 200
Woodbury, MN 55125-2296
(651) 209-3300
File Number: 037264F02

(06-04)

Notice of postponement

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale scheduled for August 27, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. has been postponed to October 15, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. in the Law Enforcement Center, Lobby, 1000 N. Blue Mound Ave., Luverne, Minnesota, in said County and State.

DATED: August 14, 2020
ASSIGNEE OF MORTGAGEE: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation

Wilford, Geske & Cook P.A.
Attorneys for Assignee Of Mortgagee

7616 Currell Blvd; Ste 200
Woodbury, MN 55125-2296
(651) 209-3300
File Number: 037264F02

(08-20)

Notice of postponement

NOTICE OF POSTPONEMENT OF
MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

The above referenced sale scheduled for October 15, 2020, at 10:00 A.M. has been postponed to February 18, 2021, at 10:00 A.M. in the Law Enforcement Center, Lobby, 1000 N. Blue Mound Ave., Luverne, Minnesota in said County and State.

DATED: September 10, 2020
ASSIGNEE OF MORTGAGEE: Iowa Bankers Mortgage Corporation

Wilford, Geske & Cook P.A.
Attorneys for Assignee Of Mortgagee

7616 Currell Blvd; Ste 200
Woodbury, MN 55125-2296
(651) 209-3300
File Number: 037264F02

(09-17)

**THE DEADLINE
FOR LEGALS IS
MONDAY AT
10:00 a.m.**

CARDS OF THANKS

Thanks to everyone for the birthday cards and greetings for my 106th birthday.
Dallas Bowron
(9.12-9.17)

We want to thank everyone who remembered us after Pat's passing. Every prayer and kind gesture is a treasure.
Patricia (Pat) Dreesen's Family
(9.17-9.19)

Thank you for the cards, kind words and expressions of sympathy after Dwight's passing. Thanks to Jeff Hartquist for helping with the funeral arrangements, Pastor Theodora Hall for the meaningful service. It was appreciated.
Family of Dwight Lafrenz
(9.17-9.24)

Thank you to everyone who called and sent a card for my 80th birthday. It made my day even more special.
Dave Connell
(9.17-9.19)

MISCELLANEOUS

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RENTALS

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

Mobile home for rent - 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Washer, dryer, stove, fridge included. Water & sewer included. Call 605-366-7695. (9.5-9.24)

For Rent in Luverne: Two-bedroom apartment with central air, on-site laundry, includes water, heat and one-stall garage. No smoking and no pets. 507-920-0406. (9.10-9.26)

For Rent: Single garage in Steen. 507-220-7686. (9.10-9.26)

For Rent: Nice smaller home; all remodeled, garage, stove, fridge, washer and dryer. No pets and no smoking. References required. Call 605-413-8862. (9.10-9.26)

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FOR SALE

For Sale: Landscaping rock 1.5 and 3/4-inch rock. Also do stump grinding. Call Wayne Biever Construction at 507-227-4521 or 507-283-4614. Also have yard dirt. (9.3-9.19)

PETS
Free to good homes: cats - small, medium and large, all colors. Call 283-9794. (tc)

GARAGE SALES

Ellsworth City-Wide Garage Sales: Sept., 17, 18, 19. Many homes with several families. Moving sale too. Complete listings at Ellsworth Food Center. (9.12-9.17)

Sale: 306 S Fairview Drive. Wednesday, Sept. 16: 12 Noon-7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 17: 9 a.m.-12 Noon, Friday, Sept. 18: 9 a.m.-12 Noon. Teens, women's S-XL; Boys 4-8; Household items, beer steins, area rugs, arm chair and much more. It's a \$10 bag sale on clothes! (9.12-9.17)

EMPLOYMENT

Adrian School District is seeking a Payroll/HR Specialist beginning with the 2020-21 school year. The school district provides a competitive salary, and an opportunity to work in a great community. Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Additional coursework in accounting and payroll is beneficial. Please send a cover letter, resume, transcripts and three letters of recommendation to: Superintendent Schilling, Adrian Public School, PO Box 40, Adrian, MN 56110 or email to District Secretary r.bullerman@isd511.net (9.3-9.19)

Come work at Parkview Manor! Parkview Manor is currently hiring for the following positions: •FT Overnight Charge Nurse- 11 p.m.-7 a.m. •FT Evening shift C.N.A.- 3-11 p.m.-must work every other weekend •PT Day shift C.N.A.- must work every other weekend •Every other weekend- Day shift C.N.A. •PRN C.N.A.'s - various shifts •PT Cook- must work every other weekend •PRN dietary aide Please contact Suzanne at 507-967-2482 to set up an interview for the nursing department positions. Please contact Crystal at 507-967-2482 to set up an interview for the dietary department positions. (9.5-9.24)

SERVICES

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EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED PART TIME DISPATCHER ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Rock County Administrator is now accepting applications for the position of a Part Time Intermittent Dispatcher at the Rock County Sheriff's Office. Minimum qualifications are High School diploma or equivalent with one year of work related experience. Applicants must possess excellent communication skills and have the ability to read a map and multi-task duties in a fast paced environment.

Starting hourly wage will be \$19.35 - \$20.92 per hour, DOQ. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

For a job description and application, go to https://www.co.rock.mn.us/job_opportunities/index.php or contact the Rock County Administrator's Office at the Rock County Courthouse in Luverne, Minnesota at 507-283-5065 or by email at susan.skattum@co.rock.mn.us. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
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Hiawatha Manor, Inc. Direct Support Professionals

Positions Available in Luverne and Pipestone

Hiawatha Manor, Inc. is looking for individuals with a willingness and desire to make a difference in the lives of individuals experiencing intellectual and developmental disabilities in a community based setting. Individuals will assist in teaching life skills, provide direct care and should have characteristics of compassion and respect.

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 Applications can be requested by calling 507-825-5697 or texting 507-820-1940

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Join our Luverne Hospice Team!

We are hiring an LPN or Medication Aide to help care for patients at our Hospice Cottage.

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Midwest Fire is seeking an individual to work in our manufacturing environment located in Luverne, MN where we produce emergency fire apparatus. We are looking for an individual who has a positive attitude, is organized, and can work in a fast-paced professional manufacturing environment.

Responsibilities: General assembly of plumbing and electrical subcomponents, assist other departments as needed (Fabrication, Paint, Set-Up), support lean and continuous improvement efforts in the facility, support and enforce safety requirements and standards, support and enforce the professionalism standards established by Midwest Fire management. Additional duties to be assigned.

Requirements: High school diploma or equivalent, strong work ethic and mechanical aptitude, experience in the fire apparatus field, and/or plumbing or electrical assembly a bonus, but not required.

Applications are available online at www.midwestfire.com.
 To apply, please email application or resume to darcie@midwestfire.com. You may also apply in person at our facility located at 901 Commerce Rd, Luverne MN, office hours are 8 A.M to 5 P.M Monday thru Friday.
 Please have applications submitted by September 25th, 2020.

Visit www.midwestfire.com for further information regarding the company.

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Our deadlines for the Announcer and Star Herald are as follows. We appreciate your cooperation in getting us any advertising or legals in a timely manner. Thank you!

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DISPLAY ADS, CLASSIFIEDS AND LEGALS
MONDAYS AT 10:00 A.M.



THANKS TO OUR 2020 SPONSORS

The Rock County Ag Society would like to thank each and every one who supported this year's events.

A special thank you to all of our donors for their generous contributions in keeping this a free fair for the community and visitors.

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Commodity loans available for producers

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Minnesota Farm Service Agency (FSA) Executive Director Joe Martin reminds producers that Marketing Assistance Loans (MALs) and Loan Deficiency Payments (LDPs) are available to help producers through periods of low market prices.

MALs and LDPs provide financing and marketing assistance for wheat, feed grains, soybeans and other oilseeds, pulse crops, rice, peanuts, cotton, wool and honey.

"With market prices above average the last few years, there hasn't been a demand for commodity loans, said Martin. "However, with prices ap-

proaching harvest-time lows this year, it's important that producers consider their options. FSA is now accepting requests for MALs and LDPs for all eligible commodities after harvest."

MALs provide interim financing and allow producers to delay the sale of the commodity until more favorable market conditions occur.

A producer who is eligible to obtain a loan, but agrees to forgo the loan, may obtain an LDP.

To be eligible, producers must have and retain beneficial interest in the commodity - having control or a title of the commodity - until the MAL

is repaid or the Commodity Credit Corporation takes title to the commodity.

Before MAL repayments and LDP disbursements can be made, producers must meet the requirement of actively engaged in farming, cash-rent tenant and member contribution.

To schedule an appointment to apply for a commodity loan or for more information on eligibility requirements, please visit your local FSA office or go to <https://www.farmers.gov>.

Eva Kramer, Rock County FSA office; 500 W. Gabrielson Road; Luverne MN Phone: 507-283-2369.

New USDA survey to help measure areas for improvement

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced a new annual survey of farmers, ranchers and private forestland owners.

The survey will help USDA understand what it is doing well and where improvements are needed, specifically at the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Risk Management Agency (RMA).

A selection of 28,000 producers will receive the survey over the next few weeks, but all farmers are encouraged to take the survey at farmers.gov/survey.

"We want to hear from our customers so we can learn

what we're doing right and where we're missing the mark," said Bill Northey, undersecretary for farm production and conservation.

"Good data is critical to good decision-making. The more responses we receive, the better we can understand what we need to do to improve our services to America's farmers, ranchers and private forestland owners."

This survey is part of the President's Management Agenda. It requires high impact service provider agencies across the federal government, including FSA and NRCS, to conduct annual surveys to measure and respond to areas

needing improvement.

"We recognize producers and our staff may be experiencing a lot of change in how they interact with USDA," said Farm Service Agency Administrator Richard Fordyce.

"This is a good time to check in with our customers."

"We will use this input to help improve the delivery of our conservation programs as our sister agencies will do for their programs," Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Matthew Lohr said.

"We're about our customers," Risk Management Agency Administrator Martin Barbre said.

"RMA works to provide producers with crop insurance policies that meet their needs, and we need to know where we can improve."

The survey consists of 20 questions and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Responses are confidential, and individual responses will be aggregated.

The survey will be open for at least six weeks and will be closed once USDA receives a 30 percent response rate.

Learn more and take the survey at www.farmers.gov/survey.

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



Tuesday was a great day when the first group of students attended classes for the new year, as was Wednesday when the second wave of students attended their first day of classes. Far from normal to say the least, but in true Luverne tradition we'll make the best of any situation. It is everyone's hope that this is just the beginning, the first steps to reaching the goal of everyone attending classes in person. Help us get there by masking up, washing your hands and social distancing. Stay the course.



Two days into school and we're excited to be back. Definitely a different feel with half the kids in attendance, and of course the exciting new look to our building. Kids and teachers are doing great adjusting to facial coverings. We are accepting the new norm, and realize that it is helping us maintain our face-to-face contact we have been missing the past 6 months. We truly hope to get back to full in-person instruction, but know the task will be a challenge to keep our numbers down. We are continuing to work out protocols and procedures in such communal places like cafeterias and bus transportation. We have made accommodations to space them out for social distancing and practice good hygiene tactics. We continue to be optimistic of the prospect of seeing more and more faces for the upcoming year.



While Minnesota has taken life-saving action, the threat of COVID-19 remains. It's imperative that we have the tools necessary to respond to this rapidly-evolving virus quickly and decisively in order to safeguard the health and wellbeing of each and every Minnesotan.

COVID-19 is unpredictable, and there is still so much that we do not know. This pandemic is not over. With the fall and winter months fast approaching, we know the next stages of this virus will continue to present a challenge, especially to underserved communities. We must be prepared to respond quickly and efficiently in order to keep all Minnesotans healthy, safe, and informed.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE

Excerpts from the Sept. 10 edition of the Star Herald: Transportation director Brad Goembel wanted Tuesday's first day of school to be as close to business as usual as possible for Luverne students.

Goembel said schools are required to fill buses only to half capacity to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. All riders wear masks and they sit at least six feet away from non-family members.

Goembel has asked drivers to stay positive. After each of the three routes, the buses and suburbans used to transport students are cleaned, with all touchable surfaces wiped down.

Elementary students attend classes in the building every day, but middle-high school students attend school every other day, half the student body at a time, at least through Sept. 18.

Middle-high school students attend classes from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., which means an additional bus route.

Elementary school dismisses at 3 p.m. for a regular after-school route. "We are trying to keep it 'business as is,'" Goembel said.

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



Sincerely,

Patrick T. Baustian
Mayor Patrick T. Baustian





Scholarships keep talent — and opportunity — at home

A precision technology scholarship program at Jaycox Implement, Luverne, provides opportunities for students to explore careers in agriculture. It also encourages skilled workers to stay here.

... Page 9B

First-year ag teacher seeks to spark passion in her students

As a teacher and FFA chapter adviser, Anderson wants her students to receive a wide variety of ag experiences.



... Page 5B

Fall nitrogen application is prohibited in some local soils

Fall nitrogen application poses risks to soil and groundwater, and it will be prohibited in some vulnerable Rock County soils.

... Page 12B

Do you have this invasive weed on your farm?

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is encouraging farmers and agronomists to scout fields now for the invasive weed, palmer amaranth.

... Page 7B

‘Discover the Cover’

Rock County Annual Cover Crop Tour goes virtual

Virtual tour of four local cover crops experts goes live this week on YouTube

Farmers are increasingly seeing the benefits of cover crops in improving the soil health of their land. Meanwhile, they’re seeing a side benefit of improved financial health of their operations.

For these reasons, cover crops are becoming more common and more farmers are working them into their planting rotations.

But how?

And when?

And can I afford it?

Where do I go for help?

Uncertainty alone can be a stumbling block for farmers interested in changing their ways.

That’s why a local group of cover crop experts has been leading the way in helping others get involved.

The Rock County Cover Crop Planning Group hosts annual field days to showcase area fields and to share information.

The soil health experts find creative ways to bring important science updates to local farmers dabbling in new methods and to those starting from scratch.

Rock County’s 2020 Cover Crops Field Day should have been earlier this month, but because it’s a hands-on event that brings dozens of people together, the exercise was moved online.

Some of the same cover crop growers who would have shared information at the field day are now featured in a “Virtual Cover Crops Field Day” that is now available online.

A link on the Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District website brings viewers to a YouTube video featuring cover crop farmers Tom Fick, Brent Fluit, Terry Aukes and Brad Peterson.

Soil Health Specialist Dawn Madison, also a cover crop farmer, interviewed the local experts for the series. “By telling their stories, we can educate others,” she said.

“We want to give farmers something to lean on so they’re not out on their own.”

‘Discover the Cover’ tour/continued on page 2

Photos and text by
Lori Sorenson



Soil Health Specialist Dawn Madison (left), also a cover crop farmer, interviews local cover crop expert Tom Fick, Luverne, (center) earlier this month for the video series that allows viewers to participate in the annual Rock County Cover Crop Tour online. “By telling their stories, we can educate others,” Madison said. “We want to give farmers something to lean on so they’re not out on their own.” Rock County Land Management Engineering Technician Michael Walgrave (in foreground) recorded the interviews and compiled the video series online under the title, “Discover the Cover.” He said the videos are the next-best thing to a live tour, but they’ll never replace in-person cover crop tours in actual Rock County fields.

Covering cover crops

Star Herald poses questions for interviewer in cover crop video series

In compiling the video series for cover crops, Soil Health Specialist Dawn Madison posed dozens of questions to local cover crops farmers in an effort to relay valuable information for those interested in trying the practice.

To get a sense of what that was like, the Star Herald questioned the interviewer.

Why is the cover crop video series so important?

There is so much information out there on cover crops and even more “experts” from universities and agencies offering how-to info. it can be a lot to sort through.

Our group wanted to give local producers the opportunity to see and hear what’s being done locally.

The virtual tour gives those interested the opportunity to see the recipe used including tillage and cover crops, hear about the chemicals used, and if they want, go out in the fields and see the impacts including yields, weed control, etc. for themselves.

Why should we care about cover crops?

Cover crops can be used to improve soil erosion, provide weed suppression, feed biology, cover the soil to stabilize soil temps, scavenge nutrients like nitrogen, build organic matter, increase forage options, and the list goes on.

Across the country farmers are learning how to employ cover crops to build their farms’ resiliency. It is becoming more and more a part of the planning consideration, and we want our local producers to be just as knowledgeable as the rest of the farming world.

As you were working on the series, what did you learn from the interviews?

Every one of the guys I spoke to has a vision, but we all need to make a profit. No one is doing this without thinking about how the covers can help us.

But each one of us has found benefits that we never focused on when we started down this road. I was struck by how each one of the farmers has changed over time. We have learned so much from each other.

Do we think we’ll see a day when cover crops are fully implemented in Rock County?

It is unlikely we will ever see a 100-percent use of covers in the county. I think over time you will see it as a common practice that is a part of the farming system we use but not all sites and owners will fit with covers.

In compiling the video series, Madison noted what each farmer brought to the table in terms of their own unique experiences with cover crops.

“Each farmer brings a different management style to the conversation,” she said. “They all are God-fearing, family-focused guys that truly want to see their farm succeed as well as their neighbors and friends.”

'Discover the Cover' virtual tour brings annual county soil health field day to life online/from page 1B

Online Q&A tells cover crop story

With each interview, Madison asked:

- which cover crops are being used,
- how the farmer started in it, which mixtures are used,
- which chemicals are incorporated.

Engineering Technician Michael Walgrave of the Rock County Land Management Office recorded the interviews over the past several weeks and edited them into a video series that was posted online this week.

Walgrave has filmed and edited farmer interviews before, but this project posed challenges with wind, dust, farmer schedules, data management and more.

But he said he's proud of the end result.

"This has been a fun and interesting project," he said. "Most of the editing was done on my phone."

He said a virtual field day has advantages, such as a lasting video that can be shared. But he said it's not the preferred way to run the event.

"Walking the land helps you better understand the land. I don't think virtual days should replace actual field days," Walgrave said.

"They can both be done. Having 'boots-on-ground' at a field day is important for understanding the whole picture and networking with other farmers. There are also aspects of learning and understanding soil through touch and smell that a video can't simulate."

Madison is with the Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area and works with 11 counties helping with the soil health component.

She has been working in soil health for 20 years and said she's enjoyed working with Nobles and Rock County farmers to improve soil health.

"We're farmers, too, and we use cover crops and no-till in our operations. We do this in our office and at home," she said.

"This is something I enjoy working on with this group. ... I really feel like it gives our farmers another avenue that we can help them sustain long term."



Engineering Technician Michael Walgrave (left) of the Rock County Land Management Office recorded the interviews over the past several weeks and edited them into a video series that was posted online this week. He's pictured earlier this month recording Soil Health Specialist Dawn Madison interviewing Luverne cover crop farmer Tom Fick. Walgrave has filmed and edited farmer interviews before, but this project posed challenges with wind, dust, farmer schedules, data management and more.

What are cover crops?

In agriculture, cover crops are planted for the purpose of covering — or protecting — the soil rather than for the purpose of being harvested. They manage soil erosion, soil fertility, soil quality, water, weeds, pests, diseases, biodiversity and wildlife

Virtual isn't actual, but message lasts longer and reaches broader audience

She said the virtual tour has the potential to reach a larger audience. "Perhaps those that aren't inclined to attend field days will listen in the comfort of their own homes," she said.

"So reaching those folks is a big positive."

However, she said online meetings can't replace human interaction and connections of in-person field days.

"But for this year and this moment it is the best way we can connect with our local audience," Madison said.

"Plus they can pause and re-listen to anything that they may want to emulate so that is a positive as well. ... I am happy that the public gets a taste of the conversations that our group has every time we meet."

She thanked the farmer experts for being part of the video series.

"They are really awesome producers," she said.

"They have so much to offer and share, and it was a true opportunity to get to record them."

Ultimately she hopes the information will reach the right people and help the farmer or farmers.

"Soil health is something hopeful, and it's something that all farmers, large and small, can use," Madison said.

"It doesn't matter who you are, you can always improve your soil for future generations."

'Discover the Cover'/see next page

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'Discover the Cover' virtual tour brings annual county soil health field day to life online/from page 2B

Four Rock County producers with cover crop experience agreed to be interviewed for the 2020 virtual Rock County Cover Crop Tour.

They shared information about their goals and successes, and they also offered specific examples of seed mixes, rates of application and chemicals used.

Following are highlights of the interviews, recorded in YouTube videos that can be linked to through the Rock County Land Management website, www.rockswcd.org/cover-crop.

Tom Fick

Tom Fick began more as a traditional tiller who started out adding clover into his oats to build nitrogen and forage options. With time he has moved toward rotational no till.

"He is an 'outside the box' thinker when it comes to crops, not just having corn and soybeans but also oats and alfalfa as part of his normal crop rotation," Madison said.

Since starting with covers, he has grown rye for seed, added an air drill for his own and custom drilling, and changed tillage to try planting soybeans green into rye. "I wished I'd started sooner so I could realize more of the benefits by now," Fick said.

"We just take it one step at a time." He keeps trying new methods, with profit in mind. His latest addition is v4-v6 interseeding of cover crops between rows of planted corn in the spring.

As a member of the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition Board, Fick said his goal is to continue sharing the message of cover crop benefits and continuing to offer advice and education to fellow farmers.

"The days of putting a crop in the ground and spraying everything with glyphosate and going fishing after that, those days are gone," Fick said.

"We've got too many

"Two years ago I grazed 87 pairs on 32 acres for 35 days. That's a savings in feed of about \$6,700 to \$6,800 and you divide that by 30 acres. Now it starts to make a whole lot more sense."

— Brad Petersen, cover crop farmer

"It really breaks our hearts to see those gullies and that soil erode. Once it's gone, it's gone. You can try to put a price tag on that, because you can try to buy dump trucks of soil. But that's heartbreaking."

— Terry Aukes, cover crop farmer

problems with that system. We need to think ahead. We might as well be doing some of these things that will benefit us."

Fick's advice for those thinking about cover crops:

"Start out small," he said. "Anyone who knows me knows I have all these 20- to 25-acre fields."

Fick can be reached at TomsHayGrain@gmail.com.

Brad Petersen

Brad Petersen, a livestock farmer, began adding covers for extra forage. On the video, he explained how it works on his farm in northwestern Rock County.

"After the oats is off and manure is spread, we'll come back and broadcast cover crop mix and lightly work that in.

"Once that's up to where we can graze it, we start cross fencing it and rotational graze however many acres we have for that year."

He started with turnips, radishes and canola and whatever oats grew back, and grazed that in the fall. This allows the cows to come off the pastures earlier and give the pastures the chance to grow back.

"Plus the cows and calves really seem to blossom when they get on that," Petersen said.

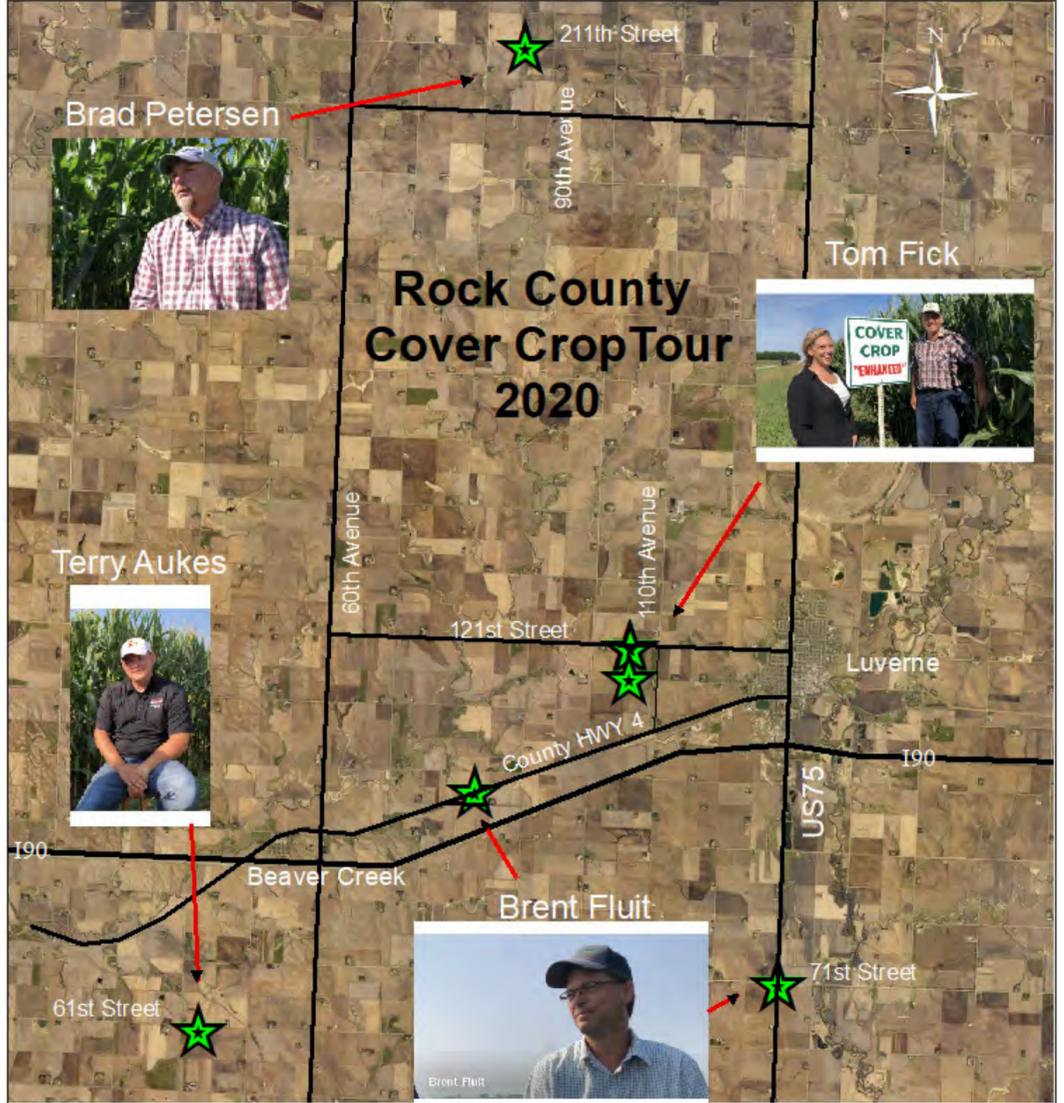
Along the way he found extra benefits like weed suppression and food for the soils.

"Our soybean yields, with adding another crop and diversifying our crop rotation, we've seen increase of 5 to 8 bushels on any of the bean fields that have had oats in the rotation," Petersen said.

"Organic matter is starting to go up and our corn fields are not requiring as much fertilizer because we're pulling up and storing more of that unused fertilizer for next year's crop." In terms of dollars and cents, he said livestock producers can't go wrong with cover crops.

"Plus, it gives us a chance to get manure out instead of being in the middle of that fall rush, and it gives you that extra feed."

"With the prices the way they've been the past couple of years, just oats by itself you're looking at a return on investment of the 50 to 60 per acre range after you sell the



straw and the oats.

In terms of saving pasture and providing forage, he estimates a return on investment of more than \$220 per acre.

"Two years ago I grazed 87 pairs on 32 acres for 35 days. That's a savings in feed of about \$6,700 to \$6,800 and you divide that by 30 acres. Now it starts to make a whole lot more sense."

Petersen can be reached at BHPete5@yahoo.com.

Brent Fluit

After more than 15 years of strip tilling, Brent Fluit added cover crops to capture nutrients and found extra forage and soil building were bonus impacts.

"I'm trying to improve the soil health, prevent erosion, retain nitrogen from manure application from livestock and control weeds," he says in the video.

"University studies show that rye will reduce nitrogen loss by 40 percent and up to 50 percent in some cases. I don't have my own scientific studies to

prove that, but if it's true to point, that will pay for the application and seed alone after your manure."

Considering Fluit's ground is part of a wellhead protection area, it's all the more important to prevent nitrogen from leaving the soil and escaping into drinking water supplies.

After adding rye, Fluit said he found a significant benefit for weed suppression and said that the organic matter has improved on his farms.

"If you get a nice cover, you'll have excellent suppression of water hemp, everything," Fluit said.

Plus, he's noticed a decrease in erosion with improved water retention, and less soil compaction.

His sons now have cattle feedlots and need the added forage, so cover crops provide that benefit to the operation as well.

Fluit's advice: "Take a piece of ground and jump in and try it. Not the whole thing, but if you don't try you'll never learn."

He can be reached at BrentFluit@gmail.com.

Terry Aukes

Terry Aukes and his family have been rotationally no-tilling their soybeans for 30 years and

have incorporated cover crops for additional soil erosion control.

"About 10 years ago there was a farm that my brother and I installed about 7,000 feet of farmable terraces. There was a fair amount of compaction from the bulldozers putting those in," Aukes says in the video.

"We had heard that cover crop helped alleviate some compaction, so we decided to seed a multi-species mix, under an EQIP program (Environmental Quality Incentive Program), and that's really what pushed us over the edge."

After three years, he said they started seeing benefits ... better water filtration, some weed suppression, and less erosion.

"Obviously with the terraces it slopes 6 -9 percent, so it has pretty steep slope. And we saw some benefits from not having water erode the soil," Aukes said.

"So then we started looking at can we move cover crops to other farms that have sensitive issues too."

The results were rewarding.

"In our family, we try to fight erosion with a passion. It really breaks our hearts to see those gullies and that soil erode. Once it's gone, it's gone. You can try to put a price tag on that, because you can try to buy dump trucks of soil. But that's heartbreaking," Aukes said.

"So that in itself, we said, in our family, even if we broke even from that standpoint. To eliminate that. That was our goal, but we see all these other benefits with it."

He said they also saw the benefits of weed suppression and improved organic matter.

"We started see fertility go up. I did not expect to see that," Aukes said.

"I always thought of soil as a bank. You apply nutrients, you grow a crop, you draw the bank down. And you reapply nutrients. I come to find out that cover crops unlock

'Discover the Cover'/see page 10B



Tom Fick, rural Luverne, keeps trying new methods of improving his operation using cover crops. He said he's increasingly finding ways to boost profit by saving money on chemicals and improving yields. His latest addition is v4-v6 interseeding of cover crops between rows of planted corn in the spring. As a member of the Soil Health Coalition Board, Fick said his goal is to continue sharing the message of cover crop benefits and continuing to offer education to fellow farmers. "The days of putting a crop in the ground and spraying everything with glyphosate and going fishing after that, those days are gone."

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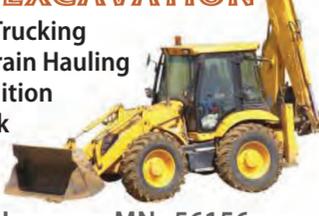


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Perspective

Farming is tough lately, but with the right perspective, we can see there are plenty of good things going on

When I was asked to talk about current issues and problems facing the ag community today, my trouble was deciding which ones?!



"... one thing I hope we've all had the opportunity to notice, especially this year, is the heightened awareness and genuine concern shown by all in our rural communities."

— Justin Decker, seed and agronomy sales, Nutrien Ag Solutions

You can't go too far with any form of media on in your vehicle or turn the TV on without hearing about all the troubles facing and affecting everyone.

We are bombarded with negative views on climate change, poor market prices, lack of rain, too much rain, politics and, of course, COVID-19, among others. I feel like most of those things are already beat to death, and I'd rather NOT add to that seemingly constant noise.

Instead, I'd like to offer this – maybe we shift our own perspective. So many of the things that are the topics of conversation and tend to be such a negative anchor are things we can't really control anyway.

What I mean is that we tend to get sucked into the vortex of negativity that seems to flood our ears almost constantly, and we let it drag down our entire attitude. It's easy to do. What's that old adage – a bad story travels faster and is "funner" to tell than a good one? And who wants to be the upbeat guy when those around you are struggling and down?

It has been tough going for a few years here. You all know that, no doubt. However, one thing I hope we've all had the opportunity to notice, especially this year, is the heightened awareness and genuine concern shown by all in

our rural communities.

Main Street businesses, amid their own struggles, are concerned about those on the farm, and those who make their living on the farm are hoping those in town are able to stay afloat. And it seems both parties are making a conscious effort to help where they can. That impresses me and is why I love living in the rural Midwest.

This season started out fantastic overall, and most were very optimistic, thanks to awesome spring weather that gave us great planting conditions – no rush to mud in the crops or sense of being forced to make poor decisions because we had to try and beat the next rain, etc.

In fact, most people commented that this spring was a pleasure and they finally enjoyed it compared to the last few years.

Now maybe this year hasn't finished quite as everyone had hoped it would early on, but we don't know that yet. One farmer I was visiting with last week put a refreshing perspective on things. He said, "You know, we got the crops in in great shape this year and it looks like we're going to have a real nice long fall to get things harvested ... and we probably aren't going to have a bunch of wet corn we have to try to manage."

Plus, with an early fall hopefully that means you aren't slammed trying

to do all the things that have to get done.

Crops harvested, manure hauled, pits pumped, fertilizer put on, fields dug, dry stalks raked and baled, those bales hauled home, etc. The potentially longer fall window should relieve some pressure because all those fall jobs won't be so compressed and daunting due to wet, miserable weather.

Time will tell, I know – we've got a lot of fall left. But maybe you can get back to enjoying a few of those duties along with all the great things about fall on the farm – the cool weather, all the great scenes harvest brings to your cab, and especially the sometimes comical chatter on the CB radio (usually on those longer days) from family, neighbors and friends who are helping you.

And just the great feeling of working on YOUR farms!

And who knows, markets could take a nice uptick and yields aren't really known yet. And since we can't control either anyway, let's throw that on the back burner for now.

I hope this isn't coming off too "rose-colored" – everyone's got to be realistic and vent once in a while – just so we don't let it consume our day.

I hope you all have a safe, successful fall and are able to focus on and enjoy the good things we've all got going on!



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Finding passion

First-year ag teacher focuses on finding 'sparks' in students at H-BC

By Mavis Fodness

Cloey Anderson wants to ignite a passion in her Hills-Beaver Creek High School students to consider a career in agriculture.

"I hope to bring to the students of H-BC a sense of belonging and hopefully spark a passion in them, whether it's in agriculture or not," she said. "I believe that many of the concepts in agriculture are very lifelong, so I hope students can learn a thing or two and be successful people in society."

Anderson's early interest in agriculture involved helping her grandparents with their crop and beef cattle operation. Living in the town of Gaylord, Anderson said she was aware of agriculture all around her.

"I would love to help with chores and help with harvesting or planting with my grandpa," she said.

When she was 12, her family moved to their own farm, and Anderson was exposed to the day-to-day operation of raising Boer goats and chickens.

"We sold our goats for meat and kept females to grow the herd. I always had so much fun with the goats and chickens."

As an eighth-grader at Sibley East High School, Anderson was in the required Introduction to Ag class when her passion received the needed spark.

"I knew I wanted to be a teacher my whole life, and when I learned I could be an ag teacher, I was hooked," she said.

Her ag teacher encouraged her to join FFA.

"I went to every FFA event I could, but I found my niche in the dairy products career development event."



First-year Hills-Beaver Creek High School ag instructor Cloey Anderson will also lead the school's FFA Chapter for 2020-21. Anderson (pictured working with one of her family meat goats) wants to expose students to a variety of ag experiences in order to ignite a passion for learning.

Raising livestock taught first-year ag teacher Cloey Anderson about meat production and the day-to-day management skills necessary to raise healthy goats and chickens.

Her love for cheese kept her interested in the event that took her to the state FFA competition twice.

"I really liked to practice for it, and it gave me an opportunity to learn about something I didn't have a lot of experience in," she said.

Anderson connected with friends, who shared a similar interest in dairy products, and now as a teacher and



H-BC FFA Chapter adviser, she wants her students to also receive that exposure to the wide variety of ag experiences through the FFA program.

"Making practices fun is a great way to get students to participate, and getting a group of friends together makes it that much more fun."

This fall, however, many of the FFA experiences will start online due to the coronavirus pandemic.

At H-BC, however, Anderson may tap into her own experiences to expose students to hands-on activities promoting agriculture.

As a student at Sibley East High School, Anderson was vice president of her FFA chapter and assisted in piloting the "Book Buddies" program, where FFA students visited the elementary school to read agriculture books to kindergartners. For a supervised agricultural experience, she worked in the school's garden, managing the plants and workers.

Anderson graduated from South Dakota State University in Brookings in May with a degree in agricultural education. H-BC High School is her first full-time teaching position.

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The Luverne Area Community Foundation can help you achieve your goals collaboratively with your financial advisor to ease your transition, save on taxes, build another retirement source and do something good through charity.

LACF will be hosting a live online Zoom event **Monday, November 9 at 7pm** on how a Charitable Remainder Trust works, specifically focused on farm operation exit strategies.

Contact Emily Crabtree, Executive Director at Emily@luvacf.org or 507-220-2424 to be sure you receive the information needed to register for this online information session.

There will be a valuable information that you don't want to miss.

LUVERNE AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Rural America: Stand up and be counted in the 2020 Census

The 2020 Census is underway. Participation and leadership from farmers, ranchers and other agricultural leaders is critical and will have an impact on rural communities for the next 10 years.

Many farmers and ranchers complete other Census surveys, such as the Census of Agriculture, but the 2020 U.S. Census also is important.

The U.S. Constitution calls for a complete count every 10 years of everyone living in the United States and its territories, regardless of gender, age, race, ethnic origin or citizenship.

For your community, county and state, census participation is about

Data collection ends Sept. 30; there are many ways to participate

legislative representation and money. The 2020 Census will determine how the 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives will be allocated to each state for the next 10 years.

Similarly, many states use Census data as part of legislative redistricting processes.

Each year \$675 billion in federal spending comes back to local communities, counties and states through programs that use census data in determining allocations.

They include things like health and medical programs, nutrition

Leadership from farmers, ranchers and ag businesses and rural families is essential for rural communities to benefit from the Census for the next 10 years.

assistance and the school lunch program, and energy assistance and housing programs.

Funds may come back through grants for schools, parks, education and library services, or fire and emergency services.

Of course, a big one

is funding for highway and road planning and construction.

Regardless of how you use the roads – foot, bicycle, motorcycle, car, truck or horse and buggy – federal money allocated based on the census affects you.

Census data are also factored into allocation of money through various farm bill and USDA programs, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Other rural programs that receive funding based on census data include:

- rural education.

- rural business enterprise grants.
- rural home rental assistance.
- water and waste disposal for rural communities.
- state wildlife grants.
- rural housing preservation grants.
- hunter education and safety.

Most people already received invitations to participate in the 2020 Census through mailings that began March 12.

They can continue to complete the census online at www.2020census.gov, by phone or by mail with a paper questionnaire.

To encourage more households to self-respond, the Census Bureau sent a seventh mailing, including a paper questionnaire, in late August to early September, to the lowest-responding communities. Some households also may be

contacted by phone or email.

Many households in rural areas with no mail delivery to physical addresses, or those who receive mail at U.S.

Post Office boxes or by other means, should have received census forms this summer using a non-contact process called “update leave,” where census staff verified the address and dropped off a census form at the door.

Those forms still can be mailed in, but even if the form was lost or misplaced, you can still complete the census online or by phone.

On Aug. 9 census workers began knocking on doors nationwide to follow up with those who had not yet self-responded by internet, phone or mail.

Census takers wear masks and other personal protective equipment and are trained in social distancing.

As of Aug. 30, about 64.4 percent of people self-responded nationwide and 82.4 percent of U.S. households have been counted in total. Yet, self-response rates in 13 states or territories remain below 60 percent.

There are rural areas in almost all states – including high-responding states – where response is much lower. To see daily updated self-response rates down

Rural Census/see page 16B

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Farmers and agronomists should scout fields for palmer amaranth

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is encouraging farmers and agronomists to scout fields now for the invasive weed Palmer amaranth.

Palmer amaranth is listed as a noxious weed in Minnesota and was first discovered in the state in 2016. All above and below ground parts of the plant must be destroyed, and it cannot be moved.

Left uncontrolled, a single female Palmer amaranth plant typically produces 100,000 to 500,000 seeds. It is resistant to multiple herbicides, can cause substantial yield losses, and greatly increase weed management costs in soybeans and corn.

Now is the time when Palmer amaranth is visible in agricultural fields.

The MDA is asking farmers and agronomists to pull out any suspicious plants and report them to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Arrest the Pest line at 1-888-545-6684 or arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us.

Palmer amaranth can be identified by the following characteristics:

The green leaves are smooth and arranged in an alternate pattern that grows symmetrically around the stem. The leaves are oval to diamond or triangle shaped.

The leaves of some Palmer amaranth plants have a whitish, V-shaped mark on them. Not all Palmer amaranth plants display this characteristic.

Palmer amaranth looks similar to our native pigweeds such as waterhemp. Here are some distinguishing characteristics:

- Pigweeds have fine hairs on their stems and leaves. Palmer amaranth and waterhemp do not have these hairs.

- The petiole (stalk connecting a leaf to the stem) is longer than the length of the leaf. For waterhemp, the petiole will be only half the length of the leaf.

- Seedhead spikes on female Palmer amaranth plants are much taller (up to three feet long) and pricklier than waterhemp or redroot and smooth pigweed spikes.

The invasive weed is also listed as a prohibited weed seed in the state. This means no Palmer amaranth is allowed in any seed offered for sale in Minnesota.

Palmer amaranth has been found in nine Minnesota counties; however, most of the sites have been successfully eradicated and the remaining are being closely monitored.



The MDA is asking farmers and agronomists to pull out any suspicious plants and report them to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Arrest the Pest line at 1-888-545-6684 or arrest.the.pest@state.mn.us.

The green leaves of the palmer amaranth (pictured at left) are smooth and arranged in an alternate pattern that grows symmetrically around the stem. The leaves are oval to diamond or triangle shaped. Some palmer amaranth leaves have a whitish, V-shaped mark on them.

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Life changes, so do your insurance needs

By Shirley Top,
Kozlowski Insurance

Life changes in a heartbeat without regular reviews of your insurance program.

It is possible for gaps to form. The result can be disastrous for a family. Nothing is more unfortunate than finding out after a loss that you weren't covered for a particular risk.

In order to ensure that your coverage stays current with your circumstances and needs, it is important to have annual reviews.

Many people assume their auto and farm coverage will provide all the liability insurance they need.

In the event you are underinsured, everything you have worked so hard to obtain can be taken away, leaving families exposed to financial ruin.

Scheduling an annual review of your insurance program can help identify gaps in your coverage or help additional discounts.

An hour of your time will make you feel more confident throughout the year so that you can focus on the things that are most important to you.

You could be spending less money and getting better coverage. Who wouldn't be happy with that?



What information should you discuss at your annual review?

- Is your coverage on your dwelling and outbuildings adequate? Cost of construction has gone up substantially.
- Do buildings have replacement cost coverage or will there be depreciation?
- Scheduled personal property such as cell phones, jewelry, computers etc.?
- Backup of sewer, drain, sump pump coverage?
- Service line coverage for water, sewer, power lines and geothermal pipes?
- Equipment breakdown for furnaces, air conditioning systems, generators?
- Have you formed different entities such as corporations or trust?
- Verify coverage on your machinery, livestock, grain, hay, corn stalk bales?
- Do you have livestock liability coverage? If not, you may qualify for a discount.
- Blizzard or suffocation coverage on livestock?
- Contract grower liability coverage in the event you are found negligent for the death of custom-fed livestock in your possession?
- Loss of income for confinement buildings or dairy farms?
- Ingestion of foreign objects, such as rocks, post, etc. for farm equipment?
- Debris removal?
- Farm extra expense, such as farm equipment rental?
- Cab glass equipment for farm equipment?
- Licensed trailers?
- Grain peak season?
- Livestock at additional locations?
- Additional set of farm buildings liability?
- Farm accident medical payments coverage for the insured, \$5,000 or \$10,000 coverage, \$100 deductible?
- ATV 4-wheeler, snowmobile, golf cart, boat?
- Custom farming liability coverage?
- Custom feeding livestock liability?
- Workers compensation?
- Is your life insurance adequate?
- Disability income protection?
- Nursing home long-term care coverage?
- Directors and officers coverage for board members?
- Any business activity?
- Equipment breakdown coverage for dwelling, outbuildings, hog confinements, dairy farms, grain systems, etc.?
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Keeping opportunities and talent close to home

Area students explore ag careers through Jaycox scholarships

A scholarship program at Jaycox Implement, Luverne, provides opportunities for students to explore careers in agriculture.

Students shadow professionals and help with hands-on repairs, and ultimately gain experience for a job at one of the Jaycox locations in Luverne, Worthington or Lake Park, Iowa.

About a dozen young people have applied to the program in recent years, according to Mark Ommen, Luverne store manager.

“Bottom line is that we pay their tuition for two years and they get a starter tool kit,” he said. “(Farm implement repair) is a field and a position that’s tough to find talent for.”

As Ommen balances his future workforce with industry needs, the scholarship program cultivates potential workers through two career exploration paths: supervised occupational experiences and/or tuition assistance.

Leah Wynia, a senior at Luverne High School, is interested in a career in agriculture and said she sees the occupational experiences at Jaycox as a benefit toward her goal of joining the family farm operation.

The daughter of Roger and Julie Wynia spent this past summer shadowing in the precision ag department at Jaycox. She’s tentatively decided to attend South Dakota State University in Brookings next year, joining the school’s growing precision ag program.

Precision ag is a broad career field that uses technology to improve farming practices.

“If I decide not to do precision ag as a technician ... I would have that knowledge (coming back to the farm),” she said.



Inside the combine cab, Leah Wynia powers up the precision ag equipment where she selects the diagnostics screen. In an internship with Jaycox Implement, the Luverne High School senior learned how to fix and recalibrate various technological equipment now included in today’s tractors and combines.

“The biggest reason I do this — work with local families and local students and reward them — is to show them they don’t have to go to a big city for a good-paying job.”

*— Mark Ommen
Jaycox Luverne
store manager*

As an intern, Wynia was paid for her time, and the flexible schedule will allow her to continue the job shadowing during the school year. She will decide later whether or not to apply to the scholarship program.

Second-year scholarship student Tucker Madison of Adrian said he immediately knew the scholarship program was a good fit.

“Before I started at Jaycox, I had the mindset of becoming a diesel mechanic,” he said.

The past two years of hands-on experience next to seasoned Jaycox mechanics has only heightened his interest in repairing tractor and combine engines. He’s picked up plenty

of tips and advice in the field.

“Having that guidance from someone who has been wrenching a long time has been invaluable,” Madison said. “The biggest thing is I’ve gained confidence to start that big project, and I know I will be able to complete it.”

The 2019 graduate of Worthington High School is in his second year at Lake Area Technical College in Watertown, South Dakota.

He uses the Snap-On tools provided by the scholarship program at school as well as when he works at Jaycox during

Jacox precision ag internships/continued on page 10B

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Jacox precision technology internships/continued from page 9B

breaks. After graduation, the son of Mark and Dawn Madison will work at Jaycox for two years as the scholarship program's final steps.

Ommen said when scholarship recipients return to fulfill the employment requirements, the learning doesn't stop with the hiring.

As a dealer for Case IH equipment, technicians complete continuing edu-

Jacox precision scholarship/see next page



Luverne High School graduate Leah Wynia participates in a paid supervised occupational experience at the Luverne location of Jaycox Implement. Wynia, daughter of Roger and Julie Wynia, has shadowed precision ag technicians and completed several trouble-shooting tasks related to the job.

At left, she powers up the precision ag equipment where she selects the diagnostics screen in a combine cab at Jaycox Implement, Luverne. She spent this past summer shadowing in the precision ag department at Jaycox.



Mavis Fodness photo/0924 Ag Tab Fall 2020 Jaycox Scholarships

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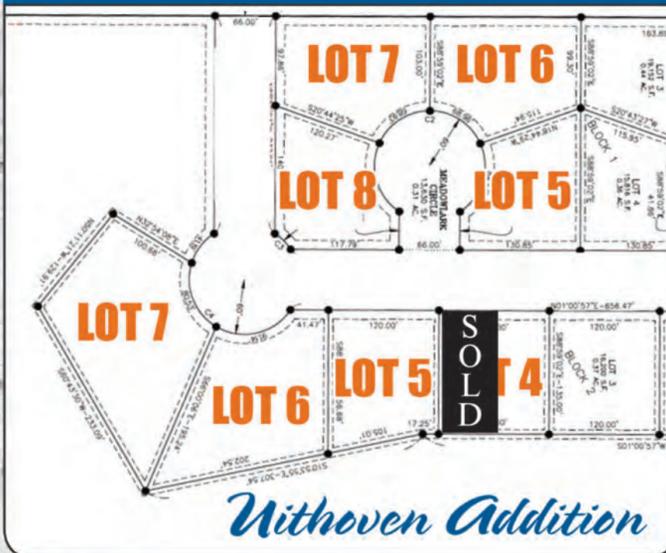
All the full- and part-time employees of Cleveringa Construction are very dedicated to their jobs. Their work is above and beyond what customers expect, assuring them a successfully completed project.

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Cover crops/ from page 3B

or unleash those tied up nutrients, whether they're bringing nutrients that are deeper in the soil profile to the surface or you're decreasing wind and soil erosion where particles are leaving or just supercharging the soil bacteria to make nutrients more available."

That in turn, he said, puts dollars back in his pocket. However, the savings aren't always obvious.

"When we grid sample every four years, we're seeing organic matter increase 3- to 4-tenths of a percent every four years. And if you stick with it for 10, 12 years, it's gone up more than 1 percent," Aukes said.

"Now put a price tag on that in the environment we're in and how dry as it is. Not to mention the extra available phosphorus, potassium and micronutrients - and nitrogen for that matter, that comes along with that percent of organic matter.

As an agronomist, Aukes said he's noticing trends in cover crops and nutrient improvements in soil.

"... Every year I see it continue to grow. I see what our seed business does that I can gauge total acres and I see where the trend is moving toward continued covers. If you look back seven, eight, nine years ago, if a farmer would put a cover crop, neighbors wondered what was going on," he said.

"Now it's a culture that's made it just natural. There are enough growers that have done it and seen benefit from it. It's part of the total farm management decision, no different than if you would put a herbicide on. ... Once that silage is chopped, it's automatic, you're going to put that cover crop on to protect the soil."

He said new producers might feel overwhelmed by all the information, but he encourages them to consider their goals.

"Is it more from a forage standpoint or is from cover for decreasing erosion. It could be both or all the above," Aukes said.

"I just challenge the grower, if you don't take a start, you'll never dive in. If they feel comfortable splitting an 80 and see. ... Allow the agronomist to walk you through it. ... when to terminate it, when to plant into it, and the herbicide considerations."

Aukes can be reached at taukes@coopfe.com

Jacox precision technology internships keep talent and opportunity close to home/from page 10B



Tucker Madison rests against the chest of tools he received as a second-year participant in the Jaycox Implement Scholarship Program. The 2019 graduate of Worthington High School is in his second year at Lake Area Technical College in Watertown, South Dakota. He uses the Snap-On tools provided by the scholarship program at school as well as when he works at Jaycox during breaks.

education through the manufacturer. Scholarship students can specialize in one area as the industry needs dictate. "The biggest reason I do this — work with local families and local students and reward them — is to show them they don't have to go to a big city for a good-paying job," Ommen said. Interest is the only requirement to be a Jaycox Implement intern or scholarship student. "If the shoe fits for both of us, we'll try to make it fit," he said. Ommen can be reached at 507-283-2319.

To inquire about the scholarship program at Jaycox Implement in Luverne, Mark Ommen can be reached at 507-283-2319

"Having that guidance from someone who has been wrenching a long time has been invaluable. ... The biggest thing is I've gained confidence to start that big project, and I know I will be able to complete it."

— Tucker Madison, Adrian Jaycox Implement precision technology intern

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Be prepared for changes to fall nitrogen application

By Doug Bos, Rock County Land Management Office

Fall application of nitrogen has been a practice that has been utilized for many years.

Benefits include reduced compaction compared to spring application, better availability of equipment in the fall, and saving time in the spring when there are too many things to accomplish before planting.

Fall application of nitrogen also comes with risks from the cost of lost nitrogen and possible nitrate leaching into groundwater.

This will be changing for some areas in Rock County this fall.

Starting Sept. 1, fall nitrogen application is prohibited on areas of coarse-textured soil and shallow bedrock.

These areas are susceptible to leaching of nitrates into the ground water.

For a map of these areas you can search for your property on the Minnesota Department of Ag's (MDA) Groundwater Protection Rule website <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/nfr> or call our office for more details.

The MDA is ultimately responsible for administering and enforcing the Groundwater Protection Rule to protect drinking water, but for the past five years Rock County SWCD/Land Management has been assisting farmers in the Drinking Water Supply Manage-

ment Areas (DWSMA) with implementing best management practices for nitrogen application.

Some of these best management practices included no fall nitrogen application, split application of nitrogen, use of nitrification inhibitors, reducing nitrogen rates, variable rate nitrogen application (based on soil type and yield maps) and installation of perennial grass plantings.

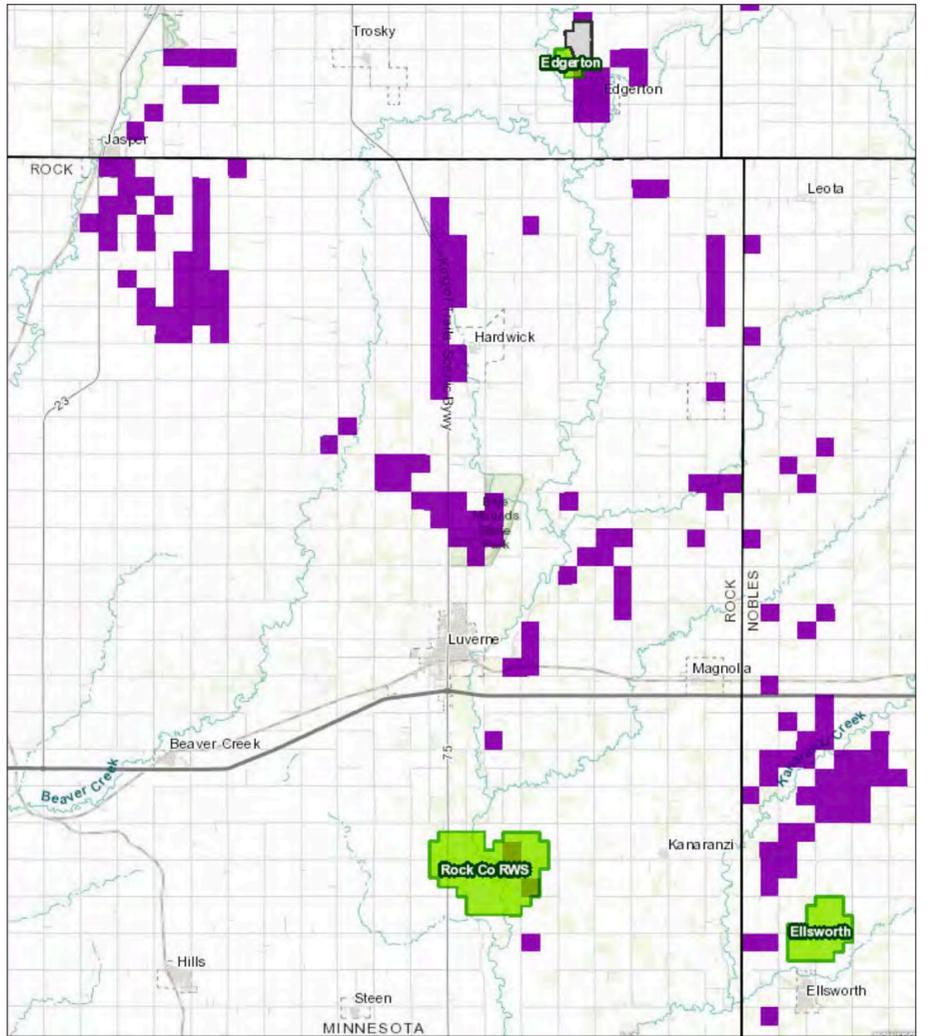
The Rock County Rural Water DWSMA has seen some success in reducing nitrates in their wells with the implementation of these best management practices.

Another plus for farmers implementing the best management practices has been improved profits through reductions in fertilizer costs and better yields.

Because of the improved profitability, these same farmers have been utilizing these best management practices for nitrogen application across all of their acres.

Utilizing perennial crops such as grass and alfalfa or small grains in crop rotations has shown to be more profitable than corn/soybean rotations as well as improved soil health.

If you are interested in these best management practices for nitrogen or have questions on the Groundwater Protection Rule, feel free to call our office at 507-283-8862.



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Restrictions by DWSMA (2020)

- DWSMA Low Vulnerability Exemption (July 2020)
- Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs) with Nitrate-N ≥ 5.4 mg/L (July 2020)
- Restrictions By Quarter Section or Government Lot (2020)**
- Statewide Fall Restriction



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Rock County **STAR HERALD**

In a pandemic world where we've forgotten what's 'normal,' where do we go from here?

Who can describe 2020 as normal? Many boast that they survived the great toilet paper scare of 2020. School kids experienced a spring break that lasted into August. Baseball games now cater to a stadium full of cardboard cutouts. Major events such as graduations, proms and weddings canceled or postponed. 2020 was far from our "normal".

The crop year of 2020 was also vastly different from the prior year. Last year experienced widespread moisture leading to planting delays and acres upon acres of preventive plant. The high level of moisture continued the entire growing season, leaving a crop of below trend line yields.

This year began with an abundance of ground moisture, early planting, and above normal temperatures for most of the growing season. Rain was lacking in parts of the grain belt, yielding drought and stress across most of Iowa.

Strong storms, derecho (I had never heard of), blasted a large portion of Iowa and beyond, flattening crops, tumbling grain bins, power lines, buildings and trees. A crop that started off with high potential seems to be shrinking in size as portions of the grain belt struggled with recent rains.

Parts of western Iowa are ranked near the driest they have been in the past 128 years, while other portions of the grain belts remain above or near average. It truly will be a year of a wide variety of yields by area.

The recent hot and dry weather has pushed corn futures back near the summer highs after the July rally. This rally is happening at a very counter seasonal time.

As we have studied past years with similar weather patterns, it is surprising how these markets have rallied hard in later August, but still sold off seasonally into harvest. There continues to be downside risk to prices as we approach harvest.

The real question now is where do we go from here? The big but shrinking crops in the U.S. right now have helped rally these markets, along with a resurgence in Chinese buying. Multiple reasons lead us to believe we are in an opportunity. China buying has remained uncommonly strong over the past month.

Their growing hog herd and flooding has helped wipe out reserves that have had to be auctioned off and replenished.

Continued strength in these markets will depend on China continuing to make uncharacteristic pur-

'Normal' -- (Webster) noun:
the usual, average, or typical state or condition

Rob Andringa, risk manager, Professional Ag Marketing, shares ideas

chases ... and we all know how dependable China is at living up to their agreed upon purchases. How long will this continue?

Unfortunately, one cannot just check off 2020 talking just about the weather. COVID-19! The impacts of

this continue to make waves. Crude oil traded negative for the first time in history back in April as demand was weak and storage was scarce.

The world was in lockdown at home, and travel stopped. Ethanol production was running at 50 percent of the prior

year, reducing the need for corn. Livestock plants struggled with labor issues due to the virus backing up livestock. Grocery shelves began to empty as products became unavail-

What's normal?/continued on 15B



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What's normal? Where do we go from here in pandemic world?/continued from page 13B

able. The impact infected every aspect of the ag industry.

While the virus and its effects remain, advancements have been made. Today crude oil is trading around \$40. Gas demand has increased.

Ethanol plants continue to increase production. Livestock slaughter rates have improved while adding larger weekend slaughters.

Most of the benchmarks the Ag industry uses have hit a short-term plateau at 80 to 90 percent of pre-Covid levels.

This continues to be a large concern for the Ag markets going forward. While there remains a lot of abnormality, the economy has picked up from its lows.

A benefit to all of the stimulus funds has been a decrease in the value of the dollar. This has allowed the U.S. to be more competitive in the export market.

We have seen a large increase in exports partially due to the Phase 1 trade commitment, but also due to the weakening of the dollar. This has benefited the Ag industry.

As we move forward, attempting to make decisions that make sense for our business, it is always important to use history as a guide.

While 2020 might just be that unexpected exceptional year that doesn't occur again, I am certain it has taught us that we need to always be prepared.

Use the right tools available to you to

While 2020 might just be that unexpected exceptional year that doesn't occur again, I am certain it has taught us that we need to always be prepared. Use the right tools available to you to make good informed decisions for your business today.

— Rob Andringa,
Professional Ag Marketing

make good informed decisions for your business today!

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Rock County Minnesota 2020

Need money for projects on the farm? Here are seven places to get it

Grants and cost-share programs can provide funding for your farming and conservation projects.

There is a lot of money available to improve your community if you know where to look.

Following are a few grants that can benefit Rock County:

1. Rock County Tree Program

All landowners in Rock County are eligible for 40-percent cost-share (up to \$800) for windbreaks and larger tree planting projects.

Projects should be scheduled in the fall for planting next spring. Contact the Rock County Land Management Office (Rock SWCD) at 507-283-8862 for more information.

Details can also be found online at RockSWCD.org/trees

2. 1-Watershed 1-Plan (1W1P)

One of the newest conservation programs for farmers/landowners is 1W1P. This program was created to help address soil and water quality issues on a watershed level instead of a county level.

In Rock County this program is primarily used by farmers to stop erosion and fix gullies, but there are other conservation practices it will also fund.

1W1P takes ongoing signups; funds are renewed every two years. Cost share can cover up to 90 percent of the project cost. Contact your local Soil Water Conservation District for more information.

3. Environmental Quality Enhancement Programs (EQIP)

The USDA has many branches and grants. The USDA's National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides EQIP cost share funding to conserve and improve water, soil and air quality.

By Michael Walgrave,
Rock-SWCD, Engineering Technician
Rock County Land Management Office, Luverne

Some of the practices that EQIP will provide cost share for include cover crops, agroforestry, grazing irrigation, high tunnels, on-farm energy efficiency, and even innovations in conservation.

Contact your local USDA/NRCS office or check on their website at nrcs.usda.gov for more information.

4. Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

SARE is another branch of the USDA. They offer cost share for project by region.

Their objective is to fund research and education projects that advance sustainable agriculture. Farmers, researchers, extension agents, graduate students and other educators are eligible for this cost share.

Projects can include on-farm energy, pest/weed management, pollinators and local/regional food systems.

There is currently a grant deadline for Dec. 3, 2020. Check out SARE.org/grants for more information.

5. AGRI Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture also offers funding for projects that make state more sustainable. This program funds Minnesota farmers, nonprofits and educational organizations.

Projects can include cover crops, conservation tillage, crop rotations, improving marketing opportunities, on-farm energy production and organic productions. Proposal deadline is Dec. 10, 2020. Check out MDA.state.mn.us for more information.

6. US Fish and Wildlife

'Partners for Fish and Wildlife' Program

This federal program provides funds and technical assistance to landowners for restoring and enhancing wildlife.

Projects that improve rare, threatened, and endangered species, such as the local Topeka Shiner, are given priority.

Federal, state and non-governmental organizations can also partner with this program and utilize these funds for projects on private lands. Information can be found at fws.gov/partners or by calling Sheldon Myerchin at 320-253-4682.

7. Department of Labor and Industry 'Minnesota Apprenticeship Initiative'

Minnesota employers are eligible for up to \$5,000 for each apprentice's training. The goal of this grant is to help employers develop programs that recruit and train apprentices in the industries of agriculture, advanced manufacturing, health care, information technology and transportation.

Research dli.mn.gov/mai for more information.

Check out grants.gov

If these grants don't suit your project needs, Grants.gov is a good place to find information on a broad range of federal grants. This website also has educational videos on grants to help you apply and utilize grants.

Grants and cost-share is one way to fund the improvement of your community, environment and business.

Grants and funding can change yearly, so a regular grant search is important for finding up-to-date funding.

Federal, regional, state, local governments, and even non-profit organizations have financial assistance for making Rock County an even better community.

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Census/ from page 6B

to the local level, visit <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>, and to see state totals, see <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates/nrfu.html>.

The goal of the 2020 Census is to get a complete and accurate count.

Leadership from farmers, ranchers and ag businesses and rural families is essential for rural communities to benefit from the Census for the next 10 years.

A few ways you can help are the following:

- Spread the word to friends, neighbors, employees and others in your community that it is important to participate in the 2020 Census.

- Remind others that their participation is essential. Some, especially immigrant farm workers, may be concerned about how information about them will be used. By law, the Census Bureau can't share or disclose anyone's individual data with any other organization or agency, including law enforcement and immigration enforcement.

- Self-respond online at www.2020census.gov, by phone at 844-330-2020 (English) from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eastern time, or by mail. Respond online in English or 12 other languages, or receive assistance through language guides and videos available in 59 languages. Or, if a census taker knocks at the door, answer.

Data collection for the 2020 Census ends Sept. 30. Now is the time to stand up and be counted.

This column was provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.

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