



# Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, October 15, 2020

## Schools manage uncertainty of COVID

By Mavis Fodness

It's been a challenging start to the 2020-21 school year for the Luverne district where learning resumed amid a major construction project and a pandemic health threat.

With the "hybrid learning model" elementary students attend in-person classes every day while the middle-high school students are split into two groups, alternating days of in-person learning at school and distance learning from home.

With personal health a top priority, school nurse Phil Paquette and administrators faced a myriad of unknowns.

"There were a lot of questions going into the school year," Paquette said.

Among them were:

- Would positive COVID-19 cases increase as a result of school opening?

- Could the district meet state social distance requirements of six feet of space between students on buses as well as in the classrooms?

Within a week, school officials were getting affirmative answers.

"Two or three weeks ago we started seeing the numbers rise in our area," Paquette said. "[We] had a few positive cases within the school, but — in the end of that — no confirmed spread within the school."

### COVID-related absences within school low

Out of the 1,200 students and about 225 staff in the Luverne School district, there is one active positive case for COVID-19, according to the school contact-tracing summary through Oct. 8 (see graphic).

Seven positive cases have been

School manages COVID/See p. 5



Mavis Fodness photo/1015 Harvest 2020

Dan Niemeyer combines east of Hardwick Wednesday, Oct. 7, and expects to finish harvest weeks ahead of last year. Dry weather conditions that began in August allowed crops to quickly mature and led to ideal harvest conditions, although conditions were also ideal for field fires.

## Headed toward the finish line

Area farmers finishing harvest weeks ahead of last year, five-year average

By Mavis Fodness

Rock County farmers are well ahead of the average grain harvest timeline for the 2020 growing season.

Last week Hardwick farmer Dan Niemeyer was combining his last field.

Weather this year has been more cooperative.

Last year Niemeyer recalled the wet weather delayed spring planting with most seed hitting the ground in May.

This year, planting was able to occur in

April, with more farmers like Niemeyer able to finish weeks ahead of schedule.

Early planting meant crops would be ready earlier. Weather has stayed dry for the past several weeks.

"It has kind of been an ideal fall for harvest," Niemeyer said.

But conditions may be a little too dry.

Red flag warnings continued in the area with the dry corn at risk for field fires.

"August was too dry," said Niemeyer, who was wrapping up harvest this week.

Yields may have suffered but results have still been good.

As a state average, Minnesota corn production is up 22 percent from last year at 1.53 billion bushels, according to the USDA statistics service October report.

Yields are expected to average 202 bushels an acre, up 29 bushels per acre from last year.

Soybean production is also up at a forecast 381 million bushels, up 28 percent from last year.

Yields in the state are estimated at 52 bushels per acre, up 8 bushels per acre over 2019.



Lori Sorenson photos/1015 covid testing

National Guard members assist nurses administering COVID-19 tests at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne Tuesday.

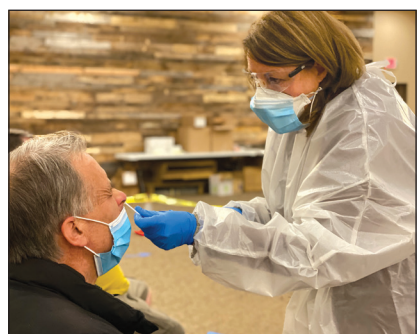
## Luverne hosts state COVID-19 test site

By Lori Sorenson

A handful of Minnesota National Guardsmen descended on Grand Prairie Events in Luverne Monday and within two hours turned the events center into a COVID-19 community test site.

The Minnesota Department of Health is in its fourth week of offering free, "no barrier" tests in communities around the state for anyone who wants to participate, regardless of symptoms of circumstances.

The goal is to test as many residents as possible in an attempt to



Luverne's Doug Bos, (left) reacts to a swab test by nurse Sherry Donnahoo Tuesday afternoon at the COVID-19 test site in Luverne.

isolate those who are positive and quarantine close contacts and, ultimately, control the spread of the virus.

Shawn Schloesser, detailed to the State Emergency Operations Center, has been assisting with process for the state.

"Barrier-free means you need no ID, no insurance and there's no waiting. And you don't have to have symptoms," Schloesser said.

"Often in a health care system you have to have symptoms in or

COVID-19 state test site/see page 3

## Virus claims four lives as Tuff nursing home in Hills dealing with outbreak

By Lori Sorenson

Four residents at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills have lost their lives to Covid-19, and 30 others have tested positive for the virus.

In addition, 15 staff members are positive as of Tuesday and are taking measures to quarantine. Some of those are returning to work after quarantining and some residents are no longer considered active cases.

Tuff Administrator Eli Ripley said the outbreak is creating challenges, but he said the facility is managing.

"Morale is better this week and we really are working as a team to fight this nasty virus and get it out of our facility as quickly and safely as possible," he said Tuesday.

"Staff is very motivated and everyone is pitching in and wearing extra hats to get the things done that need to be done."

Staff members who tested positive are quarantining away from their jobs for two weeks, and Ripley said staff vacancies have been difficult to fill.

"If you're a CNA and want some work, we could use you," Ripley said. Tuff currently employs 39 people.

Nursing homes have protocols to follow in the event of pandemic outbreaks, and Ripley said the Tuff Home is following those.

"I, as the administrator, am

*"Morale is better this week and we really are working as a team to fight this nasty virus and get it out of our facility as quickly and safely as possible. Staff is very motivated and everyone is pitching in and wearing extra hats to get the things done that need to be done."*

— Eli Ripley, Tuff Home administrator

very proud at how the staff pulled together and is working as a team during this chaotic and scary time," Ripley said.

"We have gotten great support from the community and appreciate everyone who has helped, no matter how big or small."

The Minnesota National Guard has been testing Tuff Home residents and staff to help identify and quarantine those who may not yet

Tuff Home outbreak/see page 12



# Elbers, Leenderts vie for mayor of Hills

By Mavis Fodness

Voters in Hills will choose between two candidates running for mayor in the Nov. 3 general election.

Incumbent Mayor Keith Elbers is being challenged by Arlen Leenderts.

The Star Herald asked the two mayoral candidates four questions about why they decided to run for office and what they feel qualifies them for the position.

The questions were:

1.) Why do you want to be (re)elected as city of Hills mayor?

2.) List experiences and/or qualifications that will be helpful in fulfilling the mayor's duties, should you win the Nov. 3 general election.

3.) What do you think are the primary challenges facing your community and how will you lead your city through these challenges?

4.) What do you want to accomplish while in office?

### Keith Elbers

Elbers owns Elbers Auction Service in Hills and is co-owner of Real Estate Retrievers.

He and his wife, Annette, have one son, Tyler (Kala) Bush, and three grandchildren, Micah, Malachi and Maybrie.

Elbers serves on the boards of directors for the Southwest Regional Development Commission, Luverne Area Community Foundation and Rock County Historical Society; advisory boards of Sioux Valley Energy and Sanford Luverne Hospice; and member of the Steen Reformed Church and HBCS Community Club.

1.) I have enjoyed serving and representing the residents of Hills and wish to continue the work we have started.

2.) I have served on the city council for several years as a council person and the last eight years as mayor. I have served on many boards and committees



Keith Elbers



Arlen Leenderts

that not only get the city of Hills exposure, but also bring valuable information, ideas and provide access to obtain resources that will benefit the residents of Hills.

3.) Currently today we are facing the COVID crisis. The threat has become a reality for even Hills. I have assisted and closely worked with the county and state in regard to receiving and delivering the necessary precautionary supplies to our schools and nursing home as well as our city's businesses. I have attended many meetings regarding distribution of our CARES Act funding. I have dealt with other disasters in the past (ice storm) and always kept the residents aware of every situation. I have worked closely with the council to ensure all residents are cared for. Hills always comes together to bring out the best in our town and our residents.

Another challenge is always economic development. We have businesses that would love to come to our community, but we have a land shortage problem. Although we do have some property available for new homes, we lack the space needed for future commercial development and need to explore avenues to address the program.

Maintaining of infrastructure (water, sewer and streets) has always been and always will be a challenge in a small town, but we do have a long-term plan in place to try being as proactive as possible to future problems we may face.

Hills is proud of the fact that we are

one of the lowest taxed communities in the county and trying to maintain that status while being progressive, which is always a challenge as well. Hills has been blessed with a good council and employees that make the job a lot easier.

My goal is always to put the needs of the residents first.

4.) I want to always represent the residents in Hills the best way I can. I want to continue to make Hills a wonderful place to live and do business. I want to pursue the need to adding and keeping business to Hills and work with the situations at hand to make things happen. I want to maintain our financial status to keep taxes low as well as adding new ideas and keeping our expenses in check. Hills has always been a wonderful place to live; our community has been fortunate in being a safe place to raise a family. Many of our children have a desire to return to Hills and I want to continue that tradition of being the best in small town living — of which Hills does it best.

### Arlen Leenderts

Leenderts owns and operates Leenderts Lawn Care. He also is a bus driver for Hills-Beaver Creek School District.

Leenderts and his wife, Lois, have three children, Greg, Tonya and Jessie.

1.) I feel it's good to have new people with different and new ideas.

2.) I previously served on the city council for 11 years. I have operated my own business for 14 years. I previously served on the Hills Fire Department for 25 years.

3.) We are losing businesses. I would look for incentives to help bring more to our town.

4.) I would like to help our town grow with more businesses. I would like to make our parks a show place we can be proud of. I would like to improve the communication with the town's people.



County	Total Cases	New cases in last 7 days	Percent Change
Rock	245	53	+26.9%
Pipestone	306	31	+8.8%
Nobles	2,057	44	+1.9%
Minnehaha (SD)	8,036	817	+10.6%
Lyon (IA)	475	42	+6.9%

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

Date Range	8/23-9/5	8/30-9/12	9/6-9/19	9/13-9/26
Rate	19.12	29.75	47.81	47.81

### 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 October 8, 2020. Sources: MDH & The New York Times

Sponsored by: Rock County Emergency Management

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Meetings

**Caregivers Support Group**, sponsored by A.C.E. of SWMN Rock County, will meet at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27. Call Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064 for meeting location. Meetings are open to all.

**Grief Support Group** meets from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays through Oct. 22 at Sanford Luverne for five weeks. Preregister at Sanford Hospice Luverne, 507-283-1805.

### Operation Christmas Child boxes

Operation Christmas Child boxes are available for pick up at American Reformed Church at the south entrance starting Monday. Filled boxes may be dropped at the church during the week of Nov. 16-22. Boxes are sent to children who otherwise would not get a gift.

Call Karen at 605-413-9676 or Charla at 507-227-1722 with questions.

### Nutrition Assistance food distribution

A.C.E. of SW MN will sponsor the Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors 60 and older from 2-3 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, as a drive-thru event at the Generations parking lot at 319 E. Lincoln Street in Luverne.

Call Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064 for more information. Pre-registration is required if not already enrolled.

### Monthly food giveaway Oct. 15

New Life Celebration Church will sponsor their monthly food giveaway at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 15, at the Generations building, 319 E. Lincoln Street in Luverne.

Drive to the double glass doors on the west side of the building and remain in your car. The food will be loaded for you. Walkers are to use the east door. Groceries will be bagged and ready for you to pick up. Call 507-283-4366 with questions.

### Donate to 'One Warm Coat' by Oct. 31

Rock County's "One Warm Coat Project" will accept new or clean and gently used coats and winter apparel from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at ATLAS for Life, 201 E. Main Street in Luverne through Oct. 31. Donations may also be brought to the Luverne Elementary School during the month of October.

Distribution dates will be from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at ATLAS for Life. Contact Destiny Ripka at 507-220-0030.

### Community Education

(To register, contact Cindy Arends at Community Education: Phone - 507-283-4724; Fax - 507-283-2413; email - [C.Arends@isd2184.net](mailto:C.Arends@isd2184.net). Website: [http://www.isd2184.net/Community\\_Ed/index.html](http://www.isd2184.net/Community_Ed/index.html))

**Defensive Driving** beginning class is Nov. 5 and 12 (4 hours each evening.) Refresher classes will be offered Oct. 22 or Dec. 3. The program allows adults 55 years of age or older to save on insurance premiums. After the Beginning 8-hour class, every three years drivers take a 4-hour refresher class.

## Sanford Luverne employees recognized with awards

Seven others among nominees from local clinic

Five Sanford Luverne Medical Center employees were recognized by Sanford Health's south region of hospitals and clinics.

Casey Westphal, Jane Beers, Hailey Gaunt, Mary O'Toole-Hemme and Lila Dewitt were honored with four awards, with seven other nurses receiving nominations.

Westphal, a registered nurse and health coach, received the Structural Empowerment Award, which recognizes "professional engagement, development and commitment to community involvement."

Westphal served as a role model involved in shared governance and decision-making structures and processes. She chaired the Enterprise Ambulatory Council when it was established in 2018 and was chairman through 2019, now serving as past chair.

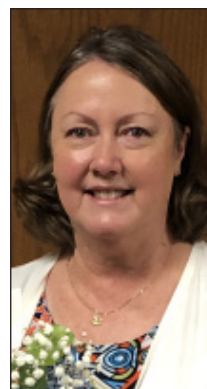
Westphal has also taken



Westphal



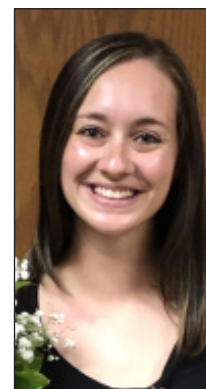
Beers



O'Toole-Hemme



DeWitt



Gaunt

the lead role in working with telehealth in Luverne and providing telehealth-nursing support for the psychologist.

Beers, a certified medical assistant, was honored with the Star Performance Award for helping nursing staff maintain safe, reliable and person-centered care.

According to her peers, Beers demonstrates significant partnership and environmental improvement for staff nurses and patients. They said she is known for her attention to detail and accuracy and relationship building, particu-

larly in her time in the cardiac rehab program."

Gaunt and O'Toole-Hemme shared the Florence Nightingale award.

Both are registered nurses recognized for practicing both the art and science of nursing. Through strength of character, commitment and competence, their peers recognized the nurses for their contribution to the evolution of the nursing practice.

O'Toole-Hemme "shows compassion, a gentle touch, soft-spoken words and a genuine caring," her peers wrote. "She has a calming effect on hospital patients at Sanford Luverne and is compassionate and competent in what she does."

O'Toole-Hemme retired just as she was nominated for the award.

"Gaunt is patient and calm with patients and is known for her professionalism, knowledge and for her caring and gentle demeanor," her peers wrote. "She is known for being graceful under pressure and for being a good listener."

Dewitt, a registered nurse who works with outpatient chemotherapy patients, was given the Distinguished Wisdom Keeper honor.

She is respected by her peers for her wisdom and experience and has worked several years as a clinical instructor for a local nursing program.

They said patients frequently ask for Dewitt by name and that she is focused and detail driven, keeping note-cards for her and other nurses to quickly reference.

Other nominees from Sanford Luverne included Michelle Burkett, Kayla Peterson and Anne Vaske for the Florence Nightingale award, Sue Sandbulte, Friend of Nursing, Janet Friedrichsen and Vicki Nelson, Star Performance, and Kristi Scholten for the Transformational Leadership.

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## COVID testing/from page 1

der to be tested. The state recognizes that asymptomatic people can also spread COVID. So, we encourage everyone to get tested, and that's how we in turn keep our businesses, our schools and our economies open."

Luverne's testing started Tuesday and continues through Thursday, Oct. 15, from noon to 6 p.m. at Grand Prairie Events.

To make an appointment, go to <https://www.primary-bio.com/r/luverne>.

### Preregistration is key

When participants preregister, it saves them time and allows for a safer, smoother process at the test site. Also, it allows for proper spacing of appointments.

"That way we're getting only 20 people showing up every 15 minutes," he said.

As of noon Tuesday, nearly 100 had been tested and nearly 150 of the available 600 appointments that day had been reserved. Schloesser said the goal for the three-day period is to test 1,800 people.

People can still arrive without preregistration, but it will mean they'll have the extra step on site, or possibly have to come back the next day.

The process takes less than 10 minutes from start to finish.

Participants are spaced apart as they enter, they're seated near a testing station, and nurses come to them to administer the tests.

"The test itself takes about 20 seconds, 7 to 10 seconds for each nostril," he said. "We're using the mid-grade swabs, so they don't go way far back; they stay in your nose."

He added that the process is entirely "no-touch" to avoid the spread of germs.

"We designed the site with the thought that everyone has Covid, so whether you have symptoms or not, our goal is to keep everyone safe and healthy."

Tests will be processed either by Mayo Clinic Laboratories or the University of Minnesota.

Results come back in 48 to 72 hours.

### Contact information allows for contact tracing

Participants provide their names and contact information for test results to be communicated to them and for contact tracing for positive results.

"Your test results will be communicated by phone or email if you're negative," Schloesser said.

"If you're positive, you'll be contacted by a nurse with the health department providing you instructions, checking on you, and letting you know what type of resources are available to you in the community while you isolate."

Anyone can travel to

Luverne or any of the communities hosting free test sites.

When the state started community testing, it was running two test sites per week.

Since then, the National Guard has been providing logistical support to deliver supplies and staff to communities.

"By bringing on the National Guard to support us, we are able to do six test sites throughout the state per week," he said about what the state calls "surge testing."

"Now the state has decided to extend the surge, so we'll have testing through weeks five through eight."

The state contracts for nursing staff through Ware Evans, which means community professionals and volunteers are not burdened with extra work.

Schloesser said local health professionals and emergency personnel are invited to be part of the process in order to observe.

"We are constantly sharing our best practices with communities, so that down the road, if there were to be vaccination clinics, we'll have all the logistics in place," he said.

### More than numbers

The free testing clinic may increase local Covid case numbers, but ultimately it will help control the spread.

"The numeric threshold was for the beginning of the school year," Schloesser said.

"Now, what really matters is case investigation and contact tracing and identifying the source of the spread."

For example, the current outbreak in the Tuff Memorial nursing home will affect Rock County's case numbers, but districts consider the effect of those cases on students before changing learning methods.

"Contact investigation drives discussion for schools," Schloesser said.



An aerial photograph shows the extent of damage caused by the Oct. 6 fire between the acreages of Albert Van Belle (right) and Todd Van Belle. Twenty-one acres of standing corn were destroyed in the blaze.

## Baler sparks fire that consumes 21 acres; family, friends help stop flames

By Lori Sorenson

The Albert Van Belle family farm lost 21 acres of standing corn to a field fire Tuesday, Oct. 6, after a spark from a cornstalk baler caught a gust of wind.

Allyson Van Belle said the field caught fire in an instant, and her husband, Nick Van Belle, and his family found themselves disking under corn that was about to be harvested.

"It was a pretty sickening feeling for them to do that," Van Belle said.

In addition to their own disk, she said five other neighbors moved into the field with their tractors and disks to contain the spread of the fire.

The field, located two miles north of Beaver Creek and a half mile west, is between two Van Belle acreages - Albert Van Belle's, which has a hog confinement setup, and Todd Van Belle's on the other side.

They said they're grateful no one was injured and that their homes and property were spared.

The Van Belle field fire was one

of several reported in the past week when dry conditions, warm temperatures and gusty winds combined to create fire hazards.

The DNR had issued a red flag warning for Rock County and southwest Minnesota, and a burning ban remains in effect for the area.

A Sunday night shower - about one-tenth of an inch - offered a slight reprieve from the fire danger. Many Rock County farmers are wrapping up their 2020 harvest earlier than usual, due to the drought.

## Midwest Fire Equipment and Repair announces new sales rep

Midwest Fire Equipment & Repair Company, Luverne, hired new sales representative Newton Johnson, Rapid City, South Dakota.

Johnson worked as an onsite-equipment specialist before joining Midwest Fire.

He'll start on the production floor, as do all Midwest Fire personnel, to gain a foundational knowledge of the company.

Midwest Fire CEO Sarah Atchison said the new sales hire is part of the company's plan for growth.

"We want to continue our record annual sales growth by investing back into the company and our team," she said.

"By doing this we will continue to provide the best customer service and sales experience in the

industry."

Johnson is a 2019 graduate of South Dakota State University and will soon marry his fiancée Claire, who is from Rock Rapids, Iowa.

They plan to make their home in the Luverne area.

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- Debris such as branches, shrub prunings, rocks, metal, lawn clippings will not be picked up.
- Do not place leaf piles close to parked cars.
- Keep the street grates free of leaves.
- Pile leaves so they do not block bike or traffic lanes.
- Do not put leaves in plastic bags.

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## 'And I'm all right with that' Have an opinion. Don't have an opinion.

Well, I took the bait. It happens about once every two weeks or so.



### IN OTHER WORDS

By Jason Berghorst, reporter

I replied to a semi-political comment on Facebook. I should know better. In my defense, the original post was about the no-barrier COVID testing available this week in Luverne. It wasn't technically political. I would have passed it by, but the author of the post mentioned online learning. As a teacher experiencing hybrid learning this fall, I just couldn't resist replying. My goal was to point out that learning really can and does happen online and to discourage people from avoiding being tested because it could change current learning models. As often happens, my comment turned into a string of comments from a variety of people with different views on education, pandemic restrictions, science, politics, and probably more. Thankfully, all of the comments remained respectful and we all seemed to agree to disagree. And I'm all right with that. It reminded me just how effective social media is at what it does. The whole goal of social media sites is to draw us in, keep us there, and bring us back next time. And nothing does that better for some people than politics. Especially a month before the election. Because I understand how Facebook uses algorithms to draw me in, and I know online comments never change anyone's mind, I'm usually able to avoid that temptation to join in. But not always.

And I guess I'm all right with that. I appreciate a good political debate every now and then, and it sure is fun sometimes to post some facts that hopefully make my point. When I do post, I try to remember to be respectful, factual and concise. That last one is the hardest for me. I also remember that most people on my list of Facebook friends seldom, or never, post political content. I'm all right with that. In fact, my rough estimate is that about 80 percent of the people I see on Facebook never share or comment on political posts at all. Sure, I see a lot of politics on my social media pages, but the vast majority of them are from the same people. And I'm all right with that, too. So, even though I see a lot of political content, I actually have no idea what the political beliefs of most of my social media contacts are. I'm definitely all right with that. I guess I'm all right with those who like to talk politics and those who don't. Those who support one party, the other party or no party. Those who can't wait for Election Day and those who can't wait for Election Day to be over. As long as they're as respectful as the people in my latest conversation were, I'm all right with them all. But I am going to return to the social media sidelines and stay there as much as I can. My opinions will stay mostly offline. And I'm all right with that.

## Want to vote in the 2020 election but aren't sure how? Explore the SOS website

### STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

Minnesota and Rock County in particular have long been national leaders in voter turnout, election reform and ballot integrity. One reason for that is the Minnesota Secretary of State's office, and local elections officials have cultivated voting systems that are both secure and user-friendly.

The Secretary of State website, [sos.state.mn.us](https://sos.state.mn.us), is an easy to read, easy to navigate place for voters to find all kinds of information to help them participate in the election process. For example:

#### Who can vote in Minnesota?

According to the Minnesota Secretary of State's Office, in order to be eligible to vote in Minnesota, you must be: a U.S. citizen, at least 18 years old on Election Day, a resident of the state of Minnesota for at least 20 days, and not currently serving a felony sentence (including probation, parole or supervised release)

#### How to register to vote in Minnesota

Minnesota residents can register in advance until 20 days before the election. Registration is available online on the Minnesota Secretary of State's website. Voter registration can also be completed using a paper form, like from a voter registration drive, county elections office, or printed from the Secretary of State's website and postmarked by 20 days before the election.

Registration is also available on Election Day at the polls by bringing in an approved document that proves your current address or having another registered voter in your precinct vouch for you.

You can check your registration status online at the Secretary of State's website.

#### What's on your ballot?

One of the best ways to take the guess work out of voting is to view a sample ballot to explore candidates. Sample ballots can be found by searching your address on the My Ballot page of the Minnesota Secretary of State's website.

#### Where and when to vote on Election Day

The state has a Poll Finder available online, where you can enter your address to find your polling location. Most polls open starting at 7 a.m. on Election Day, and close at 8 p.m.; however, if you're already in line by 8 p.m., you will be allowed to vote.

#### Do I need to bring an I.D. to vote?

Identification or proof of address is only needed if you need

to register to vote at the polls. If your voter registration is current, your name will be on the voter list at your polling location and the state of Minnesota does not require you to show an ID to vote.

#### How to fill out a ballot

Whether it's in-person or absentee, in most cases in Minnesota, voters will use a pen with blue or black ink to completely fill in an oval next to a candidate's name.

Be sure to read the headings in each section, as some city or school board races are filling multiple seats and will allow voters to cast a vote for more than one candidate.

In its tips for new voters, Minnesota Secretary of State's office also notes that voters don't have to fill out every race. Even if you leave some races blank, the rest of your ballot still counts.

#### Ask the experts

While the Secretary of State website offers contact information for people to ask questions, the best way for our Rock County voters to get answers is to call our county elections headquarters at 507-283-5060.



## Preuss: 'America is not a racist country'

### To the Editor:

I enjoyed reading the opinion piece by Mr. Radisewitz. I laud him for his anti-race stance in the '80s and '90s.

In the past 28 years since his retirement from coaching, changes have occurred. We now have black police officers, chiefs, city council members, governors, and we elected a black president. Today we have a black woman running as a vice-presidential candidate. The Minnesota Twins, as an example, have players from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Japan and Germany.

I think this is proof that Ameri-

### VOICE OF OUR READERS

ca is not a racist country. More proof, the people who helped the individuals Radisewitz wrote about were not racists. Black Lives Matter drew attention to police brutality. Some of them were black. Black homicides

by gunfire in our major cities is not protested.

My question: Is Black Lives Matter a protest for all blacks and all forms of police brutality? My three siblings and I were raised by a single mother. We lived for four years in a housing project. I, you and the people in his article overcame obstacles and succeeded because we live in America, a country that if you want it and are willing to work for it, you can have it.

I am disappointed that the media, politicians and civic leaders ridicule capitalism and our exceptionalism to perpetuate their agenda.

Bill Preuss  
Luverne

## Sasker: 'Suggest you read the dictionary'

### To the Editor:

Franklin Graham suggested we read our Bible, then go vote. I grew up without ever seeing a Bible. Thankfully I married into a

family some 50 years ago and they introduced me to the Book.

I would suggest you read the dictionary. Look up socialism and then communism, and then go

vote.

Thank you for reading this.

Marilyn Sasker  
Luverne

## Carrolls: 'Let's help our kids'

### To the Editor:

My wife and I live on the north end of Donaldson, very close to the school. We have a good view of students coming and going to and from school.

On occasions the kids we know in our neighborhood will stop and visit with us. The first question I ask them is if they are glad to be back in school, and without a doubt they are really happy to be in school.

There is a sixth-grader across the street from us, and I ask him how he likes the hybrid system in which he goes to school five days in a two-week period and the other days he uses his computer for his school work. He said it's OK, but he would rather be in school on a full-time basis.

I understand the school has a very good procedure for dealing with the threat of the virus and that the students are doing very well

with these requirements. This is a good indication they are glad to be in school. They certainly don't want to go back to how they finished out the last school year.

The students really need the community's help in keeping our schools open and in getting all our students back on a full-time basis.

We really need to follow the guidelines given to us by experts to help mitigate the spread of the virus which certainly is in our community. This might mean that you may need to give up some of your personal liberties until this is under control.

Our kids really need us, as a community, to step up and follow the guidelines. I hope we are not selfish and choose to cheat our kids out of the most valuable experience of their young lives.

THINK ABOUT IT!

Laurin and Rose Carroll  
Luverne

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

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

# Managing COVID in our schools/continued from page 1

closed. In the first four weeks of school, 135 staff or students were not in school due to a COVID-related absence.

The low numbers are attributed to following state health guidelines, Paquette said.

"The students have been truly amazing in following the guidelines of wearing their masks, working on the social distancing piece and they are truly and honestly excited to be here," Paquette said.

"The staff has been great too about following the guidelines, working with their students through these issues and just settling into a good routine."

Luverne implemented state protocols "to a 'I,'" Superintendent Craig Oftedahl told board members at the Sept. 24 meeting.

Paquette has helped implement those protocols.

"Teachers and students are able to use the space that we do have to properly social distance in classrooms," he said.

"Having the students and staff masked while in the building has been huge and working normal hand hygiene into the daily routine as well has been very good."

Elementary principal Stacy Gillette told board members that modified hallway transitions have reduced student congestion between class periods. Hand sanitizer is available in every classroom, and additional cleaning occurs throughout the day. This includes wiping tables after lunch sessions, which have doubled.

"We now have six lunch periods and that gets to be a lot," Gillette said.

### 'Decision tree' provides attendance guidelines

The Minnesota Department of Health developed a "decision tree" flow chart, which outlines courses of action based on minor and major symptoms of COVID-19.

The chart also suggests potential treatment and/or

## Luverne Public Schools Contact Tracing Summary

Compiled through Oct. 8, 2020

	Active	Closed	Totals
Student or Staff Tested Positive for COVID-19	1	7	8
Student or Staff Quarantined for Close Contact with Lab Confirmed Case	6	34	40
Student or Staff With Symptoms that Tested Negative	0	34	34
Student or Staff That Quarantined for Close Contact with Negative Case	0	43	43
Student or Staff Awaiting COVID-19 Test Results	2	0	2
Student or Staff Quarantined for Close Contact Awaiting Test Results	8	0	8
<b>Total Number of Individual COVID Related Absences</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>135</b>

Graphic information courtesy Luverne Public Schools

Since the 2020-21 school year began, Luverne School District has recorded 135 COVID-19 related absences. In the week leading up to the Oct. 8 reporting period, active cases dropped to 17. Schools track COVID-related absences on a daily basis.

## Parents receive virus resources; screen at home

By Mavis Fodness

Stay at home when you're not feeling well. That's the advice Luverne school nurse Phil Paquette has stressed since the 2020-21 school year started a month ago.

"This is one of the greatest ways to stop the spread of not only COVID-19 but other illnesses as well," he said.

"Parents have been doing a great job of system screening at home."

The Minnesota Department of Health developed a series of guidelines for parents, which Paquette shared last month with each family within the school district.

The guidelines include screening questions parents can ask their children and a course of action if any of the symptoms are present.

Many of the guidelines have community application also.

"We are still learning about how different age groups are affected by it and there is no immunization or vaccination to protect us against it," Paquette said.

The guidelines available online are as follows:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/homescreen.pdf>

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/attendance.pdf>

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/mentalhealth/support.html>

quarantine for students and other family members in the household.

"One of the biggest things about COVID-19 is that it is so new. We don't have an active vaccination or immunization against it and we don't know the long-term effects of it. We're learning new things about it all the time," Paquette said.

"Where with some seasonal illnesses, take the flu for example, things like that have been around for decades, centuries in some

instances ... we know a lot more about them and their long-term effects. Whereas with COVID, we are still learning what the effects are of it, what the infectiousness of it is, how quickly it spreads through the population."

Paquette attends weekly Thursday meetings with a local incident response team of county officials, health professionals, teachers, administrators and parents.

The team shares information about the latest COVID-19 numbers and

addresses school and community questions within the group.

"Coming into the school year, you feel at times like you're on your own and trying to work through these problems," Paquette said.

"So between our local health care providers and regional health team in the Department of Health, we've had a lot of great resources out there to make you feel you're not alone in this — you're not the only school district dealing with it."

Oftedahl said the weekly dialogue focuses on "what makes sense" to keep students, staff and school safe.

Because of the virus's unpredictability both the elementary and middle-high school are preparing for the potential change in learning models.

### Distance learning being prepared if necessary

If deemed necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the district will suspend all in-person learning and move to distancing learning where students attend classes electronically from home.

Chrome Books will be distributed to students in second- through fifth grade in anticipation for distance learning.

"We'll try to get kids connected to technology in case we have to change learning models," Gillette said.

High School Principal Ryan Johnson said secondary teachers encourage students to bring their own electronic devices to school and, for students who do not have a device, the district checked out 174 Chrome Books to students.

Currently about 10 middle-high school teachers are working with a synchronous model of instruction, where at-home and in-person students participate at the same time with live-streamed lectures.

"This year will be the kickoff to offering that," Johnson said.

Live interaction appears to help keep students engaged in learning from home and moving forward with their studies.

"Kids at home, for the most part, are checking in instead of checking out," Johnson said.

In March, when the coronavirus pandemic was declared, school districts were mandated over a two-week period to come up with a distance-learning plan. The last two months of the 2019-20 school year were completed using the newly developed distance learning format.

Due to the abrupt change in learning methods from in-person to distance learn-

ing, some students didn't or couldn't check in daily with teachers.

This year the attendance process was tightened as a result of the middle and high school students rotating through the hybrid-learning days.

"Students are expected to check in during their scheduled period live stream, log into Google Classroom, (and) work on learning tasks," Johnson also told board members.

Middle School Principal Jason Phelps said middle school students that are off-campus are expected to be online at 1:45 p.m. for a grade-level meeting with teachers.

He said the majority of teachers are using an "A-B model" for instruction where they teach in-person lessons to the "A" or "red group" and then repeat the same lesson the next day for the "B" or "white group."

"But we have some — primarily math teachers — that have started real-time instruction with off-campus students," Phelps said.

The district is currently working on a hybrid learning website for parents as a reference for daily tasks students should complete.

### Learning models continue for now

For now, Luverne will continue in-person learning at the elementary school and hybrid method at the middle-high school.

Paquette will continue the daily contact tracing of COVID-19-related absences among staff and students.

"Even if we feel great about what we know now, it can quickly change and the numbers and cases can go up and down quite quickly," he said.

"So we always need to be vigilant about that, operate between the guidelines and take the precautions necessary — especially not only here at school but in the community so that we can keep numbers down and stay in-person at school."

## ON THE RECORD

### Dispatch report

Oct. 2

•Complainant on E. Main Street and N. McKenzie Street reported a vehicle following her.

•Complainant on W. Main Street reported plates were switched.

•Complainant on N. Freeman Avenue reported an extortion scam.

•Complainant on E. Veterans Drive reported smelling pot.

•Complainant on S. West Park Street reported neighbor is lighting fire crackers.

•Report of road damage on 221st Street, Hardwick.

•Suspicious activity was reported on West Street, Kanaranzi.

Oct. 3

•Complainant on Eugene Street, Kanaranzi, reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant reported break-in at location.

•Complainant in Garretson requested assistance from Rock County sheriff's office.

Oct. 4

•Complainant on E. Minnesota Avenue, Steen, requested deputy for property exchange.

•Complainant reported harassment.

•Complainant in city park reported vandalism.

•Complainant on E. State Street, Magnolia, reported a dryer fire.

Oct. 5

•Complainant on W. Crawford Street reported theft of political sign.

•Complainant reported he wanted to turn himself in on warrant.

•Complainant on E. Luverne Street reported theft.

•Complainant on County Road 9 and Central Avenue, Kenneth, reported road closure.

•Complainant on W. Lincoln Street reported suspicious activity.

Oct. 6

•Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 10, Luverne, reported debris in roadway.

•Complainant on 241st

Street, Edgerton, reported fire in grain bin.

•Complainant on 111th Street, Beaver Creek, reported fire in cornfield.

•Complainant on County Road 4 and County Road 9, Luverne, reported pickup on fire in grass.

•Complainant on S. 2nd Street, Beaver Creek, reported repossession.

•Complainant on S. Summit Avenue, Hills, reported a suspicious package.

•Complainant on W. Mead Court reported trespassing.

Oct. 7

•Complainant on 180th Avenue, Edgerton, reported slander via social media.

•Complainant requested hotel voucher.

•Complainant on County Road 4 and westbound on County Road 3, Magnolia, reported vehicle is unsafe for driving.

•Complainant on E. Warren Street reported an altercation in the parking lot.

Oct. 8

•Complainant on E. First Street, Hardwick, reported a scheduled utility shut-off.

•Complainant on Interstate 90, mile marker 19-20, Luverne, reported a ditch fire.

•Report of vehicle on fire at location on 241st Street, Jasper.

•Suspicious activity reported at location on E. Main Street.

•Parking issue was reported on W. Interstate Drive.

•Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 1, Beaver Creek, reported a state worker throwing debris over a fence.

In addition, officers responded to 1 deer accident, 8 escorts, 19 ambulance runs, 5 paper services, 2 animal complaints, 2 fingerprint requests, 3 burn permits, 1 vehicle impound, 1 driver's license check, 1 alarm, 6 purchase and carry permits, 1 stalled vehicle, 4 traffic stops, 9 abandoned 911 calls, 1 test, 3 welfare checks, 2 follow-ups and 6 OFPs.

### Bill Weber has over 8 years –

- Brought Lewis & Clark Rural Water to District 22
- Fought to restore state support for career/vocational training in high school
- Supported reinsurance and health insurance reform
- Became chair of the Agriculture, Rural Development & Housing Policy Committee
- Defended agriculture, business and cities against excessive policies of MPCA



**RE-ELECT BILL WEBER TO MINNESOTA SENATE**

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## MENU

**Monday, Oct. 19:** Chicken and noodles, fresh fruit, carrots, bread, ice cream.

**Tuesday, Oct. 20:** Turkey burger, cubed potatoes, green peas, bun, raspberry dream cake.

**Wednesday, Oct. 21:** Cubed beef, mashed potatoes, beets, dinner roll, cinnamon apples.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Compeer Financial Pat Barnett.

**Thursday, Oct. 22:** Honey mustard chicken, vegetables, mandarin oranges, bread, chocolate peanut butter bar.

**Friday, Oct. 23:** Baked pork chop, mashed potatoes with gravy, mixed vegetables, apricots, bread.

## COLLEGE NEWS

### Beers graduates from St. Olaf

Ryleigh Beers graduated with the Class of 2020 at St. Olaf College in Northfield with majors in history and art history.

Beers, a 2016 graduate of Luverne High School, is the daughter of Brad and Jane Beers, Luverne.



Hills-Beaver Creek High School 2020 Homecoming coronation will take place Monday, Oct. 19, at 2:30 p.m. on the school football field. Last week eight seniors were selected as the 2020 Homecoming Royalty along with the coronation mistress and master of ceremonies. Pictured are (front, from left) Lauren Tatge, Annie Bos, Allison LaRock, Abby Knobloch, mistress of ceremonies Taryn Rauk, (back) Zander Wysong, Chase Bosch, Tory Knobloch, master of ceremonies Gavin Wysong, and Calvin Erickson.

Mavis Fodness photo/1015 HBC Homecoming Royalty

## Patriot Homecoming slated for next week

By Mavis Fodness

Hills-Beaver Creek High School is preparing for the upcoming 2020 Homecoming celebration Oct. 19-23.

Activities will kick off Monday, Oct. 23, with a 2 p.m. coronation of this year's Homecoming king and queen. The event will

take place at the school's football field.

Members of the royalty were announced last week.

Queen candidates are Annie Bos, Allie LaRock, Abby Knobloch and Lauren Tatge.

King candidates are Chase Bosch, Tory Knobloch, Calvin Erickson and

Zander Wysong.

Master and mistress of ceremonies for Monday's coronation are Gavin Wysong and Taryn Rauk respectively.

Class attendants for the coronation were announced Monday.

Attendants are ninth-graders Layla Deelstra and

Cooper Gehrke; sophomores Alex Harris and Sophia Vansurksum; and juniors Conner Vande Voort and Mackenzie Voss.

The H-BC High School Student Council has planned daily dress-up days and other activities to celebrate the week.

Homecoming wraps

up Friday with the home football game against Westbrook-Walnut Grove. The game begins at 7 p.m.

Many of the homecoming events will be livestreamed or available for viewing on Alliance cable channel or at NFHS.com website.

## REMEMBER WHEN

### 10 years ago (2010)

The city of Luverne is proposing a \$75 rebate for city residents who purchase low-volume toilets to replace old ones that use more water.

City Finance Director Barb Berghorst presented information to Luverne City Council members at a recent meeting.

"We are very interested in water conservation, as well as electrical conservation," she said.

A low-volume toilet, in addition to other water conservation appliances (like dishwashers and washing machines) plays a major role in reducing household water use — roughly 6,000 gallons per year. ...

Mayor Andy Steensma asked if the toilet replacement program will end up saving money for the city. Berghorst said that's possible.

"It does cut down on sewer and water rates," she said, but added that the toilet rebate program is driven more by the effort to simply conserve water.

### 25 years ago (1995)

About 30 bidders showed up for the annual Blue Mounds State Park bison auction Wednesday afternoon.

Sale animals included nine 5-month-old calves, two 18-month-old bulls, two 30-month-old bulls, three mature cows, two 18-month-old heifers and two 30-month-old heifers.

All the bison were tested for disease and came with health certificates.

Though the park did not take in as much as it did last year in total sales, park officials are pleased with the \$35,150 made on the animals. "It was a real good auction," said Merlin Johnson.

The top female sold for \$3,300, about \$700 less than last year's top seller.

The annual auction serves the purpose of culling the herd so it doesn't outgrow prairie resources.

Proceeds from the bison auction go toward the herd and toward the Prairie Resource Management Program.

### 50 years ago (1970)

Rock County's first winter storm came earlier than usual this year, dumping inches of heavy, wet snow on Friday.

Except in places where it had drifted into larger piles, most of it was gone by Sunday, but the unusually heavy snow cover so early in the season was enough to cause a variety of problems.

Local garages and service stations with two-truck service had a busy day pulling cars out of ditches. It was easy to slide off the road, many drivers found. One such incident resulted in an injury. Orvil Viesman, Adrian, was treated for minor injuries after his pickup truck skidded and overturned near the Magnolia interchange on I-90, it was reported.

Three vehicles piled up on the Highway 75-Interstate 90 turnoff south of Luverne shortly before noon on Friday.

### 75 years ago (1945)

Rock county sportsmen have been making preparations this week to go afield in numbers Saturday, October 20, when the annual pheasant season opens in Minnesota.

Officially, the season will begin at noon, and will continue for 23 half days. Shooting this year is permitted only from noon until sunset each evening.

While a shortage of shells will handicap many of the hunters during the entire season that has been allotted by the state conservation department, promise has been made by the Department of Commerce that shells will be available in quantities soon, but local dealers "pooh-pooh" the announcement with a "we're from Missouri, you'll have to show us" attitude.

The legal bag of birds will be three cocks, while the limit in possession will be six. The law allows all hunters to take 18 birds during the open season.

### 100 years ago (1920)

The people of Beaver Creek village will next Tuesday vote on the question of issuing bonds for \$13,000 with which to provide that municipality with modern electric light facilities.

For several years Beaver Creek was supplied with electric current from a privately owned plant, and more recently the village has operated its own plant, but this arrangement is considered inadequate and unsatisfactory by many.



### Corn drive yields more than \$6,000

A corn drive conducted annually by the Hills-Beaver Creek High School FFA Chapter took place Oct. 9. FFA members contacted local grain producers for a donation of corn, with members transporting and selling the grain at the New Vision Elevator in Hills. Members also accepted monetary donations and all funds were given to the Hills-based Game Plan 4 Hope organization. The FFA'ers raised just over \$6,000, according to first-year FFA adviser Cloey Anderson. "The H-BC FFA Chapter has once again completed another successful corn drive and would like to extend a huge thank you to our community for supporting this ongoing tradition," she said. "It is through donations like yours that we are able to give back."

**Above:** H-BC FFA members completed their annual corn drive Oct. 9. Pictured are (front, left) Layla Deelstra, Carter Vande Voort, Cooper Gehrke, Sylvia Fick, (middle) Damion Meinerts, Brynn Rauk, (back) Joshua Wiersema, Riley Tatge, Cody Moser, Logan Susie, Brayden Metzger, Lanae Elbers, Olivia Bork and Taylor Huisman.



Submitted photos

## 1878: Beaver Creek school built in town

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

Rock County Village (continued from 10-8-20 edition of the Star Herald.)

### Beaver Creek — School

When Beaver Creek was founded late in the year 1877, it was in the territory of school district No. 15, the school house of which was located one-half mile west of town. In 1878 the old building was sold to another district and a one-room building was erected in the village. The school was opened in September, 1878, with nearly fifty pupils in attendance and with Miss Jennie Grout as teacher. Other early teachers of the school were A. H. Grout, O. E. Ferguson, W. H. Hummell, Robert Ord and Laura Ord. An addition to the school house was made a few years after its erection, making a two-room building. This pioneer structure served the district until the present school house was erected, twenty-seven years later.

Late in 1904, by a vote of 64 to 10, the electors decided to erect a two-story, four-room brick building the following year. The contract for its erection was let in July, 1905, to Otto Miller on a bid



## BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann,  
president Rock County  
Historical Society

of \$6500, and the building was dedicated November 11 of the same year. The total cost of the building, heating plant, and furnishings was about \$10,000. A two year high school course was established in 1909. There are now four departments, the enrollment, according to the annual report in June, 1910, being as follows: High school, 27; grammar department, 13; intermediate department, 29; primary department, 40; total enrollment, 109.

### Churches

The church history of

Bits/continued on page 7

## OBITUARIES

### Judith Binford

Judith A. Binford, 77, Hills and Luverne, died peacefully on Monday, Oct. 5, 2020, at the Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



A memorial service was at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14, at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Judith Bruggeman was born on June 30, 1943, to Loren and Corinne (Krebsbach) Bruggeman in Mahanomen, where she spent her childhood. She attended school through the 11<sup>th</sup> grade.

Judith was married at a young age to Richard Toczek. The couple moved to Englewood, Colorado, where their children Duane and Kimberly were born. They returned to Moorhead where their daughter Rebecca joined the family. The couple divorced after 24 years of marriage.

Judy married Jerry Binford at Bethany Lutheran Church in Luverne. The couple made their home near Kenneth. Judy began working at Fey Industries in Edgerton and later worked at H.S.I. in Luverne as a direct support professional for group homes in the area. In 1999 the couple moved to Luverne. In 2009 Jerry entered the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills, and Judy moved to the Blue Mound Tower. In 2019 Judy moved to Tuff Village, and later to the Tuff Memorial Home.

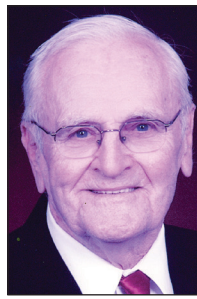
Judy was a current member of the American Reformed Church in Luverne and a former member of Grace Lutheran Church. She enjoyed card making, bird watching, crafting and playing Rummikub. In her younger years, she enjoyed canning and baking.

Judy is survived by her children, Duane "Zak" Toczek (special friend Sue Thielen) of Littleton, Colorado, Kim Shiek of Fargo, North Dakota, and Rebecca (Dion) Miller of Hull, Iowa; two grandchildren, Haley Shiek and Isaac Miller; siblings Peggy Noll of Mahanomen, Nancy Reller of Mahanomen, Pat (Vanessa) Bruggeman of Alexandria, and Jane (Ron) Kemper of Waubon; and many nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerry, her parents, and brothers-in-law Dick Noll and Joe Reller. Arrangements were provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, www.hartquistfuneral.com. (1015 F)

### Henry Van Wyhe

Henry Van Wyhe, 96, Hills, formerly of Steen, died Wednesday, Oct. 7, 2020, at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills.



A funeral service was Monday, Oct. 12, at the Reformed Church of Steen. Burial followed at Eastside Cemetery.

Henry Van Wyhe was born on June 22, 1924, to Henry Sr. and Christina (Berguis) Van Wyhe on the family farm near Lester, Iowa. He attended country school and helped his family on the farm.

On May 28, 1946, Henry enlisted into the U.S. Army. Before being deployed, he married Lucy Van Wattering on her parents' farm near Steen. Henry served his country in Korea and was honorably discharged on May 13, 1947. He and Lucy moved to a farm north of Lester where they raised their children and farmed and milked cows until 1991, when they retired. They moved to a home in Hills, where Henry lived until entering the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills in July of 2019.

Henry was a member of Steen Reformed Church. He enjoyed fishing and spent most of his later years wood working. He especially enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren.

Henry is survived by his wife, Lucy Van Wyhe, of Hills; three children, Lee (Connie) Van Wyhe of Springfield, Missouri, Les (Leigh) Van Wyhe of Muskegon, Michigan, and Lori (Todd) Van Conant of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; 10 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two brothers-in-law, Harold (Joyce) Van Wattering of Hospers, Iowa, and Dick (Jeanette) Van Wattering of Enumclaw, Washington; and many nieces, nephews and other extended family.

He was preceded in death by his parents; seven brothers, James, Cornie, Bill, Garrett, Al, John and Chris Van Wyhe; an infant sister; and an infant brother.

Arrangements were provided by Jurens Funeral Home of Hills, jurensfuneralhome.com. (1015 F)

### Aleida Meyerhoff

Aleida Marie Meyerhoff, 80, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, died Thursday, Oct. 8, 2020, after a brief stay in Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls.



A funeral service was Tuesday, Oct. 13, at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Sioux Falls. Burial followed at Evergreen Cemetery in George, Iowa.

Aleida Dreesen was born in Pipestone County on Jan. 18, 1940, to Ralph and Aalke (Groen) Dreesen. She grew up on a farm and graduated from Luverne High School in 1958.

Aleida married Harry Meyerhoff on Nov. 28, 1961. They lived in George, Iowa, while Harry worked with DGR.

In 1987 they moved to Sioux Falls when DGR opened a facility there. Aleida was employed as a CNA in various departments of the Sioux Valley Health System. She was known for her care for others. Her husband, Harry, died in 2000. Aleida continued to serve and was a part of many ladies' groups, including the 12-pack, the 6-pack, Active Generation friends and Bible Study ladies.

Aleida enjoyed playing cards and board games, baking cookies, especially cut-outs with family and friends, and keeping in touch with others on the phone. She was especially known for her kindness.

Aleida is survived by her children, Brenda (Doug) Medalen, Sioux Falls, and Arla Schultz, Luverne; daughter-in-law Carol Meyerhoff, Sheldon, Iowa; eight grandchildren, Lee (Amanda) Medalen of Sioux Falls, Heather (Justin) Hanson of Sioux Falls, Aaron (Mya) Van Der Stoep of Parker, South Dakota, Adam (Shaelee) Van Der Stoep of Hamilton, Michigan, Amanda Schultz of Luverne, Katie (Pat) iBurger of Dakota Dunes, South Dakota, Christie (Seth) Lloyd of Merville, Iowa, and Karrie (Josh Rogers) Meyerhoff of Sioux City, Iowa; 17 great-grandchildren; a brother, Orvel (Karen) Dreesen of Ellsworth; and many other relatives and friends.

Arrangements were provided by Hartland Funeral Home of Sioux Falls, www.hartlandfunerals.com. (1015 F)

### Marlene Bottorff

Marlene J. Bottorff, 85, died Friday, Oct. 2, 2020, in Joplin, Missouri.



Marlene Krehbiel was born July 31, 1935, to Peter and Ida (Kaufman) Krehbiel in Newton, Kansas. She attended McPherson High School.

Marlene married Ivan Bottorff on April 7, 1956, in Moundridge, Kansas.

She was an active member of First Baptist Church in Luverne for many years prior to moving to Cameron, Missouri, and was a former employee of Farmers Alliance Mutual Insurance.

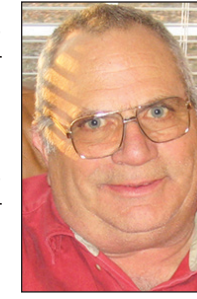
She is survived by her two sons, Kevin (Joyce) Bottorff and David (Diane) Bottorff; grandchildren Lindsey, AJ, Jared (Laci), Zachary and Samantha; great-grandchildren Bradley and August; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Ivan; a brother, Loren Krehbiel; and a sister, Venita Patchin.

Arrangements were provided by Turner Family Funeral Home in Maysville, Missouri. (1015 F)

### Dallas Marr

Dallas Charles Marr, 77, rural Magnolia, died peacefully on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2020, at the Sanford Luverne Hospice Cottage in Luverne.



A funeral service was Tuesday, Oct. 13, at the Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne. Burial was in the Adrian Cemetery in Adrian.

Dallas Charles Marr was born on April 25, 1943, to Donald and Eileen (Schei) Marr in Adrian. He was raised on the family farm northeast of Magnolia. After finishing his education, he farmed full time with his dad.

Dallas married Linda Grotjohn on Jan. 14, 1967, at Zion Lutheran Church in Adrian. The couple made their first home in an additional small dwelling on Dallas' parents' farm. In 1970 they moved to an acreage one mile west of his parents' home. In 1977 they moved back to the farm place where Dallas grew up. He continued to farm with his dad for several more

years. He often could be found mowing his yard, the ditches and even the neighbors' ditches.

In his later years, Dallas enjoyed going to town for coffee with his friends and listening to polka music while driving around the country to check on the crops. He often joked around and was known to be blunt and to the point.

Dallas is survived by his wife, Linda; two daughters, Janeen (Colin) Fettig of Brooklyn Park and Lisa (Mark) Marr-Lyon of Los Alamos, New Mexico; four grandchildren, Nicholas Fettig, Hannah Fettig, Leah Marr-Lyon and Josie Marr-Lyon; and many cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Arrangements were provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, www.hartquistfuneral.com. (1015 F)

### Dale Maranell

Dale L. Maranell, 71, Luverne, died Saturday Oct. 10, 2020, at his home.



A time of fellowship will be from 4-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, at the Dingmann Funeral Home in Luverne. Burial of cremains, with full military honors provided by the Luverne American Legion and VFW, will be at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 19, at St. Catherine Cemetery in Luverne.

Dale Maranell was born on Oct. 4, 1949, to Wendell and Edith (Graham) Maranell in Tracy. He graduated from Pipestone High School and served his country in the Minnesota National Guard.

Dale married Pat Minnehan on Aug. 30, 1969, at St. Leo Catholic Church in Pipestone. The couple lived in Pipestone before moving to Luverne in 1971. Dale worked at Marvcraft Fiberglass, Land O' Lakes, Hanson Silo, and IBP in Luverne before he began working at John Morrell in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He retired in 2005.

Dale and Pat served as campground hosts for five years at the Blue Mounds State Park in Luverne.

Dale was a member of St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. He was also a member of the Luverne Jaycees. He enjoyed camping and spending time with his grandchildren.

Dale is survived by his wife, Pat Maranell, Luverne; a son, Mark (Heidi) Maranell, Howards Grove, Wisconsin; three grandchildren, Eden, Carter and Delaney Maranell; a brother, Arlen (Susan) Maranell, Orange City, Iowa; and a sister, Carol (Dennis) Preston, Donna, Texas.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Gaylord Maranell.

The live-stream graveside service may be viewed at <http://www.facebook.com/DingmannFH>.

Arrangements are provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Luverne, www.dingmannandsons.com. (1015 F)

## Bits/continued from page 6

Beaver Creek antedates that of the founding of the town by a number of years. Three church organizations have been founded during the forty years that have elapsed since the first religious services were held. Two of these organizations, the Methodist and Presbyterian, are still represented at Beaver Creek. The Baptist society gave up its organization nine years ago.

The Methodist society was the first organized. The church of that denomination came into being following the first religious services held in Beaver Creek township. A tent, pitched near the habitation of A. H. Grout, was the temple of neighborhood devotional services so early as the summer of 1871. New settlers, most of whom had left church affiliations in the east, became members of the Beaver Creek settlement in the course of another year, and one of the first concerns of the pioneers was to provide regular worship.

On Sunday, June 2, 1872, a meeting held at the sod house of B. I. Crossman resulted in the organization of a Sunday school. On the same occasion a Methodist class was also formed with William Grout as leader. Until the fall of 1872 the occasional services of the little congregation were conducted by the lay members. The first minister of the gospel to visit the Beaver Creek settlement was Rev. William Bear, of Worthington, who preached the first sermon in the township in the sod house of E. L. Grout. Rev. Bear at that time gave his official sanc-

tion to the class already organized. That same fall Dr. B. H. Crever, also of Worthington, preached to a large gathering at the home of William Grout.

The congregation became anxious for the services of a regular pastor, and in accordance with this desire a petition was prepared asking for the transfer of Rev. E. H. Bronson, the pastor of several of the settlers in their former home, from the Wisconsin conference to serve the new charge. The request was granted and Rev. Bronson, on the first Sunday following his arrival in the new country, June 20, 1873, conducted the first pastoral services in the open air before the home of William Grout. At the close of this meeting a formal church organization was perfected with a large membership. Among those most influential in bringing this event to fulfillment were William Grout, E. L. Grout, Charles Williams, F. Miercort, B. I. Crossman, Moses Ferguson and G. H. Henton. Rev. Bronson, later assisted by Rev. J. M. Bull, continued in official charge of the Beaver Creek church, in connection with his other ministrations in Rock and adjoining counties, for a period of four and one-half years.

*The story of the village of Beaver Creek will continue in the Oct. 22 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.*

*Mann welcomes correspondence sent to manmade@iu.net.*

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## LIVERNE FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL BENEFIT

**"Trolls" and "Goosebumps"**

SHOWTIMES

**Wednesday, Oct. 14**

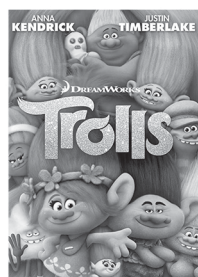
7:30 pm

**Thursday, Oct. 15**

7:30 pm

**Friday, Oct. 16**

7:30 pm



**AT THE VERNE DRIVE IN THEATRE**  
gates open at 6:00

## Luverne blanks Pipestone 22-0 to claim Battle Axe

By Brennen Rupp

For the second straight year the Luverne Cardinals defeated the Pipestone Area Arrows to claim the Battle Axe. Last season the Cardinals edged the Arrows 13-12. This time around there was no doubt who the better team was, with the Cardinals blanking the Arrows 22-0.

The two rivals struggled to move the ball in the first quarter due to strong defensive efforts from both teams.

On Pipestone's second possession of the game, Luverne's LaShad Smith broke up a play on an attempted deep pass. On the ensuing play, Peter Baustian broke through the line to record a tackle for a loss to force a Pipestone punt.

With 3:24 left in the second quarter the Cardinals blocked an Arrows punt to set themselves up at Pipestone's 22-yard line.

A few plays later Ashton Sandbulte put the Cardinals on the board with a 15-yard rushing touchdown. Bailey Cowell converted the two-point conversion on a pass from Casey Sehr to put the Cardinals up 8-0.

After the Cardinals forced the Arrows to go three and out in the third quarter, Luverne started their second possession of the second half at Pipestone's 33-yard line.

Cowell set the Cardinals up inside the Arrows' five-yard line with a 26-yard run. On the next play, Cowell punched in for six. After the extra point the Cardinals led 15-0.

With Pipestone trailing 15-0, they opted to go for it on fourth and five from Luverne's 39-yard line with 3:20 left in the third quarter. Luverne's Zach Ahrendt sniffed out the run play to stop the Arrows' ball carrier in his tracks for no gain.

The Cardinals scored their third touchdown of the game early in the fourth quarter thanks to Cowell. The senior running back scored on a 10-yard run to put Luverne up 22-0 following the successful extra point. It was Cowell's second rushing touchdown of the game.

The Arrows appeared to be close to getting on the scoreboard after hitting on a long pass to set themselves up inside Luverne's 10-yard line. The Cardinals defense tightened up and held the Arrows out of the end zone.



Luverne's LeShad Smith looks for open field after catching a pass against the Pipestone Area Arrows on Friday, Oct. 9. Luverne won the game with a score of 22-0.EE

The Cardinals defense made a tough defensive stand with less than three minutes to play. With the Arrows inside the 10-yard line again, the Cardinals put the clamps on the Arrows to keep the shutout intact.

Cowell led the Cardinals with 86 rushing yards and a pair of touchdowns. He added 30 receiving yards on two receptions.

Sandbulte rushed for 58 yards and a touchdown.

Cade Wenninger caught two passes for 61 yards. Sehr finished the game with 115 passing yards.

Zach Kruse led the team with five tackles. LaShad Smith, Connor Connell, and Nathaniel Cole-Kraty all recorded 3.5 tackles for loss.

The Cardinals will be back on the road Friday, Oct. 16, when they play Blue Earth Area.

Luverne	0 8 7 7
Pipestone	0 0 0 0

Passing: Sehr 7-15, 115 yards  
Rushing: Cowell 10-86-2; Sandbulte 12-58-2  
Receiving: C. Wenninger 2-61; Cowell 2-30  
Tackles: Kruse 5; Smith 3.5; Connell 3.5; Cole-Kraty 3.5; McCarthy 3

## Girls take first in Big South

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals took part in the Big South Conference cross country meet on Saturday, Oct. 10, in Redwood Falls. The girls' varsity squad earned first place, while the boys finished fourth.

The girls had six Top 10 finishers, and all eight runners finished in the Top 13.

Tenley Nelson and Jenna Debates were the first two competitors to cross the finish line. Nelson finished with a time of 18:58.91, and Debates was right behind her with a time of 18:59.42.

Grace Ingebretson made it three Cardinals in the Top Five, with her fifth place finish. Ingebretson recorded a time of 20:12.29.

Brooklynn Ver Steeg was nipping at Ingebretson's heels with her sixth place finish. Ver Steeg crossed the finish line with a time of 20:13.45.

Regan Feit finished seventh with a time of 20:18.51. Elizabeth Wagner crossed the finish line with a time of 20:42.81 to take home ninth place.

On the boys' side of the race, Camden Janiszkeski finished inside the Top Five with a fourth place finish. Janiszkeski crossed the finish line with a time of 17:15.39.

The Cardinals will host the section tournament on Thursday, Oct. 15.

**Varsity Boys**  
(4) Camden Janiszkeski 17:15.39  
(15) Brady Bork 17:59.81  
(16) Owen Janiszkeski 18:10.04  
(26) Sage Viessman 18:48.72  
(28) Camden Hoven 18:54.83  
(30) Ethan Rahm 19:09.38  
(34) Ryan Fick 19:28.32  
(40) Pierce Cunningham 19:52.17

**Varsity Girls**  
(1) Tenley Nelson 18:58.91  
(2) Jenna Debates 18:59.42  
(5) Grace Ingebretson 20:12.29  
(6) Brooklynn Ver Steeg 20:13.45  
(7) Regan Feit 20:18.51  
(9) Elizabeth Wagner 20:42.81  
(12) Kayla Bloemendaal 21:12.33  
(13) Tiana Lais 21:16.15

## Cardinals drop volleyball opener to Redwood Valley in four sets

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals opened the volleyball season Thursday, Oct. 8, in Redwood Falls.

It wasn't the start that the Cardinals were hoping for as they fell to Redwood Valley, 3-1.

"We had some great things happen," Luverne head coach, Sarah DeBeer said. "We can't wait to play Redwood again. We are excited to get

back out on the court when we host Pipestone."

The Cardinals dropped the first set, 25-17. They then ran into buzzsaw in the second set, losing 25-8.

The Cardinals were able to bounce back from a rough second set to win the third set, 25-20. They pushed Redwood Valley to the brink in the fourth set, but ultimately it wasn't enough as they fell, 25-23.

Macy Stratton led the team with 28 digs.

Trista Baustian led the Cardinals with 15 assists and added one ace. Regan Bork had 13 assists and one ace.

Gracie Zewiske and Kamryn VanBatavia both recorded eight kills to lead the Cardinals' attack. Elise Ferrell recorded seven kills.

The Cardinals will look to pick up

their first win of the young season when they host the Pipestone Area Arrows on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

Luverne	17 8 25 23
RV	25 25 20 25

Kills: Zewiske 8; VanBatavia 8; Ferrell 7  
Assists: T. Baustian 15; R. Bork 13  
Digs: Stratton 28

## Patriots open season with sweep of MLA

By Brennen Rupp

The Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots got the Dylan Gehrke era started off on the right foot Thursday, Oct. 8.

Under the guidance of the first-year head coach, the Patriots swept Mountain Lake Area, 3-0 to open the 2020 season.

"The nerves were definitely there for myself the night before and leading up to the game," Gehrke said.

"I was telling the girls before the game and the practice the night before that it is OK to have nerves and a little bit of butterflies, but as soon as that first whistle happens, the fun begins and the nerves go away."

Mountain Lake notched the first points in the opening set; however, it would be the last lead for them in the set.

The Patriots scored six straight points to open up a 6-1 lead. With the Patriots holding a 12-8 lead, they went on another run by scoring six straight points to take an 18-8 lead.

Hills-Beaver Creek went on to win the first set 25-18. In the second set the Patriots never trailed and were able to withstand a few runs by Mountain Lake.

With the Patriots holding a 9-3 lead, Mountain Lake reeled off five straight points to trim the lead to 9-8.

Following a timeout from Gehrke, the Patriots scored the next three points to build a 12-8 lead. Mountain Lake mounted another rally with the Patriots holding a 24-17 lead and scored four straight points to trim the lead to 24-



Annie Bos sets the ball for the H-BC Patriots on Thursday, Oct. 8, during the team's match against Mountain Lake Area.

21.

That's where the attempted comeback ended as the Patriots went on to win the second set 25-21 to take a 2-0 match lead.

"I thought the girls handled some adversity as well in games one and two," Gehrke said. "Mountain

Lake made a couple of runs and we had to battle back and finish the game."

The third set was all Patriots. After conceding the first point of the set to Mountain Lake, the Patriots scored six straight points to take a 6-1 lead.

The Patriots won the

third set 25-9 to complete the sweep.

"In the last game we were able to keep the pedal to the floor and didn't let them go on a run," Gehrke said. "That was fun to see."

It may have been the first game of the season, but the Patriots looked to be in midseason form. They were 58-60 from the serving line and put the pressure on Mountain Lake the entire match.

"The girls played such an efficient game," Gehrke said. "There were very few errors. Our serving was definitely the highlight of the night for us. We went 58-60, and 14 aces on the night is pretty awesome."

Kenadie Fick finished the match with five kills and four aces. Taryn Rauk finished with six kills and three aces.

Annie Bos recorded 12 assists and two aces. Tess VanMaanen finished with two aces. Abbie Knobloch recorded five kills. Emma Kodet recorded two aces.

The Cardinals will go for their second win of the season at home on Tuesday, Oct. 13, against Red Rock Central. They'll play their first road game of the season on Thursday, Oct. 15, against Edgerton.

HBC	25 25 25
MLA	18 21 9

Aces: K. Fick 4; Rauk 3; Boss 2; VanMaanen 2; Kodet 2  
Kills: Rauk 6; K. Fick 5; Knobloch 5  
Assists: Bos 12; VanMaanen 6  
Digs: Knobloch 4; Kodet 3

## Patriots blank SESM 36-0 to start season

By Brennen Rupp

When discussing the strength of his team before the season started, Hills-Beaver Creek head coach Rex Metzger mentioned the backfield duo of Tyson Bork and Gavin Wysong.

That duo helped the Patriots open the season with a 36-0 victory over Sleepy Eye St. Mary's on Friday, Oct. 9, in Sleepy Eye.

Wysong rushed for 192 yards and three rushing touchdowns. Bork rushed for 189 yards and two touchdowns.

"It was a good opening game for us," Metzger said.

"We knew they basically had everyone back from last year's team and with their size up front, it was going to be a physical game to start the year. With our team speed, we were able to expose them on the perimeter, which was the difference in the game."

Bork opened the scoring in the first quarter with a 48-yard rushing touchdown. Wysong scored the two-point conversion to give the Patriots an 8-0 lead.

Wysong scored on a five-yard rushing touchdown to put the Patriots up 14-0 in the second quarter. He scored his second touchdown of the quarter on a 27-yard run to put the Patriots up 20-0.

The Patriots led 20-0

at the half, thanks to their potent rushing attack. Metzger said the team took advantage of their defense coming up with a handful of big stops on the defensive side of the ball.

"I thought our defense played well," Metzger said. "They had a couple of big fourth-down stops in the first half, and we were able to take control of the game."

Wysong opened the scoring in the second half with his third rushing touchdown of the game. Following his five-yard rushing touchdown, Wysong hooked up with Zander Wysong on the two-point conversion to put the Patriots up 28-0.

Bork closed out the scoring on a 25-yard rushing touchdown. Oliver Deelstra found Gavin Wysong in the end zone for the two-point conversion to put the Patriots up 36-0.

There is no better feeling than opening the season with a victory, Metzger said, but he said he wasn't sure his team would get to experience that when the fall sports season appeared in jeopardy due to Covid-19.

"I was happy to see our guys out there playing football again," Metzger said. "After all they've been through with the season being delayed."

Zander Wysong led the Patriots' defense with eight

**Patriots blank**/see page 9





Brennen Rupp photo/1015 tennis roz oye

Luverne's Roz Oye returns a shot during her match on Monday, Oct. 12, in Luverne. The Cardinals fell to United South Central 4-3 in the third place match in the section tournament.

## Cardinals drop a pair of matches in section play

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals fell in the section semifinals to Blue Earth Area, 6-1, on Thursday, Oct. 8. With the loss the Cardinals fell one win shy of reaching the section championship.

The lone victory for the Cardinals came on the doubles side of things. Jacey Smith and Olivia Wieneke won their match in straight sets. The duo won the first set 7-5 and the second set by the same score.

In singles action, Elise Jarchow pushed her opponent to the brink.

Jarchow dropped the first set 6-0. She bounced back by winning the second set 6-4. The senior dropped the third set 6-1.

### United South Central match on Monday, Oct. 12

The Cardinals fell in the third-place match on Monday, Oct. 12, at home to United South Central, 4-3.

In doubles, Liz Kelm and Brynn

Thier won their match in straight sets. They took the first set, 6-2, and won the second set 7-6.

On the singles side of things, Mia Wenzel won her match in three sets. Wenzel won the first set 6-4. She then dropped a back-and-forth second set 7-5 before winning the third set 6-3 to take the match.

Ainslie Robinson won her match in straight sets. Robinson won the first set 6-2 and the second set 6-4.

### Luverne -1, Blue Earth Area- 6

#### Singles:

- No. 1 - Tea Armstrong, BEA, def. Roz Oye, LHS, 6-1, 6-2.
- No. 2 - Marissa Benz, BEA, def. Elise Jarchow, LHS, 6-0, 4-6, 6-1.
- No. 3 - Arika Howard, BEA, def. Ainslie Robinson, LHS, 6-1, 6-1.
- No. 4 - Addison Armstrong, BEA, def. Mia Wenzel, LHS, 6-3, 6-4.

#### Doubles:

- No. 1 - McKenna Dutton and Kylie Rosenau, BEA, def. Lauren Ver Steeg and Solveig Tofteland, LHS, 6-1, 6-2.
- No. 2 - Olivia Wieneke and Jacey Smith, LHS, def. Britt Howard and Lyndsey Borris, BEA, 7-5, 7-5.
- No. 3 - Cali Beyer and Olivia Dutton, BEA, def. Liz Kelm and Brynn Thier, LHS, 6-3, 6-1.

Luverne Senior High - 3, USC - 4

#### Singles

- No. 1 - Delaney Weber, USC def. Roz Oye, LHS, 6-2; 6-0.
- No. 2 - Alyson Swanson USC, def. Elise Jarchow, LHS, 6-3, 7-5.
- No. 3 - Ainslie Robinson, LHS, def. Kelsie Chapman, USC, 6-2, 6-4.
- No. 4 - Mia Wenzel, LHS, def. Elizabeth Romano, USC - 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.

#### Doubles:

- No. 1 - Macy Zebro and Maya Zebro, USC, def. Lauren Ver Steeg and Solveig Tofteland, LHS, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

## Ahrendt commits to play football at SMSU

By Brennen Rupp

Zach Ahrendt's football season as a senior has been cut short due to Covid-19. The Luverne Cardinals will play a six-game regular season and a shortened section tournament with currently no plans for a state tournament to be played.

This won't be the last season Ahrendt gets to strap on the shoulder pads, however. The senior lineman for the Cardinals recently committed to continue his academic and football career at Southwest Minnesota State University.

"It means a lot knowing that there is a college that wants me to come and play for them," said Ahrendt, son of Eric and Bobbi Ahrendt, Luverne. "They welcomed me like one of their own."

The senior started his football career in middle school in the flag football league. Ahrendt's first season at the high school level occurred when he was an eighth-grader. His first year on varsity came when he was a freshman.

Ahrendt said that playing football is something he fell in love with the first time he put those pads on.

"I love playing football," Ahrendt said. "My most favorite part is spending time with my brothers (teammates) on and off the field. The bonds that are created with everyone is something you can't have anywhere else."

During his time as a Mustang, he'll be playing offensive line, mainly the center position. In the classroom he'll be majoring in exercise science.



Brennen Rupp photo/1015 zach ahrendt

Luverne's Zach Ahrendt waits for the Pipestone Area Arrows to break the huddle on Friday, Oct. 9. Ahrendt recently committed to play football at SMSU.

"I'm going to major in exercise science," Ahrendt said. "I'm going to focus on that so I can become an athletic director. I love being involved in sports."

Ahrendt is a two-sport athlete for the Cardinals. In the fall he plays football and in the spring he's a member of the track and field team, where he competes in the shot put.

He said the thing he'll miss the

most about being a Luverne Cardinal is the relationships he's built.

"What I'll miss most about being a Cardinal is getting to be with my brothers and friends during school," Ahrendt said.

"It's going to be hard to see everyone move on and do their own things in the world when we've all been together since kindergarten and up."

## Patriots blank SESM/continued from page 8A

tackles. Chase Bosch finished the game with seven tackles. Bork finished third on the team with five tackles.

The Patriots will play their first home game of

the season against Heron Lake Okabena Fulda on Thursday, Oct. 15.

HBC	8	12	16	0
SESM	0	0	0	0

Passing: Wysong 3-6, 52 yards. Rushing: Bork 15-189-2; Wysong 24-192-3. Receiving: Bennett 1-33 Tackles: Z. Wysong 8; Bosch 7; Bork 5; Bundesen 4; G. Wysong 3; Bennett 3; Erickson 3; Moser 3

## Enjoy public hunting land, but be a good sport and share the positive experience

By Scott Rall  
Outdoors columnist

So the opening weekend of the Minnesota pheasant season is here and gone and it took until 8 a.m. Monday morning for my phone to ring with questions regarding hunting etiquette on public lands.

For sure there are different common-sense rules when it comes to interacting with other hunters who all want to hunt on the same parcel of public land at the same time.

The recommendations that follow are mine and are what I feel is the most sportsmanlike — not necessarily required to obey a rule or regulation of the state of Minnesota.

### What do you do when you get to your favorite hunting spot and someone else is already there?

The answer is that it depends. If the spot is small, I would drive on and look for a different one.

There is nothing worse than getting to a spot two hours early and then having a group of 10 show up three minutes before legal shooting time and they proceed to trample all over you and your group.

If the unit you want to hunt is a large one, I would drive in and, after the normal greetings, ask that individual or group where on the property they were intending to hunt and in which direction they would be heading out.

I would then either reposition my vehicle in a different part of that unit, if more than one parking location is available, and then head out in the opposite direction. This would allow both groups to have a quality outing.

If your group has five hunters and all five of you want to hunt in the same place, then all five hunters should do the waiting before legal shooting time.

Having one person in the parking lot announce that they are trying to save that spot for five other hunters does not meet the sportsmanship smell test.

Over running a group that has waited for a few hours by a group that showed up 10 minutes before legal shooting time also smells really bad.

Another gross violation of public lands etiquette is to park one or more vehicles in the public lands parking lot the night before your intended hunting day so as to make it look like you beat all others to the spot no matter how early they arrived.

A quick call to my local conservation officer confirmed my suspicions that this practice is illegal and deserves a ticket.



**Cleaning birds in the parking lot of a public land hunting area is also very bad sportsmanship.**

If bird cleaning is to be done in the field, it should be done on a tailgate elsewhere and all of the wings, feathers and guts need to go into a garbage bag and be disposed of properly.

All my dogs will try to eat all of the guts and remains that litter the parking lot when I arrive later, regardless if those remnants were left there 10 minutes ago or 10 days earlier.

Don't clean your birds in the parking lot.

**When you are done having a great day on public land somewhere, you should leave the spot in a condition that looks as though you were never there.**

Trash, food wrappers, plastic water bottles and even a pile of your dogs' meal from the day before should never be left to the next guy to step in or pick up.

Stepping in a fresh pile of doo when you step out of the truck is not a great way to start your hunt.

You don't have to take it home, but at least toss it into the tall grass.

**On public lands do not allow your dog to run up, uncontrolled, to a stranger's dog.**

I have seen this erupt into a full-blown dogfight with some pretty serious outcomes.

When I am in or on a public land spot, I keep my dogs leashed until I am in the proper place to start hunting. This may not be required in your hunting group, but it is a common courtesy when mingling around a space with many other unfamiliar dogs.

My dogs never, ever start a fight. This cannot be said of all the other dogs I come in contact with. If you have an aggressive dog, either learn how to fix it yourself or enlist the help of a professional trainer to help you with it.

There are certainly more interactions that require a sportsmanship-like behavior. For the record, the term sportsmanship is the same as sportswomanship in my book. Be courteous and share the experience.

Most counties have lots of public land. Find one and enjoy it, but remember, just do your best to understand that it belongs to us all, even if you are a local hunter or a traveler from distant places.

*Scott Rall, Worthington, is a habitat conservationist, avid hunting and fishing enthusiast and is president of Nobles County Pheasants Forever. He can be reached at [scottarall@gmail.com](mailto:scottarall@gmail.com) or on Twitter @habitat champion.*

## FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

### LUVERNE FOOTBALL

Oct. 9	at Pipestone	22-0 (W)
Oct. 16	at Blue Earth	7:00 pm
Oct. 23	JCC (H)	7:00 pm

### HBC FOOTBALL

Oct. 9	at SESM	36-0 (W)
Oct. 15	HLOF	7:00 pm
Oct. 23	WWG	7:00 pm

### LUVERNE VOLLEYBALL

Oct. 8	at Redwood Valley	3-1 (L)
Oct. 13	Pipestone	7:15 pm
Oct. 15	at Windom	7:15 pm
Oct. 20	JCC	7:15 pm
Oct. 22	Worthington	7:15 pm
Oct. 29	Marshall	7:15 pm

### HBC VOLLEYBALL

Oct. 8.	MLA	3-1 (W)
Oct. 13	RRC	7:15 pm
Oct. 15	at Edgerton	7:15 pm

Visit the Star Herald website at [www.star-herald.com](http://www.star-herald.com) for all the local scores.

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# Star Herald CHURCH

Page 10 October 15, 2020

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](mailto:editor@star-herald.com).

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

St. Catherine Ph. 283-8502; [www.stsccl.org](http://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/stsccluverne/videos/>. Visit [www.stsccl.org](http://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](http://www.luverncrc.com) — [office@luverncrc.com](mailto:office@luverncrc.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](mailto:fbcluv@iw.net) — [www.fbcluverne.org](http://www.fbcluverne.org)  
Walt Moser, Pastor

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

**Grace Lutheran Church**

500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-4431; [www.graceluverne.org](http://www.graceluverne.org) — [graceluverne@iw.net](mailto:graceluverne@iw.net)  
Ron Nichols, Pastor / Ann Zastrow, Associate Pastor

Thursday, Oct. 15: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Saturday, Oct. 16: 5:30 p.m. In-person worship service with Communion in Sanctuary. Sunday, Oct. 18: 9 a.m. Worship Service with Communion and new member recognition. Limited seating is available. 9:15-9:45 a.m. Drive-thru Communion. 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible study via Zoom. 7:30 p.m. Youth activity for 9th-12th Grade. Tuesday, Oct. 13: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. 6:45 p.m. Ministry meetings. 8 p.m. PPC meeting with executive meeting to follow. Monday, Oct. 19: Grace Notes deadline. Tuesday, Oct. 20: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Oct. 21: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 6 p.m. Confirmation pictures. 7-7:45 p.m. Confirmation classes for 6th-9th grade. 7:45-8:30 p.m. Confirmation class for 10th grade. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are still available. Online Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website [www.graceluverne.org](http://www.graceluverne.org), click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:office@arcluverne.org)  
Mike Altana, 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, Oct. 16: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. Tuesday, Oct. 20: 12 p.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Oct. 21: 5:30 p.m. Midweek meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Clubs; youth groups.

**First Assembly of God Church**

1075 110<sup>th</sup> Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4

**Living Rock Church**

500 E. Main St., Luverne

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

**United Methodist Church**

109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne

Ph. 283-4529; email: [luverneumc@iw.net](mailto:luverneumc@iw.net)

Thursday, Oct. 15: 1-3 p.m. and 5-6:30 Rock County Food Shelf curbside. Saturday, Oct. 17: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Sunday Sept. Oct. 18: 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 p.m. Annual Bonfire. Monday, Oct. 19: 8 p.m. AA Meeting.

Tuesday, Oct. 20: 6:30 p.m. Trustee meeting. 7:30 p.m. Church Council meeting. Wednesday, Oct. 21: 6:15 p.m. FUEL. Thursday, Oct. 22: 1-3 p.m. — Rock County Food Shelf curbside.

**First Presbyterian Church**

302 Central Lane, Luverne

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

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](mailto:stjohn@iw.net)  
[www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org](http://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](http://cityofluverne.org).

**New Life Celebration Church**

110 N. Oakley, Luverne

Ph. 449-6522; email: [newlifecelebration@gmail.com](mailto:newlifecelebration@gmail.com)

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**

305 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick

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

**Ben Clare United Methodist Church**

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

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

**First Lutheran Church**

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

Ph. (605) 757-6662

Laura Phillips, Pastor

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

**Palisade Lutheran Church**

211 121<sup>st</sup> St., Garretson, S.D.

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

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

**First Presbyterian Church**

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

Ph. 507-935-5025

email: [lori.firstpres@gmail.com](mailto:lori.firstpres@gmail.com)

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

**Magnolia United Methodist Church**

501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia

Ph. 605-215-3429

email: [magnoliannumc@gmail.com](mailto:magnoliannumc@gmail.com)  
Nancy Manning, Pastor

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

**Steen Reformed Church**

112 W. Church Ave., Steen

Ph. 855-2336

Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor

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

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

112 N. Main St., Hills

Ph. 962-3270

Sundays, 10 a.m. Worship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills. Sunday School during worship service. 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 [blchills.org](http://blchills.org). Sunday, Oct. 18: 10 a.m. Worship service. 6-7:30 p.m. 8th-9th grade Confirmation. Tuesday, Oct. 20: 2 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study at Tuff Memorial Home. 3:30 p.m. Pastor's Bible study at Village.

**Hills United Reformed Church**

410 S. Central Ave., Hills

Office Ph. 962-3254

[hillsurc@alliancecom.net](mailto:hillsurc@alliancecom.net)  
Alan Camarigg, Pastor

## 'Do not be anxious ... let your requests be made known to God'

Safety / safl̥tē / noun  
1. The condition of being safe from undergoing or causing hurt, injury, or loss

2. The action of keeping safe

There seems to be a lot of talk this year about safety. The "Stay Safe MN" slogan grinds my gears every time I see it, so I've been evaluating my angst about safety.

Many catchy phrases popped up in my Google "safety" search: safety doesn't happen by accident; safety isn't expensive, it's priceless; when safety is first, you last; safety rules are your best tools.

Most of these slogans were promoted by employers trying to limit insurance claims and other problems at their businesses, but there are many things that we do to keep ourselves and others safe.

Babies are strapped into car seats, boaters wear life jackets, bikers sport helmets. We remove snow and ice from our sidewalks, we clean splattered bugs from our windshields, we secure the handrails on our stairs. Steel-toed boots, leather gloves, hard hats, earmuffs, and goggles are all tools of safety.

In the name of safety, my husband is required to wear high visibility clothing at his job, and we buckle up every time we get in a vehicle, (which, I might add, was instrumental in my daughter's safety a few months ago.) Choosing safety isn't stupid.

So why does the push to stay safe make me cringe?

First, we have to trust the item or action that provides safety. This is different for each person. Not everyone wears their seatbelt, safety glasses, or helmet. Although some safety measures are regulated by law, not everyone complies. Our confidence, or lack of, will determine our actions. It will also have consequences. King David declares in Psalm 20:7, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." Where is my trust?

Second, I question if we worship safety. Safety, and security often dominate the prayers that I hear from the kids in my classroom... keep us safe on our way home, keep us safe at school, keep my friends safe, my family safe, etc. One would

## BUILT ON A ROCK

By Erin Jacobsma  
Office administrator  
American Reformed  
Church, Luverne

wonder if we live in a hostile country where our safety is in question day in and day out.

At one time, I forbade the use of the word "safe" during our prayer time so we could think beyond our physical security.

There is so much more that we could pray about. Instead of praying for safety, let's pray for courage. "For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, love, and of self-control." (2 Timothy 1:7)

I believe that God is concerned with our physical wellbeing. Scripture tells us that he watches over the sparrows and flowers and knows when each hair falls from our head. But I also believe that our priority is to seek Him, not safety. "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you." (Matthew 6:33)

Third, do we serve a God of safety? Is following Jesus a protection guarantee? Is a life that's free from pain our reward for faith in God?

Jesus said, "Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." (Matthew 10:16) That doesn't sound very safe. Jesus also said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Regardless if you have had similar thoughts or different ideas regarding safety, we may all take heed from words found in Philippians chapter 4: "Rejoice in the Lord always ... let your reasonableness be known to everyone... do not be anxious... let your requests be made known to God... with thanksgiving... and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

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**City of Luverne  
notice of general election**

**NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION  
CITY OF LUVERNE, MINNESOTA  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that regarding the City Election, which shall be held in and for the City of Luverne, State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, November 3, 2020, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., the following offices shall be filled:

- One Mayor for one four-year term
- One Council Member, North Ward, for one four-year term
- One Council Member, South Ward, for one four-year term

All polling places will be at the Luverne Middle-High School Gymnasium, 709 N. Kniss Avenue, Luverne, MN.

Qualified voters planning to be absent on Election Day may obtain absentee ballots from the office of the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer, 204 E. Brown Street, Luverne, Minnesota, until 5:00 p.m. on November 2, 2020. Please make an appointment to vote early by calling 507-283-5060.

Jessica Mead,  
City Clerk  
(10-15,10-22)

**City of Luverne sets  
public hearing for Oct. 27**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The City Council for the City of Luverne, Minnesota, will be conducting a public hearing on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as it may be heard at City Offices, 305 E. Luverne St, Luverne, Minnesota.

The purpose of this public hearing is to consider the gas energy franchise ordinance granting a franchise to CenterPoint Energy Resources Corporation to construct, operate, repair and maintain a gas energy system in the City of Luverne. The hearing will focus on the conditions accompanying the grant of the franchise.

All interested persons should appear at the above date and time.  
Dated this 15th day of October, 2020.

Jessica Mead  
City Clerk  
(10-15)

**Rock County sets public  
hearing for Oct. 20**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

A public hearing is hereby scheduled at 9:05 a.m. on October 20, 2020, at the Herred Board meeting room, located at the Rock County Courthouse, 204 E. Brown Street, Luverne, Minnesota, to be held on a proposed property tax abatement request from Colin Lyndorff & Ashley Nye, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 469.1813 and 116J.993 through 116J.995 consisting of new home construction with following location: a 4.44 acre tract in NE 1/4 of Section 12 of Kanaranzi Township. It has been proposed that the Board of Commissioners of the County of Rock grant a Property Tax Abatement on these properties in an amount not to exceed 100 percent (%) of the County's portion of the real estate taxes related to new residential home construction on the subject properties for a period not to exceed five (5) years. The estimated value of abatement is approximately \$785 annually. This Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed Property Tax Abatement as required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.1813, subdivision 5. The proposed abatement percentage and terms may be modified at the public hearing.

Kyle Oldre,  
County Administrator  
(10-15)

**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. (10.01-10.17)

Beef for Sale: Either a half or a quarter. Call 507-920-9386. (10.10-10.29)

**GARAGE SALE**

Multi-Family yard sale - 211 SW Park St. Luverne. Friday, Oct. 16, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 17, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Bikes, two vehicles as is, side by side, steel fridge, dog kennel, coats, clothing and misc. (10.15)

**CARDS OF THANKS**

The family of Jessie Wenzel would like to thank everyone for helping us celebrate her 90th birthday. Mom enjoyed receiving the beautiful cards and gifts in the mail.

**With heartfelt thanks,  
Family of Jessie Wenzel**  
(10.15-10.17)

Thank you to my family, friends and relatives for the cards, Facebook notes and phone calls for my 80th birthday. Thanks to our kids for the birthday supper and gifts. It will never be forgotten.

**Mary Donth**  
(10.15-10.17)

**MISCELLANEOUS**

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**EMPLOYMENT**

The City of Adrian has an opening for a Public Works Supervisor. This is a highly responsible, technical and administrative job in directing municipal Public Works and Utility Departments. Work is performed with considerable independence and judgement.

This position involves planning, organizing, coordination of construction projects and maintenance and management; water treatment and distribution and wastewater collection and treatment. Qualifications include experience in the construction, maintenance and repair of Public Utility systems, especially electrical production and distribution; including, or supplemented by, experience in supervision and management. Desirable qualifications include a Minnesota Master Electricians License, a Minnesota Journeyman/Line worker Certification, or would be willing to obtain the required certifications. Employment application and position details can be picked up at Adrian City Hall, 209 Maine Avenue, Suite 106 or form our website at [www.adrian.govoffice2.com](http://www.adrian.govoffice2.com). Applications accepted until 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, 2020. EEO. (10.10-10.29)

Ellsworth Public School is accepting applications for the following positions: Full-time Paraprofessional Substitute Paraprofessionals Applications can be found on the school website at <https://www.ellsworth.mntm.org/district/district-vacancies.cfm> or by calling 507-967-2242. (9.26-10.22)

**EMPLOYMENT**

New Prairie Insulation of Beaver Creek has full time insulation installer positions available. Monday-Friday; Health insurance, vacation pay, holiday pay, retirement plan, bonus, opportunities; will train. Call 605-376-3006. (tc)

Adrian Public School is seeking applications for 2 classroom/special education paraprofessionals at the Elementary. Candidates will work with teachers providing academic and behavioral support to students. Candidates should hold an associates degree, or have certification via the Para Pro assessment. If interested, please submit a letter of application, resume, current letters of reference, and a completed district application found at [www.isd511.net](http://www.isd511.net). Send application materials to: Adrian Public School, PO Box 40, Adrian, MN 56110. For additional information, please contact Randy Schettler at [r.schettler@isd511.net](mailto:r.schettler@isd511.net) Position open until filled. (9.26-10.15)

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Southwestern Mental Health Center is currently seeking applications for a Full-Time Intake Specialist position at our Luverne, MN office. Hours are Monday - Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM, with extended hours on Tuesday from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM.  
The Intake Specialist is responsible for the general functioning of the Front Office duties. Provide face-to-face and phone reception services to all clients, families, vendors, agencies, and co-workers. Enters new client data into Information System, completes clinical transactions in system. Assist Lead Intake Specialist with completing Initial Intake packets, Face-to-Face Intake packets, consent to treatment agreement, fee agreements and release of information & annual updates.  
Knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite. Must be able to perform basis operations on a computer within the Windows operating system.  
Apply online at Southwestern Mental Health Please apply at: <http://www.swmhc.org>  
1. Click on the Careers tab toward the top of the web page.  
2. Click on Search for Jobs.  
3. In the Quick Search, click on Positions by Locations.  
4. Click on Luverne, MN and search for this position to apply.  
If you need further assistance, Email: [david.vinzant@swmhc.org](mailto:david.vinzant@swmhc.org)  
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This VETERANS DAY in honor of local veterans consider a gift to the Luverne Area Community Foundation's

# ROCK COUNTY VETERANS FUND

This fund was established to support organizations within our county committed to honoring the legacy of those who have served in the U.S. Armed Services.

Gifts can be named in honor or memory of a person who has served.

Example:  
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LACF will publish honor/memorials received through November 7<sup>th</sup> in the November 12<sup>th</sup> issue of the Rock County Star Herald.

How to give: Write a check to LACF, include a note with person's name and branch of service and mail to PO Box 623 Luverne, MN or go to [www.luvacf.org](http://www.luvacf.org) and place a credit card gift. Go to "donate now", click on the Rock County Veterans Fund and follow the prompts.

We look forward to honoring these special service men and women. Questions please contact Emily Crabtree, Executive Director at [emily@luvacf.org](mailto:emily@luvacf.org) or 507-220-2424.

## Hills Tuff Home COVID-19 outbreak/from page 1

realize they're positive. Rock County Emergency Management Director Kyle Oldre and state public health officials are assisting the Tuff Home with the outbreak.

"This is a very difficult disease to try to get ahead of," Oldre said at the start of the outbreak.

"Obviously we want to do everything we can to care for the residents in the Tuff Home and keep them there and keep the facility open as long as possible."

He praised Ripley and Tuff Home lead staff for their handling of the outbreak.

"I think they've done a

*"I am very proud of how the staff pulled together and is working as a team during this chaotic and scary time."*

— Eli Ripley, Tuff

great job down there," Oldre said. "They've done absolutely everything they possibly can."

Like other nursing homes throughout the state, the Tuff Home and Tuff Village have been in lockdown mode since March 16, with no visitors al-

lowed.


On the Tuff Home website, Ripley offers contact assistance for family and visitors.

"We understand connecting with your loved one is extremely important," he writes. "We are happy to set up telephone calls or other means of communication with your loved ones per your request."

The number to the facility is 507-962-3275.

The Tuff residents' COVID deaths bring Rock County's total to five. However, those losses aren't yet reflected on the Minnesota Department of Health website.

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## A note from Mayor Patrick T. Baustian Covid Testing Details Announced

**NO-BARRIER free COVID test offered in Luverne October 13-15 from noon -6:00pm at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne.** The following is from the October 8 edition of the Rock County Star Herald with detail of the free upcoming No-barrier free COVID test. I encourage you to take some time out of you busy schedule and do the right thing and get tested.

- ▶ Wear a mask in public
- ▶ Avoid large gatherings
- ▶ Stay 6 feet away from others
- ▶ Wash your hands
- ▶ Stay home when you are ill
- ▶ Get tested if you have symptoms

Local Public Health does not have authority to share private health data, which includes the address of those who test positive with COVID-19, or any other identifying information. Such sharing is a violation of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. 13.09 (a) and (b). For more information, please go to the Minnesota Department of Health's website devoted to COVID-19 information: <https://mn.gov/covid19/data/covid-dashboard/index.jsp>


**STAY SAFEMN**



### NO-barrier, free COVID tests offered in Luverne Oct. 13-15

Grand Prairie Events in Luverne will be the location for the Minnesota Department of Health's free, "no barrier" COVID-19 testing next week. MDH is hosting free testing stations in dozens of communities across the state, and Luverne's testing event will be from noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, Oct. 13-15. Nasal swab testing will be free, available to any Minnesota residents who feel they need to be tested, whether they have symptoms or not, and it will not require insurance. The free testing sites are offered in response to spikes of COVID-19 cases, according to MDH Commissioner Jan Malcolm. She said it appears numbers are rising due to community spread driven by people who don't know they have the virus and are putting others at risk, "We are deeply concerned about the spike of cases in communities all over the state where people don't know how they contracted the virus," she said. "Testing lets us know who needs to isolate and who else may be at risk." Health officials are using testing data to identify communities that are experiencing workplace clusters, are close to bordering states, or haven't yet had larger-scale testing offered, according to Kris Ehresmann, infectious disease director at MDH. "With this targeted push, we're able to identify clusters of cases – whether they're from weddings, funerals, backyard BBQs, Labor Day activities, going back to school, or being in the workplace, intervening now will prevent further spread and outbreaks," Ehresmann said. Health officials believe widespread access to testing followed by isolating those who are positive, and quarantining close contacts is a proven strategy for controlling spread. This in turn will help keep businesses and schools open as much as possible going forward. According to Rock County Emergency Management Director Kyle Oldre, the free, no-barrier test site might convince some who might not otherwise bother to get tested to do so. "We have to figure out how to get over that hurdle," he told the Star Herald for a Sept. 24 story. He said he's also concerned about a resistance to being tested and hopes the free set-up will help. "Nobody wants to be the one who puts our local numbers over the edge." He said he's heard of some people who knew they'd been exposed and were

even showing symptoms, but didn't get tested because they didn't want to affect students' opportunity for in-classroom learning. Oldre also urged residents to not be complacent about the dangers of COVID-19, despite the fact that many only have mild symptoms or none at all. "The thing is, we simply don't know what this virus is capable of or when it's going to attach to the lungs or heart," he said. "And we don't know what it can do long term. Will it be like shingles after chicken pox? We don't know." The free test sites are designed to cast a wider net of identifying asymptomatic individuals to help control community spread. Any Minnesota resident can travel to any of the test sites scheduled in the coming weeks. Tests will be processed either by Mayo Clinic Laboratories or the University of Minnesota.




COME ON LUVERNE, WE CAN DO THIS!

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

**Luverne MINNESOTA**

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Sincerely,  
  
Mayor Patrick T. Baustian

